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Racial Justice Council: 2021 Legislative Session Accomplishments

Oregon for All: Creating a Place Where Everyone Can Thrive

Oregon's Black, Indigenous, Native American, Tribal, Latino, Latina, Latinx, Asian, Pacific Islander, immigrants, refugees, and communities of color have long faced barriers to equitable access to basic human needs. In 2020, Governor Kate Brown convened the Racial Justice Council (RJC) to center marginalized communities' perspectives, backgrounds, and experiences to advance transformational change.

Together, the RJC developed a Racial Justice Action Plan, which influenced the state's short, medium, and long-term goals to address structural racism—putting Oregon on a track to build a stronger, fairer, and more equitable Oregon where everyone can thrive. The RJC has centered, for the first time, the dismantling of systemic racism from our civic institutions at a statewide level, starting with advancing the RJC's budget and policy recommendations.

During the 2021 Legislative Session, Governor Kate Brown and the RJC have secured over \$3.2 billion in decisive investments to begin the process of recognizing—and undoing—systemic racism in Oregon.

Codifying the Racial Justice Council & Immigrant & Refugee Budget Highlights

- **HB 2167 - Codification of the Racial Justice Council**, implements statute requirements for executive branch and state agencies to engage with Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian, Pacific Islander, and Tribal communities as part of their budget and policy development. **\$.51M**
- **HB 2168 - Juneteenth**, establishes June 19th as a State Holiday.
- **HB 5006 - Universal Legal Representation for Immigrant Oregonians**, provides that every Oregonian has access to legal services to stop unlawful or unjust deportation. **\$.2M**
- **SB 553 - COFA In-state Tuition**, provides college in-state tuition for citizens of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated State of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau. **\$.1.3M**



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- **HB 5529 - Refugee Resettlement Program**, extends refugee resettlement case management, employment and other vital supports available to all the refugees, asylees and Special Immigrant Visa holders who have arrived to Oregon from 30 different countries since 2016. ***\$4.3M***

Criminal Justice Reform & Police Accountability Committee Highlights

- **HB 5006 - Justice Reinvestment**, increases investments in victim services and to justice reinvestment; dedicates funds to culturally specific and culturally responsive organizations. ***\$10M***
- **HB 2204 & HB 5006 - Restorative Justice**, establishes programs to support partnerships between district attorneys, those harmed, and responsible parties to hold people accountable and promote healing. ***\$4M***
- **HB 5006 - Reimagine Safety**, a Black-led initiative to research and develop better approaches to public safety that reduces racial disparities. ***\$1.5M***
- **HB 5006 - Eliminating Community Corrections Supervision Fees**, allows parole and post-prison supervision officers to focus on supervising individuals and removes money as a reason someone would not successfully complete supervision. ***\$10M***
- **HB 5006 - Marijuana Clemency Funds**, provides funding for partnership with the Oregon Justice Department to identify cannabis convictions and use the Governor's clemency powers to set them aside. ***\$1.2M***
- **HB 2003 - Public Defense Reform**, strengthens Oregon's statewide public defense infrastructure.
- **HB 3265 - Sanctuary Promise Act**, extends and strengthens Oregon's Sanctuary law to protect Oregonians from racial profiling. Ensures that public resources are not used for federal immigration enforcement. ***\$1M***
- **SB 397 - Expungement Reform**, establishes procedure for filing a motion to set aside conviction, arrest, citation or charge. Eliminates fees, fingerprinting and background checks, and reduces the waiting period for filing a motion for several categories of offences.



