

ODHS Response to Economic Change

House Interim Committee on Human Services

Dan Haun, Director, Self Sufficiency Program

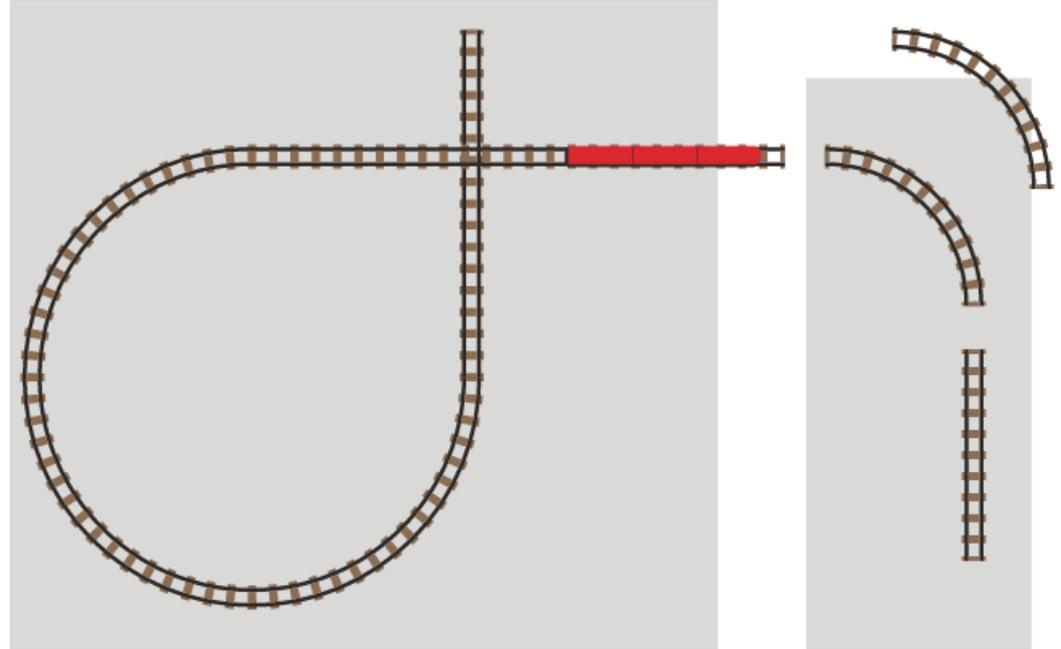
Keith Ozols, Director, Vocational Rehabilitation Program



Laying new tracks to economic recovery

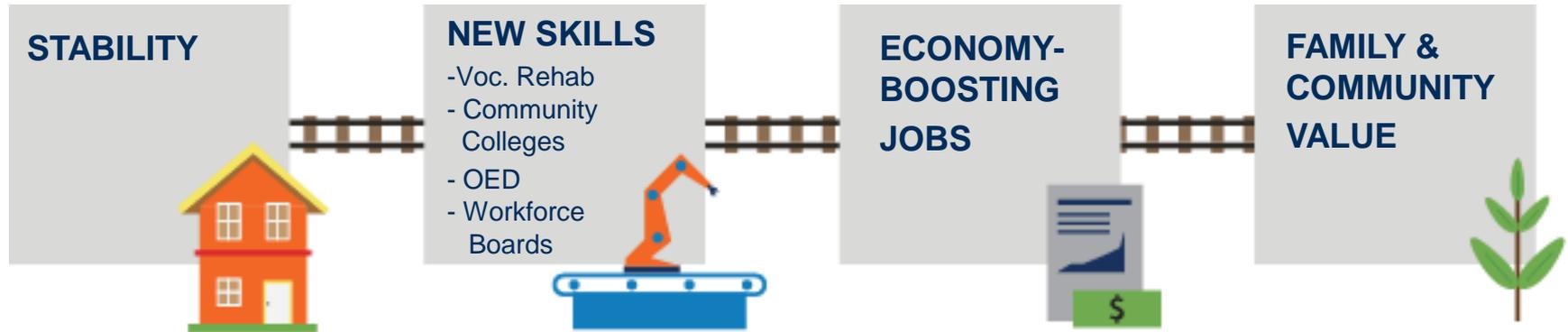
All Oregon communities do better when we can tap into the human potential of everyone.

