



RS EXCHANGE

REGIONAL SOLUTIONS

Monday, June 16th, 2025

Regional Solutions Program Updates

Upcoming Regional Solutions Advisory Committee (RSAC) Meeting:

Upcoming committee meeting dates are as follows:

- [Metro](#) (Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington Counties) June 16, 3-5pm
 - [Virtual Link](#)
- [Southern](#) (Jackson and Josephine Counties) July 16, 1-3pm
 - [Virtual Link](#)
- [Mid-Valley](#) (Marion, Polk, and Yamhill Counties) August 14, 1:30-3:30pm
 - [Virtual Link](#)

Regional Updates

Metro – Kathy Hyzy

- **Banks:** The City of Banks is on the brink of explosive growth, with two major developments under way that will ultimately deliver over 1000 new homes to this community of less than 2000 residents. Regional Solutions is supporting their work as part of Governor Kotek's commitment to solving Oregon's housing crisis. We recently met with the governor's housing team and the Department of State Lands to learn more about some permitting challenges facing the siting of one of two pump stations necessary to serve the larger of the developments, named Aerts Addition, which is going in on a former golf course. The conversation helped to highlight where the permit process is getting stuck, and we are hopeful the project will be able to move ahead soon, in order to take advantage of the summer construction season.

North Central – Kathy Hyzy

- **Mariposa Village Groundbreaking:** I recently attended the packed-tent event to celebrate the groundbreaking on this 130-unit affordable housing project in Hood River. Regional Solutions has been working on this project for seven years, and it is exciting to see shovels finally in the ground. This is truly a community project, and that was evident from the attendance and the long list of speakers delivering glowing remarks. The development provides badly-needed units for the 30-60% AMI range within easy walking distance of shopping and transit, as well as a park and walking path on the grounds, all designed to foster intergenerational community-building. There's a beautiful view of Mt. Adams from the site. Community Development Partners and Columbia Cascade Housing Corporation were the project leads; Walsh is the construction company. They expect to open their doors in Fall 2026.



Central – Scott Aycock

- **Central Oregon Regional Housing Council:** Regional Solutions has a seat on the [Central Oregon Regional Housing Council \(RHC\)](#), and I attended their June 2 meeting. The RHC is a tri-county board (Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson counties), convened by the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council, and is composed primarily of city and county elected officials. The group is working together to elevate housing and homeless needs and issues, particularly where there is alignment across all member communities. The primary focus of the RHC has been to build a regional housing state policy agenda, and they also engage in roundtable info sharing and coordination on each community's activities regarding homeless response and housing production. At Monday's meeting, the group received a presentation on the Central Oregon Point in Time Count from the regional CCO, the [Homeless Leadership Coalition](#), which led directly into a discussion of the upcoming Central Oregon Homeless Plan process.

- **Coalition of Large Tribes meeting:** I attended the [COLT](#) meeting with representatives of Business Oregon, as well as two colleagues from the Governor's Office - Matt Tschabold, Housing and Homelessness Initiative Director, and Shana Radford, Tribal Affairs Director. The focus of the conversation was largely housing needs on tribal lands across the western US. The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs were the hosts for this convening of the group, and I had the opportunity to catch up with Bobby Brunoe, Secretary Treasurer of CTWS. Bobby and I made plans to set up a follow-up meeting with he and his team to check in on the Tribes' community and economic development priorities.
- **Deschutes Basin Water Collaborative:** Regional Solutions has a seat on the [Deschutes Basin Water Collaborative](#) (DBWC) Planning Team. The DBWC is deep in the process of building a Comprehensive Water Management Plan for the Upper Deschutes Basin, which will outline broad areas of agreement (among 45 or so stakeholder groups!) regarding Upper Deschutes Basin water allocation. The Plan will provide strategies and tools to meet the water needs of growing municipalities, the agricultural sector, and the river itself. Organizers expect to have a draft final Plan by the end of this summer, with subsequent stakeholder reviews taking place through the Fall.