Housing and Homelessness Committee Highlights

- **HB 291 - Individualized Housing Assessment**, removes barriers to housing stability for Oregonians with a criminal history. Requires landlords who screen for criminal history to review the circumstances of an individual's previous involvement with the criminal justice system and whether an applicant's history is relevant to their ability to be a good tenant.
- **HB 2100 - Oregon Housing and Community Services Statute Modernization**, establishes task forces to investigate potential changes in Oregon's funding structure to address racial disparities among people experiencing housing insecurity and homelessness. Requires OHCS to engage in outcome-oriented contracting practices with culturally-responsive organizations to provide homeless and antipoverty services
- **HB 3115 - Decriminalization of Homelessness**, ensures a statutory framework for reasonable ordinances on camping, sleeping and laying down; creates process for cause of action for people experiencing homelessness.
- **HB 5011 - Expanding Homeownership Opportunities**, increases funds to help provide pathways to homeownership for Black, Indigenous, Latino, Latina, Latinx, Asian, Pacific Islander, Native American and Tribal communities. Adds co-ops and land trust models to our system. ***\$22M***
- **SB 2163 - Creates Statewide Long-term Rent Assistance Program**, establishes a long term rental assistance program serving people exiting foster care, aging out of homeless youth services, or otherwise experiencing homelessness. ***\$4.5M***
- **Statewide Rent Forgiveness**, The Governor's budget called on Congress to deliver a substantial aid package following up on the 2020 CARES Act and identified that top priority for federal stimulus should be \$350 million in rent assistance. Since the beginning of the pandemic, federal allocations for emergency rent assistance to Oregon and its local governments have totaled more than \$600M, with an additional \$230M in state investment. ***\$838.9M***
- **HB 5006 - Regional Housing Needs Analysis and Missing Middle Housing**, provides technical assistance on the implementation of HB 2001 and HB 2003; helping to address seeking some of the land use planning barriers to equitable housing development. ***\$2.2M***
- **HB 5006, HB 5011, SB 5505 & SB 5506 - Affordable Housing Development**, increases the housing supply for middle to low wage Oregonians who continue to be cost burdened by market rate housing. Investments include: Agricultural Worker Housing Tax Credit, LIFT Rental



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and Homeownership, Manufactured Parks Investments, Preservation, and Land Acquisition Programs. ***\$600.2M***

Economic Opportunity Committee Highlights

- **HB 2266 - Access to Capital**, expands access to capital for small businesses owned by communities of color, Tribal, and linguistically-diverse communities by investing in a loan loss reserve fund. Establishes a revolving loan fund for businesses participating in the Certification Office for Business Inclusion and Diversity (COBID) Program. ***\$20M***
- **HB 2433 - Earned Income Tax Credit Expansion**, expands eligibility for tax credit to taxpayers with Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers. ***\$10M***
- **HB 5023 Business Technical Assistance**, invests in a technical assistance program targeting and supporting businesses that have been underserved and under-resourced. ***\$9M***
- **HB 5006 - Oregon Statewide Disparity Study**, funds a study to identify inequalities in public procurement and contracting by looking at state contracting data. The study serves as an actionable, data-driven foundation that can help advance the State Enterprise towards a more equitable procurement processes to support minority-, women-, and service-disabled-veteran owned businesses. ***\$3.7M***
- **HB 5006 - Increasing Broadband Access**, expands availability of broadband internet across the state, particularly in schools. First rounds of funding will focus on providing access to communities that have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, including rural, Black, Indigenous, Latino, Latina, Latinx, Asian, Pacific Islander, Native American, and Tribal communities. ***\$120M***

Environmental Equity Committee Highlights

- **SB 289 - Safety in the Outdoors**, prohibits certain bias-crime-offenders from entering an area under jurisdiction of the State Parks and Recreation Department. Ensuring all Oregonians, regardless of background, are welcomed in all outdoor spaces and benefit from outdoor recreation activities.
- **HB 2171 - Outdoor Access Recreation**, increases accessibility to Oregon's great outdoors by supporting the state's outdoor recreation and conservation efforts to enhance comfortable outdoor life for underserved populations. ***\$1M***



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- **HB 2475 - Energy Affordability**, allows utilities to address energy burden through lower rates for the people who need it most and establishes funding for environmental justice organizations to participate in the Public Utility Commission process.
- **HB 3293 - Water Equity**, allows funding of more than \$250M for place-based planning within communities and directs state agencies to develop best practices for equitable community engagement in water planning for a more equitable water future, including \$1.5M for Indigenous and Tribal communities water needs. ***\$1.5M***
- **SB 762 - Wildfire Response**, creates the foundation for Oregon to build fire adapted and fire resilient communities by embedding culturally responsive considerations in fire response policies. ***\$200M***
- **SB 5530 - Climate Adaptation and Mitigation**, ensures that the state advances equity-driven solutions to climate change. ***\$1.6M***
- **SB 5516, SB 5518 & HB 5025 - Creating Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Positions**, provides funding for DEI positions in the Department of Environmental Quality, the Department of Forestry, and the Department of Parks and Recreation. ***\$886K***

Education Recovery Committee Highlights

- **HB 2166 - PreK-12 Education Equity, \$8M**
 - Establishes the Early Childhood Suspension and Expulsion Prevention Program, establishing a cadre of mental health consultants and a centralized process for early childhood programs to request technical assistance to support stable and inclusive placements for children and to prevent expulsion or suspension, disproportionately impacting children of color.
 - Directs the development of a statewide social emotional learning framework for public schools, authorizes the creation of non-traditional pathways to licensure programs to increase diverse educators in schools.
 - Establishes a grant program to increase support for historically underserved students and students with disabilities through charter schools focused on serving these student populations.
- **SB 5513 - Fully Funding the Student Success Act: Making critical investments in equity across early care & education and K-12 public schools. \$1.7B**



