



**REGIONAL SOLUTIONS OFFICE**  
**GOVERNOR KATE BROWN**

DATE: October 14, 2020

TO: Statewide Wildfire Economic Recovery Council

FROM: Raihana Ansary, Metro Regional Solutions Coordinator (Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington Counties)

SUBJECT: Metro Region Wildfire Economic Recovery Team

The Metro Region Wildfire Economic Recovery Team meets on Wednesdays from 1 – 2:30 PM and is co-convened by Representative Mark Meek (District 40) and Representative Anna Williams (District 52).

**Issues (in no particular order):**

1. Clackamas County is interested in a state-led approach for debris removal and cleanup that expedites cleanup and conforms to FEMA guidance. They appreciate the state's proposal to cover the 25 percent cost share for local governments and potentially cover up-front costs and they look forward to clarifying roles and responsibilities. They would, however, like to use their existing debris monitoring contractor for monitoring debris removal and disposal activities. They have a Debris Plan and in 2020 they completed and awarded a Debris Monitoring and Management contract. They activated their existing contractor to assist with damage assessments of recent fire damaged properties.
2. Ongoing case management needs related to individual assistance, housing, health care, and providing basic essentials to those that have been displaced, have damage to their homes and property.
3. The need for a statewide standard for private property clean-up, especially for those who plan to clean-up their own property and acceptance standards for landfills. Concerns about local dump/waste transfer station capacity.
4. Challenges reaching underserved populations including for those whom English is their second language about evacuation orders, resources and information.
5. Those who are undocumented may not be eligible for certain types of assistance and may be fearful of applying for federal assistance programs.

### **Potential Solutions and Opportunities (in no particular order):**

1. For case management, Clackamas County is struggling and would like FEMA, Red Cross, or the state to provide guidance or funding for case management.
2. DEQ issue a statewide standard for private property clean-up and acceptance standards for landfills.
3. Apply an equity lens to statewide recovery efforts when identifying and prioritizing needs and resources.
4. Identify trusted community leaders who may help reach underserved populations and serve as a conduit between government and communities. Provide emergency management training for trusted community leaders to help ensure underserved communities are well-informed in future disasters. Translate information and resources in different languages reflective of community demographics.
5. Clackamas Workforce Partnership (CWP) submitted a proposal through the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) for Department of Labor disaster recovery assistance in the amount of \$1.7 million. If approved, the disaster recovery assistance would be used to fund temporary positions for clean-up and recovery efforts including demolition, repair, renovation and reconstruction of damaged and destroyed structures, facilities and land located within the fire-affected areas of Clackamas County. The funds would also be used to provide career, training, support, and employment services to dislocated workers as a result of the wildfires in Clackamas County.
6. Local community support from faith-based organizations, smaller non-profits and individuals who have donated, food, clothing and helped provide temporary shelter for displaced individuals has been extremely helpful.

### **Looking Ahead:**

1. Legislation around defensible space or an incentive for those that are rebuilding to include defensible space.
2. Houseless issues related to wildfire and COVID are creating incredible demands on local agencies.
3. Continued disproportionate impacts on historically unrepresented or marginalized communities.