



OHIO BOARD OF NURSING ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 23

July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023



January 31, 2024

The Honorable Mike DeWine
Governor, State of Ohio
77 South High Street, 30th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Governor DeWine:

On behalf of the Ohio Board of Nursing (OBN), we are pleased to submit our Annual Report for state Fiscal Year 2023, in accordance with Section 4723.06 of the Revised Code. The Annual Report highlights the work of the Board members and staff. The Ohio Board of Nursing is responsible for regulating over 300,000 licenses and certificate holders, nearly 34,000 more than it did just 10 years ago.

In Fiscal Year 23, the Board continued our vision to be a leader through innovative and efficient health care regulation, positively impacting the wellbeing of every Ohioan, and our mission to actively safeguard the public through equitable regulation of nursing and other health care professions. Fiscal Year 23 saw the Board engage in customer service initiatives, such as a new website redesign, Nurse Licensure Compact implementation, and performing more outreach opportunities to improve our user interaction and experience.

While the overwhelming majority of nurses practice with high standards, the actions or deficient practice of some have the potential to compromise patient safety and the public's confidence in the profession. The Board has an important role in impacting the safety of nursing care that touches virtually all Ohioans, in accordance with the provisions of Ohio Revised Code Chapter 4723.

The report highlights the public protection role of the Board's strategic initiatives and the regulatory excellence that has been achieved with a common-sense approach to meeting regulatory challenges while protecting the public. OBN's foundational principles include our customer service, communication to all Ohioans, and our team. OBN values accountability, compassion, integrity, collaboration, and inclusion in dealing with all Ohioans.

Respectfully yours,

Erin L. Keels DNP, APRN-CNP

Erin Keels, RN, APRN-CNP
President

Marlene Anielski, MBA, OCPM

Marlene Anielski, MBA, OCPM
Executive Director

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Board Overview

Mission-Vision-Goals

At the Ohio Board of Nursing (OBN), our vision is to be a leader through innovative and efficient health care regulation positively impacting the wellbeing of every Ohioan.

Our mission is to actively safeguard the public through equitable regulation of nursing and other health care professions.

OBN's goal is to verify that individuals meet the statutory and regulatory requirements to enter or remain in practice in Ohio's healthcare workforce through a system designed to license and certify qualified applicants as quickly as possible. Public protection is critical, as nursing touches virtually every citizen of Ohio. The Board regulates over 300,000 licenses and certificates.

The Ohio Board of Nursing is nationally recognized through the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) for its regulatory excellence and public protection work. OBN has a demonstrated track record of ensuring public protection; funding initiatives to combat the nursing shortage; implementing innovative programs for patient safety; and regulating the largest number of licensed professionals of any agency in the State of Ohio.

Nurse Licensure Compact

The roll-out of the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) on January 1, 2023, was successful. The Ohio Board of Nursing's outreach continues via NLC multistate license (MSL) presentations to nursing students, the creation of relevant content on Nursing.Ohio.gov, timely email blasts, and postings on the OBN's social media channels.

LeanOhio White Belt Training

LeanOhio is a state program designed to make government services in Ohio simpler, faster, better, and less costly. The OBN is participating in an effort to help streamline our processes and procedures. In 2023, all permanent OBN employees completed the first level of LeanOhio White Belt training.

Contributions to Statewide Initiatives

Military Licensing for Veterans, Military Personnel and Spouses

The Board continues to prioritize licensure for military personnel, veterans, and spouses for all types of licenses. Following the passage of Senate Bill 7 (133rd Ohio General Assembly), Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Section 4743.041(I) requires a licensing agency to prepare an annual report regarding the number and type of temporary licenses or certificates the agency issued. Annually, each state licensing agency must submit a report to the Director of Veterans Services regarding the number and type of temporary licenses or certificates issued during the previous fiscal year.

Pursuant to that requirement, the Ohio Board of Nursing issued 12 SB-7 temporary licenses for military personnel and spouses in the most recent Fiscal Year (FY) 23. More importantly, OBN is pleased to report that it issued 1,749 expedited licenses for military personnel, veterans, and their spouses. The expedited license process for the military has been in place since the passage of House Bill 488 (130th Ohio General Assembly). OBN's licensure process for these expedited military licenses is set forth in Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) Chapter 4723-2. No matter which route to Ohio licensure is chosen, the expedited path and processes clearly support military personnel, veterans, and their spouses as the number of those licensed continues to grow.

