



RS EXCHANGE

REGIONAL SOLUTIONS

Weekly Report

Wednesday, May 13, 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** – 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 – This week, the North Coast Regional Economic Recovery Team was joined by representatives from Tillamook, Clatsop, and Columbia counties to discuss plans for reopening. All three counties' reopening plans were approved by Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and the Governor's Office and County Commissioners, Public Health Directors, and Emergency Managers from each of the counties answered questions about meeting the prerequisites, monitoring the virus as we reopen, next steps, and where to go for questions.
- **Reopening Oregon** – Regional Solutions has been meeting with Chambers of Commerce and Small Business Development Center business members to review the state's reopening framework. Presentations included a review of general employer and business sector guidance, including personal services, retail, restaurants, and outdoor recreation. Regional Solutions addressed questions from businesses and community members regarding access to personal protective equipment (PPE), licensing and fees, enforcement, and insurance and liability implications. As businesses weigh the risks and benefits of reopening, chambers of commerce, small business development centers, and economic development partners are providing fantastic supports and information resources for their member businesses and communities, encouraging creativity and continuity planning. The Seaside Chamber of Commerce has developed a [Back-to-Business Toolkit](#), as an example.
- **Fraternal Organizations and Social Clubs** – Regional Solutions has been fielding questions regarding the reopening of fraternal organizations and social clubs. Executive Order #20-12 explicitly restricts fraternal organization facilities and, unless or until otherwise instructed, remains the authority. However, fraternal organizations are seeking clarity about whether on-premises restaurants and bars are allowed to reopen under Phase One, according to OHA's restaurant guidance. Guidance for reopening venues is currently being developed, and Regional

Solutions, the Governor's Office, and Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC) are working to provide clarity on this matter.

Mid-Valley Region – Jody Christensen

- **Mid-Valley Economic Recovery Team (M-V ERT)** – 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 and communicate recovery efforts in the region. We have also established weekly calls with the Mid-Valley County Commissioners and tribal government representative, the Mid-Valley Economic Development Alliance and Mid-Valley Chambers Alliance.
 - This week, the ERT received an update from the Mid-Willamette Council of Governments (COG), the region's Economic Development District (EDD), on the recently announced Economic Development Administration's program updates.
 - CARES act funding of small business lending program, known as the revolving loan fund, has had its requirements loosened. There will be approximately \$2M to lend in the region. Credit requirements have been reduced as well as asset liabilities and lower interest rates. Once the work plan is submitted, the funds will be available. COG staff working on this now.
 - The region is also eligible for up to \$2.3M in additional funding. Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) application must submitted in 30 days. This would be a new fund for additional lending in region. Terms not clear at this time.
 - Up to ~\$1B available for businesses impacted by COVID. Competitive applications for businesses impacted by COVID. COG is looking for feedback on potential competitive applications. Businesses would apply, COG able to support and help.
 - Third funding source – planning assistance grant program. Up to \$400k per EDD related to planning assistance grants already received. This fund supports members of the COG. The application is due in 30 days, with a two-year timeline to implement. The fund could be used to support an economic recovery plan.
- **News from the Mid-Valley** – The City of Independence has launched an [Emergency Loan Program](#). “The City Council recently authorized up to \$200,000 in emergency loans to assist businesses. The first \$100,000 of these loan funds are to assist re-opening operations during the Phase I reopening. The City is working on many other ways to support businesses and continues to aggressively find additional funding from state and federal sources to further assist Independence businesses.”

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.

Identified needs/challenges/opportunities this past week include:

- The ERT continues to provide feedback on the sector guidelines that have been presented. Their network of businesses has been incredibly valuable and the ability of this group to immediately respond to the request for feedback is impressive.
- Many in the group are (potentially) eligible to apply for the small business funding being administered by Business Oregon. There are a number of questions related to the program and concern that a number of SVMC communities actually won't be able to use these funds. RS is getting feedback on the program daily and sharing with leadership.
- Lincoln County remains concerned about visitors to the Oregon Coast and their communities.
- Lincoln County is experiencing one of the highest rates of unemployment in the state. The hospitality/tourism industry is one of the hardest hit and one only needs to look to Lincoln County for evidence of that. Legislators in the area are continuing to experience record number of calls and inquiries about unemployment and the inability to access it.
- Another round of personal protection program (PPP) appears to be landing with businesses in the Lincoln County area. Concerns remain about the expiration of that program and a business's ability to use those funds.
- This group continues to be concerned that the economic development practitioner voice isn't being included in the development of programs like the small business fund.
- \$3million of disaster recovery funding has been awarded to the **WIBs** throughout the state. This can be used to hire temporary employees.

