



Regional Solutions Program Updates

Upcoming Regional Solutions Advisory Committee (RSAC) Meetings:

- [Southern](#) (Jackson and Josephine Counties) July 16, 1-3pm
 - [Virtual Link](#)
 - Jackson County Parks Auditorium, 7520 Table Rock Rd, Center Point OR
- [South Central](#) (Klamath and Lake Counties) August 5, 10:30am-12:30pm
 - [Virtual Link](#)
- [Mid-Valley](#) (Marion, Polk, and Yamhill Counties) August 14, 1:30-3:30pm
 - [Virtual Link](#) (virtual only)
- [Central](#) (Crook, Deschutes, and Jefferson Counties) August 15, 12-2pm
 - [Virtual Link](#)
- [South-Valley/Mid-Coast](#) (Benton, Lane, Lincoln, and Linn Counties) September 17, 1-3pm
 - [Virtual Link](#)
- [Northeast](#) (Baker, Union, and Wallowa Counties) September 23, 2-4pm
 - [Virtual Link](#)
- [Greater Eastern](#) (Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, and Wheeler Counties) September 25, 1-3pm
 - [Virtual Link](#)

Regional Updates

South-Central – Scott Aycock

- **Elk Fire/Lake County Communications:** Regional Solutions received a phone call from Lake County Commissioner Mark Albertson the morning of July 9 regarding the Elk Fire in neighboring Klamath County. The fire was fairly small at the time, but due to its location it had destroyed approximately 1,000 feet of fiber that provides internet service to all of Lake County. This service outage caused significant disruptions to everything from emergency response and 911 service, cell service outages and disruptions for residents, communication difficulties for essential services such as the Lakeview hospital, and financial services interruptions such as the ability to conduct transactions with debit/credit cards, access ATMs, etc. A host of local and state agencies were able to address essential emergency response and health communications through the deployment of remote satellite phones and radio work-arounds. Fortunately, full internet service was restored late in the evening on Thursday July 10. Significantly, this exact scenario played out in a 2023 fire in the same general area; these two events underline the community's need for redundant broadband connectivity. Now that the immediate communications crisis is over, our office is working to determine what opportunities are available to develop redundancy.

Central Region – Scott Aycock

- **Oregon City/County Managers' Association Presentation on Housing:** Regional Solutions provided a housing production presentation to the annual Oregon City/County Management Association conference in Bend on July 11. The presentation focused on the Governor's overall focus on housing production, benchmark accomplishments over the last 2+ years, and a review of the 2025 session's housing production achievements. We provided a broad overview and asked attendees to submit any questions or comments about the state's various housing production programs and initiatives.

Mid-Valley – Beth Wytoski

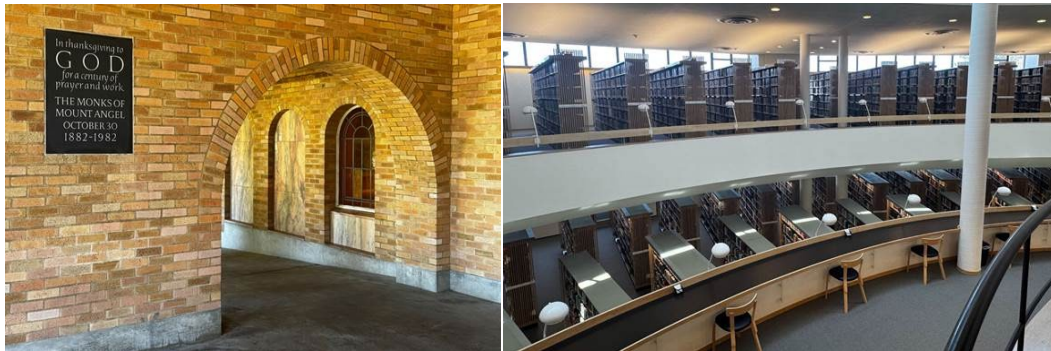
- **House Bill 2647** was signed into law. The new legislation authorizes the city of Monmouth to swap lands in and out of the Urban Growth Boundary which will allow for housing development. The proposal had been long discussed, but the traditional path would have been lengthy, expensive, and cumbersome, risking the likelihood of successfully constructing housing with willing landowners and developers. While there is more work to be done before shovels can hit the ground, the collaborative legislative action brings them closer. Congratulations to Monmouth!
- **Clow Corner:** ODOT has been working hard on the Clow Corner Road roundabout on Hwy 99W and traffic was released to begin using the new route a couple of weeks ago! Clow Corner Road to the east of 99W is now reopened, while Clow Corner Road to the west of 99W will remain closed while it is connected to the new roundabout and the former route is removed. One note of public interest: while there is a center lane in this design, it is specifically and exclusively for oversized trucks and not passenger vehicles. Please do not drive through the center of the new roundabout.