Nursing Workforce Data Collection

During each renewal since 2013, OBN has collected LPN, RN, and APRN nursing workforce data for purposes of state and federal health care planning and to assist in growing Ohio's health care workforce. OBN continues to provide summary reports and the raw data on our website, Nursing.Ohio.gov.

Education Grant and Tuition Assistance

To support job growth and meet the demands of health care, OBN funds two programs through nursing license renewal fees.

- Nurse Education Grant Program (NEGP): The Nurse Education Grant Program (NEGP) is a two year cycle (November 1 of odd numbered years to October 31 of the next odd numbered year) awards funding to nurse education programs that partner with health care facilities, community health agencies or patient centered medical homes to increase their nursing student enrollment capacity.
- Nurse Education Assistance Loan Program (NEALP): The Nurse Education Assistance Loan Program (NEALP), administered by the Ohio

Department of Education, provides financial assistance to Ohio students enrolled for at least half-time study (or accepted for enrollment) in an approved Ohio nurse education program. NEALP provides funding for nurses who intend to serve as instructors or students who intend to serve as nurses after graduation.

Addressing the Opioid Epidemic

OBN continues to collaborate with the administration, legislators, law enforcement, drug task forces, and state boards and agencies in the ongoing effort to combat prescription drug abuse and the opioid epidemic.

While it has been important to limit the prescribing of opioids and impose disciplinary action, when warranted, OBN also recognizes that treatment and recovery are vital for a comprehensive statewide plan to address the opioid epidemic. OBN's expanded Alternative Program for Substance Use Disorder enables licensees to enter a confidential, "fresh start" program earlier in the disease progression. The program is intended to increase the potential for the individual to successfully complete treatment and safely return to nursing practice.

Program Area Highlights and Statistics

Licensure and Certification

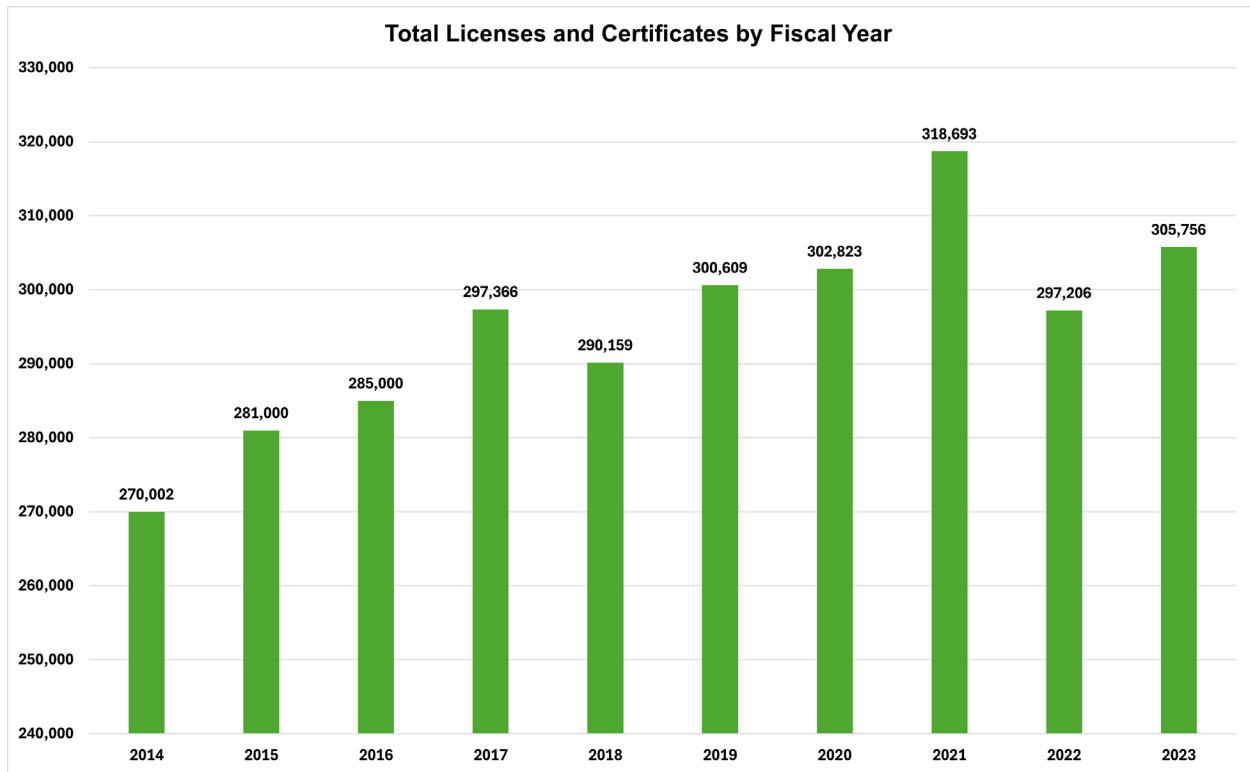
Strategic Initiative: Ensure licensees and certificate holders meet requirements to be licensed or certified to practice in Ohio.

