

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, which includes the Administration, Compliance, Training, and Lobby programs in addition to the special IT project for development of the Electronic Filing System.

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 OGEC. These forms include both Statement of Economic Interest (SEI) and Lobby forms. The OGEC 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, as a resource for reference material, prior advisory opinions on ethics laws, and for training resources available to them.

How many OGEC staff provide these services?

The 2015-17 biennial budget includes 8 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 beginning in the 09-11 biennium through the current 2013-15 biennium. These are the three biennia the agency has been fully funded through its assessment model.

Biennium	Assessment	Increase	Expenditures	Increase
09 – 11	1,800,000		1,407,318	
11 – 13	1,600,000	-11%	1,518,135	+7.9%
13 – 15	1,800,000	+12.5%	* 1,664,996	+9.7%
15 – 17	1,692,000	-6%	2,277,208	+36.7%
* 7/1/13 – 12/31/14 actual expenditures = 1,306,132 predicted biennial expenditures = 1,664,996				

Special Assessment

Biennium	Assessment	Expenditures
13 – 15	* 800,000	** 401,156
* Assessment based on 100% compliance. Actuals may vary. ** Expenditures are actual through 12/31/14.		

How much is the assessment proposed for the 2015-17 biennium?

The 2015-17 biennial assessment is \$1,692,000. This a 6% reduction from the 2013-15 biennial assessment. The 2015-17 biennium has a budget of \$2,277,208. The 2015-17 biennial budget represents a 17.6% increase over the current biennium. The increase is represented by policy packages of \$200,000 for the Electronic Filing System (EFS). Package 101 will fund the needed change management (\$80,000), project management costs (\$80,000) and training (\$40,000). Package 102 will fund the biennial subscription fee of \$127,000 for the EFS. The assessment reflects the agency's desire to reduce its ending balance to approximately five months

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

Yes. As mentioned above, there are two policy option packages. The first is to fund the needed project management, change management and training necessary to launch the new Electronic Reporting System. There is no increase in the assessment, since these funds were included in the agency's special assessment in 2013-15 biennium. The other policy option package is to fund the subscription fee for the Electronic Reporting System. The subscription fee is \$63,500 per year, or \$127,000 for a biennial fee.

How is the OGEC assessment allocated?

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