- Chapul Farms:** I joined Business Oregon, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Environmental Quality for a site visit to Chapul Farms in McMinnville. The company has established its proof of concept at a site just west of town, where black soldier flies have consumed various forms of waste and created frass-based soil amendment, a valuable fertilizer, as well as larvae to be used as animal food. With plans to expand operations, Chapul recently purchased a larger facility and plans to grow its production of black soldier fly larvae. In the current regulatory environment, the company is limited to pre-consumer herbivore byproduct to ensure compliance with state and federal requirements specific to animal feed and fertilizer, but still works in a pretty incredible circular system that diverts waste from landfills, creates two value-add products, and creates very little of its own waste or emissions in the fully enclosed space. There could even be potential to use the black soldier flies to dispose of other types of agricultural by-product in the future, further reducing solid waste in landfills.



- Childcare Infrastructure Grants:** To address the shortage of local, affordable, quality childcare for Oregon's workforce, Business Oregon has awarded 57 grants to facilities across the state totaling more than \$20 million. Our region received 10 of the awards, with the largest bringing in \$2M for capacity improvements. "Affordable, accessible child care is not just an essential need for working families, it is crucial for Oregon's long-term prosperity," Governor Kotek said. "Without child care, businesses struggle to find and retain the employees they need. The reach of these awards will be wide. Let's keep going." Another application cycle will begin in July.
- Yamhill County Economic Development:** This week I attended a virtual regional economic development session, hosted by Gioia Goodrum of Yamhill County, and heard about new businesses that are being added to communities or growing within them. I was excited to hear about McMinnville Landing, the recently rebranded 'innovation campus' that will host manufacturing, healthcare, various services, and retail, which just launched a new website: [McMinnville Landing](#). One of the most promising reports came from Lafayette, who shared about a couple of buildings that have been sold for redevelopment and are making great progress through new investments. In addition to some transportation infrastructure projects planned and those recently completed, the Lafayette commercial core seems to be a busy beacon of growth. Between those activities and the great community events they've enjoyed this month, including a local hot dog eating contest, where Alex Garcia defeated reigning champion and city manager, Brandon Dross, by consuming 8 hot dogs in just over 5 minutes, Lafayette is rocking!

- **Mount Angel Abbey:** Last week I had the pleasure of visiting the Abbey, joining locals and visitors for midday mass, and enjoyed a conversation with Abbot Jeremy Driscoll and Manuel Padilla, senior project manager from Oregon Solutions. We talked about their local infrastructure, unique resources (like Alvar Aalto's library and the recently remodeled Guesthouse), and sources of revenue like the seminary and nearby brewery. The grounds are gorgeous, and I would encourage those nearby to stroll up to the church to enjoy the beautiful views, comforting peace, and impressive architecture.



Northeast – Courtney Crowell

- **Baker County Drought Designation:** The Governor has issued the first drought declaration of the year this year for Baker County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, Baker County has been experiencing moderate drought since June 3, 2025. Drought metrics are also indicating long-term drought conditions are persistent in Baker County. Additionally, below normal precipitation, above normal temperatures, streamflow, and soil moisture conditions further indicate persistent drought conditions in Baker County. For much of the water year, Baker County benefited from normal to above normal streamflow conditions. However, recent conditions have declined to below normal levels and may continue trending downward despite recent localized precipitation in the region. Forecasted water supply conditions and precipitation levels are not expected to improve.
- **La Grande City Manager Search:** Regional Solutions participated this week on a stakeholder panel for the final round of interviews for the La Grande City Manager position. La Grande's longtime city manager is retiring in September, and they have been doing a thorough recruitment process and have included many stakeholders throughout the process. It was great to be a part of the process and while we will all miss Robert Strobe and his leadership, the city has an exciting future ahead.

