

Kate Brown
Governor



Oregon Advocacy Commissions

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To: Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on General Government Senator Jeff Golden and Representative Greg Smith, Co-Chairs
From: Albert Lee, Executive Director, Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office
Date: March 2021
Subject: OACO 2021-2023 Budget Written Reference Materials

Mission: The mission of the Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office is to promote equity, leadership and public policy. The Office accomplishes their mission by providing administrative support to the Oregon Commissions on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs, Black Affairs, Hispanic Affairs, and the Oregon Commission for Women. The four Commissions function independently and statute charges the Commissions with monitoring the impact of legislation and state programs on their respective constituencies and with working to establish economic, social, legal, and political equity in Oregon. Each commission is comprised of nine commissioners appointed by the Governor and two Legislators appointed by the Senate President and Speaker of the House and confirmed by the Senate. There are 11 members in each commission for a combined total of 44 commissioners. By statute, the commissions meet annually in a joint session, to consider issues and actions of mutual interest, to include improved outcomes in employment, education, justice, health, civic engagement, housing, and environmental justice for Asian and Pacific Islander Oregonians, Black Oregonians, Hispanic Oregonians, and women in Oregon.

- Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs, <https://www.oregon.gov/oac/ocapia/Pages/index.aspx>
- Oregon Commission on Black Affairs, <https://www.oregon.gov/oac/ocba/Pages/index.aspx>
- Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs, <https://www.oregon.gov/oac/ocha/Pages/index.aspx>
- Oregon Commission for Women, <https://www.oregon.gov/oac/ocfw/Pages/index.aspx>

The Intersectional Strategic Priorities of the Oregon Advocacy Commissions:

1. Education and Careers
2. Jobs and Economy
3. Justice, Safety, and Policing
4. Housing and Stable Families
5. Civic Engagement and Isolation
6. Health and Health Access
7. Environmental Equity/Justice

2021-23 GRB: https://www.oregon.gov/oac/Documents1/OACO_2021-23_Governor%27s_Budget_FINAL.pdf

The Governor’s Budget for the OACO is \$1.1 million total funds. This is a 47.5 percent increase from the 2019-21 Legislatively Adopted Budget. This budget funds four positions, which includes:

- A new permanent full-time public affairs/community engagement position; and,
- A policy/research analyst position has been changed from part-time to full-time.

The Governor’s Budget investment in the Office will increase the agency's ability to support the Commissions, enhance opportunities for inter-agency collaboration, and improve legislative advocacy. The 1.50 full time equivalent increase to staff will help the Office develop community-informed policy and partnerships to engage and center diverse community stakeholders and leaders across the state to be an essential part of the data-informed public policy decision-making process.

Core operations of the Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office are funded with General Fund. The Office and the four commissions also benefit from donation funds, which represent one percent of the overall budget. Donation funds received are dedicated by statute to the commission to which the donation was made and must be expended in accordance with the conditions and purposes of the donation.

Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office Long Term Goals, 2021–23

- Goal 1)** Increase engagement by the Advocacy Commissions in all aspects of the Policy Arc around the OACs’ strategic priorities, including community and stakeholder engagement in design and at key points.
- Goal 2)** Conduct public policy research and policy development in the OACs’ seven priority areas that informs and drives equity-related policymaking each legislative session.
- Goal 3)** Advocate to improve equity and success in seven key areas of concern to Oregon’s Asian and Pacific Islander, Black, and Hispanic communities and Women: poverty/employment, education/careers, civic engagement/isolation, health/health access, justice/safety/policing, stable families/housing, and environmental equity/justice.
- Goal 4)** Build leadership development and community engagement among the Advocacy Commissions’ constituent communities.



How the 2021-23 Budget Supports Agency Goals

- 1. Builds on current biennium Policy Outcomes**
 - 2021: Release of OCHA/OHA/DHS [Mental Health and Latinos Policy Report](#) for 2021 Legislative Session, and committee presentations. Collaborate with legislative sponsors for bill related to the policy report: HB [2361](#), HB [2368](#), HB [2369](#), HB [2370](#), HB [2949](#).
 - 2020: Release of [OCFW/COSA/ODE Study of Gender Equity among School Administrators](#) for pay and leadership; built OCFW’s collaboration with Coalition of Oregon School Administrators and Oregon School Boards Association on policy remedies.