Ensuring an equitable and inclusive recovery begins with laying new tracks for economy boosting jobs.



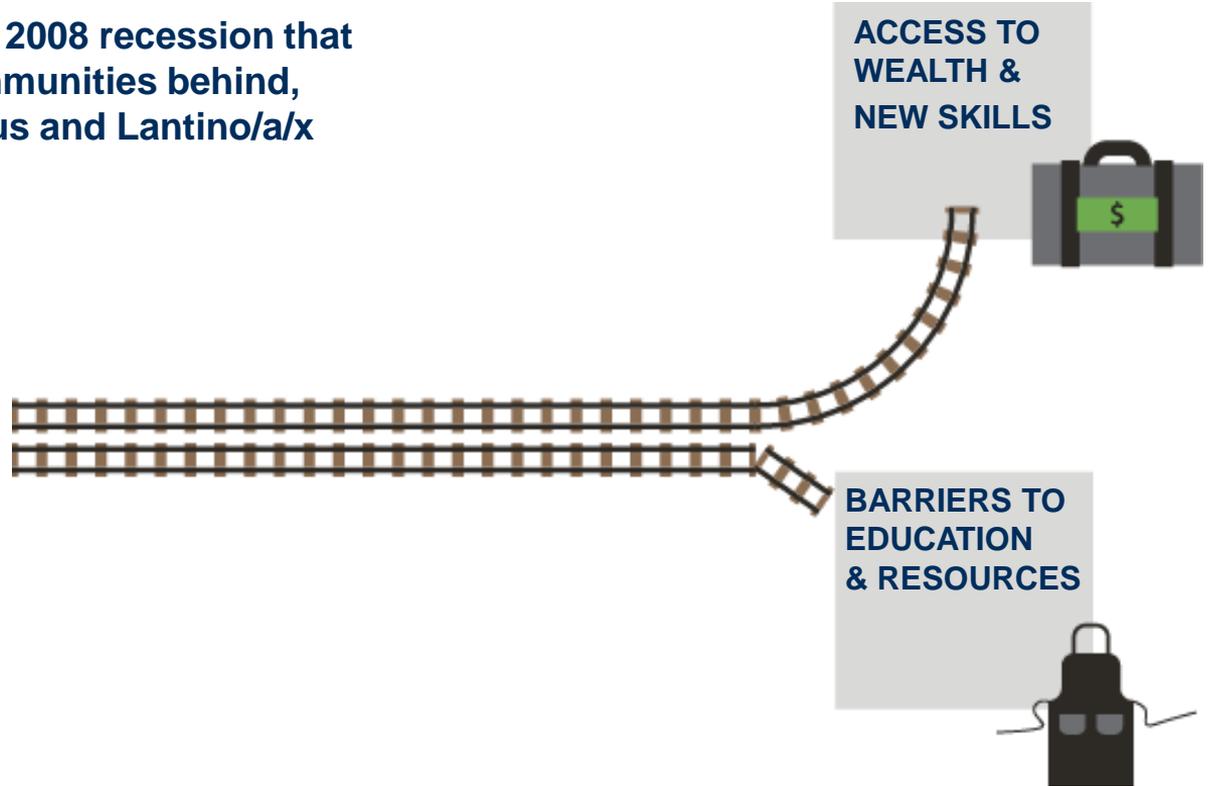
Including more people in prosperity

The Self Sufficiency Program's **SNAP Training and Employment Program (STEP)** and **Vocational Rehabilitation** have formed partnerships to help make sure workers aren't left out of the future economy.



