

Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office

	2017-19 Actual	2019-21 Legislatively Adopted	2019-21 Legislatively Approved *	2021-23 Current Service Level	2021-23 Governor's Budget
General Fund	714,860	756,596	708,032	767,440	1,120,823
Other Funds	4,694	9,841	9,841	9,841	9,841
Total Funds	719,554	766,437	717,873	777,281	1,130,664
Positions	3	3	3	3	4
FTE	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	4.00

* Includes Emergency Board and administrative actions through January 2021.

Program Description

The Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office (OACO) was established in 2005 to provide coordinated administrative support to four advocacy commissions: The Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs, the Commission on Black Affairs, the Commission on Hispanic Affairs, and the Commission for Women. The Commissions serve as liaisons between minority communities and government entities and work to establish economic, social, legal, and political equality in Oregon. OACO provides equity-focused policy research and analysis, staffs Commission meetings, coordinates the legislative advocacy of the Commissions, and develops and manages collaborations with community stakeholders, policymakers and formal research partners on behalf of the Commissions. The four commissions have 11 commission members each, for a combined total of 44 commissioners. The Administrator of OACO is appointed by the chairpersons of the four commissions and the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries.

CSL Summary and Issues

OACO has identified a needed budget adjustment due to reclassification of the OACO Administrator position, from a PEM-C to a PEM-D. The position was also hired at a higher step than budgeted. The estimated cost difference between what the position is budgeted at, and the actual cost of the position in the 2021-23 biennium, is \$121,377 General Fund. The agency did not submit a Policy Option Package for this reclassification.

Policy Issues

The Governor's Budget includes two policy option packages:

- Package 101 increases the agency's existing Operations and Policy Analyst 3 position from 0.50 to 1.00 FTE at a total cost of \$139,367 General Fund. This position provides policy research and analysis for the Commissions.
- Package 103 establishes a Public Affairs Specialist 2 position (1.00 FTE) to increase engagement between the Commissions and their constituent communities, as well as policy partners, at a total cost of \$228,372 General Fund. This position will also help integrate community feedback into policy frameworks.

In January 2021, the Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs (OCHA) with support from OACO, and in partnership with OHA and DHS, released the policy report “Crisis de Nuestro Bienestar: A Report on Latino Mental Health in Oregon”. OCHA made legislative recommendations to the House Interim Committee on Behavioral Health in September 2020 based on this report, and five bills related to the report findings have been introduced for the 2021 Legislative Session.

HB 2030 is an agency-proposed bill for the 2021 Legislative Session that makes several changes to the statutes governing OACO. These include replacing the Bureau of Labor and Industries Commissioner with the Governor on the board that appoints the OACO administrator; and adding to the duties of each Commission to “Assist the Governor on the Governor’s equity-focused initiatives with policy advice, the study of long-standing community issues and the provision of community input, a community voice and leadership, as requested.”

Other Significant Issues and Background

A new OACO Administrator was hired in February 2021.

Key Performance Measures

A copy of the OACO Annual Performance Progress Report can be found on the LFO website:

https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/lfo/APPR/APPR_OACO_2020-10-01.pdf