Streamlined and Implemented Innovative Processes

- The Licensure Unit continues to streamline processes for efficiency.
- The Licensure unit continues to develop the customer service staff in an increased effort to help answer licensee questions about the application process, license status, or account status modifications such as name changes. The increased availability of live operators is showing signs of increased satisfactory interaction, and positive user experiences.
- Applicants continued to receive increased messaging, both directly from OBN and through eLicense regarding application status, renewal reminders, and the need to update personal information.

Licensed Nurses and Certificate Holders for Fiscal Year 2023

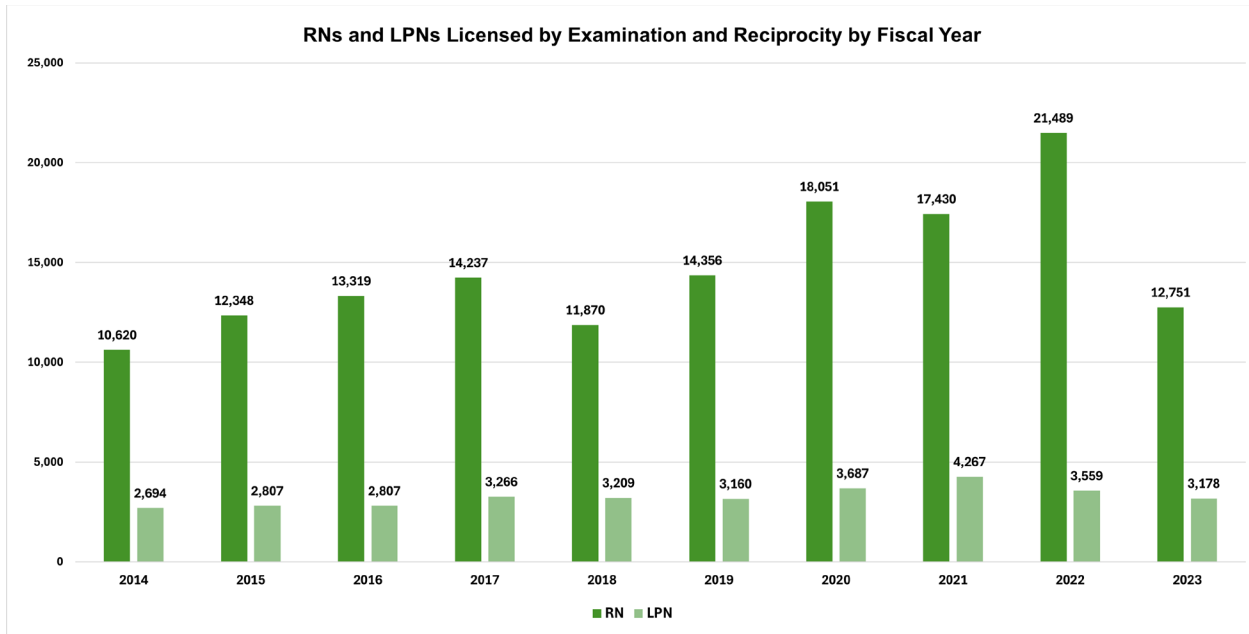
- OBN renewed 242,211 licenses and certificates and issued 34,264 new licenses and certificates.
 - Issued 1,749 expedited licenses for military personnel, veterans, and their spouses.
 - Renewed a total of 214,502 RN licenses.
 - Received 29,026 applications for licensure and 16,989 service requests from licensees requesting a change in their license record.



The OBN expected to see a dip in Total Licenses and Certificates due to Ohio joining the Nurse Licensure Compact and nurses choosing multistate licenses over Ohio single-state licenses.

