

OREGON MORTUARY & CEMETERY BOARD (OMCB)

SB 5524: 2025-27 Budget Presentation
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Education

Senator Janeen Sollman, Co-Chair
Representative Ricki Ruiz, Co-Chair

February 13, 2025



THE ORIGINS OF THE OREGON MORTUARY & CEMETERY BOARD (OMCB)

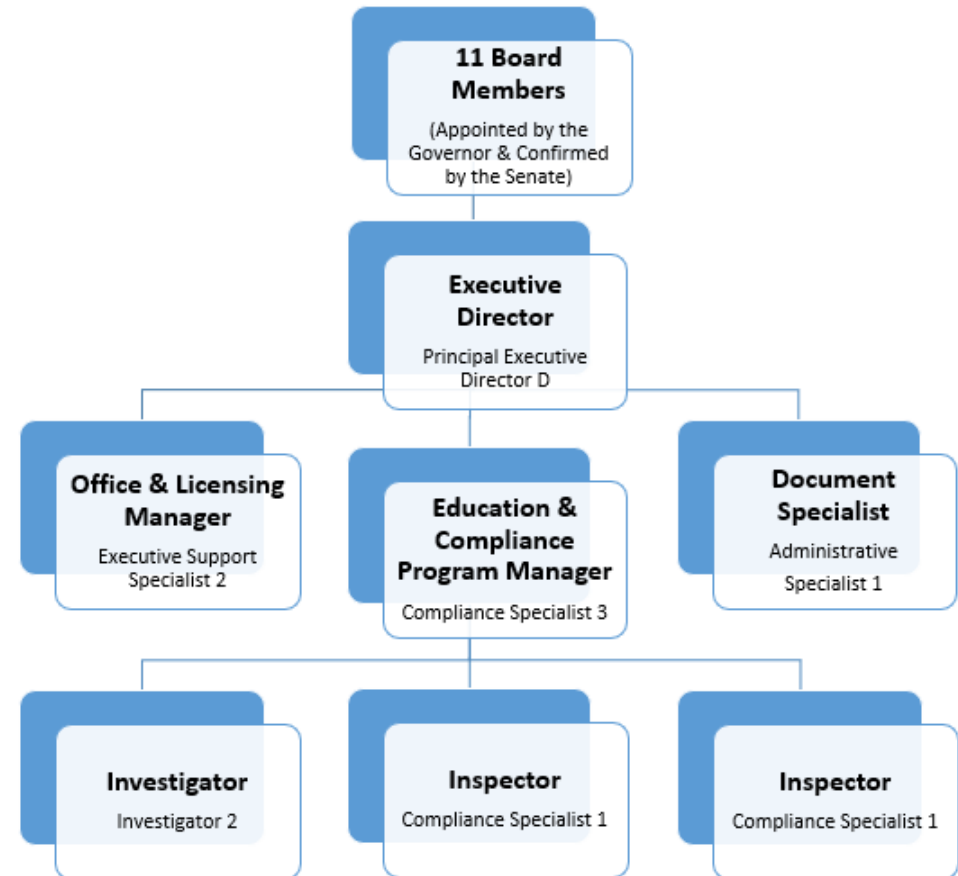
- In 1921, the **Funeral Directors and Embalmers Board** was established.
- The name of the agency changed in 1983 to the **State Mortuary Board**.
- The Board's name was changed again in 1985 (after a horrific incident in Lincoln City) to the **State Mortuary and Cemetery Board**.
- The Lincoln City incident had a profound impact on the community, the death care industry, the State of Oregon and this agency.
- As a result of this incident, OMCB's focus became **Consumer Protection**.
- During the 1985 legislative session, the **Death Law Task Force** (comprised of Lincoln City residents, industry representatives & legislators) was formed and most of the laws relating to death care were amended.



OMCB'S MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Board is to protect public health, safety and welfare by fairly and efficiently performing its licensing, inspection and enforcement duties; by promoting professional behavior and standards in all facets of the Oregon death care industry; and, by maintaining constructive relationships with licensees, those they serve and others with an interest in the Board's activities.

