



RS EXCHANGE REGIONAL SOLUTIONS

Monday, August 10th, 2026

**Regional Infrastructure Fund Applicant Webinar
August 18th from 1:00-2:00pm**

Register [here](#) and keep reading for more information!

Regional Solutions Program Updates

Regional Infrastructure Fund Applicant Webinar August 18th from 1:00-2:00pm

Following last week's announcement that the Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF) is open for applications, we have been working with Business Oregon to organize a webinar for potential applicants and other interested parties. This is a chance to learn more about the funding opportunity, eligibility criteria, requirements, timelines, and application tips. This session will help communities prepare strong applications and understand the steps involved.

This informational webinar is scheduled for Tuesday, August 18, from 1:00-2:00 pm. Register for the webinar [here](#).

As a reminder, the legislature allocated \$10 million into the Regional Infrastructure Fund for grants to local governments and tribes with populations under 25,000. Funding may be used for infrastructure projects, including long-range planning, research and design. All projects must align with at least one of the [Community and Economic Development Priorities](#) adopted by the local Regional Solutions Advisory Committee.

The application period is open through September 16th. More information can be found on the [Regional Infrastructure Fund website](#), or you can reach out to your local [Regional Solutions Coordinator](#).

Please continue to share the opportunity and encourage local governments and tribes to apply!

Regional Solutions Attends Oregon Mayors Association Conference

The Oregon Mayors Association (OMA) held its annual conference in Ashland last week, providing a valuable space for mayors across the state to share common challenges, successes, and opportunities for collaboration. Many participants expressed that hearing from peers

helped them feel less isolated in their experiences, regardless of whether they had been in office for several years or only a few months. The event also offered Regional Solutions a meaningful opportunity to connect with numerous mayors, exchange information, and share resources.

One session featured Rogue Valley mayors from Ashland, Jacksonville, Rogue River, and Central Point, who discussed current initiatives and local experiences. A major theme throughout the conference was wildfire preparedness. Municipalities highlighted the tools they are developing, the unexpected challenges they face, and the impacts on managing public and open spaces. Other topics included recaps of legislative session and the legal landscape facing cities, and ways to set a constructive tone for civic discourse amid challenging times.

We extend our appreciation to the City of Ashland for hosting, and to OMA for including us in these discussions!

Regional Updates

North Coast – Nate Stice

Governor Kotek Highlights Economic Opportunities in Tillamook County: Governor Tina Kotek visited Tillamook County on August 5 to meet with local elected officials, business leaders and community partners and learn more about the region's economic strengths and opportunities for growth.



Regional Solutions helped coordinate the day, which highlighted a number of ongoing Regional Solutions projects and efforts across the North Coast.

At the Port of Tillamook Bay, the Governor toured Aerostar's aerospace manufacturing and high-altitude testing operations and

heard about opportunities to expand the company's presence and attract related aerospace and unmanned aircraft businesses. At Tillamook Creamery, she toured production operations and discussed continued investment in Oregon, workforce needs, Highway 6 reliability and issues affecting the region's dairy producers.

The Governor also met with leaders from Clatsop, Columbia and Tillamook counties to hear about projects and infrastructure needs shaping the North Coast economy, including the North Coast Business Park and Warrenton wastewater improvements, Tongue Point, industrial development in Columbia County, ports and dredging, regional water infrastructure and transportation. Many of these efforts are already being advanced through Regional Solutions partnerships with local governments, state agencies and economic development organizations.

The day also included a stop at the Tillamook County YMCA to hear about child care, youth services and community health programs that support families and the regional workforce, and concluded at the Tillamook County Fair, where the Governor visited 4-H and FFA exhibits and heard from young people and local producers about the future of agriculture in the county.



Eastern — Courtney Crowell

Grassy Mountain Mine Project: Regional Solutions continues to work with various state agencies and the Paramount Gold Mine on permitting related to the Grassy Mountain Mine. We still have a number of issues to resolve so our team is continuing to bring folks together for progress.