Best practices include:

- Lane County, City of Springfield, and City of Eugene are developing a partnership with Huerto de la Familia (a Lane County non-profit) to create a LatinX Navigator position. Housed in Huerto, the position would be dedicated to working with the LatinX community to help identify and access resources for businesses. The group is currently looking for funding for the position. It is clear that beyond translation of resource materials, the community needs someone with cultural competency to help minority owned businesses understand and access resources.

Request:

- Representative Gomberg and Boshart Davis have requested that Oregon Employment Department (OED) establish a designated desk that legislators can use/call when they need to access information based on the volume of calls they are received on the topic on UI.

Southern & South Coast Regions – Alex Campbell

- **South Coast-Umpqua Region**

- **South Coast Umpqua Recovery Team:**

- Most south coast jurisdictions that had closed lodging have allowed lodging to re-open.

- Local workforce investment board just completed a community health worker cohort training and is supporting local counties on contact tracer recruitment and on-boarding.
 - Wildlife Safari (the drive through animal park in Douglas County) is setting attendance records.
 - The Mill Casino in Coos Bay will recommence operations on Monday, May 18.
- **Southern Oregon Region:**
 - **Southern Oregon Recovery Team:**
 - Senator Golden announced that the E-Board will be meeting Friday to provide budget limit authority to allow Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) monies to be distributed to county/local government.
 - OED presented a break-down of unemployment claims by regional industry groups. Manufacturing and construction have not been spared significant impacts: claims are equivalent of 15-20% of baseline employment. Claims in arts/entertainment/recreation and accommodation and food services top 30%.
 - Concerns that vulnerable populations may not be able to have access to N-95 face masks if/when a significant wildfire smoke hits.
 - Appreciation for sector-specific webinar trainings organized by Regional Solutions Team.
 - City of Medford announced a \$125K fund for small business assistance. It was fully subscribed in 10 minutes.
 - Crater Lake National Park likely to open in mid- to late-June.

Metro Region – Raihana Ansary

- **Metro Economic Response Team:**
 - Background – Metro Regional Solutions (RS) 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 Metro Economic Response Team was joined by Governor Kate Brown who shared information on her reopening plans. The Governor thanked the group for offering feedback to her Coronavirus Economic Advisory Council and for helping to inform her office of the economic impacts of COVID-19 on the metro region. She thanked everyone for the sacrifices made to slow the transmission of the disease and save lives. The Team was also joined by Melissa Freeman, Director of Strategic Partnerships at the Oregon Community Foundation (OCF). OCF has set up three different funds in the past two months, and is working on establishing one more. All grants are targeted to those disproportionately impacted, such as communities of color, rural communities and low-income communities. An overview of OCF’s funds was provided as follows:
 - Oregon Community Recovery Fund: Provides funds to nonprofits for use providing basic needs (housing, food, healthcare, safety), jobs and the economy

(layoff aversion, connecting people to jobs, preparing to reopen), childcare, social/emotional needs, and needs stemming from school closures.

- Received \$14 million in donations
- Disbursed \$13 million in grants since late March
- Oregon Small Business Stabilization Fund: Funnels resources to intermediaries such as community development financial institutions (CDFIs) and economic development districts to support small businesses with emergency grants, low/no-interest loans or technical assistance. This fund allows OCF to receive donations and target them to a specific region.
 - Capitalized with \$300,000 from OCF, has leveraged \$2.3 million additional from banks, corporations and others.
- Oregon Arts and Culture Recovery Fund: This is a pooled fund with a streamlined application and several funders contributing. It was established about a week ago.
- Oregon Worker Relief Fund: OCF is establishing this fund now.

