



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

## Government Ethics Commission

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## 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 regarding 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 2017-19 biennial budget includes 9 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 2017-19 biennium. These are the five 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%	2,789,379	+40.0%
17 – 19	2,724,954	+38%	2,715,854	-2.7%

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

The 2017-19 biennial assessment is \$2,724,954. This a 38% increase from the 2015-17 biennial assessment. The 2015-17 biennium used \$585,208 in savings from previous biennia to lower the assessments in 2015-17 to \$1,692,000. These savings are no longer available for the 2017-19 biennium, requiring the assessment to cover the expenditures for 2017-19. The 2017-19, \$2,715,584, biennial budget represents a 2.7% decrease over the current biennium. The agency's ending balance reflects the needed five months operating costs.

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

Yes. The agency has two policy packages that slightly increase the agency's biennial expenditures, therefore increasing the assessment costs. Both policy packages reflect a reclassification of job duties for the Operations and Policy Analyst (OPA2) and the Executive Director's move from a PEMD to a PEME. Both packages total cost is \$33,408, or 1.2 % of 2017-19 budgeted expenditures.

**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.