

**OK Board of Examiners for Long Term Care Administrators Funding Structure**

As you requested, we have done a basic analysis of our licensure fees compared to surrounding states.

<b>Fees</b>	Exam	Application	Renewal
Oklahoma	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$200.00
Missouri	\$175.00	\$150.00	\$100.00
Colorado		\$350.00	\$350.00
New Mexico		\$200.00	\$200.00
Texas	\$190.00	\$250.00	\$250.00

The "average" of these fees, including Oklahoma in that average, shows the Exam Fee average to be \$155 (where we could collect the data), the application fee to be \$210 and the Renewal fee to be \$220. **Oklahoma's fee is lower than the average in all three categories.**

If you remove Oklahoma from the average and just compare us to those states, we're **even further below the average of these other states** (we bring the average down). The average exam fee of these other states (excluding Oklahoma) is \$182.50; the application fee average is \$237.50; and the Renewal fee average is \$225.00. We have not had a fee change in a very long time.

Among these states, we do have the lowest fees of 2 of these three fees, and second lowest in the third category (Renewal).

We are funded by fees, totally. No appropriations and no federal dollars come our way. We do offer something "unique" that other states do not in their licensing process, and that is our "Administrators University" or AU which is an 18 week course of instruction that we offer twice per year. We are not aware of any other state that offers or requires this in their licensing process, but the value of it is immeasurable. It's essentially approximately 100 hours of classroom instruction from subject matter experts (many of whom are from the Health Department or DHS, for example). Our "internships" are only 560 hours long compared to many other states (and the nationally recommended length of 1000 hours) so this extra "academic" instruction fills quite a lot of that gap for our students. Our classes are currently limited to 25 students, twice per year. We also collect a fee for this class as well as a fee to set up the internship (again, unique in that there's nothing to compare it with in surrounding states).

The source of our funds is all from fees (and in a very minor way, fines assessed). We're non-appropriated. The funds are spent on the lease for our office/meeting/teaching space, office supplies and salaries for the 3 employees and to pay professional fees to our attorneys (AG) and other contracts primarily with OMES to provide additional services (to include computer needs, telephones, etc.) to keep us able to fulfill our role to train, examine, license and sanction long term care administrators for the state of Oklahoma. We have very little "discretionary" spending in our budget as most of these costs are "fixed" in terms of we are required to spend the money. We can affect our budget only in minor ways, primarily through conservative practices in our use of office supplies, for example. The lease, the attorney contract, the salaries - and the 10% of our fees we also contribute to the State General Fund - all these things are pretty much pre-determined costs for us. While we must get permission to change our fees, it is not unusual for OMES to raise our fees for the services they provide. This year, for example, they raised our fees and are making it "look" like they're giving us money (they're not) by showing a "subsidy" in the billing which is apparently intended to get us accustomed to seeing that increase in those fees. Next year, they won't provide the subsidy and we will be expected to pay the increased fees (which are not subject to approval by the legislature as any fee increase we incur is). They are forcing our costs up but we do not have any mechanism to raise our own fees, which is the lifeblood of our existence, not without legislative approval as they do to us (and yet, they are also appropriated and we pay the 10% to the general fund which was theoretically paid to provide us those services we need - but these fees they charge small agencies like us have crept in (and nobody can see them leaving anytime soon). And they're somehow able to continue to increase these fees to milk us when their appropriations are cut. It's not amusing to the little agencies like ours, struggling just to survive.