



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 26-04

ENSURING STATE COORDINATION FOR IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE COMMUNITIES TO PROMOTE DIGNITY AND SAFETY

WHEREAS, Oregon's strength lies in the richness of the State's diverse cultures, backgrounds, and perspectives, which together creates community, creativity, and innovation; and

WHEREAS, immigrant and refugee communities are a vital part of Oregon's social, economic, and cultural fabric; and

WHEREAS, Oregon is home to approximately 404,000 immigrants, including 19,200 immigrant children; and

WHEREAS, more than 67,000 refugees have resettled in Oregon since 1975; and

WHEREAS, Oregon has been a sanctuary state since 1987, affirming that state and local government agencies shall not use public resources to assist in federal immigration enforcement without a judicial warrant; and

WHEREAS, the Oregon Legislature passed the Sanctuary Promise Act (HB 3265) in 2021 to strengthen and clarify protections for immigrant communities, requiring transparency and accountability in interactions with federal immigration authorities; and

WHEREAS, federal immigration enforcement activity in Oregon has risen sharply since January 2025; and

WHEREAS, increased federal immigration enforcement activity in Oregon, specifically tactics that contradict state law enforcement practices, has created heightened fear and uncertainty among immigrant and refugee communities; and

WHEREAS, six Oregon cities have declared a state of emergency or otherwise acted in response to intensified federal immigration enforcement operations, and two Oregon counties have moved to strengthen sanctuary protections; and

WHEREAS, Oregon's Attorney General Dan Rayfield joined Washington and Multnomah County District Attorneys in a letter condemning federal immigration enforcement actions and threatening to sue the federal government should any actions violate Oregon law; and



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WHEREAS, the federal government has expanded immigration enforcement activity and restricted access to essential services and assistance for many immigrants and refugees, including those with humanitarian status; and

WHEREAS, immigration-related developments at the federal level can create sudden and significant impacts on Oregon's service systems and effective interagency coordination is necessary to ensure rapid and consistent responses that protect access to state services and community well-being; and

WHEREAS, programs need shared protocols, consistent guidance, and coordinated support for families who face disruptions; and

WHEREAS, all state agencies share responsibility for upholding Oregon's commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility; and

WHEREAS, Oregon's Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement (OIRA) is statutorily charged with coordinating immigrant and refugee immigration strategies, monitoring service delivery, and promoting equity across state agencies; and

WHEREAS, OIRA has engaged with more than 40 community-based organizations since July 2025 to understand local impacts of federal immigration enforcement activity and to gather input on statewide needs for coordination and support.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DIRECTED AND ORDERED:

- The Interagency Council for Immigrant and Refugee Coordination (the “Council”) is established.
- The Council’s purpose is to coordinate internal agency efforts in response to increased federal immigration enforcement activity using existing resources to ensure alignment with Oregon sanctuary law and practices with the goal of strengthening existing state programs to support immigrant and refugee communities.
- The membership should include:
 - The Governor, or her designee,
 - Directors of:
 - Department of Administrative Services (DAS);



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- Department of Early Learning and Care (DELC);
- Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS);
- Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC);
- Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement (OIRA);
- Oregon Department of Education (ODE);
- Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS);
- Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT);
- Oregon Employment Department (OED);
- Oregon Health Authority (OHA);
- Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS)
- Additional agencies may be identified as necessary participants by the Governor.
- The Council will be led by the Director of OIRA.
- The Council shall;
 - Coordinate and identify the infrastructure necessary for sustained cross-agency collaboration, including establishing consistent processes and ensuring reliable communication among state agencies and with communities across Oregon.
 - Develop a partner engagement plan, in coordination with partner organizations representing impacted communities, to ensure that the Council's work is informed by immigrant and refugee communities on an on-going basis.
 - Develop a proposed scope of work, including establishing measurable objectives and goals to support immigrant and refugee communities with a coordinated organization-wide approach no later than March 31, 2026.
 - Begin implementing a work plan to improve agency response to federal immigration enforcement activity by aligning and strengthening state programs using existing resources and within Sanctuary Promise Law by May 30, 2026.

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- This Executive Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until terminated by the Governor. The Governor shall reassess the necessity of this Executive Order every three months and shall retain, modify, or supplement it as circumstances warrant.

Done at Salem, Oregon, this 30th day of January, 2026.

Tina Kotek
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Tobias Read
SECRETARY OF STATE