Greater Eastern – Courtney Crowell

- **Business Oregon Visit to CTUIR:** I was able to participate in Business Oregon’s visit to CTUIR this week. Director Cheang from Business Oregon has made a commitment to visit all nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon and CTUIR was the first visit. It was great to be able to join the CTUIR Board of Trustees, Director Cheang, her staff and many of the Business Oregon commissioners who were in Pendleton last week for their commission meeting. We had a great conversation about Business Oregon programs, working together and the economic and community development priorities of the tribe.

North Coast – Nate Stice

- **Thompson Springs Housing:** The North Coast Regional Solutions Team met with Sammy’s Place, a 501 (c)(3) serving population with intellectual and development disability on the North Coast, to discuss their Thompson Springs Housing Project. The project will create 10-13 accessible cottages offered under a land trust model for homeownership. The project will provide affordable, accessible housing to people with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities. The project has received funding and contributions from OHCS, Tillamook County, the Collins Foundation, DEQ (for site clean-up), and others.



The team discussed funding options for helping to develop infrastructure to the site, including the extension of water service and transportation access. Business Oregon will look at some of their options. The team discussed the potential for the Moderate Income Revolving Loan Fund to help the project cover pieces of the infrastructure.

- **City of Wheeler Gervais Creek Stormwater Improvement Project:** The team met with the City of Wheeler to discuss the Gervais Creek Stormwater Improvement Project. A 36” pipe conveys Gervais Creek to the Nehalem River. Based on a hydraulic analysis, the capacity of the Gervais Creek stormwater system has been determined to be deficient. The pipe system passes under several buildings and has resulted, under high tide and heavy rain conditions, in surcharged storm structures and flooded basements. Obstruction of the intake has also resulted in flooding of the downtown area along Rorvik Street and across Highway 101. The city has secured a \$1.4 million FEMA planning grant for phase one of the project and have completed bidding for a contractor to complete that phase. There will be a tight timeline for permitting on the project to meet FEMA expectations, and the team discussed the importance of starting that process and remaining in touch. The team will help facilitate the city’s participation in an early coordination permitting meeting.

North Central – Nate Stice

- **Rowena Fire Response and Recovery:** The Rowena Fire started the afternoon of June 11 and burned 3,700 acres. At the height of the fire, nearly 8,000 residents were under level 1,2, or 3 evacuation orders. All evacuation orders have been lifted, but many residents are being advised not to return because of risk of environmental contamination. This is the most loss this community has suffered in recent memory. According to an early OSFM report, Wasco County lost 56 homes (mostly manufactured homes with some stick built), 91 outbuildings, 18 vehicles, and 11 RVs. There were further damaged structures.

Members of the team participated in the first meeting of the Long Term Recovery Group. The group is still early in its formation, but I am inspired by the dedication and work that has gone into launching it so quickly. Team members area also actively engaged in conversations about debris removal and housing.

South Valley/Mid-Coast – Courtney Flathers

- **Oregon Lands Ball Corporation Manufacturing Facility:** On July 3rd, Governor Tina Kotek and Ball Corporation announced the company’s state-of-the-art manufacturing and warehousing facility under construction in Millersburg. This investment is expected to create more than 100 new jobs. Ball is a global leader in sustainable aluminum packaging for beverage, personal care, and household products. The new facility will support growing customer demand as well as the company’s new contract with one of its largest global customers, with volume commitments that extend well into the end of the decade. “Oregon invests in the infrastructure manufacturing businesses need because we understand the shared prosperity that a partnership like this can bring,” Governor Kotek said. “We have a skilled workforce ready to deliver results for businesses looking to expand on the west coast. And the long-term, good-paying manufacturing jobs this partnership brings will boost the economies of Millersburg, the region, and the state of Oregon.” The state supported the recruitment process and helped fund needed infrastructure through the Governor’s Strategic Reserve Fund, Business Oregon’s Special Public Works Fund, and the Oregon Department of Transportation’s Immediate Opportunity Fund. Site preparation is underway, and the facility is expected to begin production by mid-2026.

