



Bureau of Laboratories

Laboratory Accreditation Program Fee and Program Cost Analysis Report

Environmental Quality Board
September 10, 2024

Josh Shapiro, Governor

Jessica Shirley, Acting Secretary

Statutory Requirements

Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Act (27 Pa.C.S. § 4101—4113)

- Requires DEP to create and implement Laboratory Accreditation Program to assess environmental laboratories and issue certificate of accreditation
- Requires DEP to establish fees from accredited laboratories to cover the cost of implementing and administering the accreditation program

Regulatory Requirements

25 Pa. Code § 252.204(b)

“At least every 3 years, the Department will recommend regulatory changes to the fees in this section to the EQB to address any disparity between the program income generated by the fees and program costs. The regulatory amendment will be based upon an evaluation of the accreditation program fees income and the Department’s costs of administering the accreditation program.”

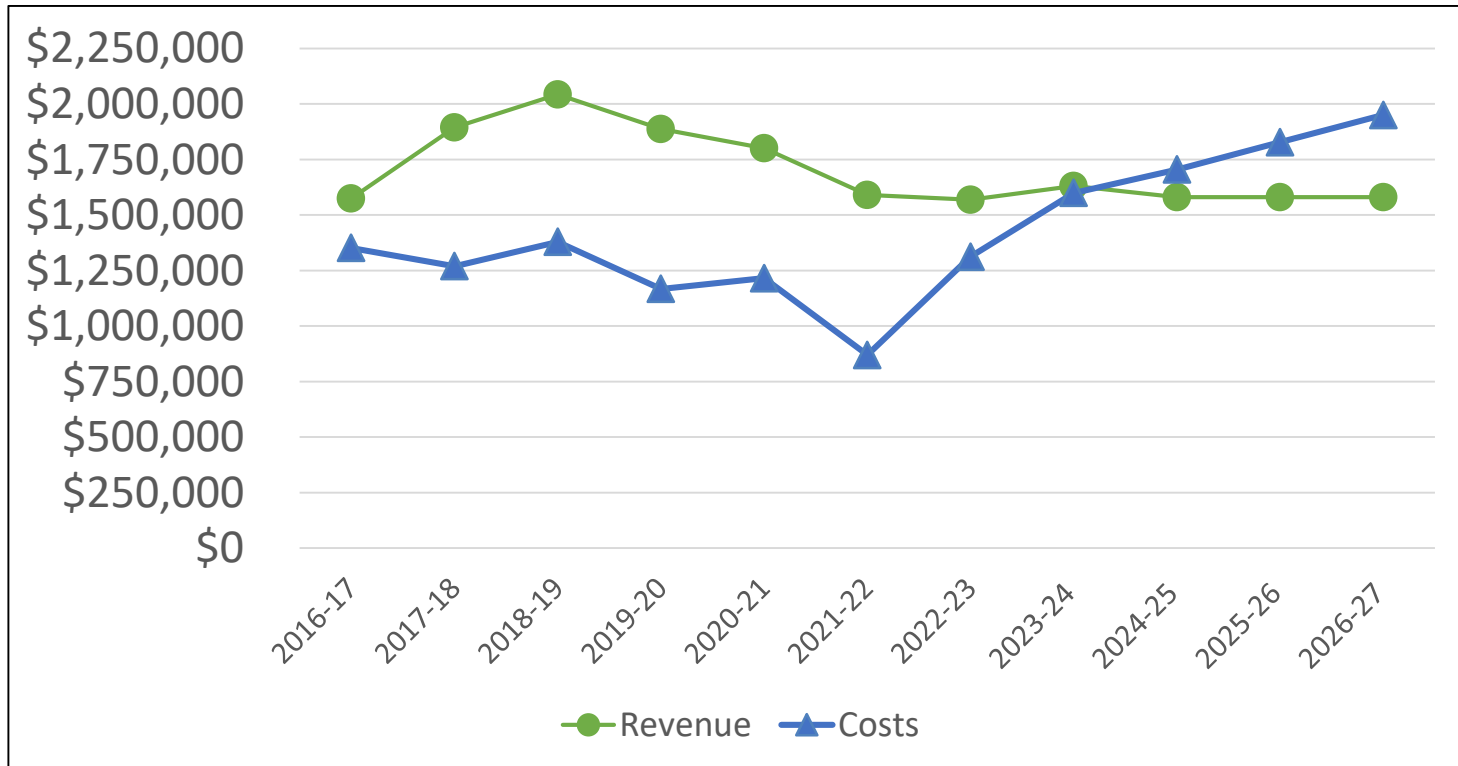
Program Activities

- Process Applications for Accreditation
- Assess Laboratory Analyses and Operations
- Review Proficiency Testing Results – Accreditation Status Changes/Updates
- Evaluate Laboratory Supervisor Qualifications
- Provide Compliance Assistance
- Investigate Complaints
- Facilitate Enforcement Activities
- Develop and Amend Regulations



Revenue vs. Expenses

- 25 Pa. Code Chapter 252: Fees - § 252.204(a)
 - Promulgated January 2006
 - Updated on April 10, 2010, and July 29, 2017



Factors Impacting Revenue

- Fewer accredited laboratories
 - Laboratory closures due to pandemic
 - Absorption of smaller laboratories into larger entities

Lab Accreditation	2016	2024
NELAP (National)	125	38
State	311	301

- Increased number of NELAP testing parameters per lab

Factors Impacting Expenses

- Wage and benefit increases for program and support staff (22% in current master agreement)
- Assessment of more complex analyses (example: PFAS)
- Overall increase in operational expenses: rent, travel expenses, information technology, etc.

Summary

- Current fees are inadequate to cover the operation of the Laboratory Accreditation Program.
- The Department recommends a proposed rulemaking to address the disparity between fee collection and program costs.



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