OMCB ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



SUMMARY OF OMCB's PROGRAMS

- The Board's programs affect those who have suffered a loss, who make final arrangements and those who provide death care merchandise and services. It is the Board's responsibility to license and regulate the practice of individuals and facilities engaged in the care, preparation, processing, transportation and final disposition of human remains.
- The Board protects the public and the industry by promoting and enforcing compliance with statutes and rules established for that purpose primarily through education.

The Board serves as an informational resource for the public relating to death care options, other agencies, organizations, the media, as well as licensees. Education is also one of the principal aims of the Board's inspection process. Inspectors welcome questions and provide on-site technical assistance, as well as explain the regulatory basis for any noted deficiencies. Finally, the Board provides apprenticeship registration for prospective funeral service practitioners and embalmers, and also facilitates the required examinations for licensure.



Education as a Means of Enforcement

LICENSING

- The Board licenses both death care individuals and facilities – 13 license types.
- Individual licenses include (1) apprentice/trainee (funeral service practitioner, embalmer, or both), (2) combination (funeral service practitioner & embalmer), (3) death care consultant, (4) embalmer, (5) funeral service practitioner, (6) intern & (7) preneed salesperson.
- Facility licenses include (1) alternative disposition company (alkaline hydrolysis & natural organic reduction), (2) cemetery authority, (3) crematory authority, (4) funeral establishment, (5) immediate disposition company & (6) removal registration company.
- In collaboration with The International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Board, the Board facilitates the required examinations for licensure.

LICENSE TYPES ISSUED PER BIENNIUM*

License Types Issued Between July 1st and June 30th	2009 - 2011	2011 - 2013	2013 - 2015	2015 - 2017	2017 - 2019	2019 - 2021	2021- 2023
Initial Individual Licenses:							
Apprentice/Trainee, Combination, Death Care Consultant, Embalmer, Funeral Service Practitioner, Intern & Preneed Salesperson	266	230	258	244	268	301	221
Initial Facility Licenses:							
Alternative Disposition Company, Cemetery Authority, Crematory Authority, Funeral Establishment, Immediate Disposition Company & Removal Company (Washington)	77	66	72	79	42	83	54
Individual Renewals:							
Apprentice/Trainee, Combination, Death Care Consultant, Embalmer, Funeral Service Practitioner & Preneed Salesperson	1,264	1,289	1,260	1,101	1,121	819	866
Facility Renewals:							
Alternative Disposition Company, Cemetery Authority, Crematory Authority, Funeral Establishment, Immediate Disposition Company	717	711	726	753	748	708	695
Total Licenses Issued	2,324	2,296	2,316	2,177	2,179	1,911	1,836

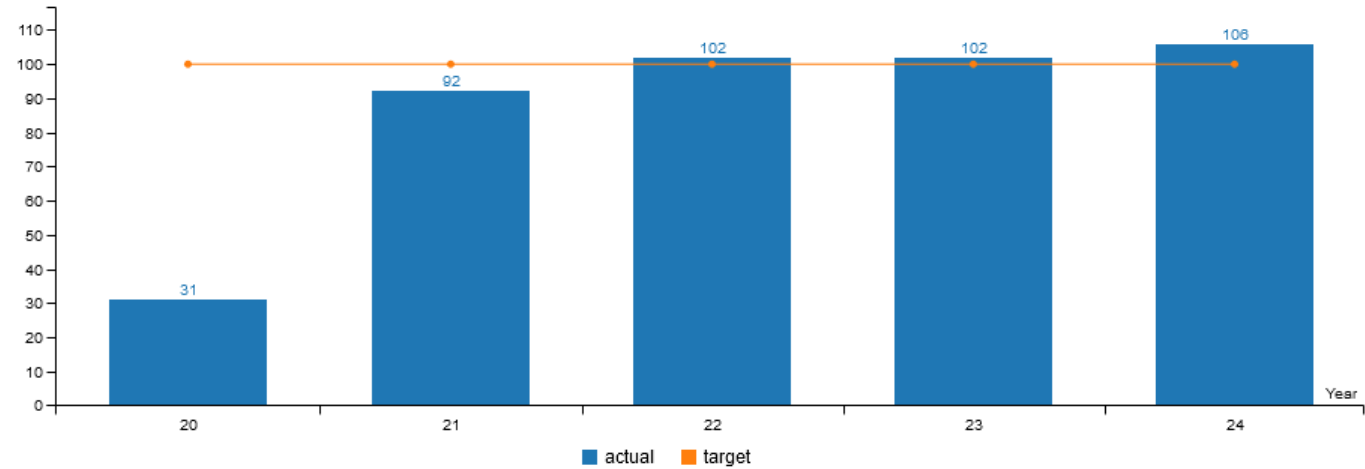
*The licensing numbers have been updated as a result of an identified discrepancy with the previously reported data due to the implementation of a new licensing database in late 2019.