South Coast – Jessica LaBerge

- **CCD Business Development Corporation, Technical Assistance Program:** *(thank you Lehi Dowell for the information below)* As the second biennium of the Business Oregon TAP program comes to a close, CCD would like to take this opportunity to highlight the impactful work we've accomplished through our own Technical Assistance Program, made possible by support from Business Oregon and our valued partners. Since the launch of the CCD Technical Assistance Program (TAP) in July 2021, our organization has worked with 622 small businesses and nonprofits, providing 14,494 service hours to help them stabilize and grow more resilient. Of those, 461 are for-profit small businesses, 100 are startups or businesses less than six months old, and 59 are nonprofits. By county, TAP has served 176 clients in Coos County, 153 in Curry County, and 299 in Douglas County. Through this program, \$3,140,000 in business grants and \$3,600,000 in business loans have been secured, along with \$163,000 in professional services allocated. Collectively, the 622 TAP clients report \$78,500,000 in gross revenue and support 1,894 jobs in the region, demonstrating TAP's significant impact on local economic development.

In other news, CCD successfully secured \$160,867 on behalf of our partners through the Business Oregon SB 1537 Housing Infrastructure funding. This includes \$100,000 for the City of Yoncalla to develop a citywide Stormwater Master Plan, and \$60,867 for the cities of Bandon, Coos Bay, and North Bend to implement the [UrbanForm platform](#). It was also just announced that the CCSW Glendale Community Center secured a \$240,000 grant from The Ford Family Foundation, CCD wrote on their behalf for the completion of purchase of the Koppers property. This brings the total funding CCD has helped secure for this community partner to an incredible \$852,000, all in less than a year.

- **Roseburg Land Swap Bill Passes:** On May 28th Governor Kotek signed HB 3921 into law authorizing Roseburg's UGB (Urban Growth Boundary) Swap proposal. This long-time project and effort were for the City of Roseburg to expand its UGB to the Charter Oaks area west of town. Collectively the City of Roseburg has been trying to expand the UGB to Charter Oaks for the last 30+ years. HB 3921 finally got them there! The UGB amendment is the first step among many to add much needed housing to the area. Congrats to Roseburg and the team!
- **Fee-to-Trust Ceremony:** Regional Solutions recently attended the [Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians \(CTCLUSI\)](#) Coos Head Property Fee-to-Trust Signing Ceremony. This property transfer was a long time coming and it was a privilege to be with the CTCLUSI for the event. Coos Head is in Coos County on a bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean and the mouth of the Coos Bay and is the homeland of the Miluk Coos Indian Tribe. In 1875, the land was taken by the U.S. government. From 1958 to 1995, Coos Head was a naval facility that contributed significantly to the economy of the Coos Bay region, and in 2005, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) restored this site to the CTCLUSI. On Friday May 30th, 2025, this property was signed in Trust, converting land previously owned by the US Government to land held by the Tribe.

Southern – Jessica LaBerge

- **Regional Solutions Presentation to the Energy Trust Board:** [The Energy Trust of Oregon Board](#) was in Jackson County at the end of May touring fire impacted communities, visiting with local communities who have successfully utilized Energy Trust programs and other local initiatives to bring energy resiliency to the region. On Thursday May 29th, I presented to the Board about the role Regional Solutions plays in the region and how we are uplifting and advancing regional and state priorities. I was part of a panel on Community Leadership, along with the city of Phoenix, Avista and Pacific Power.
- **[Chamber of Medford & Jackson County Luncheon:](#)** Jackson County Administrator Danny Jordan was the guest speaker for the June luncheon and gave a compelling look into the State of the County including the recently adopted budget, funding sources, regional projects and project projections for the next 5-10 years. Mr. Jordan highlighted how the county has been able to leverage saving in various areas to build large reserves and how that has allowed them to complete over \$300 million in capital projects the last 20 years. Recently Jackson Co. adopted a \$640 million budget, with over \$250 million in reserves. The projects they are currently working on include a Multi-Use Pandemic Response Center (building underway, project expected to cost \$61+mil and using \$43 mil of ARPA dollars); a large Airport expansion in 3 phases which phase 1 is estimated to be over \$115 million; and a dog shelter estimated at \$15 million.
- **Southern Oregon Housing Summit:** On June 11th regional housing folks gathered in Grants Pass for the Southern Oregon Housing Summit. This full day housing conference connected leaders from all over Oregon, with a focus on Southern. I heard many positive comments from participants who felt the greatest value of attending was joining with each other and making new connections. In the morning, the plenary session focused on affordable housing

challenges and the opportunities here in Southern Oregon; they also spent 1.5 hours rotating participants amongst 12 tables with experts and networking opportunities. The afternoon hosted multiple sessions including 'Strategies for Increasing Housing Production in Southern Oregon', 'Housing the Homeless in Southern Oregon' and the 'Impact of Federal Policy Changes and Funding Cuts on Marginalized Communities in Southern Oregon'. End of day was an optional tour of the Cathedral Square apartments in Grants Pass, a recent development of the Housing Authority of Jackson County. This summit was hosted by [Housing Oregon](#).