Active Licenses and Certificates by Fiscal Year	
Registered Nurse (RN) License	219,013
Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) License	51,923
Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) License	31,459
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist - 3,675 • Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist Temp - 9 • Certified Nurse Midwife - 599 • Certified Nurse Midwife Temp - 1 • Certified Nurse Practitioner - 25,353 • Certified Nurse Practitioner Temp - 108 • Certified Nurse Specialist - 1,713 • Certified Nurse Specialist Temp- 1 	
Ohio Certified Dialysis Technician Certificate	1,720
Community Health Worker Certificate	985
Medication Aide Certificate	656
Total	305,756

Newly Issued Licenses and Certificates by Fiscal Year	
RN Licenses	20,014
• RN Temp	4,316
LPN Licenses	5,436
• LPN Temp	320
APRN Licenses	3,012
• Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist - 272	
• Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist Temp - 2	
• Certified Nurse Midwife - 54	
• Certified Nurse Practitioner - 2,614	
• Certified Nurse Practitioner Temp - 48	
• Certified Nurse Specialist - 22	
Ohio Certified Dialysis Technician Certificate	175
Community Health Worker Certificate	321
Medication Aide Certificate	670
Total	34,264



Community Health Workers										
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
New¹	41	111	215	244	221	161	0	196	233	321
Active²	122	190	401	516	739	604	772	967	935	892

Dialysis Technicians										
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
New¹	394	429	439	466	500	573	484	501	355	175
Active²	1,824	1,723	1,898	1,886	2,081	2,073	2,308	2,597	1,900	2,092

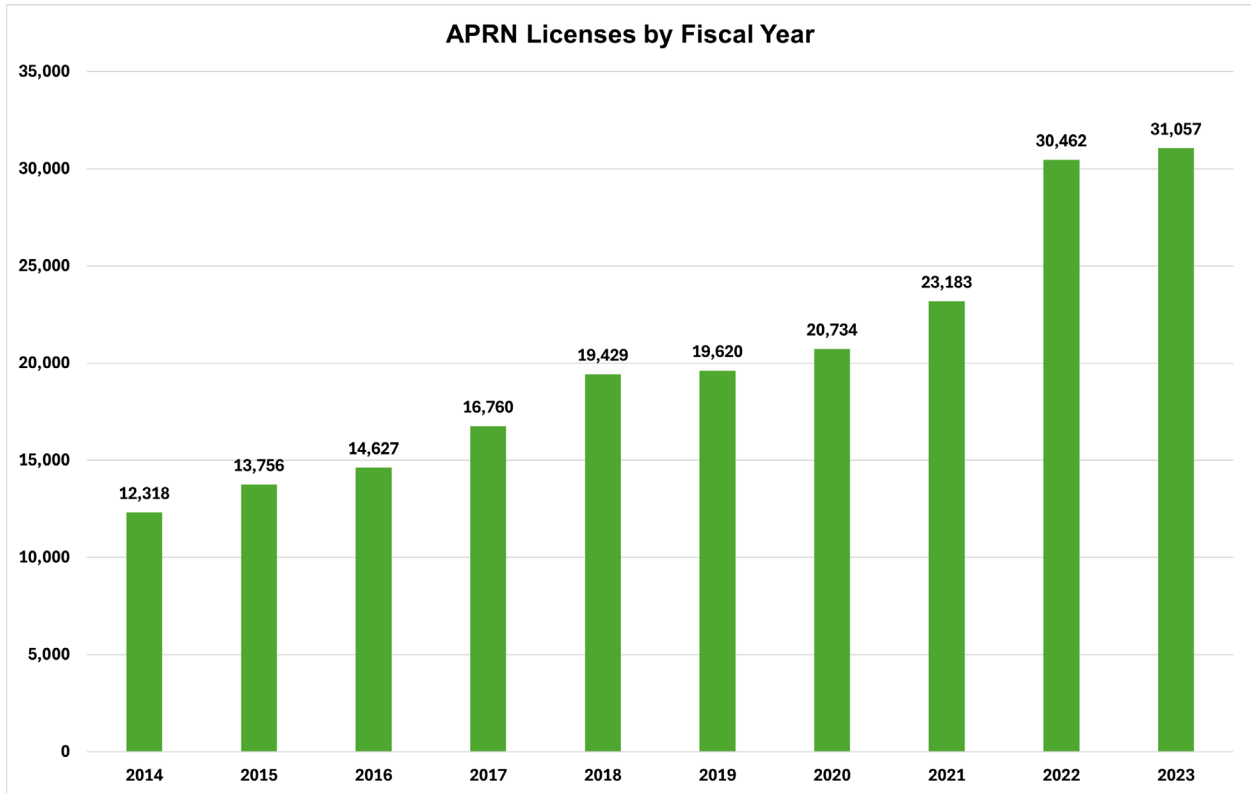
Medication Aides										
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
New¹	30	40	51	54	27	55	0	27	192	670
Active²	192	184	164	164	222	278	346	371	406	656

¹“New” is defined as new licenses issued in 2023.