- 2020: Collaboration with Governor’s Office in supporting the Racial Justice Council and other equity resourcing and policy work within executive branch.
 - [OCAPIA/OACO: Professional re-credentialing in Oregon for immigrants with international credentials](#): Researching best practices and statutes in Oregon and nationally that promote effective workforce integration of immigrants with professional license or trades certification from other nations. Partners: OCAPIA/OCHA/OACO, HECC, Partners in Diversity (PID), Licensing boards
 - [OCBA/OACO: Improving High School Graduation Rates](#): Joint research between DHS ORRAI, ODE, and the OACs on best practices and data supported, locally designed models for improved, student-centered risk factor reduction, and improved graduation rates for students struggling to meet third grade and higher predictive benchmarks for graduation.

2. **Engages community and stakeholders in OACs’ equity-focused policy work in every phase**, to assure their input and collaboration in study design, applied policy research, and policy recommendations and development, creating and implementing culturally-specific public involvement and community engagement plans with OCAPIA, OCBA, OCHA, and OCFW.
3. **Engages with departmental policy makers, legislators, and OAC leadership within the Policy Arc** to identify equity-related policy issues; plan and conduct joint policy research; propose legislative concepts; present research outcomes; and advance equity-focused legislation and administrative rules through the work of the Advocacy Commissions. During Long and Short Sessions the OACOs will research and track 150 – 200 equity focused bills identified by the OAC search words and collaborations, support and submit testimony written by the Advocacy Commissions for 50 -70 bills, and support invited testimony and committee presentations requested of the Commissions.
4. **Builds capacity to establish and staff the OACs’ joint committee and workgroup structure** that direct the intersectional and engagement work of the Advocacy Commissions to achieve the following seven outcomes: 1) to grow knowledge and raise awareness on issues in strategic priority areas; 2) identify emerging issues within community; 3) conduct joint research on issues in collaboration with rural and urban constituent communities; 4) develop legislative concepts and policy recommendations in collaboration with community and stakeholder input; 5) set legislative and research priorities; 6) deepen relationships with partners; and 7) engage policy makers/agency leaders/community stakeholders in support of the OACs’ Policy Arc activities.
5. **Develops partner research/data sharing agreements** between the OACO, university-based, and agency partners to write research grants; conduct joint equity focused policy research; and share/access data on equity related issues identified by the Oregon Advocacy Commissions.
6. **Expands the equity-related research products provided by the OACs** to include a range of complexity from briefing sheets, infographics, best practices, literature and law reviews, full reports and executive summaries, to bulleted presentations and community related FB and Social media postings, Twitter from each Commission focused on engagement in policy and sharing outcomes.
7. **Uses and assesses the ability of the OACs’ websites to advance all aspects of the OACs’ engagement and policy work within the Policy Arc** including easy access to dashboards of data and links to the joint policy research materials of the OACs, urban and rural



issue analysis, legislative outcomes, community engagement in applied policy research, and partnerships in ways useful to their community partners, and policy makers.

8. **Grows collaborations and partnerships with interested universities statewide** for equity focused policy research with the Advocacy Commissions. This may include research with graduate/PhD students or faculty, jointly writing grants, and co-authoring research articles impacting equity in the OACs' constituent communities.
9. **Increases community and partner awareness of the OACs applied policy research with joint releases to the media of policy research** conducted between the OACs and agency partners, working with the partner agency leadership, their communications directors, and the OAC Chairs.
10. **Grows capacity for rural issue and policy analysis** in all aspects of the OACs' policy research on key issues challenging constituent communities statewide, building rural research partnerships across the state.
11. **Grows capacity for intersectional analysis, research, and policy development of interest between two or more of the Oregon Advocacy Commissions.**

Agency Performance Measures

OACO maintains two performance measures and are proposing a third measure, at the request of the 2019 legislature, to measure the effectiveness of its partnerships in key statutory areas of advocacy/advising and study/applied policy research.

