



# RS EXCHANGE

## REGIONAL SOLUTIONS

### Weekly Report

Wednesday, July 29, 2020

Below are some highlights from the Governor's [Regional Solutions \(RS\) Coordinators](#), on behalf of the eleven interagency teams across Oregon.

## Regional Solutions (RS) Director – Leah Horner

### North Coast Region – Jennifer Purcell

- **North Coast Economic Recovery Team** – *Background* – The North Coast Economic Recovery Team is comprised of local, regional, state, and federal economic and workforce development partners. Convened by Regional Solutions, the team is sharing information about impacts and needs, resources and supports, and planning for recovery.
  - *Update* – Regional Solutions meets weekly with economic developers, chambers of commerce and downtown associations, destination management organizations, workforce partners, and ports to better understand the challenges they are facing as they respond to business needs. This week, the North Coast Economic Recovery Team members discussed increasing concerns regarding how modified return to school schedules will impact local employers. Regional Solutions is seeking to connect the dots, identify gaps and partners who may play a role in providing supports for students and families.

Regional Solutions and Economic Recovery Team members have been working hard to understand school plans, employer needs, and opportunities for partners who may play a role in providing supports for students and families in Clatsop, Columbia, and Tillamook Counties. The North Coast Economic Recovery Team was joined by a number of guests, including:

- Dan Goldman, NW Regional ESD Superintendent
- Craig Hoppes, Astoria Schools Superintendent
- Ross Tomlin, Tillamook Bay Community College President
- Wiley Thompson, OSU Extension Services Regional Director
- Craig Campbell, Oregon Manufacturing Innovation Center Director

We discussed challenges schools and employers are facing and what partnerships might facilitate success. In general, *schools* in the region are planning for comprehensive distance learning for the start of the school year, with hopes of returning to in-person or a hybrid-learning model. At least one district was preparing for a cohorting approach, with students in class (either in-person, or a hybrid of in-person and distance learning)

on a rotational basis; however, it is unclear how the updated metrics will impact those plans. School Districts in Clatsop, Columbia, and Tillamook Counties are universally concerned with:

- the availability and quality of internet connectivity, particularly in the very rural and remote parts of the region,
- equity in access to resources, both for teachers as well as students, and
- access to childcare, including infant/toddler care for teachers and other school personnel as well as supports for school-aged children.

Additionally, Clatsop, Columbia, and Tillamook County Economic Development Directors are hearing concerns from **employers** in the region. Employers are hearing from employees that they are concerned with how they will access childcare and how to pay for the added costs. Many employers indicated that they are providing adjusted schedules, flexible scheduling, work share and work from home options; however, many employers and certain job categories are unable to provide such flexibility or perform work remotely. Situations where both employee and spouse are working in essential services have been especially challenging. In addition to health and safety concerns, quality of care and maintaining continuity in the quality of education are at the top of employer and employee concerns. Employers are also concerned about potential for productivity impacts and employee mental health as employees manage the demands of work and distance learning. The group discussed the availability of supports for families navigating distance learning. NW Regional ESD indicated that there would be a virtual help desk available to support student, teach, and family engagement.

Lastly, our Regional Childcare Resource and Referral Director, Eva Manderson provided updates regarding new or expanded **childcare** options being proposed in the region. Eva also identified licensing and financial supports available to providers and families and talked about the process for opening childcare under the state's emergency licensing requirements. Updated guidance may allow some providers to reopen and/or expand services. Organizations providing traditional summer youth programs and day camps are inquiring about how they might be part of the solution to fill the gaps for students in the fall; ensuring parents are able to work. Other organizations, including licensed providers, are interested in providing programming or expanding programming when the communities' needs are more clearly determined. In other cases, individuals are inquiring about establishing in-home care options. Recognizing the diverse needs of parents, a portfolio of options will be necessary, including types of care and operating hours.

- **Tillamook County Early Childcare and Education Taskforce Findings and Recommendations – Background** – Expanding access to quality early learning was affirmed as a regional community and economic development priority by the North Coast Regional Solutions Advisory Committee in 2019. Regional Solutions began working with the NW Regional ESD to assess childcare supply in Tillamook, Clatsop, and Columbia Counties. In August 2019, Tillamook County Commissioner Bill Baertlein and Regional Solutions convened a diverse group of individuals to explore the issue in Tillamook County, establishing the Tillamook County Early Childcare and Education (ECE) Taskforce. Supported by a NW Regional ESD Early Learning Hub grant from the Meyer Memorial Trust, the taskforce was convened to better understand the current early learning environment, identify barriers to



expanding access to quality childcare, develop partnerships and identify innovative solutions. Crossing multiple sectors, taskforce members represented childcare and early learning providers, education, local employers, economic and small business development professionals, and social service providers. This multi-sector approach was critical to fully understanding the landscape.

