



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

Government Ethics Commission

3218 Pringle Rd SE Ste 220

Salem, OR 97302-1544

503-378-5105

E-mail: ogec.mail@state.or.us

Web Site: www.oregon.gov/ogec

Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGEC) Ethics Commission Assessment FAQ

Why is the Ethics Commission supported by an assessment?

The 2007 Legislative Assembly, with the passage of Senate Bill 10, changed the funding model for the Commission from General Fund to an assessment based model. The model included assessments of State agencies based on Full-Time Equivalent (FTE), and assessments of Local Governments (Counties, Cities and Special District Governments) based on their Municipal Audit Fee. State agencies are assessed for one-half the total assessment and Local Governments are assessed for the other half (ORS 244.255).

What does the assessment support?

The assessment supports the entire budget of the OGEC. This includes all functions of the agency, which include Administration, Compliance, Training, and Lobby programs.

What services are provided to the different government bodies in return for their assessment payment?

Services include training of the public officials of each government body in ethics, lobby laws and the executive session provisions of the public meetings law. Training is offered both in-person and on-line for the government body's convenience. The agency provides all forms necessary for each government body's public officials to file with the Commission. These forms include both Statement of Economic Interest (SEI) and Lobby forms. The Commission also provides compliance services to all government bodies whose public officials have violated the ethics, lobby or executive session laws. The agency maintains its website for government bodies' use, both as a resource of prior advisory opinions on ethics laws, and training resources available to them.

How many OGEC staff provides these services?

In the current 2011-13 biennium, 8 FTE provide these services. The 2013-15 biennial budget includes 7 FTE.



How much has the OGEC assessed and how much has it spent since the assessment model was created?

This table shows OGEC's assessment and expenditures for the 09-11 biennia, and the current 2011-13 biennium. These are the two biennia the agency has been fully funded through its assessment model.

Biennium	Original Assessment	Year	Annual Assessment	% Change	Expenditures	% Change
09 – 11	1,800,000				1,407,318	
		09-10	1,000,000			
		10-11	800,000	-20%		
11 – 13	1,600,000	11-12	800,000	0%	** 1,547,180	+9%
		12-13	800,000	0%		
** 7/1/11 – 12/31/12 actual expenditures = 1,116,385 predicted biennial expenditures = 1,547,180						

How much is the assessment proposed for the 2013-15 biennia?

The base assessment is \$1,571,859, which includes a reduction of FTE from 8 to 7, with the loss of a limited-duration Trainer position. The 2011-13 biennium had a base budget of \$1,615,856. The 2013-15 biennial budget represents a 2.7% reduction over the current biennium. Additionally, the assessment includes a policy package to re-class the compliance specialist 1 to a compliance specialist 2. This investigator position re-class includes a \$4,705 addition to the assessment. Lastly, the Commission is proposing a one-time assessment to fund the electronic reporting system required in ORS 244.290. This policy package requires a one-time special (biennial) assessment of \$800,000. The total assessment for 2013-15 is \$2,376,564, which represents a 47% increase over the current biennium.

Is the OGEC requesting any policy option packages that increase the assessment?

Yes. As mentioned above, there are two policy option packages that will increase the assessment. The first is a policy option package to re-class the compliance specialist 1 (investigator) to a compliance specialist 2. The re-class has been approved by the Department of Administrative Services (DAS). The investigations completed by this position are of a higher and more frequent difficulty than what the position is currently classed for, requiring the reclassification to compliance specialist 2. The increase in the assessment is \$4,705. The other policy option package will require a larger one-time biennial assessment of \$800,000 to complete the statutorily-required electronic reporting system. The assessment would be increased only for the 2013-15 biennium. Subsequent biennia will not include this assessment.

How is the OGEC assessment allocated?

The assessment is allocated to the biennial budget of the agency. The funds are used to fund operations, in administration, compliance, training and lobby programs. The assessment makes up 100% of the Commission's funding.