1. Performance in 15 key areas of office and financial management procedures: 100%
2. Satisfaction among the Advocacy Commissions with the performance of the OACO support to Commissioners: 96%
 - Accuracy
 - Helpfulness
 - Timeliness
 - Expertise
 - Availability of information
 - Overall satisfaction
3. The OACs/OACO are proposing, at the request of the 2019 legislature, a third performance measure for their statutory advocacy, and study/applied policy research and policy outcomes as measured by the partnerships of the OCAPIA, OCBA, OCHA, OCFW (the Advocacy Commissions) and their supporting state office, the OACO. The survey will be administered with partner groups following specific advocacy efforts on public policy, and at key stages of applied policy research collaborations. The surveyed groups will include community partners, legislators and legislative branch partners, departmental partners, and Governor's Office. The proposed partnership performance ratings are:
 - Relevance
 - Accuracy
 - Helpfulness
 - Timeliness/Influence
 - Expertise/Engagement
 - Availability of information
 - Overall effectiveness



OACO Programs, Organization, and Service Delivery

The Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office (OACO) and the four Commissions it serves are one Program Unit.

The OACO provides administrative support to the statutory work of the Oregon Advocacy Commissions studying issues, advising policy, growing leadership, and building success for Asian and Pacific Islander, Black, & Hispanic Oregonians and for women.

Its primary support includes:

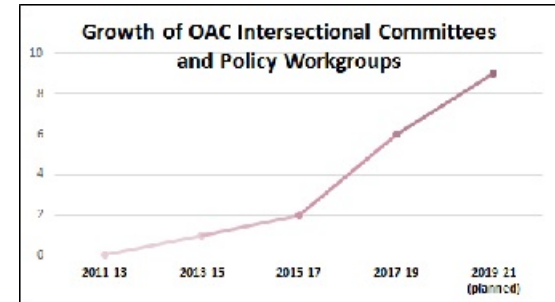
- Assist the Commissions in developing strategies for achieving equity for all Oregonians, including community and partner engagement in all aspects of the equity-focused statutory work of the Advocacy Commissions,
- Work with the Commissions to conduct/study applied policy research of bias and long standing disparities among Communities of Color and women, analysis, analytics, and working with partners and policy makers to prepare policy recommendations and influence public policy in the OACs' advisory capacity, adopt administrative procedures as needed to meet the operating goals of the OACO and Advocacy Commissions,
- Coordinate public policy research internships with the Commissions and their state research partners and provide information on issues under study,
- Prepare and distribute Commissions' agendas and minutes, keep website up-to-date, coordinate speakers, public and partner policy discussions and other business at public meetings,
- Prepare policy reports, briefings, testimony, and presentations, finalize research reports and other documents of the Commissions in collaboration with the OAC Chairs,
- Support the sustainable operation and office support of the Commissions meeting all associated state standards, and provide budgeting, financial oversight and reporting,
- Track legislation of interest to the Commissions and coordinate their legislative advising in invited testimony, legislative committee presentations, and submitted testimony on equity related issues in bills, and,
- Support the Commissions in building partnerships and collaborations within the community and government to further their statutory missions.

Collaboration with community and other agencies

The OACO and the Oregon Advocacy Commissions routinely collaborate intersectionally among the commissions and with partners in their advocacy and applied policy research leading to equity-focused policy recommendations. These include:

- *Constituent communities:* Asian and Pacific Islander, Black, Hispanic, Indigenous and immigrant communities, women and girls in Oregon, providing a voice in policy making on issues of importance and barriers to success of the OACs' constituents statewide, engage community partners on input to policy discussions, and growing leaders and champions for equity statewide in Oregon.
- *Community partners and organizations* seeking civic engagement and policy approaches to achieve equity in partnership with the OACs.

- *Policy makers:* Legislators, Departmental leadership, and other public policy makers who regularly work with the Commissions and seek their advice or research on matters affecting Asian and Pacific Islander, Black, and Hispanic Oregonians and women.
- *The Governor, policy staff, and the Racial Justice Council,* who request counsel and research partnerships with the Commissions in key policy areas.
- *Research partners:* State departments, boards, commissions, Oregon Universities and research institutions interested in partnering with the OACs for public policy research.
- *Equity and Diversity leaders* within State government, through regular meetings to advance equitable best practice and community engagement in all Departments, and to advance Oregon equity agendas among Executive Branch.