- Update – This week, the Taskforce co-chairs presented the findings and recommendations to the Tillamook County Board of Commissioners. Highlights include:
- The Taskforce explored:
  - ECE program comparison, including six regional programs and three local programs, reviewing 13 unique program characteristics such as funding and operating models
  - ECE workforce development, training, and compensation
  - Parent voice
- A survey was implemented to better understand how limited access to childcare impacts workers in Tillamook County. Findings include:
  - Professional impacts – 75% of workers missed 1-5 days of work a month due to childcare-related issues and 60% of participants indicated the lack of access to childcare limits their professional advancement
  - Personal impacts – 74% of participants indicated difficulty finding childcare; cost was the most significant barrier preventing access, and 50% rely on more than one type of care to meet their childcare needs
- The taskforce recommended the formation of an Early Child Care and Education Commission; priority actions to include:
  - Convene and Maintain Partnerships
  - Engage Employers to Leverage Funding and Collaborate on ECE Partnership Opportunities
  - Lead with a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Plan for ECE Services in Tillamook County
  - Stabilize and Support Workforce Development through Education and CCR&R Partnerships

## Mid-Valley Region – Jody Christensen

- **Mid-Valley PPE Industry Cluster Emerges**– This week, RS participated in a Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) manufacturer discussion led by the Strategic Economic Development Corp. (SEDCOR). Industry partners, along with Business Oregon, the McMinnville Economic Development Partnership, and the Oregon Manufacturing Extension Partnership, identified strategies to support short-term opportunities while building out a long-term plan. The group discussed the importance of involving regional, state, and federal partners.
- **Marion County Public Health and POC Leaders Weekly Meeting** – RS convened the weekly meeting focused on contact tracing improvements and a review of the new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion coordinator job description. There continues to be a focus on testing. Announcements included:
  - **Farm Worker Quarantine Relief Fund** – There will be an August 1 informational session on Facebook Live event about the Farm Worker QRF.

- **Woodburn Covid-19 Mass Testing Event – August 1, 2020**
  - DATE: AUGUST 1, 2020 DATE: AUGUST 1, 2020 FROM 11:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M. FROM 11:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M. Location: Centennial Park 900 Parr Rd. NE • Woodburn, Oregon 97071 To avoid a wait, preregister before coming. We will also accept walk-ins. Please call Enedina Lopez of Interface Network at 503.910.4908 or email:

[elopezpaz@interfacenw.net](mailto:elopezpaz@interfacenw.net)

- FECHA: 1 DE AGOSTO DEL 2020 FECHA: 1 DE AGOSTO DEL 2020 DE 11:00 A.M. A 2:00 P.M. DE 11:00 A.M. A 2:00 P.M. Ubicación: Centennial Park 900 Parr Rd. NE • Woodburn, Oregon 97071 Para evitar larga espera, regístrese de antemano. Pero también, serán aceptados sin pre-registración previa. Favor de llamar a Enedina Lopez de Interface Network al 503.910.4908 o envíe un email a: [elopezpaz@interfacenw.net](mailto:elopezpaz@interfacenw.net)

**Agosto 1ero, 2020**  
11:00am – 1:00pm



**SESION INFORMATIVA**

## Fondo de Cuarentena Para Trabajadores Agricolas de Oregon

Acompáñenos el Sábado, 1ero de Agosto a este evento virtual informativo donde hablaremos sobre el nuevo fondo estatal para los trabajadores agrícolas de Oregon.

Con este Fondo de Cuarentena de Oregon queremos mitigar la propagación de COVID-19 entre los trabajadores agrícolas que han sido los más afectados por los brotes en el lugar de trabajo y proporcionar ayuda financiera para que estos trabajadores puedan tomar el tiempo necesario de cuarentena.