Divisions have shaped the new economy

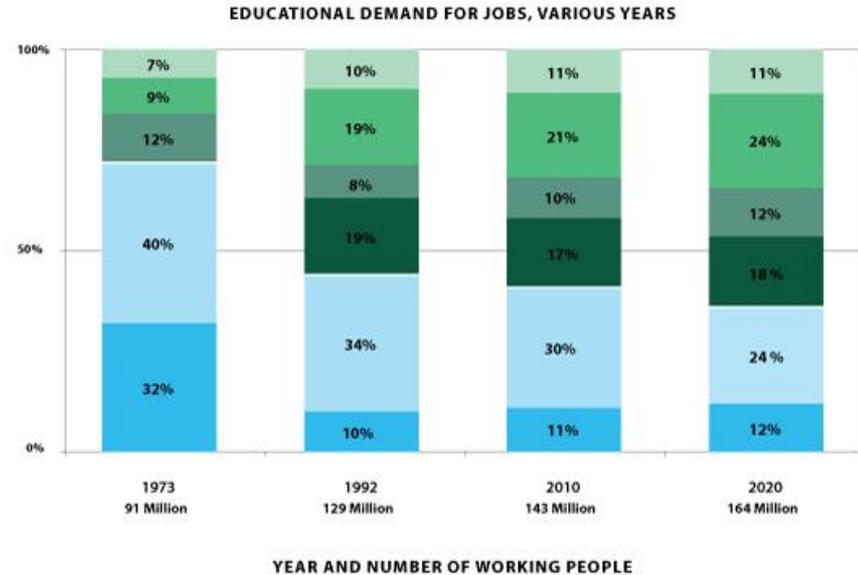
A divide formed during the 2008 recession that left many workers and communities behind, especially Black, Indigenous and Lantino/a/x and rural communities.



Education is tied to new economy success

The vast majority of jobs in the future will require at least some education beyond high school (Figure 1)

FIGURE 1: SKILLS INCREASINGLY CRITICAL IN THE LABOR MARKET



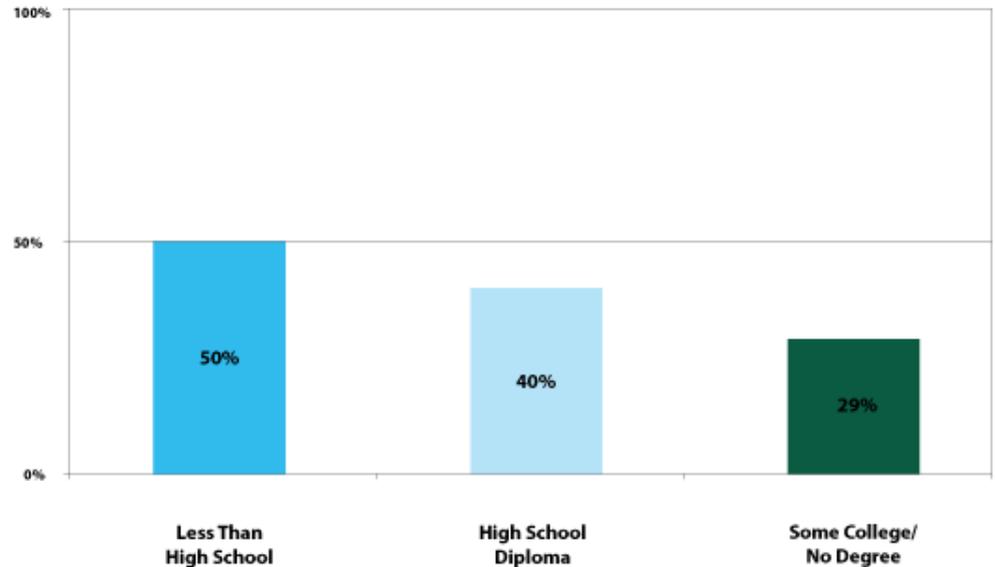
SOURCE: Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce analysis

Note: Numbers may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding.

SNAP recipients face education barriers

Without the skills or education to meet rapidly changing labor market demand, the chances of SNAP participants getting a good job and reducing their need for SNAP are extremely low.