- **Cottage Grove Infrastructure Strides:** In the 2024 legislative session, Cottage Grove received \$3 million (SB 1530) to fund water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure



improvements that will enable new housing development in their community. As a result of this investment, the city will see at least 450 new housing units beginning construction soon. Last week I had the opportunity to tour the project site as the infrastructure work nears completion and sat down with Business Oregon team members and city staff to talk about some of the city’s next priorities for community and economic development.

- **Junction City Water System Improvements:** Congratulations to Junction City on their recent award of a forgivable loan of approximately \$1 million from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law – Emerging Contaminants Funding administered by Business Oregon. This funding will be used for final design of a new water treatment plant. Several members of the South Valley/Mid-Coast Regional Solutions team meet quarterly with Junction City staff to support the city in moving several water and wastewater projects forward.
- **London Water Cooperative:** Last week community members officially broke ground on a new water treatment plant to serve members of the London Water Cooperative. This small cooperative located approximately 10 miles south of Cottage Grove serves 22 households, a church, and a grange. London Water Cooperative collaborated with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and Business Oregon to secure funding to design and construct this facility. The existing water treatment plant has been in service since the mid-1980s. During the groundbreaking ceremony, Eric Vortriede, president of the London Water Cooperative thanked the state for its support of their community and this project saying, “OHA opened the doors [to this opportunity] and Business Oregon kicked them down.” It was a pleasure to attend this event alongside staff from Business Oregon and OHA.



- **J.H. Baxter added to Superfund list:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently added the J.H. Baxter site in west Eugene to the Superfund National Priorities List. This listing will increase access to federal clean-up resources to address risks to the environment and public health. J.H. Baxter operated a wood treatment facility at this location from 1943 until 2022. According to the EPA, decades of wood treatment operations resulted in releases of hazardous substances into the groundwater and soil and contaminated adjacent residential areas with dioxins (persistent organic pollutants that are linked to cancer and reproductive harm). EPA is leading the cleanup and will work to determine the full extent and scope of contamination. To date, work on this site has been an ongoing effort supported by state agencies including DEQ and OHA as well as local partners. On July 16th, representatives from EPA and DEQ will host a public meeting to share next steps and explain how the community can be involved throughout the Superfund process. The meeting will take place at Cascade Middle School, 1525 Echo Hollow Road, Eugene from 6-8pm.

- **West Gate Industrial Park:** Local officials, economic development partners, and Business Oregon staff were on hand to celebrate the groundbreaking at the West Gate Industrial Park in Eugene last week. A \$500,000 investment from Business Oregon's Semiconductor Industrial Land Loan program will support engineering, permitting, and environmental work to help make this industrial park more shovel-ready for future semiconductor investment and job creation.



South Coast – Jessica LaBerge

- **March Flooding Updates:** This month Oregon Dept. of Emergency Management (ODEM) received approval from the U.S. Small Business Administration for the March flooding impacts to Douglas, Coos and Curry Counties. This is great news for the region and will help us get support flowing into the communities more quickly. The SBA declaration does not impact or replace the ongoing request for a Major Disaster Declaration for the March flooding across the impacted counties. That request is still active and under review.

In the meantime, they have secured a brick-and-mortar Disaster Loan Outreach Center (DLOC) in Roseburg, where SBA staff will be available for a minimum of three weeks to assist with in-person applications, answer questions, and provide support. Additionally, the SBA will be setting up a short-term presence in Coos County for one to two days in Myrtle Point to extend services there as well. ODEM is still waiting to hear from Curry County about what they'd like to do.