### Locutores

Lucy Carballo, Bustos Media  
Arturo Samiento, Radio Poder  
Oscar Ramos Z. boy, La Z

**Invitada Especial** La Gobernadora Kate Brown

Para más información sobre este fondo, visite la página web en español: [bit.ly/fondo-cuarentena](http://bit.ly/fondo-cuarentena)

### Agenda

Hablaremos sobre el tipo de trabajador agrícola que puede aplicar

Los requisitos para aplicar

Información sobre cómo aplicar y a quién llamar

La diferencia entre el Fondo de Alivio Laboral, y el Fondo de Cuarentena de Oregon

40 minutos para contestar sus preguntas

- **Mid-Valley Economic Recovery Team (ERT)** – includes representatives from the Counties, Willamette Workforce Partnership, Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments, Strategic Economic Development Corporation (SEDCOR), the Small Business Development Center, early learning hubs, local emergency management, the Employment Department, Business Oregon, chambers, regional destination marketing organizations, utilities, non-profits, tribal government, and federal delegation representatives. The goal is to create robust communication and networks in the response and recovery work. The ERT has moved from two meetings per week to one through the end of July.
  - This week, Josh Lehner, Economist, Oregon Office of Economic Analysis, presented on Mid-Valley's industry risks and how that relates to local economies; the potential impact of COVID-19 on working from home, migration; and the importance of broadband.

## South Valley/Mid Coast Region – Sarah Means

- **Maritime Innovation Center (MIC)** – With the impact of COVID and the need to address the region's long-term resilience, a public-private partnership has been established to launch Oregon's Maritime Innovation Center (MIC). The Blue/Maritime Economy has long been a priority for the RST. In partnership with stakeholders in the Lincoln County region, the Regional Solutions Team (RST) is pleased to be able to engage on this important project. The MIC will add significant capacity for economic development and job growth in the Blue Economy through an innovative workforce training program that leverages partnerships, intellectual, and facility assets on the Central Oregon Coast. This project represents a critical and timely investment in infrastructure and workforce development that will provide an anchor for recovery from COVID-19, as well as:
  - Diversify and enhance the economy of the Oregon Coast and the State of Oregon

- Increase the competitiveness of the US Blue Economy globally
- Establish Oregon as a global leader in accelerating the growth of Blue Economy tools, technologies and innovation
- Improve economic opportunities for our region's rural communities

RST representatives have been participating in a number of conversations related to funding and partner development. The MIC has been added to the list of priority projects for the RST to engage and assist with for the SVMC region.

- **The SVMC Economic Recovery Team** – includes representatives from the Employment Department, Business Oregon, local and regional economic development professionals, Workforce Investment Boards, ports, and federal delegation representatives. The Team meets regularly to share information, identify immediate needs and understand impacts. Impacts as a result of COVID-19 are impacting all industry sectors in the region. For the last several months, the ERT has met a minimum of weekly. Beginning in July, the meetings have been scheduled for every other week.
- Identified needs/challenges/opportunities this past week include:
  - There is regional interest in doing a webinar/training on what to do if there is a workplace outbreak. RS is working with local economic development partners to bring together local public health and public relations/marketing experts to develop a training to assist SVMC businesses.
  - Administrative costs associated with the small business grant funding is high and cost prohibitive for cities. Communities need help to cover these administrative costs. As Round 3 contracts are being developed, communities are asking that administrative costs be included in the agreements.
  - Communities continue to ask that the Payroll Protection Program (PPP)/Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) components of the small business grant funding requirements be lifted or relaxed. Cities and Counties are increasingly challenged to find businesses that haven't received assistance from these federal programs. Most are concerned they will not be able to distribute the funds given the widespread nature of how SVMC businesses have been able to access PPP/EIDL.
  - Communities throughout the SVMC are increasingly thinking about the long-term implications of remote work becoming more of a norm in our society. Conversations around land use policy implications, commercial real estate utilization, and infrastructure (broadband, housing, etc.) are all top of mind for partners throughout the region.

## Southern & South Coast Regions – Alex Campbell

- **South Coast Umpqua Region**
  - **South Coast Umpqua Economic Recovery Team:**
    - CCD Business Development Corp. described their recent award of additional funds from the State to provide small business assistance grants, how they will handle applications and work with other holders of assistance funds.
    - Concerns that the Port of Port Orford project is on the proposed Business Oregon budget "cut list" were expressed by multiple participants.
- **Southern Oregon Region**
  - **Southern Oregon Recovery Team:**

- Childcare providers expressed optimism that proposed new childcare rules could improve profitability/viability of providing childcare. Concerns were raised about the feasibility of some rules (e.g., cleaning each toy or object after it is handled by a child).
- Business Oregon reviewed the multiple awards made for small business assistance in the region.
- **Fry Family Farm Food Hub:**
  - Background: The food hub in Medford includes a processing and packaging facility for organic growers in the Rogue Valley. The project received a grant of \$400K from the Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF) program.
  - Update: Fry Family has received a USDA “Farm to Family” grant and the food hub has been used as a packing facility for over 20,000 food boxes for families in need in the Rogue Valley. The boxes have been distributed by volunteers at school sites. The program is providing nutritious food, employing ten people, and providing an outlet for many specialty growers who have been struggling to find outlets for their product. Fry Family is exploring participating in the next round of this program and Regional Solutions is assisting with connections to additional suppliers to expand their offerings.