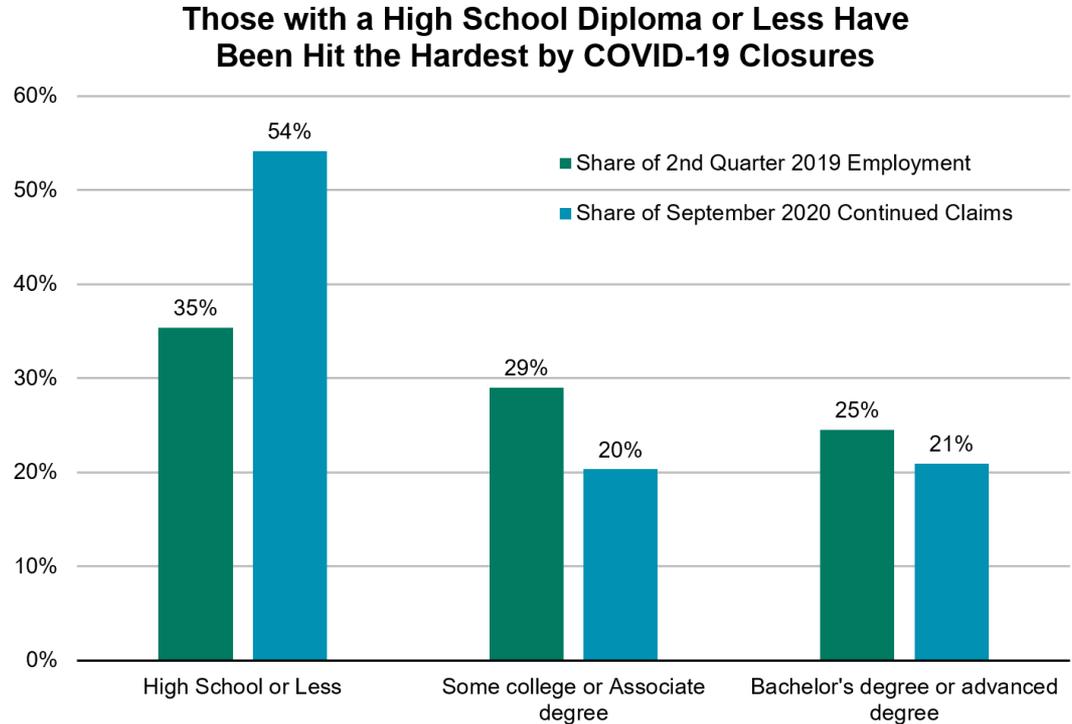
FIGURE 2: EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT LEVELS OF LONG-TERM² SNAP RECIPIENTS



SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 and U.S. Census Bureau Analysis of Survey of Income and Program Participation Data, 2004

COVID-19 has heightened this divide

This is likely a reflection of the industries most impacted by COVID-19 related closures, such as leisure and hospitality, construction, retail, and manufacturing which have a higher concentration of workers with a high school diploma or less.



Source: Oregon Employment Department, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and U.S. Census Bureau, Center for Economic Studies, LEHD

STEP has promising solutions

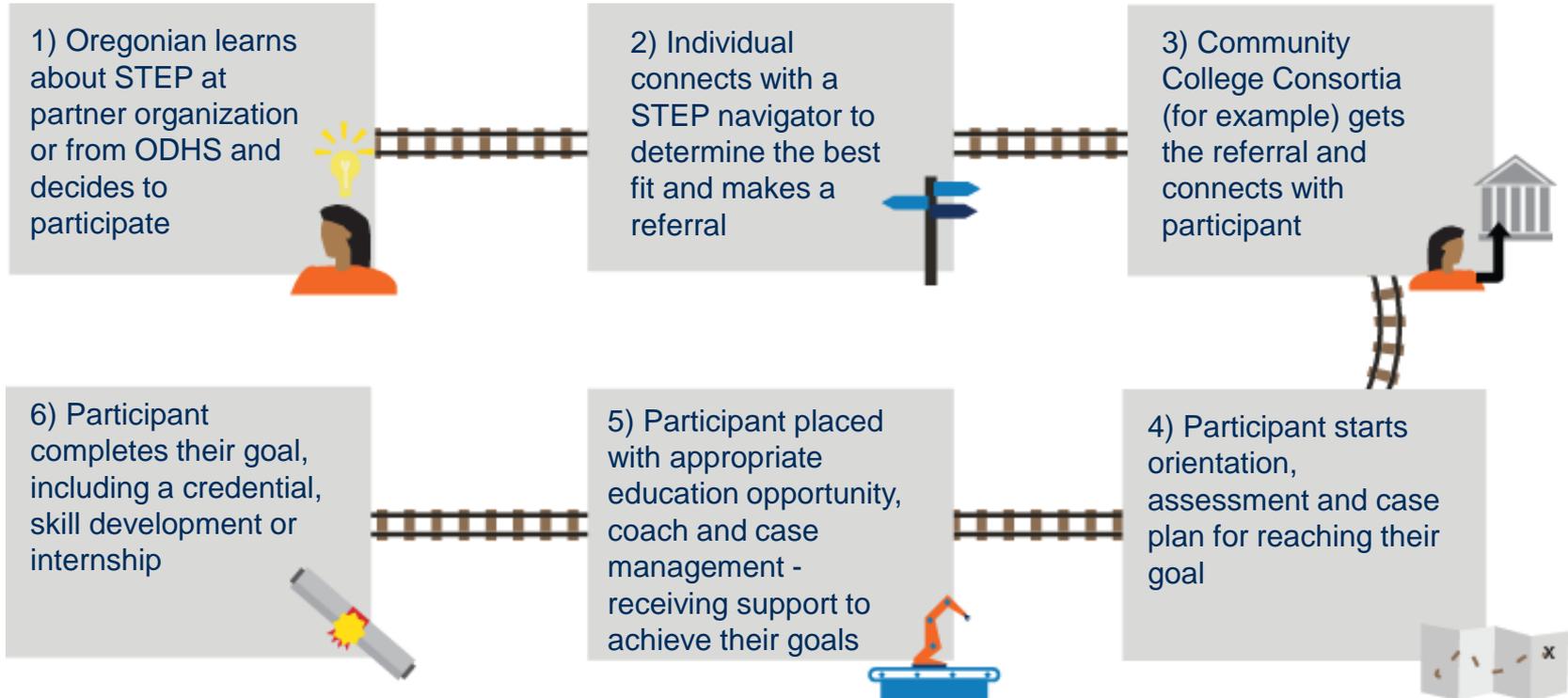
SNAP Employment & Training (SNAP E&T)