INSPECTIONS

ORS 692.320(2)(a)(A) requires the Board to inspect all death care facilities at least once every biennium. The Board takes a preventative approach to compliance – by educating licensees during the inspection process in an effort to prevent future violations. With the exception of egregious or continual violations, deficiencies that are noted during routine inspections rarely rise to the level of formal disciplinary action.

KPM #1	Facility Inspection - Percent of licensed facilities inspected not less than once per biennium.
	Data Collection Period: Jul 01 - Jun 30

* Upward Trend = positive result



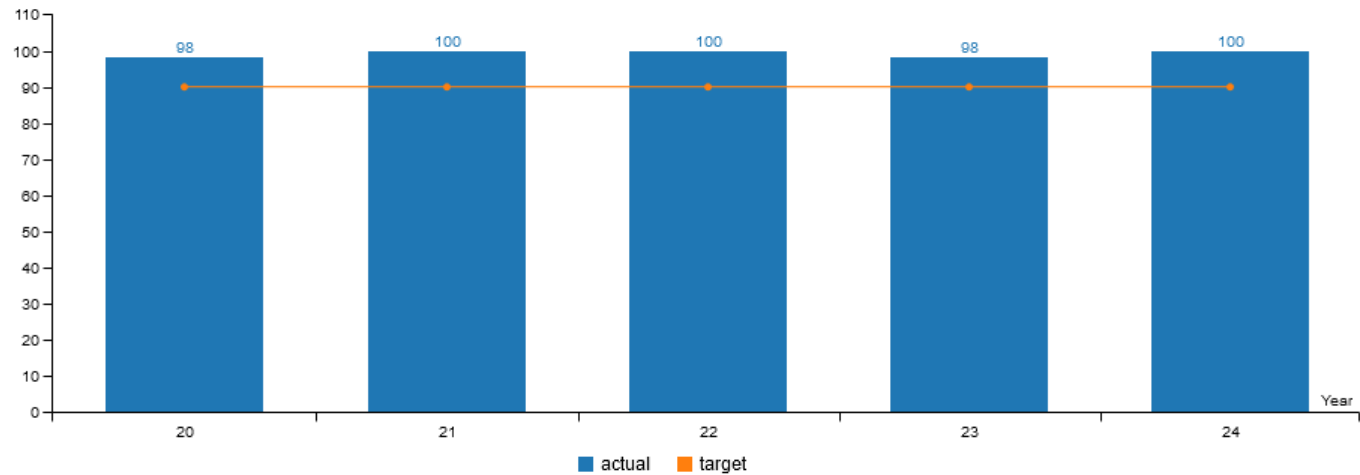
Report Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Inspections Completed					
Actual	31%	92%	102%	102%	106%
Target	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

INVESTIGATIONS

ORS 676.165 requires the Board to conduct a confidential investigation upon receipt of a complaint by any person against a licensee or applicant. The Board may also initiate an investigation based upon its own motion. Although complaint investigations are mandatory, the Board’s sanctioning authority is discretionary.

KPM #2	Complaint Investigation - Percent of investigative reports completed within six months of a complaint from any person against a licensee.
	Data Collection Period: Jul 01 - Jun 30

