

Community and Tribal Engagement

ODHS Budget request | 2022 Oregon Legislative Session

Summary

Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) is requesting funds to support a **statewide community and tribal engagement strategy**. Co-created with the communities we serve, the effort will ensure that programs are designed and services are delivered in ways that align with communities' specific goals. Additional support will expand the ODHS Tribal Affairs program to strengthen the engagement of, and delivery of services to, Oregon's Nine Federally Recognized Tribes.



Lack of community-driven solutions

Guided by the ODHS Equity North Star, which centers racial equity and intersectionality in everything we do, ODHS continues to make strides in addressing service inequities and becoming an anti-racist organization. However, like many government agencies, ODHS has historically been driven by bureaucratic rules and regulations rather than the needs of the people and communities we serve.

Currently, ODHS does not have a comprehensive, cross-program community engagement strategy, which inhibits the agency's ability to understand the priorities, goals, concerns, and needs of Oregonians, particularly communities of color who are disproportionately represented within our state systems.

Building the infrastructure

A statewide community engagement program would establish a mechanism for ensuring that the voices of Oregon's diverse communities are heard and that service delivery strategies are co-created by people in the communities we serve. By centering community voice and using national best practices for engagement, **we can translate community goals into real, on-the-ground improvements** to ODHS programs and services. If funded, our request would create the staff positions necessary to conduct statewide engagement efforts while also providing grants and other resources to support community members' participation in planning and decision making. Additionally, we will pilot local demonstration grants in support of community-led projects.

Request

This \$14.7 million request would fund 12 permanent, full-time community engagement positions along with a 15-month operating budget.

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