OCF has received \$67 million in funding requests. More donations are needed. Single application on oregoncf.org good for all funds. Those who apply should recognize limited resources; grants for more than \$50,000 are hard to get. Grants should not be used to backfill lost resources, but to provide new resources to those affected by the pandemic.

- **North Clackamas Chamber of Commerce** – Metro RS and Matthew Green from the Oregon Health Authority presented the Governor’s Reopening Guidelines to 73 members of the North Clackamas Chamber of Commerce. Other invited panelists including Clackamas County Commissioners Martha Schrader and Paul Savas and Representative Christine Drazan. There were several questions including but not limited to the requirement for restaurants and bars to stop serving food and beverage after 10 PM, tax waivers for video lottery machines that are unable to operate due to physical distancing requirements, and the timing of when bowling alleys may operate.
- **Sherwood Chamber of Commerce** – Metro RS and Matthew Green from the Oregon Health Authority presented the Governor’s Reopening Guidelines to 27 members of the Sherwood Chamber of Commerce and city of Sherwood leadership team. General concerns about the urgent need to reopen the economy as soon as possible before small businesses go out of business were expressed. There were questions about youth dance studios and how/when they may operate, childcare guidelines and if they would apply statewide, summer camps/youth activities, etc.
- **Multnomah County Commission** – Metro RS presented to the Multnomah County Commission about our economic response efforts to-date related to COVID-19 including the weekly Metro Economic Response Team calls that we co-convene with Greater Portland Inc. Other panelists/presenters included Matt Miller, Interim President & CEO of Greater Portland Inc, Kimberly Branam, Executive Director of Prosper Portland, Andrew McGough, Executive Director of Worksystems Inc, Wood Village Mayor Tim Clark and Jan Mason from the Filipino Chamber of Commerce. Metro RS shared information on the community outreach that we’re doing in the metro region about the Governor’s plans for reopening the economy and talked about our engagement in Greater Portland Inc.’s Community Economic Development Strategy update, which includes a resiliency component. Metro RS will also work with Greater Portland Inc. on a regional recovery plan and help spur economic recovery through the implementation of tangible infrastructure projects.

Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting

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Central Region – Annette Liebe

- **Business Adaptation Training** – Presented the re-opening framework and sector protocols to a webinar hosted by the Bend Chamber. Over 550 participants. Worked closely with county health to answer many questions who we were not able to answer during the program.
- **Deschutes County Executive Leadership Team** – presented the re-opening framework; heightened interest in the metrics for considering re-implementing additional restrictions.
- **OSU Cascades Innovation Summit** – working closely with regional partners to put together a virtual training and peer to peer conversation assisting businesses to implement the Phase 1 re-opening protocols. Event is scheduled for May 19th at 9:00 am.
- **Central Oregon Response/Recovery Team** – discussed the regional healthcare coalition metrics and Region 7's status as well as, the county re-opening plans. The team also heard about local grant programs and potential match from the Business Oregon Small Business Grant program. Bend Chamber launched SOSBend last week; so far the community has purchased \$140k in "credit" for future merchandise/service.

South Central Region – Annette Liebe

- **South Central Oregon Response/Recovery Team** – Presented re-opening and sector protocols to the team. Team also discussed Business Oregon Supply Connector and Small Business Grant programs. There is concern about the PPE needed for the protocols.
- **Business Adaptation Training** – Presented re-opening framework to an event hosted by Klamath IDEA for Lake and Klamath county businesses. Over 150 participants. Questions about authority for requiring masks; request for a medical exemption for people who can't wear masks and guidance on "social clubs" who serve food/drinks.

Greater Eastern & Northeast Regions – Courtney Warner Crowell

- **Eastern Oregon Regional Economic Recovery Team** – This week the Eastern Oregon Regional Economic Recovery Team met and got updates on the timelines around reopening and the updated guidance released over the past week. Additionally, we heard from Business Oregon about the first round of matching funds for local efforts to provide relief to small businesses. Today, six of the eight counties in my region were approved to enter into phase one of reopening. The remaining counties (Morrow and Umatilla) are still under review to see if they can meet the gating criteria to enter into Phase one.