

During the 1980s, Oregon experienced a severe recession. State leaders and a cross section of Oregonians developed Oregon Shines, a strategic plan for the state's economic recovery. In 1991, the Oregon Legislature adopted a set of benchmarks to enhance strategic planning and review. The benchmarks provide a way to measure the state's progress toward the vision defined in Oregon Shines.

To read Oregon Shines and to learn more about the state benchmarks, see the Oregon Progress Board web site at www.das.oregon.gov/DAS/OPB

Among the benchmarks, many relate to the problem of poverty.¹

Key **social support** measures include:

- Teen pregnancy rates
- Poverty rates
- Homelessness
- Food insecurity
- Employment of people with disabilities

Community development benchmarks measure progress toward "healthy, sustainable surroundings:"

- Affordable housing
- Homeownership

Educational benchmarks focus on the state's progress toward developing a workforce ready for good jobs.

Key education benchmarks:

- High school dropout rate
- College completion
- Workforce training
- Adult literacy

Economy benchmarks measure state progress toward good jobs:

- Employment dispersion (rural employment opportunities)
- Per capita income
- Unemployment
- Income per worker

State agency goals and performance measurement

State law requires agencies to provide regular reports on progress toward performance targets. The targets feed into the state benchmarks. Find agency reports at the following web pages:

Oregon Department of Human Services www.dhs.state.or.us/publications/pm_reports/2004/2004_report.pdf

Oregon Employment Department findit.emp.state.or.us/performance

Oregon Housing and Community Services www.ohcs.oregon.gov/OHCS/FMD/DMS/docs/2003_annual_perf_meas_report.pdf

State goals

Governor Kulongoski's Principles for a Prosperous Oregon

Governor Ted Kulongoski believes investments in children, the economy, and the quality of life will determine the future of Oregon. In support of this belief, the governor established the following principles:

Education—Children's basic educational needs are met and adults have opportunities to develop career skills through training and higher education.

To be successful, children must be ready to learn by the time they enter school and the education they receive must prepare them to be successful in college or in the workforce. Communities should be engaged in supporting children and their families so they will be safe, healthy, educated and productive.

We must invest in post-secondary education to enable future economic prosperity. As our economy grows and changes, adults must have opportunities to receive training and education that permits access to family wage employment.

Health—Oregon's most vulnerable have their basic health, food and shelter needs met.

A prosperous Oregon is a place where we value taking care of those who are the most vulnerable, including children, seniors and people with disabilities. All of us benefit and our communities are healthier when our citizens' basic health, food and shelter needs are met.

Economy—Oregon has a positive business climate and invests in economic development in order to create and retain sustainable businesses and family-wage jobs.

The future of Oregon depends on the number of jobs that we can create and growing the capacity of our economy. We must foster and encourage business development and create receptive conditions for business to |create and retain enduring jobs for Oregonians.



Livability—Oregon has a healthy balance between growth, infrastructure development and environmental protection.

Oregon’s environment and its economic health are inextricably linked. We must enhance and protect our natural resources while also contributing to Oregon’s economic growth through responsible infrastructure development.

Safety—Oregonians are safe in their homes, communities and in state institutions.

Public safety is essential to our citizens. We must hold criminals accountable for their actions, prevent crime and reduce recidivism. We must also provide for safe buildings and places of work, prevent fraud and abuse, and maintain the ability to prepare for and swiftly respond to emergencies to preserve life and property.

Accountability—State government is stable, responsive and accountable to Oregonians.

There is no more business as usual with state government. We have to be responsible stewards of the public’s money. This means we must work in a cooperative and coordinated manner with our partners in the private sector and with local government—counties, cities, and special districts. We serve the same constituency and they must know that our mutual goal is to provide them with superior customer service.²

Endnotes

¹ Oregon Progress Board, *Benchmark Performance Reports*, www.oregon.gov/DAS/OPB/obm_pubs.shtml

² From Governor Kulongoski’s “Oregon Principles” budget web page, governor.oregon.gov/Gov/budget/future.shtml