City of Elgin UGB Issues: I'm continuing to work with the City of Elgin and DLCD on addressing improper land use actions from the past. The city, county, Regional Solutions and DLCD met this week to see if we could find a path forward. We have a number of challenges ahead, however we will continue to work towards trying to find a solution for the city. Big thanks to everyone for your willingness to think outside the box and find a solution.

Upstream Initiative Declaration of Cooperation Signing: I had the opportunity to attend the signing of a declaration of cooperation for the Upstream Initiative work in Morrow, Umatilla and Union Counties. This stems from former Governor Kitzhaber's hope to have a series of regional Upstream Initiatives that would outline strategies to help children within their first 1000 days. While the statewide Upstream work has paused, the folks in Morrow, Umatilla and Union counties have remained committed to this work and were eager to move forward with signing a list of recommendations that they are committed to moving forward. While this was not an Oregon Solutions project, Oregon Solutions has been helping with some of the facilitation and efforts to keep the work moving forward. It was a great celebration and the partners are eager to get started. Picture below shows all the different organizations that signed the declaration of cooperation.



City of Umatilla Water/Wastewater Expansion: I met with the city of Umatilla last week to talk about a proposed expansion of their city water and wastewater services to the Stepping Stones shelter that I visited a few weeks ago. The city is excited about the project and we talked through some funding sources that the state might have for planning purposes so I'll be following up on those resources. We also talked about their childcare needs. Currently, there is not a single licensed childcare provider within the city so they set aside funding to try and address the situation. I'll be connecting them with the SBDC cohort model that works with interested childcare providers to get the necessary business and licensing requirements completed. All in all, it was a great discussion with the city and opportunities to collaborate in the future.

USFS Road 54 Project: I'm continuing to work with both the USFS Umatilla National Forest and the Department of State Lands (DSL) on a removal fill permit for a remediation project that is needed on an enforcement case against the USFS for illegal work done a few years ago. We recently had a good meeting about the remaining issues and the Umatilla National Forest has now submitted a new application.

Lithium Mine Project: Regional Solutions is continuing to work on issues related to the proposed lithium mine site down in McDermitt. As this is a large project, there are a number of permitting issues that will need to be addressed and our team will continue to provide assistance in connecting the company with the correct state agency and help facilitate conversations.

Southern – Jessica LaBerge

Economic development partners meet with Rogue Valley International Airport: SOREDI recently joined Regional Solutions and Business Oregon in a meeting with the Executive Director of the [Rogue Valley International Medford Airport](#). The discussion focused on the airport's current expansion project. Phase 1 is underway with an estimated cost of approximately \$120 million. This phase will improve passenger travel by adding a new concessions area, additional gates, and a second baggage claim. It also expands the airport footprint to the north, with future opportunities for growth to the south.

In addition to its commercial growth, the airport plays a significant role in wildfire response efforts in Southern Oregon. Medford Airport currently has capacity to host three Very Large Air Tankers (VLATs), which support wildfire suppression across Oregon and Northern California. The surrounding region is home to multiple wildfire support assets, including the Oregon Department of Forestry's Southwest Oregon District and proximity to federal wildfire resources managed by the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest. During peak fire season, the airport often serves as an important logistics and operations hub, enabling rapid air response and coordination among local, state, and federal agencies.

The airport has two Fixed Base Operators and its industrial land supply currently supports hundreds of tenants, from office space to hangar users, and there's still space available for lease. The FAA Tower on site is part of the FAA Contract Tower program where a contracted private party supplies the contracted air traffic controllers. The compensation formula under this contract model has made the recruitment and retention of controllers at many of the Contract Tower sites, such as Medford, a challenge.

