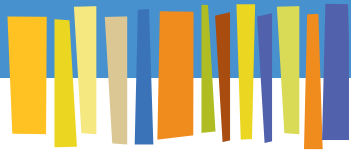


# Oregon Advocacy Commissions' Public Policy Research

2015–17



*The Oregon Advocacy Commissions (OACs) and public policy research go together. It is part of our statutory missions. The goal of the research is to provide essential data and practice review, analysis, and recommendations for policy improvements in areas of strategic interest to the Commissions. The research is in collaboration with the OAC's, state and community partners and Oregon Universities.*

**Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs**

oregon.gov/ocapia

**Commission on Black Affairs**

oregon.gov/ocba

**Commission on Hispanic Affairs**

oregon.gov/ocha

**Commission for Women**

oregon.gov/ocfw



## Justice, Safety, and Policing

*Focus: Overrepresentation of communities of color in the justice and corrections systems, hate crime and stalking protections, profiling, disproportionate sentencing severity, incarcerated parents and their children, reintegration following incarceration, community policing/training, death penalty concerns, human trafficking and access to justice.*

**2015 Report on Incarcerated Parents in Oregon, Prison Nurseries and Community-Based Alternatives, Problematic Foster Care Laws, and Parenting Programs for Incarcerated Fathers.** Research on current status of Oregon incarcerated parents, data review, and DOC and other programs with best practices. **Partners:** OCFW, data support from the Department of Corrections, DOC Office of Diversity and Inclusion, the Governor's Office.



## Jobs and the Economy

*Focus: Policy development that affects wage equity, labor trafficking, career paths, diverse workforce and leadership, small business development, respectful workplaces and attainment.*

**Integrating Immigrants' credentials into Oregon economy:** Research of best practices and policies in Oregon and nationally that promote effective workforce integration of immigrants with professional license/trades certification from other nations, comparison of existing credentialing programs in Oregon health professions, and interviews of immigrants who have experienced credentialing processes in Oregon. **Partners:** OCAPIA, OCBA, Partners in Diversity (PID), Oregon Workforce Investment Board (OWIB), the Governor's Office.

### Potential of investments in Pre-Apprenticeship to increase success by people of color and women in the trades:

Conducting foundational review/analysis of data on enhanced success of students of color in the trades who are enrolled in or graduates of pre-apprenticeship programs and their success in entering and ongoing work in the trades.

**Partners:** OCBA, BOLI Apprenticeship Division, the Governor's Office.

(continued on back)



## Healthcare

*Focus: Access to care and health coverage, culturally competent care, health education, health disparities, and better health outcomes for all.*

**Joint research between OCHA, DHS and OHA on Mental Health Services disparities of Latinos in Oregon, associated consequences, and strategies to address gaps:** Conducted qualitative and quantitative research of disparities of Latino Oregonians in mental health services to inform equity focused MH services delivery and policy development. Collect specific experiences and consequences of identified MH disparities, effective models, and strategies to address service gaps of Latinos statewide. **Partners:** OCHA, Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS), Oregon Health Authority (OHA), OHA's Office of Equity and Inclusion (OEI), the Governor's Office.

### What policy makers are saying about OAC research

*"Impressive," "a sense of scale," "extremely cost effective,"*

*"practical policy proposals,"*

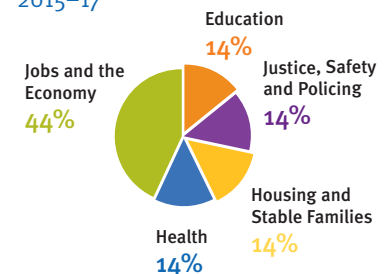
*"partnerships leverage collective expertise,"*

*"really helps legislators... make the right decisions"*

(see full quotes on back)

### OAC's 7 Policy Research Projects

2015–17





## Education

*Focus: Addressing education disparities among students of color, girls and women from pre-kindergarten through higher education and the trades.*

### **Effectiveness of Restorative Justice practices for reduction of conflict and disproportionate discipline of students of color:**

To inform ODE’s recommendations for school discipline policies statewide, conducted best practice review and prepared report for OCBA and ODE’s Oregon School Discipline Advisory Council (OSDAC) on Restorative Justice models and associated intervention strategies that guide students on handling conflict through mediation/restorative practices, reducing use of exclusionary discipline.

**Partners:** OCBA, Oregon Department of Education (ODE), OSDAC, Governor’s Office, and Willamette University College of Law.



## Jobs and the Economy

*(continued)*

### **Effect of new contracting models on increasing graduation to Journey status and retention rates for tradespeople of color and women:**

To inform new BOLI recommendations on contracting practices that improve rates of graduation and retention for tradespeople of color in specific trades, developed a white paper analyzing outcomes of contracting practices that increased matriculation, graduation to Journey status and retention rates among tradespeople of color.

**Partners:** OCBA, BOLI Apprenticeship Division, the Governor’s Office on Workforce, Lewis and Clark Law School.



## Housing and Stable Families

*Focus: Affordable housing, domestic violence, affordable childcare, food, transportation, overrepresentation in foster care and other factors affecting the foundation of prosperity for families statewide.*

### **Oregon Equity Policy Toolkit and Playbook:**

Literature review in collaboration with the State Library Reference Division to identify and analyze equity-focused data and key studies and policy development on family focused priorities in Oregon that affect prosperity statewide, identification of state partners and next steps to collaborative equity related policy and policy related research.

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*“Anecdotal evidence gets our attention, but when it comes to making policy decisions, there is a need for a sense of scale, for details to back up the stories.”*

— REPRESENTATIVE LEW FREDERICK

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*“I strongly support partnering with the Oregon Advocacy Commissions as well as other government, educational and civic organizations in support of public policy internships. These partnerships leverage collective knowledge and expertise in civil rights and serve to help ensure equality for all Oregonians.”*

— OREGON ATTORNEY GENERAL ELLEN ROSENBLUM

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*“What is so impressive about the Advocacy Commissions’ research work is the way that they combine solid academic research, community outreach, and practical policy proposals for community-building change. They synthesize cutting-edge national research with facts on the ground here in Oregon—addressing real-world problems faced by real Oregonians—and they do so in an extremely cost-effective manner. This really helps legislators and other policy-makers, faced with tough decisions, make the right decisions.”*

— SENATOR MICHAEL DEMBROW

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*“Oregon Advocacy Commissions are making a positive difference in the lives of Oregonians. They work to give underrepresented populations a voice, investing time and energy to conduct important research, analysis and public policy development to make our state stronger and more equitable.”*

— OREGON LABOR COMMISSIONER BRAD AVAKIAN

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## Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office

*Advising policy; Growing leadership; Building success for Asian Pacific, Black, and Hispanic Oregonians and for Women.*

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