* Upward Trend = positive result



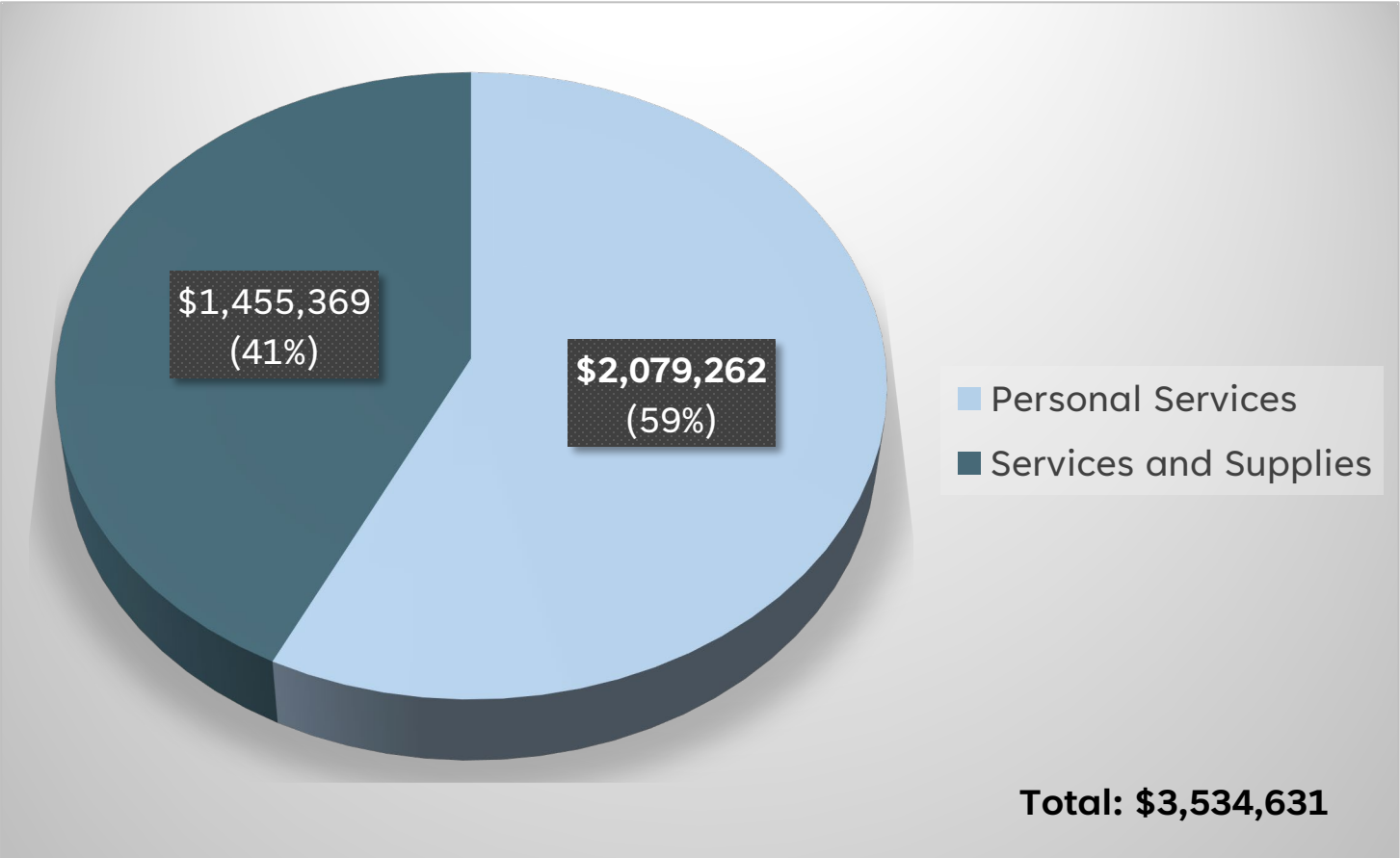
Report Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Complaint Investigation					
Actual	98%	100%	100%	98%	100%
Target	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%

AGENCY KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



- Transferred the FSP law exam to The International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards, which can now be taken nationwide anywhere a Pearson VUE Testing Center is located – and is much more convenient for those seeking to become licensed.
- Completed administrative rulemaking that amended licensing requirements to remove barriers for individuals to become licensed and also changed referenced pronouns to gender-neutral designations.
- Created a disciplinary action guide for the Board to remain consistent when voting to take disciplinary action against a respondent/licensee.

SUMMARY OF 2025-27 GOVERNOR'S BUDGET



OMCB has encountered a small increase in monthly rent due to a reconfiguration of office space.

OMCB's projected revenue for 2025-27 is **\$3,587,580**.