Effects of COVID and OAC Constituent Communities in state policy and resourcing

The disproportional impact of COVID is dashing hopes of a secure economic future for Asian and Pacific Islander, Black, and Hispanic Oregonians and women represented by the OACO Commissions that compose much of the front line of care, in professions that cannot work remotely or are laid off. Communities of color and migrant households are fearful of diminishing opportunities for higher education, affording food and medicine for themselves and their families, finding or keeping affordable (or any) shelter, safety from domestic violence, loss of access or no access to broadband and being online, and exposure to the COVID virus in crowded households. Community-specific outreach and in-language resources addressing the COVID emergency has been slow, but are steadily improving, though not quickly enough to have avoided double digit disparities between Latino, Asian, and Pacific Islander cases compared to the white population during COVID.

The Advocacy Commissions' work during the pandemic has included building culturally-specific COVID resources and information at the OACs' website, providing knowledgeable speakers on COVID safety for Oregon's Latino based radio and Public Broadcasting, working with OHSU Key to Oregon leaders to link Africa House and the Asian Family Center with on-site COVID testing and interpreters to help individuals and families be tested and access resources.

Reduction options

While the Governor's Requested Budget keeps the existing 2.5 FTE and current operations intact, reductions at the 10% level would decrease staffing by 16-20 hours per month, affecting the Agency's ability to administer the basic meeting needs of four commissions. Both 5% and 10% reductions leave little operational ability with reduced or no travel among staff or Commission members, reduced telecommunications, and other serious reductions of capability among remaining staff and commission members.

Other Funds ending balance information

This is attached.

OACO														
2021-23 Biennium														
Detail of Reductions to 2021-23 Current Service Level Budget														
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Priority (ranked with highest priority first)	Agency	SCR or Activity Initials	Program Unit/Activity Description	GF	LF	OF	NL-OF	FF	NL-FF	TOTAL FUNDS	Pos.	FTE	Impact of Reduction on Services and Outcomes	
Dept	Prgm/ Div													
		OACO	In priority order: 1) \$13,609 Travel Reduction, 2) \$963 Office Expenses, 3) \$20,000 Data, 4) \$3,000 Professional Services, 5)\$1,300 Expendable Property	38,872						\$ 38,872				Post COVID, reduction of instate travel for Commissioners reduces their ability to develop working relationships within their commissions and the outcomes of the OAC's at in-person meetings with legislators on bills and LC's and invited testimony before committees. However, using ZOOM and other distance platforms have shown themselves to be useful for all these purposes. Professional services for formatting documents and designing OACO materials and reports can be reduced by re-using formats already designed. Computer and phone replacement would be put off for 2 years, which can work by taking the OAC's currently middle aged equipment to the end of its useful life, while still reliable and supported. Data support reduced by cutting web sites from 5 to 1.
		OACO	In priority order: 6) \$3,000 Telecom, 7) \$1,500 Publications, 8) \$237 Office Expenses, 9) \$34,135 Staff Reductions/Furloughs	38,872						\$ 38,872	ESS2	0.87	The Commissions during COVID have increased the amount of communication they do through VOIP so that reducing the Telecom to assume maximum use of computer internet can work. Reducing Publications would require a switch to all digital reports with very few paper publications which is also becoming more expected by legislators and the public, so should pose few problems, while still having some hard copies of influential reports. Reducing office expenses can work, especially around copying costs. During COVID, the staff has shown that need for markers and paper has been changed to screen sharing during ZOOM calls, making the cost reduction much more doable. Reducing the hours of the OAC's staff through actual reduction of positions, or through staff furloughs will negatively affect the outcomes and function of the OACO and the OAC's during a time that needs more community and partner-engaged policy work with the Commissions. Reducing the 1 FTE Executive Support Specialist places more demands on the Administrator. The OACO and its 2.5 FTE provide the coordination and oversight of 4 commissions, 44 commissioners, and 70+ OAC regular and related meetings each biennium. While small in savings the staffing reductions have a large impact on the OAC's statutory advising, advocacy, and equity-related policy research which drive and inform new, and improve existing, laws and other state policy functions by reducing the efficient operation of the OACO and commission workgroup support and ability to meet due to bandwidth..	
				77,744	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 77,744	0	0.87		