BUILD Rogue Valley Construction Training Program: This summer, [Rogue Workforce Partnership](#) launched the second of four planned cohorts of the BUILD Rogue Valley construction training program, providing hands-on construction training to students across Jackson and Josephine Counties. The program is administered through Rogue Community College and instructor Doug Walker,

giving youth a chance to explore construction careers and build hands-on skills.



Students and graduates from Grants Pass High School and Gladiola High School took part in the cohort, learning about framing, residential electrical systems, concrete

work, and basic tool use. As part of the training, students partnered

with Mid Rogue Foundation to build a storage shed at Evans Place, Mid Rogue's low-income senior housing site in Grants Pass, and poured concrete forms for raised garden beds on the property. Students also toured Mid Rogue Foundation's 36-unit housing development for low-income veterans, currently under construction, to see a full-scale job site in person.



Carter, a student from Grants Pass High School, said the hands-on, community-focused work made the training feel more practical and impactful. "It definitely gives more purpose and more motivation to do it correctly. Since I know I'm doing this for someone else and it will be for a good purpose, I am much more willing to put in my all for it."

The BUILD Rogue Valley construction training program is funded in partnership with Southwestern Oregon Workforce Investment Board (SOWIB) using Governor's Statewide Activities grant funds from the U.S. Department of Labor in support of the Building Up Infrastructure, Labor, and Development (BUILD) Project across Coos, Curry, Douglas, Jackson, and Josephine counties.

Brownfield coordination keeps Cave Junction project on track: In early July, Regional Solutions convened a meeting with the City of Cave Junction, state agency staff, EPA, and [Rogue Valley Council of Governments \(RVCOG\)](#) to clarify next steps for the [former Junction Inn property](#). The city purchased the building at auction earlier this year and will take possession on August 1. Before doing so, the city needed to complete a Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment Report; this requirement was identified and confirmed during the meeting. EPA and RVCOG acted quickly to approve funding for the assessment, and a contractor was connected with the city

soon after. The Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment Report was completed on July 20, 2026. The report found a below ground heating oil tank is present and will need to be properly decommissioned. Once the City officially takes possession, it can begin seeking additional funding for the remediation work necessary before full demolition of the building.

The collaboration was a win for the region; the RS Team will continue to support the city's efforts and next steps. The city sees a strong need for a new hotel in Cave Junction and intends to seek public input as it explores redevelopment options. Public engagement will occur after contaminated materials are removed and the site is ready for future planning.

Metro – Kathy Hyzy

Clackamas County Recovery Campus Groundbreaking:

Governor Kotek joined Clackamas County commissioners and other elected leaders from the region at the groundbreaking for the Clackamas County Recovery Center in Happy Valley. To address the county's need for recovery housing, the Recovery Campus plans include 24 residential treatment beds, 36 transitional housing beds, and 16 withdrawal management beds. Governor Kotek secured \$10 million for the project through her executive order on the housing and homelessness emergency. EO 26-01



supports building sustainable and integrated housing and behavioral health systems of care while maintaining efforts to prevent loss of shelter, housing, and service capacity, while supporting individuals with the highest and most complex needs.

Precision Castparts Corporation (PCC): A portion of the Regional Solutions team recently had the opportunity to take a fascinating tour the titanium side of Precision Castparts main campus in Oregon.

PCC's name is fitting and descriptive: they use a sophisticated version of wax casting, a metalsmithing technique dating from 2-3,000 BCE, to manufacture parts for the aerospace industry. These parts are especially resilient because they are molded from a single piece of molten titanium—no welds or joints, which is especially crucial in turbines and other environments subject to high vibration. Due to their size, the plant in Milwaukie/Portland is the only place in the world where some of these turbines can be manufactured. PCC employs 4,000 Oregonians statewide at several different sites, and since 1947, has grown into a multinational company with 27,000 employees worldwide. Fun fact: PCC and Oregon Tool were once one and the same, manufacturing chainsaw equipment. Thanks to PCC for the opportunity to learn about this Oregon-grown company!