- **SOU's 99th Commencement:** This last weekend celebrated roughly 900 graduates from Southern Oregon University in Ashland – Go Raiders! The weather was perfect, and the event staff and the University rolled out the carpet for these graduates as they celebrated their achievements. Governor Kotek gave remarks including "I know that young Americans feel conflicted about their world, about themselves, about the future. But don't give up on the big picture. Don't give up on what the world can be. So, as you start a new chapter in your life: Believe in yourself. Believe in others. And believe in something bigger than yourself. You'll like where it takes you." The Governor was joined by 5 Legislators attending: Senator Golden, Rep. Marsh, Rep. McIntire, Rep. Yunker and Rep. Scharf. A very special thank you to President Bailey and the SOU leadership team.



Southern & South Coast – Jessica LaBerge

- **Wildfire Resources:** In the recent addition of the Summer 2025 South Coast Field and Forest Newsletter from OSU Extension they highlighted two recent Extension publications I'd like to share. [Subscribe HERE](#). These publications explore how fire and people's relationships with it have shaped diverse ecosystems across the place we call Oregon. Broken into 7 ecoregions, you can access them all in either link below.
 - [Not all flame's the same](#). Wildfires behave differently across Oregon's diverse regions, from dry grasslands to dense forests. This guide explains how those differences affect the land and why it matters for managing fire and protecting communities.
 - [Not all flame's the same: Coast Range](#). Fire shaped Oregon's Coast Range through climate, vegetation and Indigenous burning. Today, changing land use, invasive plants and climate change are increasing wildfire risk and habitat loss.

Mid-Valley - Beth Wytoski

- **RSAC:** This week the Mid-Valley Regional Solutions Advisory Committee convened for a wildfire resilience educational panel. The conversation began with notes on the frequency and cost of suppression. The trend is staggering with a clear increase in the size and scope of Oregon wildfires and the related costs of fighting them over the last two decades. The Oregon Department of the State Fire Marshal explained that there are more than 300 agencies that respond for structural protection, from small volunteer forces to large multi-jurisdictional cooperatives. Fire management plans look very different across the state - until there is a fire. We also talked about when local resources are insufficient and declaring a conflagration becomes necessary. While many areas benefit from mutual aid agreements and can call neighboring agencies for support, the number of conflagration mobilizations has multiplied in recent years with 2024 being remarkably high, as local resources struggle to keep up with the demand.

Several of the speakers discussed fire prevention. From widespread community risk reduction strategies to homesite defensible space, it is clear there are things that almost everyone can do to minimize fire risk at home. Because the majority of structural fires are started via embers, it is critical to keep the 5 feet closest to your home relatively clean and clear. Some tips for homes in high-risk areas include:

1. Use hardscape materials like gravel, pavers, or concrete rather than wood products like bark or mulch
2. Promptly remove dead or dying plants or plant material like leaves and needles from roofs, gutters, decks, porches and stairways
3. Trim all branches within 10 feet of any chimney or stovepipe outlet
4. Limit combustible items like furniture and planters on top of decks
5. Store firewood away from the home
6. Replace combustible fencing and decor with noncombustible alternatives
7. Locate boats, RVs, vehicles, and even garbage and recycling cans away from the home

The Department of Forestry talked about fire factors that are within our control and several which are not, noting that even with an increase in weather-related fires, more than 70% are still caused by human activity. They discussed some of the challenges with forestry management, such as coordination with a myriad of owners and diverse interests and goals. They also shared about some of the resources available to help communities become better adapted and more fire resistant such as:

- The Community Wildfire Defense Grant Program
- The Volunteer Fire Capacity Grant
- The Wildland-Urban Interface Grants

More information on these resources is available at: [Oregon Department of Forestry : Fire prevention : Fire : State of Oregon](#)

When fires happen, there is intense demand on the workforce pipelines. We heard from the Chemeketa Emergency Services Campus at the Brooks Training Center about the process to prepare career public servants and from Torres Contracting, which is a private provider of

firefighting services. The majority of wildland fire fighters on front lines are employed by companies like Torres, who work on demand when emergencies arise, and whose workforce largely returns annually to continue their service with only a 20% year over year attrition rate. With recent federal wage changes, recruitment has been positive with teachers, college students, and laborers making up the bulk of the enrollment and some large employers allowing their employees to take sometimes lengthy leaves to respond to fire calls without job loss.