SUMMARY OF 10% REDUCTION OPTION & LONG-TERM VACANCY INFORMATION

- If our agency were required to reduce 10% of its budget, compliance and outreach would be negatively impacted as follows:
 - **Compliance:** Eliminate a Compliance Specialist 1 (Inspector) position and the associated amount allocated for in-state inspection travel (~\$263,210).
 - **Projected Result:** Eliminating an Inspector position & reducing the amount allocated for in-state inspection travel would significantly reduce completion of facility inspections, which would negatively impact our statutory mandate to inspect all facilities at least once every two years, which corresponds with our KPM #1.
 - **Outreach:** Reduce the amount allocated for out of state travel (\$345).
 - **Projected Result:** Reducing the amount allocated for out of state travel would be unfortunate, as this allows our agency to collaborate with related domestic and international regulatory agencies.
- The Oregon Mortuary & Cemetery Board (OMCB) does not have any long-term vacancies.

A landscape photograph showing rolling hills. In the foreground, there is a field of tall, green grass. A dirt path or road winds through the middle ground, leading towards the horizon. The background features more rolling hills and a few scattered trees under a cloudy, overcast sky. The overall color palette is muted, with greens, browns, and greys.

INDIGENT DISPOSITION PROGRAM (IDP)

PURPOSE OF THE INDIGENT DISPOSITION PROGRAM (IDP)

The purpose of the Indigent Disposition Program (IDP) is to provide licensed Oregon funeral establishments and immediate disposition companies with reimbursement for costs incurred while providing disposition services for indigent decedents. The Indigent Disposition Program (IDP) has been in existence since the Oregon State Legislature originally assigned administrative responsibility for reimbursement to the Public Health Division of the Oregon Health Authority in 1993. Prior to that legislation, each county was responsible for paying all indigent disposition expenses. In 2015, the Oregon State Legislature revised certain elements of the program, transferred management to the Oregon Mortuary & Cemetery Board (OMCB) and amended the required process that must be completed prior to performing final disposition of an indigent decedent. These changes became effective on January 1, 2016.

DEFINITION OF AN “INDIGENT PERSON”

As defined in *ORS 97.170(1)(a)-(c)*, “indigent person” means a deceased person who does not have a death or final expense benefit or insurance policy that pays for disposition of the deceased person’s body or other means to pay for disposition of the deceased person’s body and:

- (a) Who does not have a relative or other person with the legal right to direct and the means to pay for disposition of the deceased person’s body;
- (b) Whose relative, or other person, with the legal right to direct the disposition of the deceased person’s body does not pay or arrange to pay for, or refuses to direct, the disposition of the deceased person’s body within 10 days of being notified of the death; or
- (c) For whom no person other than a person described in paragraph (a) or (b) of this subsection wishes to direct and pay for the disposition of the deceased person’s body.

HOW THE INDIGENT DISPOSITION PROGRAM (IDP) IS FUNDED

The IDP Fund receives its revenue entirely from the death filing fee, which is described in *ORS 692.415*:

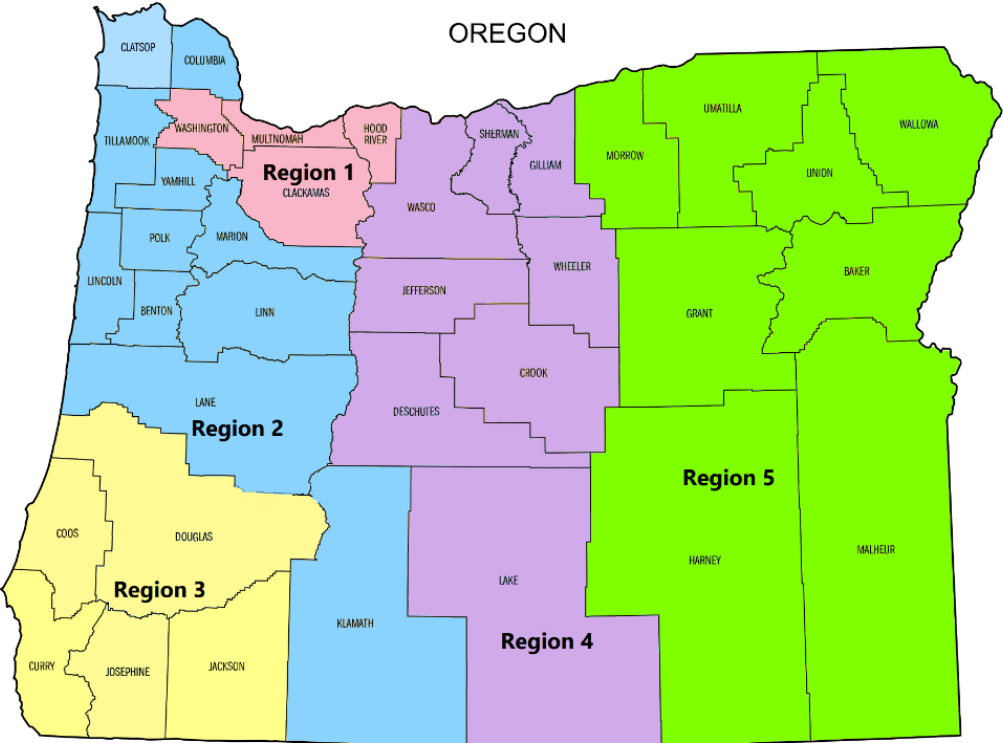
(1) The State Mortuary and Cemetery Board shall impose and collect a filing fee of \$30 for each report of death. The board shall deposit the amount received into the State Mortuary and Cemetery Board Account established under ORS 692.375. The fee shall be used as follows:

- (a) \$16 to be used to carry out the requirements of ORS 97.170(5); and*
- (b) \$14 to be used in the same manner as other funds credited to the account are used.*

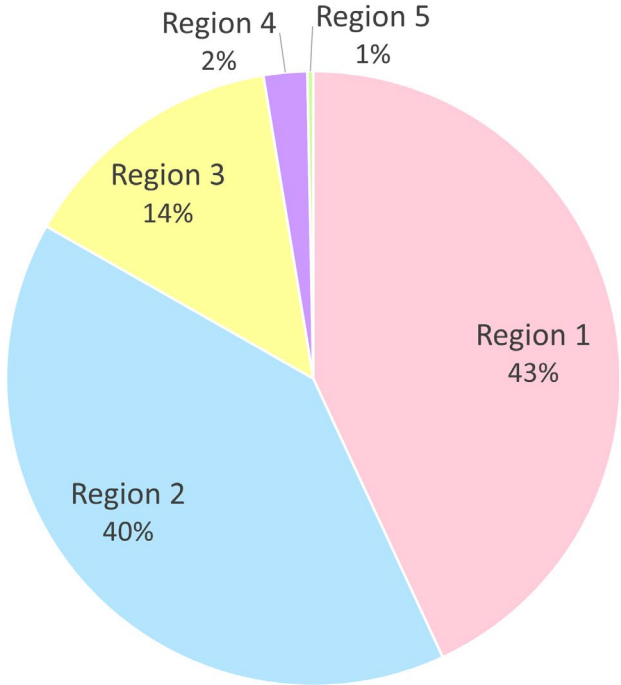
Therefore, OMCB collects \$30 (death filing fee) for each death and allocates the amount as follows:

- \$16 is paid to the IDP Fund; and
- \$14 is paid to OMCB's agency account, which is a main source of the agency's revenue.

INDIGENT DISPOSITION PROGRAM (IDP) FUND: REGIONAL MAP & TOTAL CLAIMS RECEIVED BY REGION (2022-23)



Total Claims Received for 2022-2023 by Region



INDIGENT DISPOSITION PROGRAM (IDP) FUND: TOTAL CLAIMS RECEIVED BY REGION (2022-23)

