

As a Black woman living in Oregon, I'm aware of the racist inequities in our state, and their impact on all Oregonians. The OACs are crucial in helping us undo these inequities through their work to uplift underrepresented communities. They rely on the OACO for administrative support. The inadequate staffing of the OACO is just one example of how Oregon is maintaining white supremacist policies by giving lip service to pursuing equity while withholding necessary support and resources from those entities charged with fulfilling this goal. It's time for Oregon to do more than talk about equity. I support increasing funding for more FTEs within the OACO as one way to increase support for the OACs. Though I would also say that an increase of 1.5 FTEs is still not enough, and further funding should be allotted.