



RS EXCHANGE

REGIONAL SOLUTIONS

Weekly Report

Wednesday, April 15, 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 – Congressman Schrader joined the North Coast Team meeting last week to provide updates on Congress' work on the next stimulus package. The Congressman encouraged patience and called upon local leaders to help provide assurances as federal programs get rolled out, recognizing that these are challenging times. Congressman Schrader also talked about how we begin to unwind restrictions while avoiding a second spike. North Coast Economic Recovery Team members are discussing what that balance might look like in Tillamook, Clatsop, and Columbia counties.
- Business Resiliency Curriculum – Tillamook County Small Business Development Center is offering *Small Biz Resiliency: Surviving a Disaster* and *Retail Resiliency: Thinking Outside Your Storefront*. Arlene Soto, Tillamook County SBDC Director, developed the curriculum concepts based on current and previous experience, encouraging businesses to be creative in finding ways to survive even if they aren't receiving disaster assistance. Arlene previously served as Southwest Oregon SBDC Director, supporting wildfire recovery. Very few businesses have received SBA assistance, which Arlene indicates is consistent with her previous experience with disaster funding. Arlene reflects, "We are now into the worst part of a disaster, hopelessness and anger."
- Oregon State Parks – Director Sumption joined the North Coast Regional Economic Recovery Team meeting this week to talk about OPRD's preliminary reopening strategy. Director Sumption proposed a regional approach to reopening State Parks, coordinating community readiness and a phasing in of limited day-use access only. Local and regional destination marketing organizations, industry representatives, and small business partners continue to express concerns about community and business readiness. There are concerns that pent-up

demand for recreating on the north coast will lead to a surge in visitation when restrictions are lifted. Restaurants and grocery stores will need sufficient time to ensure adequate supply. Director Sumption affirmed that any opening of State Parks will be coordinated with local leaders and will include plenty of lead time for communities. Regional Solutions and OPRD will be establishing an Outdoor Recreation Subcommittee to coordinate efforts regionally and address readiness concerns.

Mid-Valley Region – Jody Christensen

- **Mid-Valley Economic Recovery Team** includes representatives from the Employment Department, Small Business Development Center, the Workforce Investment Board, utilizes, Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments, county commissioners, the Oregon Community Foundation, early learning hubs, city and tribal governments, chambers, state and regional economic development, local emergency managers, destination marketing organizations, Chemeketa Community College, and federal delegation representatives. The team meets twice weekly to coordinate, communicate, and plan recovery efforts in the region. We have also established weekly calls with the Mid-Valley county commissioners and a tribal government representative, the Mid-Valley Economic Development Alliance, and Mid-Valley Chambers Alliance.

This week's updates includes:

- Congresswoman Bonamici joined one of this week's calls to provide Federal update as well as to listen in on what is happening in the Mid-Valley Region. She reviewed the variety of resources already on the street, including the CARES ACT, and looked to future rounds of funding. Health care, personal protection equipment (PPE), extension partnership funding to secure supply chains, and funding for localities under 500,000 populations were highlighted as priorities. Other priorities for future funding include safety equipment for workers in food processing, farming and retail, more testing resources and an infrastructure package that will provide good-paying jobs. Congresswoman Bonamici stressed the need for greater childcare resources, as many daycare centers have been forced to closed and essential workers find themselves without that resource (which was limited to begin with.)

She reported that the delegation was working together to ensure that SBA emergency funds were getting to the businesses that need them, acknowledging there have been challenges with the system being overwhelmed. She mentioned areas where there were gaps in funding, including help for smaller businesses, agriculture and credit unions (impacted by lending caps).

She expected an additional \$12 million in enhanced unemployment and \$3 million in dislocated worker funds to be available in Oregon today.

Best practice highlights include:

- **Polk County Board of Commissioners** recognized that eating and drinking establishments have been hit hard by the COVID-19 closure orders, they recently directed the county Environmental Health Division Authority to **accept and issue, without payment, 2021 Annual Restaurant Permits** for any complete applications from restaurants with a valid 2020 Restaurant Permit as of March. This relief will provide a total of approximately \$100,000 to eligible businesses.
- **Yamhill County Board of Commissioners has approved a \$250,000 grant program** for small businesses in the county. The program will go live on April 20. The funds will be geographically distributed and offered during a three-day window for application next week. One hundred grants of \$2500 will be available. The funds will be disbursed by May 14.
- The **City of Newberg's** small business grant program **awarded \$100,000 to 60 businesses** to cover rent and mortgages.