²“Active” is defined as all licenses active in 2023, including the number of New licenses issued.

Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs)

- Endorsed 24,586 APRN licenses.
 - Issued 2,962 new APRN licenses in Fiscal Year 23
 - Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist – 272
 - Certified Nurse Midwife – 54
 - Certified Nurse Practitioner – 2,614
 - Clinical Nurse Specialist – 22



Advanced Nursing Education and Approved Training Programs

Strategic Initiative: Approve pre-licensure programs to ensure programs maintain academic and clinical standards.

Competent and safe nursing practice begins with education programs that prepare individuals for practice. The Board reviewed nursing education programs and various types of training programs to assure the programs maintained academic and clinical standards for the preparation of entry-level nurses and other health care workers.

Number of Education Programs by Fiscal Year										
Type	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
RN	108	109	113	110	110	115	114	117	124	127
LPN	70	69	69	70	74	74	75	76	74	76
Total	178	178	182	180	184	189	189	193	198	203

- In Fiscal Year 23, OBN regulated 203 pre-licensure nursing programs, 62 training programs, and approved eight new nursing education programs, and nine new Medication Aide training programs.
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- Convened Advisory Groups on Nursing Education, Continuing Education, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, Community Health Workers and Dialysis Technicians to provide recommendations.
- Provided Nursing Education Workshops for Program Administrators, faculty, and staff.
- Hosted an NCLEX Regional Conference provided by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing to provide an overview of the NCLEX examination and the Next Generation NCLEX.

Training Programs Approved by Fiscal Year										
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Dialysis Technician	25	24	21	23	22	22	21	21	19	17
Medication Aide	15	16	15	15	14	13	14	15	23	31
Community Health Care Worker	6	9	12	14	15	15	17	18	19	14
Total	46	49	48	52	51	50	52	54	61	62

Compliance, Discipline, Investigations, and Monitoring

Strategic Initiative: Efficiently handle complaints, investigations, and adjudications to safeguard the health of the public.

- Processed and investigated complaints regarding alleged diversion of drugs, criminal offenses, substance use disorder, sub-standard practice, patient abuse and neglect, and other violations of the Nurse Practice Act and administrative rules.
- Assured that all investigative and disciplinary processes remained in place and were completed in a timely manner: processed and mailed Board Orders, continued a daily triage of complaints and processing of subpoenas for patient and other vital records; conducted timely investigations and interviews via teleconference, when necessary, responded individually to hundreds of requests from former or current licensees regarding disciplinary actions, and worked with the Attorney General's Office and parties to hold hearings in-person, and electronically as needed.
- Reported Board Actions to the National Practitioners Data Bank (NPDB) and NURSYS.com, an NCSBN national nursing licensee database.
- Provided two alternative-to-discipline programs, the Alternative Program for Substance Use Disorder, a confidential program offered for licensees with substance use disorder and the Practice Intervention and Improvement Program, a confidential practice remediation program offered for licensees with practice deficiencies.

Complaints (2023 Calendar Year)	
Type of Complaint	Number
Applicant MSL	1,311
Applicant NCLEX	1,108
Practice	971
Applicant Renewal	613
Drugs/Alcohol	561
Criminal	336
Applicant Reinstatement	281
Action Taken in Another State or Jurisdiction	261
APRN Practice	261
Applicant Endorsement (Reciprocity)	247
Non-Compliance with Board Actions	203
Multiple Allegations	108
Applicant APRN	90
APRN Prescribing	74
Confidentiality	57
Applicant Medication Aide	52
Applicant Community Health Worker	52
Patient Abuse	51
Facility/Employer	47
Patient Boundaries	32
Applicant Dialysis Technician	32
Fraud	26
Social Media/Non-Practice	21
Invalid License (lapsed/inactive)	20
Falsification/Employer	19
Imposter/Never Licensed	13
Misappropriation	12
Psychiatric Impairment	11
Not Licensed by the Ohio Board of Nursing	9
Falsification/Board	9
Patient Sexual Contact	7
APRN Lapses (license, national certification)	3
Practice after Suspension or Revocation	2
Fraud (Medicare/Medicaid)	2
Default/Child Support	2
Physical Impairment	1
Nursing Student	1
Total	6,906

OBN processed 6,906 complaints in calendar year 2023. Of the applicants who applied for a multistate license, 1,311 were referred for review due to compliance issues or past criminal offenses.