Nanoverse Technologies: Thanks to an introduction from the hardworking economic development team at the City of Beaverton, I was able to tour this great sticker company with Business Oregon. Yes, that IS a nutria shooting lasers out of its eyes, and there's a



story to go with it. In addition to stickers, their team of industry-insider engineers is also designing new tools and processes that are likely to upend the way microchips are made. Working with silicon wafers to make very small chips is time-intensive and involves many steps and a lot of measurements. Nanoverse has focused on improving efficiencies in that process, increasing the accuracy of measurements and utilizing

lasers in new, more effective ways. They're packaging all this up into new "tools", as the large manufacturing units found between each step in wafer production are called. It's great to see the next wave of innovation in chips technology taking off right here in Oregon.

Portland Botanical Garden: Following on the heels of DEQ signing and releasing a Prospective Purchaser Agreement (PPA) with Portland

Botanical Gardens for the possible purchase of North Portland's McCormick & Baxter site, the EPA has done the same. The agreement details existing EPA requirements around operations, maintenance and reporting, and echoes many of the provisions in the DEQ PPA. Cleanup of this Superfund site was completed over twenty years ago, and it's exciting to see a project taking root here! The EPA comment period on the PPA is open through August 31st; contribute [here](#). For more information on the Portland Botanical Gardens, please visit www.portlandbg.org, or email info@portlandbg.org.

KhWat Yaka Haws/Auntie's Place: I had an opportunity to attend the open house for NAYA's indigenous family shelter in Milwaukie, which focuses on traditional, culturally-specific shelter and services for houseless families. The space is warm and inviting, richly decorated with murals, bookshelves stocked with children's books and toys, and service providers available right on site. NAYA staff views those who stay at the shelter as family, and it shows: they have a success rate of around 80 percent for transitioning families into permanent housing, and 86 percent of those remain housed after six months.



South Central – Scott

Klamath Falls Onyx Street 16-unit Modular Housing Installation Complete: IntelliFab in Klamath Falls has been making factory-built modular homes since 2005. In 2023, IntelliFab was one of 4 businesses to receive funding from Oregon Housing and Community Services to expand operations and scale up production for affordable and disaster-recovery housing. Intelifab used the \$5M grant to expand workforce training, create replicable designs, install



new equipment, and purchase state-of-the art transit trailers. OHCS investments are helping Oregon lead the way for modular housing and will play an important role in the long-term plan to address the missing middle housing deficit in our state. Modular housing is an important part of addressing the housing deficit because of the efficiencies, quality of materials, precise specifications, and reduced weather-related scheduling issues. IntelliFab's facility is currently capable of producing a two-bedroom, one-bath unit every two days. The Onyx Street installation was completed in 90 days, from contract to install! Because the modular homes are assembled in the facility while the concrete foundations and garages are constructed concurrently on-site, the final installation process took just three days! **Video:** [IntelliFab Modular Housing Tour](#)



Klamath Falls ODOT Office Receives Klamath Rising Award: ODOT's Klamath Office received the Klamath Rising Award from Healthy Klamath and the Sky Lakes Foundation for ODOT's contributions in building a thriving community through their project work and cooperative efforts partnering with local jurisdictions and organizations. ODOT's Klamath Office greatly prioritizes collaboration and alignment with local jurisdictions and partners; examples include roundabout landscaping and art and the new community Pump Track, both of which included involvement from the State/ODOT, City of Klamath Falls, Klamath County, Healthy Klamath, and the Sky Lakes Foundation. Congratulations for this recognition!