- The **Woodburn Chamber** is launching a Facebook page called **Work Share Woodburn**. Employers who have received Payroll Protection Program funds, but do not have enough work yet, can “share” their employees with local non-profits or other businesses in need.
- The **several Yamhill County cities** have established a **utility credit program**. Residents who spend a certain amount at local businesses can submit their receipts for utility credits. For example, the City of Dayton is helping their businesses by giving residents \$15 off their city utility bill for every \$15 they spend at a Dayton business, up to a total of \$45 per month. The Cities of Newberg, Carlton, and Lafayette have followed suit with a similar incentive to support local business.

South Valley/Mid Coast Region – Sarah Means

- 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,

Best practices include:

- Yachats Presbyterian Church started an emergency fund for local businesses in this small coastal community. The fund was initially capitalized with \$5,000 and has grown to \$45,000. Approximately \$25,000 in funding has been released to local businesses. The Church is also partnering with the City to operate the local food bank.
- The City of Springfield, in partnership with the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce, Discover Downtown Springfield, Lane Workforce Partnership, Huerto de la Familia and Latino Professionals Connect is providing access to a panel discussion between local business resource experts. Local business experts share insights, tools, and resources for our Spanish speaking small business community working to access relief and develop strategies for maintaining operations during this time. The panel discussion can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a3E8O4usamw&t=16s>

Southern & South Coast Regions – Alex Campbell

- South Coast Umpqua Recovery Team:
 - Meeting missed a week due to re-schedule to eliminate conflict for state legislators
- Other items:
 - Local advisors have connected with LA-based SBDC to provide assistance to Hindi-owned businesses
- Southern Oregon Recovery Team:
 - Cities are looking at Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for possible local business support efforts.
 - Rural broadband needs are being dramatically exposed by current climate.
- Other items:
 - Rogue Valley Grower’s Market has established a “Social Distancing Officer.”

Metro Region – Raihana Ansary

- **Metro Economic Response Team:** The Governor’s Metro Regional Solutions Team is partnering with Greater Portland, Inc. (GPI), to co-convene a Metro Economic Response Team. 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, community-based organizations, labor, members of the Governor's Metro Regional Solutions Advisory Committee and workforce development organizations.

Update: The Team had its fourth meeting and was joined by Congressman Kurt Schrader. Congressman Kurt Schrader shared that Congress is discussing one, if not multiple, stimulus packages including an infrastructure package. Congress is also focused on tweaking and improving the CARES Act. Future stimulus packages will likely add to earlier packages and provide nutrition benefits and assistance to homeowners.

John Tapogna of ECONorthwest also presented on the economic impacts of the COVID-19 shutdown and federal response on the Portland-metro region (Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington Counties). In terms of unemployment claims by industry, hotel and retail were hit big. Health care has seen more of an impact than might have been expected. Construction, manufacturing are not immune. For employees whose industries are hit directly, that's \$615 million monthly wages lost. That grows to \$1.6 billion with ripple effects (those industries buying less from suppliers, employees spending less). There is a risk of unemployment rate running into the low 20 percent range. The sectors that are most at risk have 65 percent of all employees, 250,000 workers at risk of layoffs in the tri-county area. That translates to \$4 billion of potential lost monthly business revenue. These figures are absent any kind of federal, state or local intervention. The \$2 trillion CARES Act provides assistance to both individuals and industry. How that money flows: \$560 billion to individuals in the form of cash payments and expanded unemployment benefits, \$500 billion to big corporations, \$377 billion in small business assistance, \$340 billion in assistance to state and local governments. The CARES Act money flows to tri-county area was discussed noting that a disproportionate amount goes to low- and middle-class and upper-middle-class households. Estimated \$1.4 billion in rebates coming into the region via cash payments. The \$600 weekly supplemental unemployment benefits will likely add \$1 billion+ into the region over the next 3-4 months. In terms of local/regional actions, recommended that policymakers closely monitor gaps in federal stimulus packages. Relief providers like the Small Business Administration (SBA) and Oregon Employment Department need support to process applications, become more agile. Prioritizing scarce resources through eviction moratoriums and suspensions of mortgage payments are good actions. Recommended strategically targeted funds to nonprofits and small businesses, particularly in the hard-hit traded sector clusters.

