



Washington State Department of
Labor & Industries

Underground Economy Task Force

September 4, 2025



Agenda

Item
Overview of Timeline
October Meeting
Subgroup Updates and Polling Instruments
Oregon Contractor Board Presentation
Public Comment

Overview of Timeline

- Next task force meetings:
 - September 26
 - Presentations of subgroup findings and recommendations to the UETF.
 - October
 - Complete any final presentations.
 - Task force member recommendation voting.

Overview of Timeline

- Following Steps:
 - Draft report tentatively available for review the week of October 27.
 - Task force review through the first half of November.
 - Report updated per feedback, final reviews completed and submission by December 31.

October Meeting

Please respond to the scheduling email if you haven't already had the opportunity to do so.

Subgroup Updates and Polling Instruments

- Subgroups
 - Nominate presenters if you haven't already.
- Polling Instruments
 - Due by September 19 for:
 - Contractor training, education, and rating
 - Labor brokers
 - Misclassification: Employees vs. Independent Contractors
 - All subgroup participants welcome to respond.

Construction Contractors Board



Oregon CCB Overview

WA Underground Economy Task Force

September 2025

Oregon CCB Structure



Board – Staff – Customers

- **Nine-member board** includes residential and commercial contractors, two public members and a local government representative.
 - Appointed by Governor and confirmed by Oregon Senate
- **59 permanent staff** providing license, enforcement, education and dispute resolution services.
- Support nearly **50,000 licensees**.
- Protects **ALL Oregon consumers** of construction services.

Scope of Regulation



In Oregon “improvements to real property” for compensation, requires licensure as a contractor.

CCB licenses both residential and commercial construction work.

Becoming a Contractor



- Complete 16-hour pre-license course on Oregon rules and laws
- Pass three-hour, open book test on contracting laws and regulations
- Register business with SOS (except sole prop.)
- Apply, pay fee and clear the Background Check
- Obtain liability insurance and surety bond
- Maintain workers' compensation insurance if hire employees

What We Do: The 3 C's



CONSUMERS

- CCB **protects** Oregon consumers by enforcing licensing standards, resolving disputes and delivering education and resources to help consumers protect their investment.

CONTRACTORS

- CCB **supports** responsible licensed contractors through proactive statewide enforcement, value-added education and streamlining the path to compliance with regulations.

COOPERATION

- CCB leverages partnerships with other agencies to optimize service delivery and compliance.

How We Do It



Licensing Unit

- Process new applications (325-500 monthly)
 - Pre-License Education and Examination (rule and law)
 - Background Check – specified crimes and past construction activity
- Renew existing licensees (1,300 – 2,100 monthly)
- Update liability insurance and bonds (2,000 monthly)
- Call center (300-450 calls daily)

How We Do It



Field Investigations and Compliance

- Identifying, investigating and stopping unlicensed work and other violations
 - Field investigators: 8K annual jobsite checks
 - Random unannounced random
 - Follow up on reports/tips.
- CCB's enforcement program is
 - **Statewide** – cover every region of the state
 - **Responsive** – reports followed up on in 24-48 hours
 - **Efficient** – just over 40 days to resolve cases
- **Partnerships:** Agreement with BCD for license checks

How We Do It



Dispute Resolution

Mediate disputes between homeowners and contractors

- Voluntary program
- Alternative to costly and time-consuming court process
- Mediate approximately 1,000 disputes each year
- 70% success rate if both parties participate

How We Do It



Consumer & Contractor Education

- Educate consumers about legal protections, best practices and avoiding scams
- 24-point increase in public awareness – 78%
- Deliver contractor training on legal requirements, law changes and resources available for contractors
- Expand information and resources available in Spanish for both consumers and contractors.
- **Partnerships:** Key to delivering valuable resources & information
 - Avoiding disaster scams (DOJ, DFR and CCB)
 - Provide contractors a full regulatory picture (OSHA, DEQ, DFR)
 - Work with industry partners to share information for contractors

Protect and Support



“Multi-layered” Approach

- **Consumer outreach and education:**
 - Information Resource – Learn how to protect valuable investment.
- **Pre-License education and support for contractors**
 - Pre-license workshops streamline process & reduce errors/delays.
- **Initial license application screening**
 - Stop contractors with history of debt/violations from returning.
- **Verifiable license history**
 - History includes complaints, violations, prior licenses etc.

Protect and Support



- **Proactive statewide enforcement**
 - Statewide enforcement presence in the field.
- **Financial protections**
 - Liability insurance and workers compensation.
- **Direct consumer recovery**
 - Surety bond can be a source of recovery for unpaid debt.
- **Dispute resolution**
 - Required notice prompts most contractors to resolve issues.
- **Contractor education and support**
 - CCB has services to aid contractors prior to and after licensing.

Board & Agency Roles



Authorization and Delegation

- **Most statutory authority flows through the board**
 - Board retains policy-making authority, exercised through rulemaking.
 - Board oversees program administration and effectiveness.
 - Board appoints executive director.
- **Many routine operational and disciplinary functions have been delegated to agency executive leadership**
 - Disciplinary notices and orders are issued under delegated authority.
 - Actions are ratified by board action at board meetings.
 - In rare instances the board may hear appeals of board action when meeting as the appeals committee of the board.

Questions



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