This is a parallel effort meant to get critical SBA assistance into the hands of impacted residents and businesses as quickly as possible while we continue to push forward with the Federal disaster declaration process. For more information please visit: [Douglas County Emergency Management | Douglas County, OR](#)

Southern – Jessica LaBerge

- **RS Advisory Committee:** this week we'll be talking about water with a presentation from the Oregon Water Resources Department. Please join in on the conversation. July 16th from 1pm – 3pm. [Agenda and Zoom link here.](#)

Resources and Opportunities

- **HUD FY 2025 Lead Hazard Reduction Funding**

This year, \$364 million is available to help communities reduce lead-based paint hazards, preserve affordable housing, and improve public health outcomes. This grant program assists states, cities, counties, Native American Tribes or other units of local government in developing and implementing comprehensive programs to identify and control lead-based paint hazards in eligible low-income privately-owned rental and owner-occupied pre-1978 housing. Please share this information with local partners and stakeholders, especially those serving high-risk, low-income communities. The application deadline is **August 14, 2025**, and applicants can request up to \$7.75 million in combined funding.

Visit www.hud.gov/lead or view the attached flyer for more information.

Regional Resilience Forum Informational Meetings

The Department of Administrative Services, State Procurement Services, on behalf of the Office of Governor Kotek cordially invites you to join us for a Regional Resilience Forum Informational Meetings. We are seeking to contract with up to 50 community-based organizations who will provide wisdom and feedback to inform a statewide resiliency plan. The organizations selected as contractors will be organized into five regional forums, and each Regional Resilience Forum will meet monthly to discuss various resiliency topics and will share their notes with the Governor's Office and a team of researchers. In addition, these organizations will have the opportunity for additional funding to do community outreach, to gain wider input on resiliency in Oregon.

To learn more about the Plan for a Resilient Oregon, and this opportunity for contracting, join us at one of the Regional Resilience Forum Informational Meetings. The sessions will each be focused on a particular region, and while you are encouraged to attend the session for your region, you are welcome to attend whichever session works best for you. Questions and answers from all sessions will be documented and shared with all registrants after the sessions. There is [one registration link](#) for all sessions.

July 21st at 11am- Southwest Oregon
July 21st at 2pm- Portland Metro
July 22nd at 3pm- Northwest Oregon
July 23rd at 10am Pacific- Eastern Oregon
July 23rd at 11am- Central Oregon

BIPOC, LGBTQ+, Veterans, Disability organizations, as well as small and volunteer-run organizations, are encouraged to attend and apply. It is a priority for us to make sure this session is accessible for everyone who wants to participate. For translation, accommodations or any questions, please reach out to jennifer.jolley@das.oregon.gov. For more information, visit <https://www.oregon.gov/gov/Pages/PRO.aspx> or view the attached flyer.

Office of Lead Hazard Control & Healthy Homes

HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes has announced the availability of \$364 million for the Lead Hazard Reduction grant programs.

This funding helps transform communities by fixing older housing, preserving affordable housing, and improving communities and the health of their children and families.

This grant program assists states, cities, counties/parishes, Native American Tribes or other units of local government in developing and implementing comprehensive programs to identify and control lead-based paint hazards in eligible low-income privately-owned rental and owner-occupied pre-1978 housing.

This grant can provide so much for your community

Support	Further Goals	Demonstrate	Promote	Create
Support the implementation of "lead and healthy homes" programs that address health and safety hazards in the home Support training and certification	Further affordable housing goals by improving existing local housing stock	Demonstrate that providing safe and healthy environments where children live is feasible, affordable, and beneficial Demonstrate effectiveness in lowering childhood lead poisoning	Public-private partnerships to align common Workforce development in housing renovation trades	Create market demand to integrate health outcomes into housing and infrastructure projects and planning Create Lead Safe and Healthy Homes

Taking a holistic approach to safe and healthy housing

In addition to addressing lead-based paint hazards, applicants can apply for healthy homes supplemental funding to address other housing related health and safety issues while addressing the lead based paint hazards in these homes.

Applicants can request up to \$7 million in lead hazard reduction funds and up to \$750,000 in healthy homes supplemental funds!

Start applying for Lead Hazard Reduction Funding TODAY!

