

Oregon Psilocybin Services (OPS) 2022: Year in Review

The end of 2022 marked an important milestone in implementing the Oregon Psilocybin Services Act, ORS 475A. The two-year development period from January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2023 came to a close with the adoption of final rules and the launch of the first regulatory framework for psilocybin services in the nation. This ‘year in review’ offers a summary of all the work we accomplished together in 2022.

- Over the past year, OPS has continued to support the [Oregon Psilocybin Advisory Board](#) and its five subcommittees in preparing [recommendations for rulemaking](#) by the statutory deadline of June 30, 2022. OPS recognized the many hours that board members contributed to this work and responded to recommendations in a [September Letter to the Board](#).
- The Oregon Psilocybin Advisory Board acknowledged the importance of cultural and anthropological information that was not included in the [Scientific Literature Review](#) ([English](#) and [Spanish](#) versions were published in July of 2021). To support a shared commitment to making this knowledge available to the public, OPS compiled information presented to the [Oregon Psilocybin Advisory Board Research Subcommittee](#) by a variety of guest speakers and published a [Cultural and Anthropological Review](#). The document is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).
- Public listening sessions are an opportunity for members of the public to share comments, ideas, questions, and concerns. Three [OPS Public Listening Sessions](#) were held in July 2022, with Spanish and ASL interpretation, as well as CART captioning, for a total of six hours of public feedback. Public Listening Sessions were recorded and are available online. OPS staff also compiled questions across the three listening sessions and published a [Summary of Questions and Answers](#) document on the OPS website.

- OPS conducted a voluntary, anonymous [Community Interest Survey](#) between January 7 and February 6, 2022, which was translated into Spanish, Russian, Vietnamese, Simple Chinese/Mandarin, and Somali. The survey was designed to better understand who may be interested in accessing psilocybin services, in licensure, or training program approval. The [2022 Survey Findings Report](#) provided preliminary findings one year in advance of accepting applications for licensure.
 - 4,421 people participated in the survey and 94% (4,162 participants) were interested in accessing psilocybin services
 - 36% (1,613) were interested in facilitator licensure
 - 22 % (982) were interested in manufacturer licensure
 - 20 % (903) were interested in service center licensure
 - 5 % (226) were interested in testing lab licensure
 - 15% (660) were interested in having a facilitator training program approved by OHA

- OPS adopted the first subset of rules related to psilocybin products, testing and training programs in May 2022. These rules were needed to specify curriculum requirements for programs planning to train people interested in facilitating psilocybin services in Oregon, as well as initial requirements related to psilocybin product testing.
 - OPS convened three Rules Advisory Committees (RACs) in February 2022, which accounted for four meetings and over 12 hours of discussion.
 - RACs included a diversity of opinions and viewpoints and were comprised of 26 individuals with subject matter expertise, lived experience, and who were likely to be affected by the proposed rules.
 - All meetings were recorded and posted to the [OPS Administrative Rules webpage](#). After the RACs, OPS sent a letter to RAC members addressing how their input informed the proposed rules.
 - A public comment period ran from April 1-22, 2022, which included two public hearings on rules and over four hours of public testimony. Spanish and American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation was offered for public hearings. The hearings were recorded and are available on [the OPS Administrative Rules webpage](#).

- A [Hearings Officer Report](#) and a [Letter to the Public](#) are also available on the OPS website.
- After the adoption of May rules and to ensure that psilocybin facilitator training programs were able to accept and train students in time for them to apply for facilitator licenses in early 2023, OPS launched the Training, Licensing and Compliance (TLC) system on June 6, 2022 for [training programs to apply for curriculum approval](#).
 - OPS developed a [curriculum application guide](#) and other helpful resources for the application process.
 - As of December 16, 2022, OPS has approved curriculum for 18 Facilitator Training Programs. [View a list of training programs with approved curriculum here.](#)
- In accordance with ORS 475A, OPS adopted the rest of the final rules for the nation’s first regulatory framework for psilocybin services in late December 2022.
 - OPS convened three [Rules Advisory Committees](#) (RACs) in September of 2022, which accounted for a total of nine meetings and over 27 hours of RAC discussion.
 - RACs included a diversity of opinions and viewpoints and were comprised of 36 individuals with subject matter expertise, lived experience, and who were likely to be affected by the proposed rules.
 - All meetings were recorded and posted on [the OPS Administrative Rules webpage](#). After the September RACs, OPS sent a [Letter to RAC Members](#) addressing how their input informed the proposed rules. A public comment period ran from November 1-21, 2022, which included three public hearings on rules and over six hours of public testimony. Spanish and American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation and CART Captioning were offered for public hearings. The hearings were recorded and are available on [the OPS Administrative Rules webpage](#).
 - OPS considered over 200 comments during the public comment period before adopting final rules.

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- In October 2022, in partnership with the Oregon Secretary of State Office of Small Business Assistance, OPS hosted a [Fall Business Forum](#) featuring presentations from various state agency partners on topics related to starting a psilocybin business in Oregon. The purpose of the forum was to provide information, support, and resources to those interested in setting up psilocybin businesses in Oregon to be licensed under ORS 475A.
 - Over 350 people participated in the virtual forum. All presentation recordings are available as resources online. Questions across the sessions were also compiled into a [Summary of Questions and Answers from state agency partners and presenters](#).
- In partnership with the Association of Oregon Counties, OPS provided a webinar to local government partners to discuss ORS 475A. In addition, OPS prepared a [Frequently Asked Questions document related to local government issues](#) and continues to serve as a resource on [local government considerations](#).
- The Psilocybin Equity Project was launched in December of 2022, to continue the work of centering justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion in the implementation of ORS 475A. The project is an internal opportunity for team members and leadership to address equity issues related to the intersectionality of psychedelics, anti-racism, power-sharing, unraveling bias, and the disproportionate impact of the War on Drugs on communities of color.
- OPS sends [quarterly newsletters](#) to a [distribution list](#) with over 10,000 subscribers, as well as job announcements, updates, and [other news](#).
- OPS developed a 2-page fact sheet available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), and [ASL video](#).

- OPS has conducted outreach to over 50 community-based organizations, held culturally responsive circles with communities upon request, and have provided over 30 presentations in the last year.
- OPS has been working to ensure the [Training Program, Licensing, and Compliance \(TLC\) system is ready for online applications for licensure](#) by January 2, 2023, as well as online payment systems for application and license fees. In addition, OPS has been working on creating forms, informational materials, and other resources to help support those interested in licensure.
 - OPS has developed forms required in rule, such as the [Client Information](#), [Informed Consent](#), and [Client Bill of Rights](#) forms, and will be making them available in Spanish soon.
 - OPS has developed a [Land Use Compatibility Statement \(LUCS\) form](#) required by statute for all manufacturer and service center license applicants to ensure they are compliant with local land use and zoning requirements.
 - OPS has developed an informational handout on the [OPS Background Check process](#).
 - OPS has also developed a [School Proximity Tool](#) to support service center applicants in complying with ORS 475A.310. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure the location of the service center is not within 1,000 feet of a school.
 - OPS has recorded a training on ORS 475A, which is available on the [OPS website](#).

This work would not have been possible without a committed team of staff, supportive internal partners within the Oregon Health Authority and other state agencies, and the many fantastic community leaders who have dedicated their time and energy to the successful implementation of this groundbreaking public policy.