

Presentation to the House Committee
on Early Childhood and Human Services

Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement Overview

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**It's all
about
belonging.**



Photo: Jhon David

Immigrants in Oregon: Contributing significantly to our shared prosperity

In Oregon in 2019:

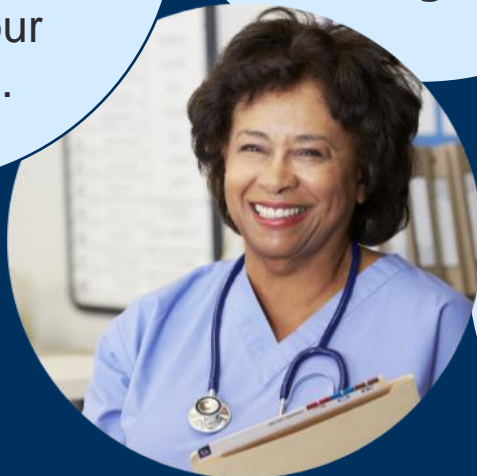
Immigrants made up **12.4 percent of the workforce** while comprising only 9.9 percent of our population.

80 percent of immigrants were of working age (16 to 64) and one in five held a **bachelor's degree or higher.**



11.7 percent of our state's entrepreneurs were immigrants.

Immigrant entrepreneurs generated **\$595.5 million in business income.**



Immigrant-led households earned **\$15.2 billion in income** and had **\$11.2 billion in spending power.**

Immigrants paid **\$1.3 billion in state and local taxes** and \$2.6 billion in federal taxes.



Why we do our work

All human beings deserve to live in safety and to have the supports they need to **reach their full potential** and contribute to their communities.

Currently, our state's infrastructure is **not positioned to harness the full benefit** of the social, cultural and economic contributions immigrants can make to Oregon every year.

Many newly arriving individuals and families are left to drift, invisibly, **without the basic supports they need to successfully resettle**, rebuild their lives in safety and become fully integrated into Oregon's shared prosperity.

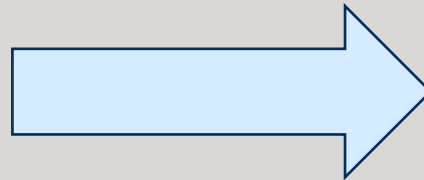


Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement

The Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement (OIRA) is charged with identifying, developing and implementing equitable strategies and policies impacting immigrant and refugee communities.

2021

The Oregon
Legislature
established
OIRA as part of
the Governor's
Office



2022

OIRA transitioned
to Oregon
Department of
Human Services

OIRA staffing

OIRA houses a total of **four positions**:

1. One Principal Executive Manager G to serve as the **Director overseeing statewide strategy** for immigration and refugee programs and services
2. One Operations and Policy Analyst 4 to manage **community partnerships**
3. One Operations and Policy Analyst 4 to manage **data collection and research**
4. One Executive Support Specialist 2 to provide **administrative support**



