

Our mission is to build a vibrant community by promoting Chinese culture and heritage, serving the Chinese American community in Oregon, and ensuring that no one is left behind. We strive to advance our community's interests through advocacy, education, and engagement, while fostering a sense of belonging and inclusivity for all.

Let's start with

The three words/phrases which are: building a community, serving, and leaving no one behind.

Oregon Chinese Coalition, we often call OCC, started in 2016 with a clear purpose, which was to lead the community out of the shadows of historical injustices like the Chinese Exclusion Act a century ago, the model minority label in the 20th century, and now unjust scapegoating for the challenges the nation has been facing.

In our community, we know that many smokers are blue-collar workers who often use smoking as a means to express their dissatisfaction with being perceived as a voiceless group within society. Therefore, it is crucial for us to address this issue on **a broader scale**, not only by focusing on the adverse health effects of smoking but also by empowering and boosting their confidence as valuable members of our community.

We firmly believe that community-based organizations are uniquely positioned to bridge the gaps in public health and social services at the community level. This confidence comes from our commitment to the three words mentioned earlier: building a community, serving, and leaving no one behind. When an organization dedicates itself to serving all individuals without exclusion, it will earn the support and solidarity of the entire community.

To achieve these goals, we have implemented many **community-wide activities**, such as culture day, service days, festivals and etc. These events not only bring the community together but also provide opportunities for personal growth and empowerment. We have been building up a **proactive support system** which makes the resources available

not only to the people who ask for help but also to those who need help but don't know how to navigate the system. Additionally, we have **taken on grand visions**, such as being the first organization in the nation to propose restorative justice as a plausible solution to anti-Asian hate, organizing annual winter clothing drives, providing meals in shelters, year around service days at wildlife refuge and walking into the greater communities to promote culture diversity. All these are easy to say but hard to do. We did it and did very successfully.

Building upon the **valuable asset which is the trust and receptiveness** of community members who actively engage with our services and activities, we could also be able to offer tobacco prevention initiatives at community level. Launching **No Smoking No Vaping pledge** campaign is a great example. Through this campaign, we aim to empower community members to make a commitment to refrain from smoking and vaping. We believe, with a wide participation, we can make a significant impact in promoting a tobacco-free lifestyle within our local community.

With the grants from tri-counties, we have developed an **individualized tobacco cessation program**. Once individuals are enrolled in the program, our role is to motivate and encourage them to take full advantage of existing resources. We assist them in registering with the **Asian Smoker's Quitline**, ensuring they have access to the necessary support and guidance. This type of program, which requires a relatively light capital investment, has the potential to be sustainable.

The grant received from **OHA** has allowed us to extend our reach to the broader Chinese American community across the state of Oregon. One way we have accomplished this is by incorporating our tobacco prevention and cessation programs into our overall offerings for Chinese Americans residing outside the metro area.

To facilitate this outreach, we have established a **network of point of contacts** by building relationships with local Chinese restaurants. These partnerships have served as a **valuable avenue** for engaging with the community and sharing information about our tobacco prevention initiatives.