Nurse Licensure Applicants Referred to Compliance for Review (2023 Calendar Year)		
Type	Total Number Applications	Number Referred to Compliance
Licensure by Examination	12,751	1,108
Licensure by Reciprocity and Temporary Permits	3,178	247
Total	15,929	1,355

While the overwhelming majority of Ohio nurses practice with high standards, the actions or deficient practice of some have the potential to compromise patient safety and the public’s confidence in the profession.

Board Actions (2023 Calendar Year)	
Type	Number
Consent Agreement	297
Notice of Opportunity for Hearing	162
Stayed Suspension (Probation)	98
Board Orders	97
Suspension Without Stay	88
Reprimand with Requirements	59
Immediate Suspension	49
Automatic Suspension	17
Permanent Surrender	10
Voluntary Retirement	8
Default Order	5
Permanent Revocation/Denial	5
Summary Suspension	1
Total	896

OBN provided monitoring and oversight to assure licensees fulfilled the terms and conditions of their disciplinary agreements, Board Orders, or Participant Agreements for the Alternative Program for Substance Use Disorder or the Practice Intervention and Improvement Program.

Cases (2023 Calendar Year)	Number
Active Cases	1,025
Inactive Cases ¹	5,063
Monitoring Ceased - Issued Automatic Suspension and Notice of Opportunity for Hearing	20
Monitoring Ceased - Released from the Terms and Conditions of their Board Order/Consent Agreement	218
Completion of Reprimand Requirements	119
Total	6,445

¹Cases on inactive monitoring status generally involve suspended licenses or certificates. The case is assigned to “active” monitoring status upon an individual’s request for reinstatement and/or entry into a post-suspension consent agreement.

Practice

Strategic Initiative: Maintain alignment with the Nurse Practice Act as set forth in chapter 4723 of the ORC.

Nursing Practice

- Responded to an average of 450 practice questions per month to provide guidance regarding the application of the Nurse Practice Act and administrative rules.

Legislation

Strategic Initiative: Review standards and controls to govern OBN in the protection of all Ohioans.

- Sub. H.B. 33, the State Operating Budget, passed out of conference committee on June 30, 2023. The budget included several major policy changes for the nursing profession including:
 - Extending the Nurse Education Grant Program (NEGP) through 2033.
 - Funding for the Nurse Education Assistance Loan Program through a \$5 license renewal fee under Ohio Department of Higher Education.
 - Creating the new Doula Certification to be regulated by OBN.
 - Allowing APRNs to prescribe schedule II drugs at some behavioral health centers under certain circumstances.
 - Creating the Center for Community Health Worker Excellence, a public-private partnership to support and foster the practice of community health workers and improve access to community health worker services across the state.
 - Creating a Parkinson's Disease registry and requires APRNs to report cases of the disease to the registry.
- H.B. 509, a law to revise and streamline occupational regulations, was signed by the Governor on January 5, 2023 and went into effect on April 6, 2023. The law contains several revisions to ORC Sec. 4723 including:
 - Eliminating dialysis technician intern certificates but continues to authorize an individual who has successfully completed an approved dialysis training program within the previous 18 months to practice as a dialysis technician intern, so long as the individual is supervised as provided in the act.
 - Authorizing physician assistants to supervise dialysis technicians and dialysis technician interns, in addition to physicians and registered nurses who continue to be authorized to supervise.

- Allowing a licensed practical nurse to administer medications or perform intravenous therapy without authorization from the Board of Nursing.
- Referring to “entities” from which an advanced practice registered nurse may issue a prescription for a schedule II controlled substance, rather than “locations” as under prior law.
- Removing obsolete references to the Committee on Prescriptive Governance and former advanced practice registered nurse drug formulary.
- Requiring an employer of out-of-state nurses holding multistate licenses under the Nurse Licensure Compact to report to the Board the number of those nurses, rather than personal names.
- Authorizing the Board to contract with a third-party vendor to administer its substance use disorder monitoring program for license and certificate holders.