IDP Claims by Region	IDP Claims Received in 2022	% of Total IDP Claims in 2022	IDP Claims Received in 2023	% of Total IDP Claims in 2023	Total IDP Claims Received for Both Years (2022 & 2023)	% of Total IDP Claims Received for Both Years (2022 & 2023)	Regional Population for 2022*	Region % of Total Population	Deaths by Region+	IDP Claims as % of Total Deaths (2022)
Region 1: Portland Metro (Clackamas, Hood River, Multnomah and Washington Counties)	213	35.86%	350	49.09%	563	43.08%	1,842,484	43.45%	15,613	1.36%
Region 2: Willamette Valley, North and Mid-Coast (Benton, Clatsop, Columbia, Klamath, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Polk, Tillamook & Yamhill Counties)	268	45.12%	257	36.04%	525	40.17%	1,398,875	32.99%	15,912	1.68%
Region 3: Southern Oregon and South Coast (Coos, Curry, Douglas, Jackson & Josephine Counties)	92	15.49%	93	13.04%	185	14.15%	510,259	12.03%	7,796	1.18%
Region 4: Central Oregon (Crook, Deschutes, Gilliam, Jefferson, Lake, Sherman, Wasco & Wheeler Counties)	19	3.20%	11	1.54%	30	2.30%	298,618	7.04%	2,998	0.63%
Region 5: Eastern Oregon (Baker, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union & Wallowa Counties)	2	0.34%	2	0.28%	4	0.31%	189,901	4.48%	2,299	0.09%
Grand Total	594	100%	713	100%	1,307	100%	4,240,137	100%	44,618	4.94%

*Data from US Census
+Data from Oregon Health Authority

INDIGENT
DISPOSITION
PROGRAM (IDP):
TOTAL CLAIMS
RECEIVED
PER YEAR
(2019-23)

IDP Claims Received Per Year		IDP Claims Paid Per Year		% of IDP Claims Paid Per Year
2019	528	2019	487	92.23%
2020	526	2020	476	90.49%
2021	464	2021	371	79.96%
2022	594	2022	518	87.21%
2023	713	2023	533	74.75%
Average Per Year	565	Average Per Year	477	84.42%

INDIGENT
DISPOSITION
PROGRAM (IDP):
CLAIM STATUS
(2022-23)

IDP Claim Status	Total IDP Claims Received in 2023	% of Total IDP Claims in 2023	Total Claims Received in 2022	% of Total IDP Claims in 2022
Paid	533	74.75%	518	87.21%
Waiting for Supplemental Information	48	6.73%	48	8.08%
Withdrawn	18	2.52%	7	1.18%
Denied	57	7.99%	21	3.54%
Approved, Processing	57	7.99%	-	-
Other, See Additional Info	-	-	-	-
Intake	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	713	100%	594	100%

INDIGENT
DISPOSITION
PROGRAM (IDP):
CLAIMS
REIMBURSED
(2022-23)

Claims Payments	
Full Value of Claims to Fund in 2023*	\$920,111.25
Total Amount Reimbursed from Fund for 2023	\$275,190.00
Claims	
Average Amount Requested	\$1,292.29
*Funeral establishments are advised to document the full cost that they would charge for each case based on their General Price List for the provided goods and services, but reimbursement is capped at \$550 per case since July 1, 2023.	

INDIGENT
DISPOSITION
PROGRAM (IDP):
DECEDENT
ETHNICITY FOR
PAID CLAIMS
(2023)

Ethnicity*	IDP Claims Paid in 2023	% of Total Claims Paid in 2023
American Indian or Alaska Native	4	0.75%
Asian	1	0.19%
Black	6	1.13%
Latinx or Hispanic	17	3.19%
White	395	74.11%
Unknown+	110	20.64%
Grand Total	533	100%

*Data from OVERS (Oregon Vital Events Registration System)

+Not all ethnicities are reported on death certificates

INDIGENT
DISPOSITION
PROGRAM (IDP):
DECEDENT
GENDER
IDENTIFICATION
FOR
PAID CLAIMS
(2023)