Office of New Americans Network: 17 offices and policy staff

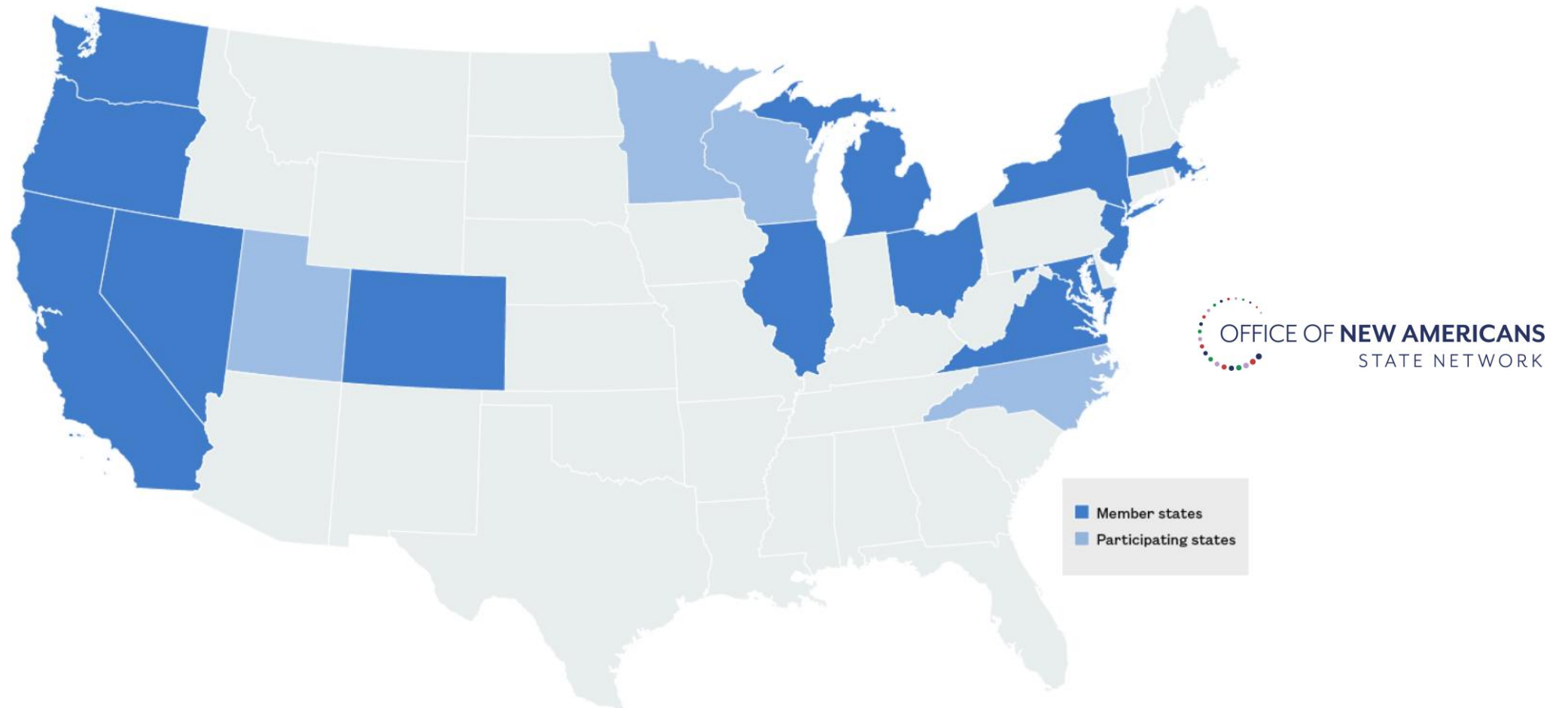


Image credit: [American Immigration Council](#)

Oregon immigrant and refugee legislation



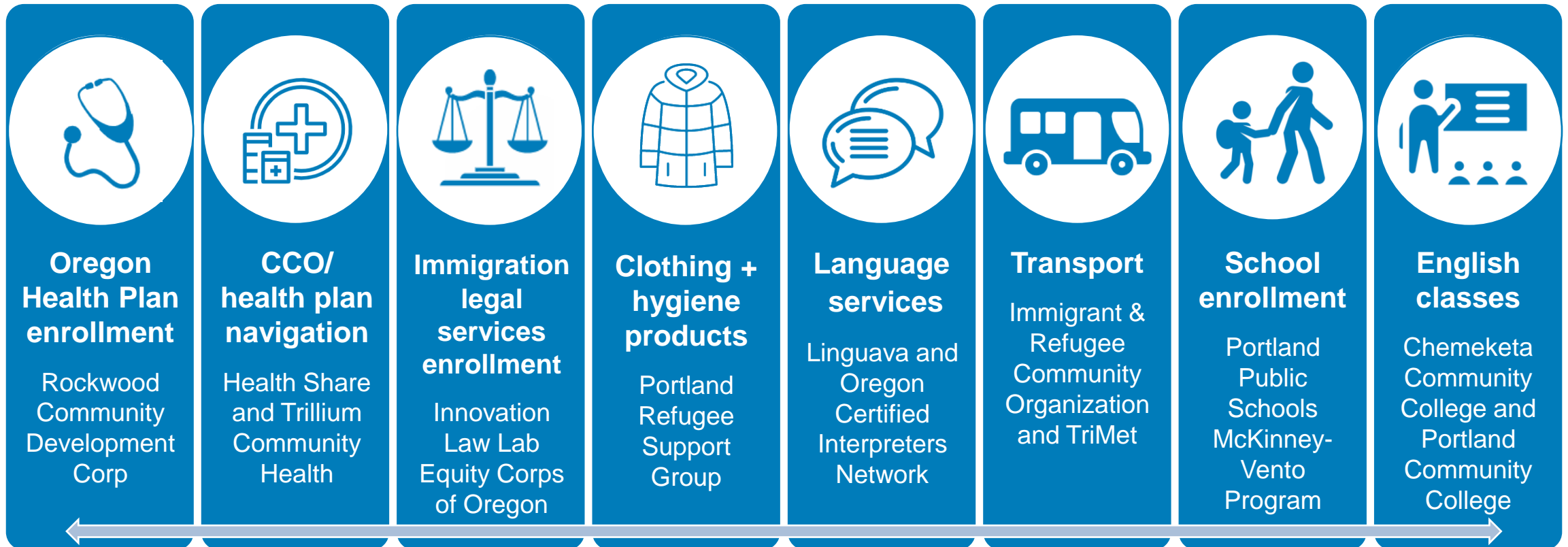
Senate Bill 553

Sponsored by Senators DEMBROW, HANSELL; Senators BEYER, FREDERICK, GELSER, THOMSEN, Representatives CLEM, FAHEY, NERON, POST, REARDON, SCHOUTEN, WILDE (Presession filed.)



Central convener

OIRA facilitates and coordinates across state agencies, immigrant and refugee serving community-based organizations, health systems and hospitality industry members to integrate a wraparound services model into the state's response. Existing state investments and partners include:



Cooperative agreements: National and state-level



Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service



world relief



Empowering refugees and immigrants since 1983





Thank you