Administrative Rules

- In 2023, OBN completed its five-year review of applicable administrative rules as required by Section 119.032, ORC. The Board reviewed and approved proposed amendments of no change to rules in Chapter 4723-4, Standards of Practice Relative to Registered Nurse or Licensed Practical Nurse; Chapter 4723-6, Alternative Program for Substance Use Disorder Monitoring; Chapter 4723-18, Practice Intervention and Improvement Program (PIIP); and Chapter 4723-20, Prevention of Disease Transmission. In Chapter 4723-4, Rule 4723-4-01, and Rule 4723-4-02, now include the definitions and standards for LPN IV therapy that were previously found in former Rule 4723-17-03 (because Chapter 4723-17 was rescinded). In Chapter 4723-6, language was modernized throughout. In Chapter 4723-18, Rule 4723-18-04 was amended to remove the requirement for in-person meetings to provide flexibility to participants. No changes were made in Chapter 4723-20. These changes are effective February 1, 2024.
- The Board also amended or rescinded existing rules not slated for five-year review, and adopted new rules based on stakeholder recommendation and statutory requirements. For example, effective April 6, 2023, HB 509 eliminated Board certification of IV therapy as a requirement for LPNs to perform IV therapy and similarly eliminated Board certification of medication administration for LPN medication administration. These changes resulted in the elimination of Chapter 4723-17. Effective April 6, 2023, HB 509 also eliminated Board certification of Dialysis Technician Interns, which resulted in rescission of Rule 4723-23-02, Dialysis Technician Intern certificate, and the definition of Dialysis Technician Intern in Rule 4723-23-01(D), to be consistent with the Section 4723.01(S), ORC. These changes are effective February 1, 2024.

- The Rules Advisory Group reviews and makes recommendations to the entire Board for modifications to the Ohio Administrative Code.