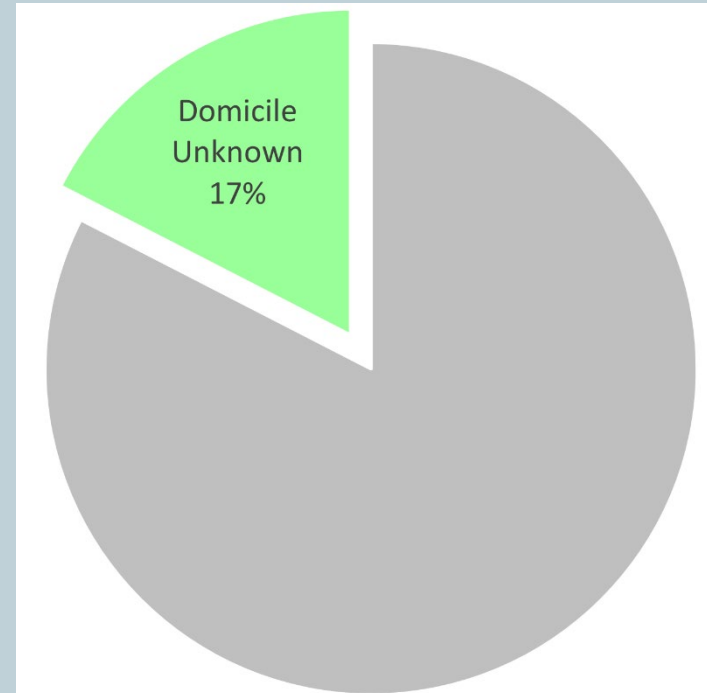
Gender	IDP Claims Paid in 2023	% of Total Claims Paid in 2023
Female	127	23.83%
Male	406	76.17%
Non-Binary	0	-
Grand Total	533	100%

INDIGENT DISPOSITION PROGRAM (IDP) FUND: VETERAN STATUS FOR PAID CLAIMS (2022-23)

Veteran Status for Paid Claims	IDP Claims Paid in 2023	% of Total Claims Paid in 2023	IDP Claims Paid in 2022	% of Total Claims Paid in 2022	Total Population in 2018-2022*	% of Total Population in 2022
Not a Veteran	412	77.3%	420	81.08%	3,978,812	93.84%
Veteran	73	13.7%	94	18.15%	261,322	6.16%
Unknown Status Due to Incomplete Application	48	9%	4	0.77%	-	-
Grand Total	533	100%	518	100%	4,240,134	100%

*Data from US Census

INDIGENT
DISPOSITION
PROGRAM (IDP):
DECEDENT
DOMICILE
UNKNOWN
STATUS FOR
PAID CLAIMS
(2023)



Senate Bill 850 (2021) became effective on January 1, 2022, which required mandatory reporting of housing status on reports of death. “Domicile Unknown” was required for those decedents who were homeless at the time of death.

INDIGENT
DISPOSITION
PROGRAM (IDP):
HOW FUNERAL
HOMES
ACQUIRED
INDIGENT CASES
FOR PAID CLAIMS
(2023)

How Funeral Homes Acquired Indigent Cases for Paid IDP Claims in 2023		
Adult Foster Home	10	1.88%
Hospice	53	9.94%
Hospital	126	23.64%
Medical Examiner	247	46.34%
Nursing Facility	40	7.5%
Other	22	4.13%
Police Call	35	6.57%
Grand Total	533	100%

INDIGENT
DISPOSITION
PROGRAM (IDP):
IDP CLAIMS
COMPLETE/
INCOMPLETE
UPON
SUBMISSION
(2022-23)

	IDP Claims Received in 2022		IDP Claims Received in 2023	
IDP Claims Complete Upon Submission	309	52.02%	456	63.96%
IDP Claims Incomplete Upon Submission	285	47.98%	257	36.04%
Grand Total	594	100%	713	100%

INDIGENT
DISPOSITION
PROGRAM (IDP):
INTERNAL
PROCESSING
TIME OF IDP
APPLICATIONS
(2020-23)

Average Internal Processing Time* (including weekends and observed holidays)	
2020	157 days
2021	72 days
2022	36 days
2023	38 days

**Internal processing time begins on the day a completed application is received by our office and concludes on the day when the reimbursement warrant is issued (or the day an application is withdrawn or denied). This does not include the time our staff is waiting for a pending application to be completed by a claimant.*

**“I've learned that people will forget what you said,
people will forget what you did, but people will never
forget how you made them feel.”**

~ Maya Angelou



THANK YOU

Chad Dresselhaus, Executive Director
Oregon Mortuary & Cemetery Board
(OMCB)

Chad.W.Dresselhaus@omcb.oregon.gov



OMCB

OREGON MORTUARY & CEMETERY BOARD

Regulating Death Care Facilities & Practitioners in Oregon.