Application Deadline is 11:59 pm EDT August 14th, 2025

- Register on www.Grants.gov
- Maximum award amount is up to \$7.75 million
- 48-month period of performance



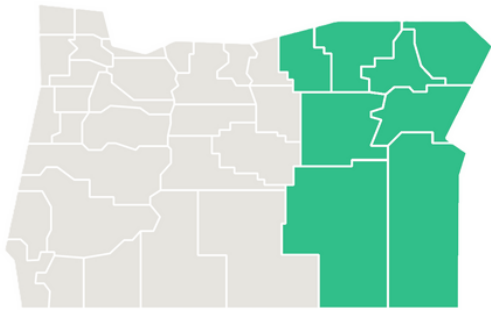
Visit www.hud.gov/lead for more information

Regional Resilience Forums

Informational Sessions

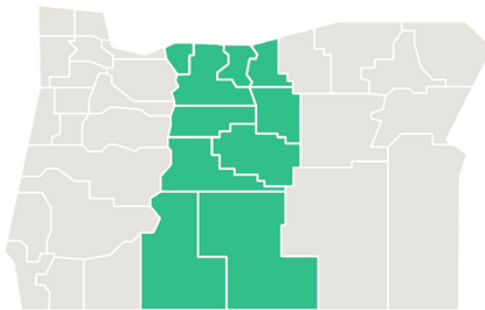
for the Plan for a Resilient Oregon

The Department of Administrative Services, State Procurement Services, on behalf of the Office of Governor Tina Kotek is seeking to contract with up to 50 community-based organizations, who will provide wisdom and feedback to inform a statewide resiliency plan. Learn more about the plan, and find out if you might be a great fit at an information session. BIPOC, LGBTQ+, Veterans, Disability organizations, as well as small and volunteer-run organizations are encouraged to attend and apply.



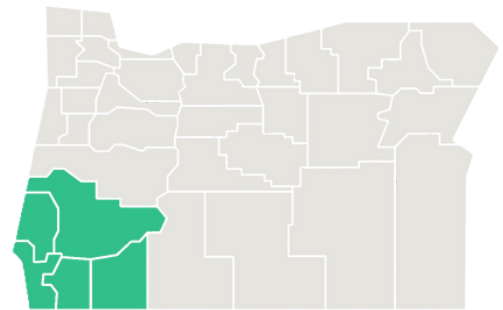
Eastern Oregon

Wednesday, July 23rd
10-11am Pacific
11-noon Mountain



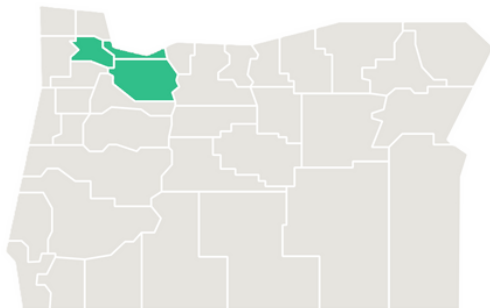
Central Oregon

Wednesday, July 23rd
11-noon Pacific



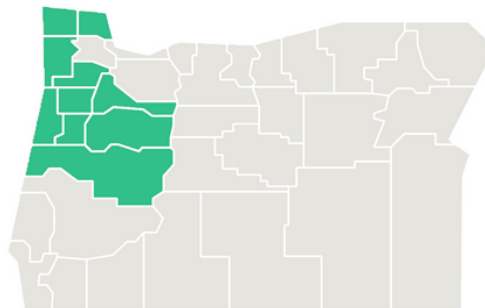
Southwest Oregon

Monday, July 21st
11am-noon Pacific



Portland Metro

Monday, July 21st
2-3pm Pacific



Northwest Oregon

Tuesday, July 22nd
3-4pm Pacific

Can't make the session for your region? You're welcome to join any of the others. Questions asked and answered from all sessions will also be compiled and sent out to everyone who registered. We want this to be accessible for you! For accommodations please contact jennifer.jolley@das.oregon.gov

Register here:

<https://bit.ly/3IcYr0l>

For more information :

<https://www.oregon.gov/gov/Pages/PRO.aspx>

