

Board of Dental Examiners
Five Year Strategic Plan
FY19 – FY23

Mission Statement

To provide professional, courteous service and information to the dental profession and the general public through examination, licensing, complaint adjudication and enforcement processes to protect the oral health, safety, and welfare of Arizona citizens through a fair and impartial system.

Agency Description

The State Board of Dental Examiners examines, licenses, certifies professionals to practice in the field of dentistry, registers business entities providing dental services and permits mobile dental facilities. The Board also accepts complaints against licensees, certificate holders, business entities and mobile dental facilities, investigates allegations, and administratively adjudicates complaints. The Board regulates approximately 9,600 professionals licensed or certified to practice in the state and approximately 390 business entities, as well as serves all Arizona citizens who receive their professional services.

Strategic Issue #1: Improve employee efficiencies with technology

When employees can be more efficient by having access to relevant and up-to-date technology, it is beneficial to both licensees and the public. The impact of the online renewal application, which allows dentists, dental consultants, dental hygienists and denturists to renew their license online, continues to be a convenience to the licensees using the online renewal application and in reducing the manpower required to move a paper renewal through the process. The Agency will continue to enhance the online renewal application to increase the number of licensees using the application.

With the success of online renewals, the Agency sees opportunity for other online functionality with the same result of convenience to the licensees/applicants, decreasing manpower and real time information available to the public.

As the Dental Practice Act is amended, the Agency is challenged to maintain a database which supports new processes and allows for consistency and increases employee efficiency. Looking to the future, the Agency acknowledges new levels of dental providers are emerging whose regulation will be added to the Dental Practice Act.

Staying current with technology is a priority of Agency leadership. The Agency is challenged to maintain, upgrade and secure the database to prevent frustration and lack of confidence in the Agency's technology by the public using the online directory of licensees, the licensee using an online function and staff maintaining the data.

Using technology to improve employee efficiencies includes the challenge of eliminating the flow of paper through the office.

Strategy 1

The Agency plans to build on the realized efficiencies by developing an online renewal component for business entities, online initial license application submission, and online address changes to include the ability to order and pay for additional licenses.

Strategy 2

The Agency will ensure database enhancements will be ongoing to support the complaint process. Knowing that the Dental Practice Act may be amended at any legislative session, the Agency must be prepared to make database modifications as they are legislated. The Agency has budgeted funds and allocated manpower to continue the relationship with the database vendor.

Strategy 3

The database is web-based which requires the Agency to stay current with technology to include hardware, software and internet services. The Agency plans to consult with state IT professionals for their expertise in what hardware, software and internet services are best practices for the Agency to follow. Replacement equipment will be budgeted for as needed.

Strategy 4

In FY19, the Agency will meet the challenge by utilizing the Enterprise Imaging Solution from the State Procurement Office and funded by a one-time appropriation.

Strategic Issue #2: Dissemination of Information

Disseminating relevant information such as statute changes is important for licensees as well as the public. In the past, the Agency published and mailed a newsletter. In the electronic age, printing and mailing a paper newsletter is not only costly, but not environmentally responsible.

Strategy 1

Although the Agency's website contains relevant information, the Agency plans to publish articles not only about statute changes but specifically to address issues encountered by the Board which the licensee should know and would be of interest to the public. Licensees will be informed of a new article published to the website via email. There will be no additional funds used to implement this strategy and the Agency has the manpower to allocate to implement.

Resource Assumptions:

	FY 2020 Estimate	FY2021 Estimate	FY2022 Estimate	FY2023 Estimate
Full-time Equivalent (FTE) Positions	11	11	11	11
Appropriated Fund (2020)	\$1,212,700	\$1,212,700	\$1,212,700	\$1,212,700
Total Agency Funds	\$1,212,700	\$1,212,700	\$1,212,700	\$1,212,700

The assumption is stability of the appropriation for the next five years. As a regulatory 90/10 board, the Agency reacts to changes in legislation. The Agency is also at risk for litigation. It is important to have an appropriation to cover these potentialities.