Some of the most inspiring moments came from the Santiam Hospital and Long-Term Recovery Group staff who spoke about the intense, immediate needs of survivors like gas, food, and groceries as well as the outpouring of support from other community leaders who took in livestock and pets into makeshift pens in nearby fairgrounds and parks. They also talked about how needs changed over time and certain services, like mental health supports, were expected to decline over time, but actually increased instead. And they shared the sobering reality that some families, nearly 5 years post-fire, are still in temporary living situations, waiting on permanent housing to be completed, with the Mayor of Detroit noting they were advised by FEMA to expect at least 10 years to recover. Mayor Trett solemnly recounted the events of the Labor Day fires in 2020, including problems with emergency notices and evacuations, as well as heroic stories of survivor escapes. And he shared one of the most striking statistics of the day, that only around 10% of the 'permanent' residents of Detroit from the summer of 2020 are residing there today.

The committee learned a lot about the comprehensive landscape and impacts of wildfire and will look for ways to leverage the good work being done to prevent, respond, and recover when these events occur in Oregon.

Our next educational session is scheduled for August 14 and will focus on business recruitment, retention, and development as well as entrepreneurship. Stay tuned for more information.

Resources and Opportunities

- **EDA FY2025 Disaster Supplemental Grant Program**

The EDA Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Disaster Supplemental Grant Program makes approximately \$1.45 billion available to support economic recovery activities in areas that received major disaster declarations because of hurricanes, wildfires, severe storms and flooding, tornadoes, and other natural disasters occurring in calendar years 2023 and 2024. EDA's FY 2025 Disaster Supplemental Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) aims to support communities recovering from major disasters and set them on a path to exceed pre-disaster conditions and transform their local economies in new and vibrant ways.

The EDA FY 2025 Disaster Supplemental NOFO is available on [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) and [eda.gov](https://www.eda.gov). EDA funding can support both construction and non-construction projects.

EDA's Disaster NOFO provides funding through three funding pathways:

- **Readiness Path** – Capacity building and strategic planning projects that set the stage for future investment.
- **Implementation Path** – Standalone construction and non-construction projects that help communities recover from natural disasters and advance recovery and growth.
- **Industry Transformation Path** – Coalition-led, multi-project portfolios that transform regional economies through targeted industry development.

Applications for Readiness and Implementation grants will be accepted on an ongoing (rolling) basis. Applications for Industry Transformation grants are due **March 3, 2026**. EDA anticipates strong demand for this program and encourages applicants to submit proposals as soon as they are viable and ready, and to work with their local Economic Development Representatives (EDR) to prepare a competitive proposal.

- **DLCD Housing Planning Assistance Program Application**

The application period is now open for the Department of Land Conservation and Development's (DLCD) 2025-2027 Housing Planning Assistance program. This funding opportunity supports cities, counties, and federally-recognized Tribal governments in Oregon with planning efforts that increase housing production, affordability, and choice.

Applications must be submitted electronically to housing.dlcd@dlcd.oregon.gov, copying your [Regional Representative](#) below, by **midnight on August 4, 2025**.

DLCD has developed the following guidance materials to support applicants through the process. These application materials and instructions are available on the [DLCD Housing Planning Assistance webpage](#).

- A [Housing Planning Assistance Overview Packet](#) outlining program priorities and evaluation criteria.
- A [Housing Planning Assistance Application](#) with detailed submission instructions.
- A [Housing Planning Assistance Sample Work Program](#) illustrating sample tasks and deliverables for common projects.

Please review these materials thoroughly before submitting your application. As there are typically more requests than the funding can fulfill, not all applications will be funded. DLCD will prioritize projects based on the factors outlined in the grant packet and will work to ensure funded projects have the resources they need for success. To maximize your application's competitiveness, be sure to respond directly to the criteria provided.

