Oregon Advocacy Commissions’ Public Policy Research

Jobs and the Economy

Focus: Policy development that affects wage equity, labor trafficking, career paths, diverse workforce and leadership, small business development, respectful workplaces and attainment.

Integrating Immigrants’ credentials into Oregon economy: Research of best practices and policies in Oregon and nationally that promote effective workforce integration of immigrants with professional license/trades certification from other nations, comparison of existing credentialing programs in Oregon health professions, and interviews of immigrants who have experienced credentialing processes in Oregon.

Partners: OCAPIA, OCBA, Partners in Diversity (PID), Oregon Workforce Investment Board (OWIB), the Governor’s Office.

Potential of investments in Pre-Apprenticeship to increase success by people of color and women in the trades:

Conducting foundational review/analysis of data on enhanced success of students of color in the trades who are enrolled in or graduates of pre-apprenticeship programs and their success in entering and ongoing work in the trades.

Partners: OCBA, BOLI Apprenticeship Division, the Governor’s Office.

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Healthcare

Focus: Access to care and health coverage, culturally competent care, health education, health disparities, and better health outcomes for all.

Joint research between OCHA, DHS and OHA on Mental Health Services disparities of Latinos in Oregon, associated consequences, and strategies to address gaps: Conducted qualitative and quantitative research of disparities of Latino Oregonians in mental health services to inform equity focused MH services delivery and policy development. Collect specific experiences and consequences of identified MH disparities, effective models, and strategies to address service gaps of Latinos statewide.

Partners: OCHA, Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS), Oregon Health Authority (OHA), OHA’s Office of Equity and Inclusion (OEI), the Governor’s Office.

2015–17 OAC’s 7 Policy Research Projects

- Jobs and the Economy: 44%
- Justice, Safety and Policing: 14%
- Healthcare: 14%
- Housing and Stable Families: 14%
- Education: 14%

What policy makers are saying about OAC research

“Impressive,” “a sense of scale,” “extremely cost effective,” “practical policy proposals,” “partnerships leverage collective expertise,” “really helps legislators... make the right decisions”

(see full quotes on back)
Jobs and the Economy (continued)

Effect of new contracting models on increasing graduation to Journey status and retention rates for tradespeople of color and women: To inform new BOLI recommendations on contracting practices that improve rates of graduation and retention for tradespeople of color in specific trades, developed a white paper analyzing outcomes of contracting practices that increased matriculation, graduation to Journey status and retention rates among tradespeople of color.

Partners: OCBA, BOLI Apprenticeship Division, the Governor’s Office on Workforce, Lewis and Clark Law School.

Education

Focus: Addressing education disparities among students of color, girls and women from pre-kindergarten through higher education and the trades.

Effectiveness of Restorative Justice practices for reduction of conflict and disproportionate discipline of students of color: To inform ODE’s recommendations for school discipline policies statewide, conducted best practice review and prepared report for OCBA and ODE’s Oregon School Discipline Advisory Council (OSDAC) on Restorative Justice models and associated intervention strategies that guide students on handling conflict through mediation/restorative practices, reducing use of exclusionary discipline.

Partners: OCBA, Oregon Department of Education (ODE), OSDAC, Governor’s Office, and Willamette University College of Law.

Housing and Stable Families

Focus: Affordable housing, domestic violence, affordable childcare, food, transportation, overrepresentation in foster care and other factors affecting the foundation of prosperity for families statewide.

Oregon Equity Policy Toolkit and Playbook: Literature review in collaboration with the State Library Reference Division to identify and analyze equity-focused data and key studies and policy development on family focused priorities in Oregon that affect prosperity statewide, identification of state partners and next steps to collaborative equity related policy and policy related research.

“What is so impressive about the Advocacy Commissions’ research work is the way that they combine solid academic research, community outreach, and practical policy proposals for community-building change. They synthesize cutting-edge national research with facts on the ground here in Oregon—addressing real-world problems faced by real Oregonians—and they do so in an extremely cost-effective manner. This really helps legislators and other policy-makers, faced with tough decisions, make the right decisions.”

— Senator Michael Dembrow

“What 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.”

— Oregon Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian

Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office

Advising policy; Growing leadership; Building success for Asian Pacific, Black, and Hispanic Oregonians and for Women.

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