



**We envision an Oregon with healthy and prosperous communities where all have access to family wage jobs, quality education, nutritious food, stable homes and services that promote health and wellness.**

## **2011 Legislative Agenda and Priorities**

**Housing and Homeownership:** We all need a place to call home in order to succeed in life.

- Fund the Emergency Housing Account to provide housing stability and prevent homelessness.
- Support proven strategies to develop new housing, including tax credits and exemptions that directly benefit lower income Oregonians.

**Food Access and Security:** Good nutrition helps families learn better, work more productively, stay healthier and focus on opportunities to thrive.

- Invest in: General fund food program (GFFP), Supplemental Food Assistance Program (SNAP); Women Infants and Children (WIC); School Breakfast and Lunch; Summer and Afterschool Food Service Programs; WIC/Senior Farm Direct Programs.

**Businesses and Jobs :** Earned income is the first step towards a better future.

- Support targeted job creation and ensure that distressed communities reap the benefit of new jobs.
- Cultivate entrepreneurship, micro-enterprise, and small business.
- Support creation of a task force to examine work-family balance issues.

**Financial Assets and Income:** To enable Oregonians to weather unexpected financial storms, and to rebuild our middle class, Oregon families must be able to earn a living, save for the future, and protect those savings.

- Maintain state support for families and children through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program.
- Support families' efforts to enter the workforce by investing in Employment Related Day Care and raising the Oregon Earned Income Tax Credit to 18%.
- Protect consumers from predatory refund anticipation loans.

**Education/Early Education:** Education promotes civic responsibility, advances economic competitiveness and expands economic opportunity.

- Maintain commitment to early childhood education through Head Start and other programs.
- Keep kids healthy in school – support School-based health programs.
- Allow Oregon kids to pay in-state tuition regardless of immigration status.

**Health Care:** We can improve community health, lower health care delivery costs and strengthens schools, businesses and homes.

- Give kids a healthy start – eliminate barriers to accessing the healthy kids program.
- Build the capacity of safety net clinics and community health organizations.
- Ensure the new Health Insurance Exchange is good for kids and families.

**Community Investment & Accountability Policies:** Oregon's revenues must be adequate to fund essential investments in our collective future.

- Reform the personal and corporate tax kicker and build state savings.
- Closely examine revenue proposals, direct expenditures, and spending through the tax code for transparency, fairness and prioritization with other forms of public investment.
- Examine the unintended impacts of state policy on specific communities, beginning with the use of Racial Impact Statements for Public Safety/Corrections and Department of Human Services.

*Oregon Thrives uses an Assets and Opportunity framework to develop our legislative agenda. Based on a national model from the Corporation For Enterprise Development, this framework encourages a look across systems, agencies, and individual organizations to identify policies that promise real impact in our communities.*

**For more information, contact NW Public Affairs at 503-968-7161**