Communication and Collaboration

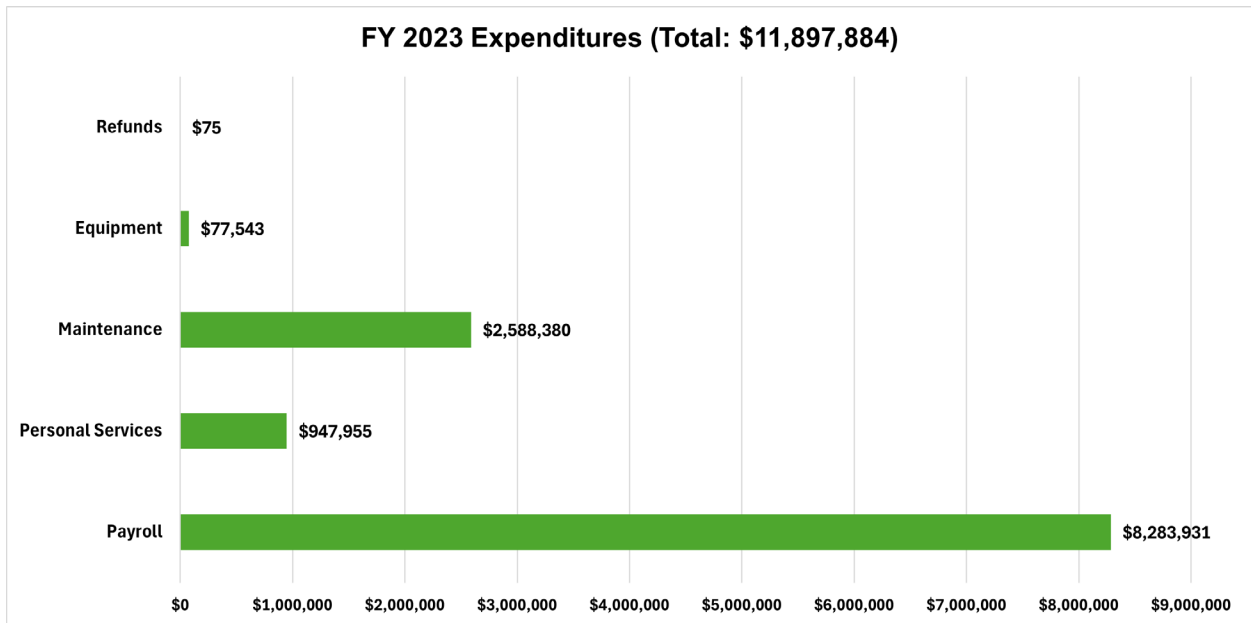
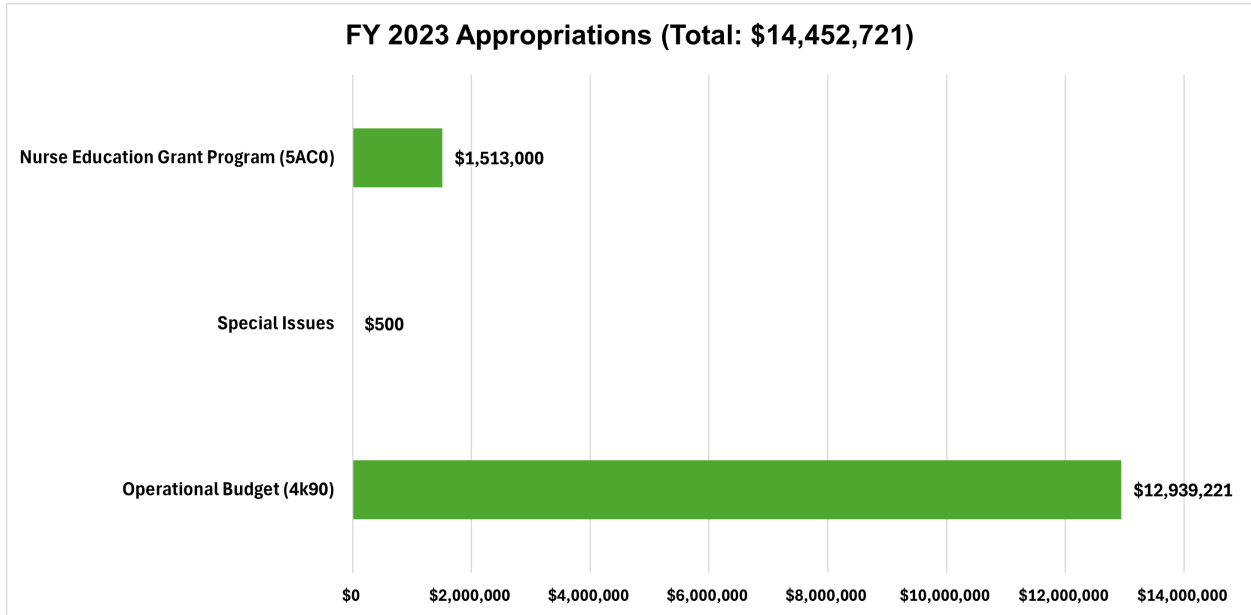
- OBN shared updates with licensees, interested parties, and the general public about disciplinary actions, proposals for rule making, practice guidance, new regulatory requirements, statewide initiatives, licensing and other OBN activities. OBN utilized multiple outlets for information updates including the OBN website, electronic news updates, the quarterly magazine, and outreach visits to nursing schools.
- OBN redesigned our website to enhance navigation, improve user interaction, and increase search functionality for measurable analytics.
- OBN continued collaboration and work with the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN): Participated in conference calls, meetings, and conferences for Discipline, Education, Practice, Executive Officers, Public Policy, and the Nurse Licensure Compact.

Appendix A: Board Member Roster

Members For Fiscal Year 2023 (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023)

Name/Position	City	Term Expires
Erin Keels, DNP, APRN, NNP-BC, President	Columbus	12/31/2026
Donna L. Hanly, RN, Vice President Board Licensure Liaison Chair, Advisory Group on Continuing Education	Galena	12/31/2025
Candy Sue Rinehart, DNP, APRN-CNP Supervising Member for Disciplinary Matters Chair, Rules Advisory Group	Springfield	12/31/2024
Matthew Carle Consumer Member	Blacklick	12/31/2023
Jenny Heiser, LPN Chair, Community Health Worker Advisory Group	Beavercreek	12/31/2025
Tiffany Knepper, RN, APRN-CNP Chair, Advisory Group on Nursing Education APRN Advisory Group Representative	Orwell	12/31/2025
Shawn Livingston, LPN	Thurman	12/31/2025
Joseph Quackenbush, LPN	Newark	12/31/2025
Barbara Wadsworth, RN	Brunswick	12/31/2027
Gina Woods, RN Chair, Advisory Group on Dialysis	Canal Winchester	12/31/2025

Appendix B: Fiscal Report



FY 2023 Revenue	
Income	\$8,272,932
Total Revenue	\$8,272,932
Transfers Out Nurse Education Assistance Loan Program (NEALP)	
Total	\$234,720
Transfers Out Nurse Education Grant Program (NEGP)	
Total	\$469,440
NEGP Fund	
Amount Dispersed	\$1,153,000
Administrative Expense	\$0
Total	\$1,153,000