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- **Addressing racial and ethnic disparities and supporting student behavioral health in public schools.** Provides \$892.2 million to the Student Investment Account for grants to every Oregon school district to implement community-informed plans to address racial disparities in educational opportunities and outcomes and provide social, emotional and mental health supports for BIPOC students, tribal students, emerging bilingual students, students navigating poverty and homelessness, foster youth and other marginalized students. ***\$892.2M***
- **Expanding access for children to early care and education programs.** for 6,000 children and families. Provides \$70 million for the expansion of Oregon Prekindergarten and Early Head Start, Preschool Promise, the Early Childhood Equity Fund, Healthy Families Oregon, and Parenting Education. Creates one position to assist in grant administration. ***\$70M***
- **Investing in community partnerships through Statewide Equity Initiatives.** Fully funds statewide student success plan grants for African/Black students and American Indian/Alaska Native students and provides \$6 million investment in the new Latino/a/x Student Success Plan. Provides \$2million for new LGBTQ2SIA+ Student Success Plan. ***\$23M***
- **Accelerating statewide progress toward achieving the goals of the Educator Equity Act.** Provides resources to expand school district and higher education partnerships, including *grow your own programs*, for the recruitment, preparation and retention of teachers and school administrators of color. ***\$30.7M***
- **Expanding support to youth disconnected from school.** Fully fund the Oregon Youth Reengagement System to develop regional partnerships focused on serving the needs of youth disconnected from school, supporting their completion of high school, access to postsecondary education and training, and employment opportunities. ***\$8.3M***
- **Supporting and Expanding Instructional Standards.** Establish new standards that improve student outcomes through social/emotional learning and development grounded in racial equity and trauma informed principles, and ensure the Department has the support to adequately maintain compliance with existing state and federal programs and requirements. ***\$0.6M***
- **SB 5514 - Statewide Anti-Racism Leadership Initiative,** Within the \$9.3 billion legislative appropriation to public schools through the State School Fund is a continuous appropriation of \$50 million to the Educator Advancement Council and a statewide network for culturally responsive professional learning for educators. This appropriation includes a statewide anti-racism initiative to engage educators across the state in addressing racial bias and systemic racism in schools and classrooms. It also authorizes the creation of an Indigenous Educator



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Institute to support recruitment, preparation of and retention of tribal and other indigenous educators. *\$14M*

- **HB 2060 - Student Success Act Technical Changes**, Identifies economically disadvantaged students based on State Board of Education rule for purposes of Student Investment Account distributions; and authorizes the State Board of Education to set targets related to student mental and behavioral health needs for purposes of Student Investment Account grants to school districts.
- **HB 2052 - Tribal Regalia**, requires school districts to allow students to wear Native American items of cultural significance at public school events, including high school graduation.
- **HB 2055 - Create Tribal Learning Hub**, establishes Tribal Early Learning Hub for the purpose of delivering early learning services to tribal communities of this state. *\$0.9M*
- **HB 2056 - Access to Linguistic Inclusion**, Expands high school diploma requirements related to completion of credits in English to allow completion of credits in language arts.
- **HB 2055 - Create Tribal Early Learning Hub**, Enhances the Early Learning Hub system by adding funding for planning and start-up for a Tribal Hub and the capacity of a Tribal Liaison to directly consult with the nine tribes to ensure that program expansion and creation of a Tribal Early Learning Hub supports the goals of tribes and respects sovereignty. *\$0.9M*
- **SB 757 - Central Background Registry**, (CBR) for Recorded and Employment Related Day Care Background Checks. Increase personal service resources as well as cost of background checks for recorded programs so they are free to providers, and bring license-exempt Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) provider background checks from Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) to Early Learning Division (ELD). *\$1.8M*
- **SB 5528 - Transfer Portal**, Fund planning costs for technology investments to effectively communicate new transfer pathways to students. Would lay groundwork for a Statewide Transfer Portal, a single web-based tool where students, parents, advisors, families, faculty, and staff could go to understand how courses articulate to degree completion at all Oregon public institutions. *\$0.6M*
- **SB 5528 - Expand HECC DEI Staffing**, Create the Higher Education Coordinating Commission's (HECC) second and third equity-focused positions to support and operationalize work begun over the last several years, including strengthening community engagement and



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partnerships, supporting vulnerable populations, removing racism and bias from higher education and workforce policies, and consulting/serving Oregon's federally-recognized tribes. *\$0.5M*

