

Stakeholder Input: OBC Poverty Reduction Policy Concepts

During October of 2014, the Oregon Business Council (OBC) and the Oregon Prosperity Agenda, with support of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, United Way of Columbia-Willamette, and The Ford Family Foundation, facilitated eight Stakeholder Forums throughout Oregon. Combined, over 360 signed up and were asked to provide input on a number of policy concepts developed by the OBC Anti-Poverty Task Force.

Attendees were asked to discuss and rank the top three policies in each column they think would have the largest impact in reducing poverty in Oregon by year 2020 and to provide additional ideas. Those policies highlighted in light blue below received by far the most support among the stakeholders. Additional input was documented and summarized in the order of how often they were mentioned. We are grateful for the time and commitment by all who engaged at the forums!

1. Education & Workforce	2. Build Economy with Pathways	3. Adequate Support & Make Work Pay
Expand new-parent interventions (e.g., Nurse-Family Partnership; InfantNet)	Create rural Oregon jobs by improving forest health and biomass use	Expand tax credits for Individual Development Accounts (IDAs)
Expand access to high-quality preschool	Create rural Oregon jobs by growing Oregon's agriculture and food processing industries	Expand funding for foster care transitional programs to support all eligible participants
Expand evidence-based education and prevention programs to reduce the number of unintended pregnancies among young, low-income women	Support micro-enterprise / entrepreneurship (e.g., Kiva Zip, Mercy Corps NW, Mercado Latino de Portland, Adelante Mujeres)	Expand/integrate mental health and substance abuse services with Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs); ensure services reach schools
Create financial incentives for high schools and colleges to produce graduates with technical certificates in high-demand, good-wage fields	Support the growth of manufacturing industries that provide good-paying jobs for people w/o 4-year degrees	Reform TANF: increase gross income limit, index benefit, tailor program to individual circumstances and local economic conditions
Expand apprenticeship programs and opportunities (e.g., Career Academies in high schools)	Expand summer employment opportunities for low-income youth who are enrolled in school or are recent HS graduates	Expand State EITC: double credit for children under age 6; expand for childless workers; reduce marriage penalties
Provide free FAFSA assistance to low-income students during tax preparation season	Invest in infrastructure projects (i.e. transportation, water, energy) that lay the foundation for long-term growth and create construction jobs today	Expand Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) program to improve the transition from safety net to work
Expand Oregon Opportunity Grant and prioritize funding for pipeline of high school graduates		Create/expand targeted tax credits (e.g., senior, disability, transportation) for low-income households
Expand community-based mentoring programs (e.g., Friends of the Children; Big Brothers Big Sisters)		
Expand college-going support programs (e.g., College Possible, College Dreams, etc.)		
Overhaul college remediation services by improving placement, providing better service, and adopting preventative measures		

Additional comments on listed items/topics/suggestions for other policies or actions (in rough order of degree of support measured by the number of time they were mentioned):

- Critical need for affordable housing & workforce housing
- Raise minimum wage
- Create and require life/soft skill training including financial literacy in K-12
- Create access to affordable childcare
- Expand infrastructure (esp.: internet access) to central/eastern Oregon
- Incentivize personal responsibility/accountability
- Responsible use of natural resources
- Wage equity/disparity (gender & minority) – racial justice
- Expand tax credits for low income housing
- Reform overall safety net – not expand
- Require TANF recipients to connect with workforce/education- make work pay ROI- incentivize employment over welfare
- Not enough resources to do what we are already doing
- Inclusionary zoning
- Support innovation centers for small business development with access to capital for small business – public/private partnership
- Create an Oregon Job Corps/CCC/WPA program to work off college debt and develop skilled trades
- Provide incentives (tax incentives) to reinvest in Oregon businesses (i.e.: unintended consequences of Measures 66 & 67)
- How to keep wealth and promote reinvestment in Oregon
- Tax reform
- Health care for all-decouple from employment
- Raise poverty levels (FPL)
- Restructure social benefits to provide incentives to contribute in the community
- Restructure benefits to reduce benefit cliffs
- Restructure re-entry services
- Eliminate criminal history disclosure
- Prioritize industrial zoning
- Reevaluate how we charge for college tuition-make affordable for all kids
- Eliminate tax credits for incomes below ~\$25-30k p/yr.
- Create an alignment policy board to coordinate aligning priorities amongst departments and service providers
- Balancing Social Services-Parent relationship
- Develop a one stop location for streamlined services (cross departmental)
- Strengthen unions
- Develop state housing trust fund
- Nutrition education
- Food desert remediation-incentivize buying local produce
- Retirement security
- Paid internships coupled with tax credit
- Provide incentives for students to complete their degrees
- Student debt financial management
- Look at these as investments and expect ROI
- Not everyone wants to go to college-flexibility in the 40-40-20
- Vast options focus on K-12 rather than adult workforce (which is necessary to meet the goal of <10% by 2020)
- Prioritize Oregon businesses for state contracts. Make easier for Oregon small businesses to learn about opportunities for contracting
- Focus payment for state services on outcomes and success not outputs and dependency
- Incentivize businesses to hire
- Identify sub-minimum wage tracks
- Increase funding for K-12 public education
- Business community need to invest in developing a skilled workforce

- What % of tax revenue is derived from the various income groups
- Develop subsidies for small farms
- Solar panel manufacture and installation on public & private structures
- Selective harvesting of secondary wood products/fire resiliency
- Promote family friendly businesses/policies
- Provide tax credits to businesses for on the job training
- Make community college tuition free to all