UPDATED OTHER FUNDS ENDING BALANCES FOR THE 2019-21 & 2021-23 BIENNIA

Agency: Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office
 Contact Person: Agency Executive Director Albert Lee 503-302-9725

(a) Other Fund Type	(b) Program Area (SCR)	(c) Treasury Fund #/Name	(d) Category/Description	(e) Constitutional and/or Statutory reference	(f) 2019-21 Ending Balance		(g) 2021-23 Ending Balance		(j) Comments	
					In LAB	Revised	In CSL	Revised		
Limited	13100-001-11-00-00000	4112-Commission on Asian Affairs	Other-Donations	2005 Chpt 818, Section 5, Subsection (1) & (2)	1,979	6,569	6,585	6,569	Cash balances based on assumptions that all cash received in AY21 will be spent and ending with previous biennium's balance. Cash balances are subjected to how much will be actually donated. Donation amounts are periodic and variable.	Commission for Women
Limited	13100-001-14-00-00000	4116-Commission for Women	Other-Donations	2005 Chpt 818, Section 5, Subsection (1) & (2)	1,380	5,198	5,706	5,198	Cash balances based on assumptions that all cash received in AY21 will be spent and ending with previous biennium's balance. Cash balances are subjected to how much will be actually donated. Donation amounts are periodic and variable.	Commission on Asian Affairs
Limited	13100-001-12-00-00000	4117-Commission on Black Affairs	Other-Donations	2005 Chpt 818, Section 5, Subsection (1) & (2)	190	75	116	75	Cash balances based on assumptions that all cash received in AY21 will be spent and ending with previous biennium's balance. Cash balances are subjected to how much will be actually donated. Donation amounts are periodic and variable.	Commission on Black Affairs
Limited	13100-001-13-00-00000	4118-Commission on Hispanic Affairs	Other-Donations	2005 Chpt 818, Section 5, Subsection (1) & (2)	410	1,798	958	1,798	Cash balances based on assumptions that all cash received in AY21 will be spent and ending with previous biennium's balance. Cash balances are subjected to how much will be actually donated. Donation amounts are periodic and variable.	Commission on Hispanic Affairs
				Total	3,959	13,640	13,365	13,640		
				ORBITS Check	3,959		13,365			Calculator
										(g) CSL Revenue
										CSL Transfer Out
										CSL Expenditures
										0 (i)

Objective: Provide updated Other Funds ending balance information for potential use in the development of the 2019-21 legislatively adopted budget.

Instructions:

- Column (a): Select one of the following: Limited, Nonlimited, Capital Improvement, Capital Construction, Debt Service, or Debt Service Nonlimited.
- Column (b): Select the appropriate Summary Cross Reference number and name from those included in the 2017-19 Legislatively Approved Budget. If this changed from previous structures, please note the change in Comments (Column (j)).
- Column (c): Select the appropriate, statutorily established Treasury Fund name and account number where fund balance resides. If the official fund or account name is different than the commonly used reference, please include the working title of the fund or account in Column (j).
- Column (d): Select one of the following: Operations, Trust Fund, Grant Fund, Investment Pool, Loan Program, or Other. If "Other", please specify. If "Operations", in Comments (Column (j)), specify the number of months the reserve covers, the methodology used to determine the reserve amount, and the minimum need for cash flow purposes.
- Column (e): List the Constitutional, Federal, or Statutory references that establishes or limits the use of the funds.
- Columns (f) and (h): Use the appropriate, audited amount from the 2017-19 Legislatively Approved Budget and the 2019-21 Current Service Level at the Agency Request Budget level.
- Columns (g) and (i): Provide updated ending balances based on revised expenditure patterns or revenue trends. Do not include adjustments for reduction options that have been submitted unless the options have already been implemented as part of the 2017-19 General Fund approved budget or otherwise incorporated in the 2017-19 LAB. The revised column (i) can be used for the balances included in the Governor's budget if available at the time of submittal. Provide a description of revisions in Comments (Column (j)).
- Column (j): Please note any reasons for significant changes in balances previously reported during the 2017 session.

Additional Materials: If the revised ending balances (Columns (g) or (i)) reflect a variance greater than 5% or \$50,000 from the amounts included in the LAB (Columns (f) or (h)), attach supporting memo or spreadsheet to detail the revised forecast.

OACO 2021-23 Organization Chart