- > Starting 9th year
- > Serving 38,483 (up from 1,000 people in year one)
- > SNAP recipients over 16 years are eligible
- > Services available include job search, training, retention, English Language Acquisition

- 
- > **Vocational Rehabilitation**
 - > **Oregon Employment Department**
 - > **17 Community Colleges**
 - > **Workforce Board**

How STEP looks for Oregonians

This is an abbreviated look at how someone works their way through STEP



Activities are STEP participants doing

During the months of October 2019 – September 2020, Oregon’s SNAP population engaged in the following SNAP E&T components.

Component	*Individuals Served
Basic Education/Foundational Skills	802
Career/Technical or Vocational Training	1,327
ELA	111
On the Job Training	27
Pre-Apprenticeship/Apprenticeship	58
Work Readiness	853
Integrated Bridge	114
Internship	32
Job Retention	48
Supervised Job Search	7,665
Job Search Training	7,641
Self-Employment Training	7
Short-term Training	781
Work Experience	572
Work Readiness Training	853

VR has promising solutions

SNAP Employment & Training (SNAP E&T)



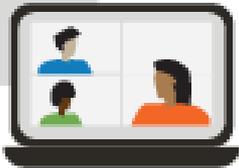
Vocational Rehabilitation

- > Available to any Oregonian with a disability who is having difficulty getting or keeping a job because of disability-related barrier
- > 3,301 people employed in VR program for SFY2020, 47.5% employed at closure
- > Almost half of VR clients have a cognitive disability
- > Service innovations during COVID-19

VR Service Innovations

VR was an ODHS leader in quickly pivoting to the COVID environment to serve clients and keep everyone safe.

Nearly 100%
virtual staff



Phone & video
intake and case
management



Mail-in
documentation
& signatures



A critical hospital e-learning staff member

- > Vocational Rehabilitation has the systems in place to help rapidly meet the needs of a client's changing situation.
- > For counselor Amel Karaselimovic and John Bertrand, this meant an upgrade in his supports and technology during COVID-19
- > VR assisted with training on the Speech Generating Device and a specialized power chair
- > John uses a hands-free cursor on his forehead to control his computer through his head movements.
- > John's supervisor, Gail Gubser, said the e-learning team at Providence is more essential than ever. The team is responsible for all classes, orientation and training for more than 150,000 Providence employees.



John Bertrand with his work set-up at home.

Continue laying the tracks of success

- > **Identify community goals for skilling up for the new economy**
- > **Explore further opportunities to leverage resources**
- > **Continue to connect State and community programs**
- > **Lay more tracks to bring opportunity to communities who have been left out**

