

Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office

	2019-21 Actual	2021-23 Legislatively Adopted	2021-23 Legislatively Approved *	2023-25 Current Service Level	2023-25 Governor's Budget
General Fund	650,810	1,238,100	1,692,600	1,387,078	2,066,060
Other Funds	1,012	9,841	9,841	10,253	10,253
Total Funds	651,822	1,247,941	1,702,441	1,397,331	2,076,313
Positions	3	4	7	4	7
FTE	2.50	4.00	5.89	4.00	6.83

* Includes Emergency Board and administrative actions through December 2022.

Program Description

The Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office (OACO) was established in 2005 to provide coordinated administrative support to four advocacy commissions -- (1) Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs, (2) Commission on Black Affairs, (3) Commission on Hispanic Affairs, and (4) Commission for Women. The Commissions serve as liaisons between minority communities and government entities and work to establish economic, social, legal, and political equality in Oregon. OACO provides equity-focused policy research and analysis, staffs Commission meetings, coordinates the legislative advocacy of the Commissions, and develops and manages collaborations with community stakeholders, policy makers and formal research partners on behalf of the Commissions.

Each commission includes nine commissioners appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate and two Legislators appointed by the Senate President and Speaker of the House. The four Commissions have 11 members each, for a combined total of 44 members. The Administrator of OACO is appointed by the chairpersons of the four Commissions and the Governor.

CSL Summary

The 2023-25 current service level (CSL) budget for OACO is \$1,387,078 General Fund, \$10,253 Other Funds, and includes four positions (4.00 FTE). The CSL budget is \$305,110 total funds, or 17.9%, less than the 2021-23 legislatively approved budget due to the phase out of limited duration positions and associated costs related to work performed under HB 4052 (2022), which is discussed in more detail in the following section. The CSL budget also includes adjustments for payroll expenses and standard inflation.

Policy Issues

HB 4052 (2022) required OACO to form affinity group task forces to develop recommendations on health equity programs for people of color, indigenous communities, and members of recognized tribes across state government. Under this legislation, the task forces are to make a recommendation as to whether their work should continue past June 30, 2023. If this recommendation is made and the task forces are funded, the task forces would then sunset by January 2, 2025.

OACO is to report on the recommendations of the task forces to the Legislative Assembly by November 1, 2023. The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) also has a variety of responsibilities under this legislation, including a report to the legislature on progress developing recommendations on how to fund robust culturally and linguistically specific intervention programs by November 30, 2023; and OHA is to submit final recommendations based on feedback received from the task forces, by November 1, 2024.

Additional funding or position authority may be required to allow OACO to complete this work, should the task forces recommend that their role continue into the 2023-25 biennium. Legislation likely will also be put forward during the 2023 legislative session to extend the reporting deadlines included in HB 4052, and to officially extend the work of the task forces, which will likely have a fiscal impact. OACO's 2021-23 legislatively approved budget included three limited duration positions to perform the work initially required under this measure, but the unknown timelines might require extending these limited duration positions into 2023-25.

Governor's Budget

OACO's Governor's budget includes one Policy Option Package which continues three limited duration positions (2.83 FTE) to work across all four Commissions on health equity responsibilities as required in HB 4052 (2022). Total cost of the package is \$690,982 General Fund. The budget also reduces the amount in CSL for DAS charges by \$11,308 General Fund. Overall, the General Fund in the Governor's budget is 49% greater than the amount in the CSL.

Other Significant Issues and Background

The agency has undergone a complete turnover in staff since early 2021 when a new Executive Director came on board. This has led to changes, including the agency's first real foray into strategic planning, improvements to internal processes, and ongoing work to prioritize agency efforts and ensure commissioners are equipped to fulfill their responsibilities. The agency is currently working on revising required reports each commission must make to the Governor and Legislature, and in the 2023-25 biennium, the agency hopes to begin revising their KPMs and other internal metrics. The agency is also working to increase community partner outreach and fundraising efforts with the addition of a permanent Public Affairs Specialist 2 position in 2021.

Key Performance Measures

A copy of the OACO Annual Performance Progress Report can be found on the LFO website:

https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/lfo/APPR/APPR_OACO_2022-09-30.pdf

Due to staff turnover, the agency did not complete required KPM surveys for the 2022 reporting period. The agency will be completing the customer service (KPM #1) and best practices (KPMs #3-6) surveys in December 2022, with this data to be provided as part of the agency's budget presentation to the legislature and as part of their 2023 reporting requirements.