

Our mission

Created under the administrations of three governors, the statutory missions of the Advocacy Commissions have focused on advising policy, growing leadership and building success in Oregon for Asian Pacific, Black and Hispanic Oregonians and for women over our 30+ year history.

Our strategic priorities:

- Education
- Jobs and the Economy
- Healthcare
- Justice, Safety and Policing
- Civic Engagement
- Housing and Stable Families

“Today, 52% of Native American, 57% of Black, and 61% of Latino students drop out of high school, as do 60% of economically disadvantaged students. This dropout rate is due, in part, to our inability to meet the educational needs of these diverse students. This must change.”

— GOVERNOR KATE BROWN, 2015
STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS

Who we are

The four Oregon Advocacy Commissions are each composed of nine eminent community members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate along with two legislators appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House respectively.

“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.”

— COMMISSIONER BRAD AVAKIAN,
BUREAU OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIES

What we do

The Commission members work collaboratively to raise awareness regarding and address challenges facing communities of color and women in Oregon. We do this by researching issues, informing, and providing advice for state policy makers and decision makers including the Governor, legislators and departmental leadership on ways to improve the success of all Oregonians.

Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office

The Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office (OACO) was created to support the work of the four Advocacy Commissions and the 44 Commissioners who serve on them. The Administrator and Executive Assistant staff 70+ meetings of the Commissions and their leadership biennially, coordinate events and work with partners, supervise public policy interns, provide service referrals, maintain the Commission websites, and support budgeting, reporting, and other work.

“Oregonians throughout the state come from increasingly diverse racial, ethnic and class backgrounds. Yet there is one thing that we all have in common: we love Oregon and we want to live in a state that has equity and inclusion at its core. Oregon’s Advocacy Commissions do significant work in support of their respective constituent communities and play an important role in helping all Oregonians thrive.”

— GOVERNOR KATE BROWN



1819 SW 5th Avenue, Portland, OR 97201
503.302.9725
OACO.mail@oregon.gov
www.oregon.gov/OAC/

2015

Oregon Advocacy Commissions

Asian and Pacific
Islander Affairs
OCAPIA

Black Affairs
OCBA

Hispanic Affairs
OCHA

Commission for Women
OCFW

Advising policy
Growing leadership
Building success

Our current initiatives

Proposing policy. OCHA and OCFW initiated and are championing SB 492 allowing paid sick time for issues related to partner abuse, SB 491 on pay equity in state contracting, and HB 3525 on notario fraud protections.

Education equity briefs. We're writing a series of key issue briefs with the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB) on family engagement, chronic absenteeism, disproportionate discipline, English Language Learners, and teacher diversity.

Minority apprentices in the Trades report. In partnership with BOLI we researched factors influencing disparities in graduation rates from Apprentice to Journeyman for tradespeople of color in Oregon. We reported our findings to the Oregon Labor Commissioner and in the 2015 OCBA report to the legislature.

Legislative advocacy. With community partners, the Commissions are talking with legislators and testifying on 38 individual bills in 2 legislative sessions essential for success of all Oregonians.

White House Initiative on AAPI's in Oregon.

OCAPIA is partnering with the White House to bring federal department leaders to meetings in Portland and Eugene with API leaders on access to services.

Growing tomorrow's leaders

The Advocacy Commissions work to grow the number and influence of leaders of color and women within all branches of state government, its key initiatives, departmental leadership, and policy work. To do that the Commissions reach out to youth, communities of color, and women to instill the desire to serve and create pathways to leadership.

The Annual Women of Achievement Awards:

Highlighting Oregon's diverse group of Women Leaders honored by the Governor. OCFW in collaboration with the OCAPIA, OCBA, and OCHA.

Youth leadership scholarships: The Advocacy Commissions work with community partners and universities to sponsor scholarships for youth from communities of color and girls to attend leadership training with their peers.

Diverse appointments and hiring: The Advocacy Commissions work with the Governor's Office to recruit specialized diverse talent to serve on state boards and commissions and in state hiring in key areas.

Success with community partners

The Advocacy Commissions work collaboratively with community and governmental partners to pursue their missions. Together they plan legislative advocacy, host joint legislative days at the Capitol, conduct voter registration, hold community and business forums, and conduct research.

Our partners include:

- Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO)
- Urban League of Portland
- Oregon Latino Health Coalition
- Oregon Latino Agenda for Action (OLAA)
- League of Women Voters
- American Association of University Women (AAUW)
- Center for Intercultural Organizing (CIO)
- Governor's Office on Diversity and Inclusion

"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

Policy research and analysis

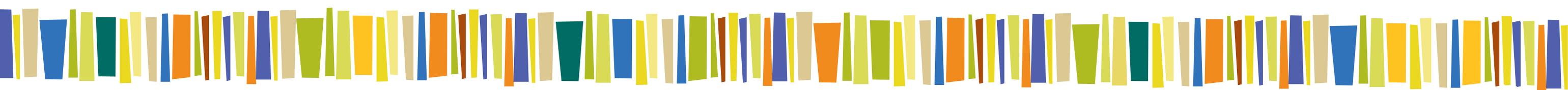
The Advocacy Commissions provide Masters, PhD, and Law students with public policy internships addressing our priority areas. Topics include:

- Apprentice to Journeyman disparities for tradespeople of color
- Disproportionate discipline in schools
- Education disparities
- Sexual exploitation of children
- Health outcomes
- Granular data collection on victims of crime
- Wage equity

The research is conducted jointly with state partners and the Governor's Office to study statistics, best practices, or policies; analyze gaps and trends; and produce reports used by the Advocacy Commissions and their partners to inform new policies, strategic approaches and legislation.

"The sound, comprehensive studies now emerging from the internship program at the office of the Advocacy Commissions...have increased the capacity, the efficiency and the effectiveness of the commissions themselves, and their value to the communities they represent and the State as a whole."

— REP. LEW FREDERICK



Advocacy

Leadership

Partnership

Research