

REGIONAL SOLUTIONS PROGRAM

284.752 Definitions for ORS 284.752 to 284.754. As used in ORS 284.752 to 284.754:

(1) “Community and economic development” means development that:

(a) Relates to, supports and promotes the policies and objectives of the Regional Solutions Program established under ORS 284.754;

(b) Promotes, expands or prevents the decline of local, regional and statewide industries and businesses located or to be located in Oregon;

(c) Creates jobs or prevents the loss of jobs in Oregon; and

(d) Improves the economy in Oregon.

(2) “Grant, loan or incentive program” means any program or other type of undertaking that a state agency has been authorized by the Legislative Assembly to establish, implement and fund and that has as one or more of its purposes community and economic development in a region, or that will affect community and economic development in a region of this state.

(3) “Local government” means a city, county, authority or entity organized under state statute or city or county charter, and includes any council of governments created under ORS chapter 190.

(4) “Natural resource agency” means the State Department of Agriculture, the Water Resources Department, the State Department of Fish and Wildlife, the State Forestry Department, the Department of State Lands, the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries and the State Marine Board.

(5) “Region” means an economic development district in Oregon, created by the Economic Development Administration of the United States Department of Commerce, for which a regional solutions center has been established under ORS 284.754.

(6) “State agency” means an officer, board, commission, department, division, institution, branch or agency in the executive or administrative branch of state government. [2014 c.82 §1]

284.753 Grant, loan and incentive programs; state agencies to apply regional priorities in project funding decisions; factors to consider. In awarding grants, loans or incentive funds for projects undertaken in connection with grant, loan or incentive programs, state agencies listed in ORS 284.754 (3)(a)(A) to (E) shall, consistent with the programs’ enabling legislation, rules and regulations, use regional priorities for community and economic development as described in ORS 284.754 in the consideration of project funding decisions and base decisions of which projects to undertake upon whether the project will:

(1) Use regional and community-based problem solving.

(2) Support regional and community-based means of integrating state and local resources and services.

(3) Create jobs in relation to the economy and population of the region directly impacted by the project.

(4) Involve investment of capital in relation to the economy and population of the region directly impacted by the project.

(5) Have community support, as indicated by the support of the governing body of the local government.

(6) Have obtained appropriate land use and environmental reviews and authorizations prior to utilization of funds. [2014 c.82 §2]

284.754 Regional Solutions Program; centers; teams; advisory committees; duties and responsibilities. (1) The Regional Solutions Program is established within the office of the Governor, in collaboration with state agencies, consisting of regional solutions centers described in subsection (2) of this section, regional solutions teams described in subsection (3) of this section and regional solutions advisory committees described in subsection (4) of this section. The program shall work with state agencies, local governments, public and private entities, philanthropic organizations and academic institutions, as appropriate, to develop and coordinate regional implementation projects, identify regional priorities for community and economic development, address issues and seize opportunities.

(2) The Regional Solutions Program includes regional solutions centers located throughout this state. The centers provide a physical location for, and serve as the primary place for the business and operations of, the regional solutions teams and the regional solutions advisory committees.

(3)(a) Each regional solutions team shall include a regional solutions coordinator and staff. Staff may include, but is not limited to, employees and representatives of the following state agencies:

(A) The Department of Environmental Quality;
(B) The Department of Land Conservation and Development;
(C) The Department of Transportation;
(D) The Housing and Community Services Department;
(E) The Oregon Business Development Department; and
(F) Other state agencies identified by the regional solutions coordinator and the regional solutions advisory committee to participate as necessary.

(b) Regional solutions teams shall operate in conjunction and consultation with regional solutions advisory committees.

(c) Regional solutions teams shall address community and economic development by working to address regional issues, priorities and opportunities and leveraging funding opportunities for sound and long-term economic growth.

(d) The directors and staff of the state agencies listed in paragraph (a) of this subsection and natural resource agencies shall work with regional solutions coordinators and regional solutions teams to fulfill regional priorities, in coordination with the office of the Governor.

(e) Regional solutions teams shall review and evaluate regional implementation project proposals submitted in consultation with regional solutions advisory committees.

(f) In considering, reviewing or undertaking regional implementation project proposals or projects that involve significant environmental issues, regional solutions coordinators shall convene all affected stakeholders with the assistance of the Oregon Consensus Program established within the Mark O. Hatfield School of Government for the purpose of providing alternative dispute resolution services to seek to resolve disputed issues, if any.

(4)(a) A regional solutions advisory committee shall be appointed for each region. Each committee shall consist of a minimum of five members appointed by the Governor, and serving at the pleasure of the Governor, as follows:

(A) One local convenor who represents the region, who shall serve as chairperson of the committee;

(B) One representative recommended by the executive body of the Association of Oregon Counties;

(C) One representative recommended by the executive body of the League of Oregon Cities;

(D) One person who represents local and regional business and industry interests; and

(E) One person who represents philanthropic organizations.

(b) Regional solutions advisory committees shall:

(A) Establish regional priorities for community and economic development in the region;

(B) Assist regional solutions coordinators and regional solutions teams with obtaining, and connecting to, resources and funding; and

(C) Consider, review and recommend regional implementation project proposals.

(c) In considering, reviewing and recommending regional implementation project proposals under this subsection, regional solutions advisory committees shall consider whether the project proposal seeks to address the state's economically, socially and environmentally sustainable goals and objectives described in ORS 184.423.

(d) Members of the regional solutions advisory committees are not entitled to compensation for the performance of official duties and responsibilities.

(e) The regional solutions coordinators and regional solutions teams shall provide staff to the regional solutions advisory committees as necessary to allow the committees to carry out the provisions of paragraph (b) of this subsection. [2014 c.82 §3]