Important Note: The full scope and amount of grant funding for the 2025-2027 biennium for housing-related planning support is still tentative and contingent upon approval from the Legislature this session.

If you have questions about the Housing Planning program or projects funded by this round of housing planning assistance, please contact DLCD's Housing team and the Housing Accountability and Production Office (HAPO) using the following emails:

- DLCD Housing Team: housing.dlcd@dlcd.oregon.gov
- DLCD HAPO: dlcd.hapo@dlcd.oregon.gov

In addition to the materials above, the DLCD Housing Team held an informational webinar on May 22, 2025, to explain the Housing Planning Assistance Grant Program and application process. A full recording of the webinar is available on [DLCD's YouTube channel](#) for anyone who was unable to attend or would like to revisit the presentation.

- **ODOE Community Renewable Energy Grant Program**

The Community Renewable Energy Grant Program is open to Oregon Tribes, public bodies, and consumer-owned utilities. Public bodies include counties, municipalities, and special government bodies such as ports and irrigation districts. Grants are awarded on a competitive basis and priority will be given to projects that support program equity goals, demonstrate community energy resilience, and include energy efficiency and demand response.

At least half of the grant funds will be awarded for projects that serve environmental justice communities, including communities of color, lower-income communities, rural communities, and others. Similarly, at least half of the grant funds will be awarded to projects that support community energy resilience.

ODOE will soon begin accepting applications for a fourth round of funding. ODOE is making \$12 million available to support planning and construction of renewable energy or energy resilience projects for Tribes, public bodies, and consumer-owned utilities.

Eligible projects include renewable energy generation systems like solar or wind, and energy storage systems, electric vehicle charging stations, or microgrid technologies paired with new or existing renewable energy systems. Eligible applicants are encouraged to partner with community groups, non-profits, private businesses, and others on potential projects.

Check out [this great video about the program](#) from the U.S. Climate Alliance, featuring Governor Kotek! Additional information about eligible projects is available on the agency's [website](#).

- **ODOT Summer Construction Map**

ODOT has extensive summer road construction plans and closures this summer in the Portland Metro/ NW Oregon region. Plan ahead and stay up to date with ODOT's online version of their [summer construction map](#).

- **OHCS seeks public input on Action Plan for disaster recovery infrastructure funding**
Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) published a draft Action Plan Amendment for a \$422 million disaster recovery grant and is seeking public input on the changes. Funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) is administered through a suite of programs, also known as “ReOregon.” These programs support individuals, households, and communities as they continue to recover from the 2020 Labor Day wildfires.

The draft Action Plan Amendment would reallocate program funds to support the Gates Wastewater Collection System project in Marion County so it can meet the grant’s timelines and streamline construction. This project is critical for wildfire recovery and increasing housing supply. A short summary of the key elements of the plan and the entire draft Action Plan Amendment is available for review on OHCS’ website at <https://re.oregon.gov>.

Public comment on the draft Action Plan Amendment will be taken for 30 days through public hearings, online form, email, mail, or telephone. The hearings will include a short presentation by Marion County representatives and OHCS officials, followed by public feedback. Printed copies of the plan will be available by request.

Public hearing details:

When: Monday, June 23, 6 pm (doors open at 5:30)

Where: Marion County Board of Commissioners Board Room, 555 Court St. NE, Suite 5232, Salem

For those who cannot attend in person, a virtual hearing on Zoom will be held at 6 p.m. Wednesday, June 25. Please [register to attend](#).

Information presented at the public hearings will be available on the ReOregon website at re.oregon.gov. Spanish translation services will be available at all the public hearings. Please email hcs_housinginfo@oregon.gov if you need special accommodations.

In addition to providing comment at the hearings, the public will be able to do so by:

- E-mail: hcs_housinginfo@oregon.gov
- Online form:
 - English: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/01973bb258ac77e3a4fdb47a0bc601f2>
 - Spanish: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/01973cd96f8a7b50b47661f3d5c4d016>
- Phone: 877-510-6800
- Mail: OHCS, 725 Summer St. NE, Suite B, Salem, OR 97301-1266

All comments must be submitted to OHCS no later than **11:59 p.m. July 9, 2025**. After the 30-day public comment period, feedback will be incorporated into the plan before OHCS submits it to HUD for review and approval, which can take up to 45 days. As required by HUD, OHCS will address all comments received.