## Metro Region – Raihana Ansary

- **Metro Economic Response Team – Background** – Metro Regional Solutions (RS) is partnering with Greater Portland, Inc. (GPI), to co-convene a Metro Economic Response Team in order to share information and resources related to COVID-19. In addition to state agencies (Business Oregon, Oregon Employment Department, Bureau of Labor & Industry, Small Business Advocate, Oregon Housing & Community Services, and Travel Oregon), a number of partners in the Portland-metro region have been invited to participate including business associations, city and county economic development practitioners and elected leaders, community-based organizations, labor, members of the Governor’s Metro Regional Solutions Advisory Committee and workforce development organizations.
  - Update – Many thanks to Josh Lehner of the Oregon Office of Economic Analysis for presenting his “Working from Home and Broadband Access in Oregon” slides. Summary of highlights from his presentation:
  - Background:
    - Ample supply of skilled workforce is crucial to Oregon’s long-term growth.
    - Working from home (WFH) has been on the rise for years.
    - A larger share of Oregonians work from home than the national average – Oregon is No. 2 in U.S. for share of those WFH.

- Only certain types of occupations (largely computer/desk jobs) can work from home. Service industry, manufacturing, etc. cannot.
- Those who WFH are more likely to be women, older, homeowners, self-employed and more educated.
- Places with a high share of WFH are more likely to have faster job growth, more startups and a high quality of life.
- Remote working typically boosts economic diversification.
- Thus, the state should focus on those working from home in order to grow Oregon's labor force.
- Current workforce migration:
  - Official migration data for our current time will not be available for 15 months, but Google search data shows people are not moving out of urban areas to rural/suburban areas.
- Broadband:
  - Broadband is more important now than ever for WFH and distance learning.
  - Overall, Oregon has better broadband than other states, but access to broadband is not equal throughout state.

Also, many thanks to partners at local federal delegation offices for providing updates on negotiations underway on Capitol Hill for a potential fourth stimulus package and efforts to remove federal officers from downtown Portland demonstrations.

- **State of Oregon Equity Framework in COVID-19 Response and Recovery** – Many thanks to Sophorn Cheang, Governor's Director of Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI), and Anny Hsiao, Governor's Director of Diversity Equity and Inclusion Coordinator, for presenting the [State of Oregon Equity Framework in COVID-19 Response and Recovery](#) to the Metro Regional Solutions Team. As part of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Governor tasked her DEI team with developing a framework that all state agencies could use to center equity and racial justice. It is designed to support state agencies, boards and commissions in centering equity when making policy and programmatic decisions and allocating state resources. It is also a tool that Metro RS may use when prioritizing projects and making resource allocation recommendations.

## [North Central Region](#) – Nate Stice

- **North Central Oregon Recovery Team** – The Mid-Columbia Economic Development District and Region Regional Solutions stood up the bi-state Columbia Gorge/Mid-Columbia Bi-State Economic Resilience Team. The structure for the team was outlined in a 2019 report produced by [MCEDD](#), based on work Regional Solutions led efforts around fire recovery for the 2017 Eagle Creek Fire and 2018 Grass Fires.
- The emphasis of the team this week has been three-fold: 1) understanding the current economic situation in the region; 2) implementing the second round of continuity training; 3) coordinating on childcare efforts.
- Highlights:
  - Josh Lehner of the Oregon Office of Economic Analysis and Scott Bailey presented on the economic situation on both sides of the river:
    - The Gorge has been impacted as a tourism reliant area but less than other areas with strong diversification.

- While there is some anecdotal evidence of migration to more rural settings, there are still considerable barrier and pressures that will likely not mean high migration numbers based on the ability to telecommute
- The team will host a webinar on protecting employees in “High Intensity” workplaces on August 4. This will focus on workplaces where the pace and type of work make it more difficult to protect workers, such a food process and manufacturing environments. Here is the link to the training: <https://www.mcedd.org/mcert-presents-free-virtual-training/>
- RS met with the Early Learning Hub and local resource and referral center to help respond to childcare needs as schools reopen. We plan to ask the MCERT to help address three barriers: 1) human capital (folks willing to be providers); 2) space; 3) regulatory barriers.