

1. What is the purpose of the fee reduction?

To comply with Business and Professions Code §128.5(b) by reducing excess reserve funds below the 24-month limit, while also lowering financial barriers and providing cost savings to licensees, registrants, and applicants.

2. When will the fee reduction go into effect?

July 1, 2026

3. How long will the 50% fee reduction remain in place?

Four years — from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2030.

4. Which types of fees will be reduced by 50%?

The following fees will be reduced:

	Current Fee	Reduced Fee (7/1/2026 – 6/30/2030)
Annual Renewal AMFT, ASW, APCC	\$150	\$75
Biennial Active Renewal LMFT, LCSW, LPCC*; LEP	\$200	\$100
Biennial Inactive Renewal LMFT, LCSW, LPCC*; LEP	\$100	\$50
Registration Application AMFT, ASW, APCC	\$150	\$75
Initial License Issuance LMFT, LCSW, LPCC, LEP	\$200	\$100
California Law & Ethics Exam LMFT, LCSW, LPCC	\$150	\$75
LMFT Clinical Exam	\$250	\$125
LEP Written Exam	\$250	\$125
License Application LMFT, LCSW, LPCC, LEP	\$250	\$125
Retired to Active Application LMFT, LCSW, LPCC*; LEP	\$200	\$100
Inactive to Active Application LMFT, LCSW, LPCC, LEP	\$100	\$50

** A \$20 Mental Health Practitioner Education Fund fee applies to LMFT, LCSW, and LPCC license renewal–related applications, including Biennial Active, Biennial Inactive, and Retired to Active renewals. This fee is required by law and is not reduced as part of the temporary fee reduction.*

- 5. Which exams are excluded from the reduced fees?**
Reduced fees do not apply to exams which are not board-administered.
- 6. Will the clinical examination fee for the LCSW be reduced?**
No. The LCSW clinical exam is administered by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) and is not included in the reduction.
- 7. Will the clinical examination fee for the LPCC be reduced?**
No. The LPCC clinical exam is administered by the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) and is not included in the reduction.
- 8. Will Duplicate documents and Fingerprint fees be reduced?**
No. These fees are not included in the reduction.
- 9. How can licensees verify that they are charged the correct reduced fee when renewing or applying after July 1, 2026?**
Licensees should review the official fee schedule and confirm the total before submitting payment. The updated fees will be reflected in your Breeze account, effective July 1, 2026.
- 10. What steps should applicants take if they are unsure whether the reduced fees apply to their situation?**
Applicants should review the updated fee schedule and/or contact the Board for clarification before submitting payment. For all payment related questions, email the Board's Cashiering Unit at BBS.CASHIER@dca.ca.gov
- 11. What happens if the Board receives an application before July 1, 2026?**
The current full fee applies. The reduction only applies to payments made between July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2030.
- 12. Can I receive a refund if my renewal or other application fee was received and/or paid before July 1, 2026?**
No. Any fees received and/or paid before July 1, 2026, are subject to the existing fee schedule and are not eligible for refund, including those for renewal and non-renewal-related applications.
- 13. Should I send in my renewal application or pay online?**
The Board encourages all Licensees and Registrants to renew online. Online renewals are processed instantly through the Board's Breeze system. Manual renewals are accepted; however, they are subject to 4–6-week processing times.
- 14. What factors might the Board evaluate before deciding whether to extend or reinstate full fees after June 30, 2030?**
The Board may evaluate:
- Reserve fund balance
 - Operating expenses and revenue trends
 - Economic conditions
 - State budget impacts

- Implementation costs of major policy initiatives
- Compliance with BPC §128.5

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