We also received partner updates from a sampling of business associations and chambers from throughout the region. Several recommendations were made including state support of Oregon Community Foundation's small business stabilization fund, state suspension of quarterly state tax prepayments due in April, placing a moratorium on quarterly payroll taxes, state support of potential federal infrastructure package and providing additional guidance on the commercial eviction moratorium.

Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici will join the next Metro Economic Response Team meeting on Thursday, April 16. The group will continue to discuss gaps in the CARES Act and items to prioritize in a potential fourth federal stimulus package.

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](#). This emphasis of the team this week has been two-fold: 1) supporting PPE efforts led by Business Oregon; 2) getting information to businesses and employees on federal aid.
 - This week we also launched a sub-group to think about adaptation and recovery planning with a focus on how we maximize business revenue now and during a re-opening phase.

Central Region – Annette Liebe

- Central Oregon Recovery Team:
 - **Higher Education Update**
 - The OSU-Cascades loss for Spring term is \$1-2 million. Teaching is continuing so most remain employed. OSU-Cascades is working to restructure loans and reduce expenses. Fall enrollment is up 20% in Central Oregon and in Corvallis. Getting students on campus again will allow an estimated \$15 million infusion into the local economy.
 - Central Oregon Community College: All courses offered are being remotely through Spring term. Enrollment is 7% down over this time last year. It is anticipated that state funding will be impacted. Enrollment is typically countercyclical with the economy which could mean that enrollments will begin to increase for Summer and Fall terms. A spending freeze has been initiated, and employees have been laid off.
 - **Regional grant/loan programs**
 - The Prineville Chamber has stood up a small business grant program with help from Facebook, the city, and the county. Over 70 applications have been received; grant awards are for \$2,500. The funding is not currently enough to fund all applicants. Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council has submitted an application to the Oregon Community Foundation business stabilization fund on behalf of Sisters, La Pine, Madras, Jefferson County, and the Latino Community Association.

South Central Region – Annette Liebe

- South Central Oregon Recovery Team:
 - **South Central Oregon Bankers – Paycheck Protection Program Implementation**
 - People's Bank has turned to college interns to process some applications to expedite funding. The bank has processed more than 500 applications totaling \$73 million, including 30 in Klamath and Lake Counties. Borrowers do not need to be an existing member or client of People's Bank to obtain funding through them.
 - First Interstate Bank has processed 200 applications in the Medford/Klamath Falls region, with 15 businesses having been approved and funded. She said the bank has been waiting for SBA supplemental guidance on how to fund self-employed businesses, which was just released today.

- Dave DeRose with US Bank said the bank has redeployed 1000 employees to processing PPP applications. Nationwide the bank has received 315,000 applications, with some of those funded and some still in process. The applications represent \$7.8 Billion in funds, with the average loan being about \$106,000. The average number of employees per applicant is about 18. He expects state-by-state US Bank data in the near future and can share those numbers when they come in.

Greater Eastern & Northeast Regions – Courtney Warner Crowell

- **Eastern Oregon Regional Economic Recovery Team:** The Eastern Oregon Regional Economic Recovery Team continues to meet weekly to discuss what is happening across the region and share resources.
 - This week we discussed new documents that [outline federal resources](#), particularly for our agriculture partners and shared additional talking points to share with businesses and individuals as they navigate the various resource opportunities. Additionally, we talked about starting to compile good news stories and share out across the region the innovative ways that businesses in Eastern Oregon are able to keep some revenue coming in the doors while still complying with the executive orders and staying safe. We plan to share 1-2 stories each day through our daily digest that highlight how businesses are able to keep some operations going and ultimately how we can start to have businesses think about how business will be changed when rules are loosened.