- **HB 2092 - Oregon Youth Employment Program**, Amends Oregon Youth Employment Program statute to ensure that at least 75% of participating youth are from communities of color, rural communities, or communities historically underrepresented in specific fields and occupations. Fund grants to local workforce development boards, community-based organizations, and other youth-serving organizations to provide paid work experiences and workforce training for youth ages 14-24. No less than 20 percent of program funds are to be awarded to organizations that serve communities of color. *\$9M*
- **SB 5528 - Expansion of the Oregon Opportunity Grant**, The Oregon Opportunity Grant is Oregon's largest state-funded, need-based grant program supporting student access to an affordable college education. Approximately 40,000 students receive Opportunity Grants each year. The Opportunity Grant was increased by \$28 million over current service level and the initial funding requested in the Governor's Recommended Budget. *\$200M*

Health Equity Committee Highlights

- ***Addressing Coverage Gaps & Increasing Access to Health Care***
 - **HB 3352 - Cover All People**, expands OHP-like health care coverage to undocumented adults, DACA recipients, legal permanent residents, and young adults who age out of Cover All Kids. *\$100M*
 - **SB 70 - Regional Health Equity Coalitions (RHECs)**, supports expansion of RHECs to address and identify health inequities across the state through local collaborative community-led engagement. *\$5.8M*
 - **HB 5024 - Compact of Free Association (COFA) dental coverage**, expands dental coverage for COFA residents in Oregon. *\$2.6M*
 - **HB 5024 - high-quality reproductive health services**, for Oregonians on the Oregon Health Plan (OHP). *\$2M*
 - **HB 5024 - Traditional health worker licensing program**, *\$308,000*.
- ***Strengthening Public Health Systems***



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- **HB 5024 - Public Health Modernization**, funds core public health capacity for community-based organizations, local public health authorities, and tribal governments to help modernize the state's public health system. ***\$45M***
- ***Improve Native American & Tribal Health***
 - **HB 5024 - Establishes an Indian Managed Care Entity**, provides critical care and coordination of services to tribal members on the Oregon Health Plan. ***\$1.4M***
 - **HB 2088 - Establishes Tribal Traditional Health Worker Program**, supporting tribal-based practices and Indian health care providers. ***\$.3M***
 - **HB 5024 - Supporting Tribal-based Practices**, provides Medicaid funding to strengthen pathways for developing a tribal behavioral health workforce. ***\$.5M***
- ***Data Equity***
 - **HB 3159 - Data Justice Act**, requires coordinated care organizations, health care providers, and health insurers, to collect data on race, ethnicity, preferred spoken and written languages, disability status, sexual orientation, and gender identity. ***\$18.2M***
- ***Workforce, Behavioral Health & Substance Use Disorders***
 - The Governor's Budget investments in behavioral health including substance use disorder was informed by recommendations from the Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission (ADPC) Strategic Plan, the Tribal Behavioral Health Strategic Plan, and the Governor's Behavioral Health Advisory Council as vetted by the Racial Justice Council Health Equity Committee.
 - **HB 2949 Workforce Diversification** – Provides incentives to increase recruitment and retention of mental health workforce, including pipeline development, scholarships for undergraduates and stipends for graduate students, loan repayments and retention activities. Specifically addresses incentives for culturally responsive behavioral health services. ***\$.80M***
 - **HB 5024 Substance Use Disorder III Waiver** – Invests in substance use disorder treatment services, crisis intervention services and peer support services to help Oregonians recover from the disease of substance use disorders. ***\$19.3M***



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- **HB 2086 Community Behavioral Health Services**– Establishes peer run and community-based services that ensure access to culturally specific and culturally responsive behavioral health services for people of color, tribal communities and people of lived experience, medical reimbursement for tribal-based practices, and start-up funding for behavioral health treatment programs that provide integrated co-occurring disorder treatment. *\$10.2M* Additionally, establishes a committee that is mandated to create quality metrics for behavioral health services provided by CCO's and providers to improve quality of behavioral health services through incentives and additional funding opportunities outside of the legislation established separately by the legislature.
- **HB 2980 Peer Run Respite Centers** - Provides funding to peer-run organizations in the Portland metropolitan area, southern Oregon region, Oregon coast and eastern and central Oregon region to operate peer respite centers to provide peer respite services to individuals with mental illness or trauma response symptoms. Provides that at least one peer respite center receiving funding must participate in pilot project designed specifically to provide culturally responsive services to historically underrepresented communities such as communities of color including Black, African American, Latino, Asian, Asian American or Pacific Islander communities, or to the nine federally recognized tribes in this state. *\$6M*