South Valley/Mid-Coast – Courtney Flathers

South Valley/Mid-Coast Regional Solutions Advisory Committee

Meets: The RSAC for Linn, Benton, Lincoln, and Lane Counties met last week at the Emmerson Advanced Woods Products Lab on Oregon State University's campus in Corvallis. After a presentation on the Regional Infrastructure Fund, the committee heard from members of the Oregon Mass Timber Coalition (OMTC) and TallWood Design Institute (TDI) about the state of mass timber in Oregon. After these presentations, we enjoyed a tour of the Emmerson Lab facilities, including a prototype mass plywood house. Construction of a new fire testing lab funded by the EDA Build Back Better Challenge grant awarded to the OMTC in 2022 is underway just outside the current facilities. Special thanks to representatives of the OMTC and TDI including Iain McDonald (OSU), Judith Sheine (UO), Andre Barbosa (OSU), and Marcus Kaufman (ODF) for sharing an informative and inspiring afternoon with us!



Rosehill Sourdough: Business Oregon RDO Heather Stevens and I recently had the opportunity to tour Rosehill Sourdough in Eugene. Rosehill Sourdough offers a range of thoughtfully crafted products ranging from digital recipe books to wood pulp proofing baskets to the BreadMat™ (a reusable, patent-pending silicone baking mat). Business Oregon provided this company with a \$75,000 grant through the Small Business Sustainability Fund that supported relocation of the business from Utah to Oregon. During our visit we discussed a variety of topics including the challenges posed by tariffs and where the company currently sources materials. Business Oregon is actively working to provide additional support to this company through their tariff relief program and a program that can help them

secure a consultant to complete FDA approval so they can create and manufacture food products on site.

Mid-Valley – Beth Wytoski

Industrial Site Development: One theme across the Mid-Valley region that has emerged over the last couple of years is plans to redevelop former mill sites by reimagining industrial areas. Potential developers have sometimes visited sites, but stalled due to necessary demolition, environmental remediation, and significant improvement to utilities, among other costly considerations. To improve the industrial landscape, HB4084 was adopted in 2025, which committed \$25m to the Industrial Site Loan fund in order to leverage public and private investments to advance industrial lands projects. Business Oregon recently opened a Request for Applications period for the Industrial Site Loan Fund. Eligible costs can include property acquisition, transportation improvements, utility upgrades, and environment mitigation with the goal of increasing the supply of industry-ready lands for traded sector businesses. More information can be found [here](#). Applications will be accepted until September 4th.

Mill City Sewer Project: Mill City and Marion County, in collaboration with additional nearby communities and state agencies, have been working to bring improved capacity and connections to this small city in the Santiam Canyon. This project has become increasingly important following the 2020 wildfires. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has opened the public comment period for the proposed permit, known officially as a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Interested parties are invited to submit written comments and attend virtual or in-person hearings on the draft. The Mill City permit is referred to as Submittal #90466 and can be located by searching for the number under the **Public Notice Only** heading. An in-person hearing is scheduled for August 10th at 5:30pm at the Santiam Elementary School in Mill City. The comment deadline is Friday August 14.

ODOT Improvements: Drivers should expect delays on 99W between the south of Monmouth and the Lewisburg Road intersection

as cracks in the pavement are being addressed by maintenance crews. The work will primarily be done at night, between 8pm and 6pm, but all drivers should be aware of crews, equipment, and flaggers in the work zone.

Resources and Opportunities

USDA Rural Development Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants

This federal program helps eligible communities prepare for, or recover from, an emergency that threatens the availability of safe, reliable drinking water. Examples may include:

- Drought or flood
- Disease outbreak
- Chemical spill, leak, or seepage
- Other disasters

Note: A federal disaster declaration is not required.

State and local governmental entities, nonprofit organizations and federally recognized Tribes may apply. Eligible areas include rural areas and towns with populations of 10,000 or less, including Tribal lands. The area must have a median household income less than the state's median household income for non-metropolitan areas. To see if your area is eligible [visit this website](#)

Water source grants can be used to construct a water source, intake or treatment facility.

The maximum amount for water source grants is \$1 million. Water distribution systems grants can be used to:

- Construct waterline extensions
- Repair breaks or leaks in existing water distribution lines
- Perform water line maintenance necessary to replenish the water supply
- Purchase or maintain water storage tanks

The maximum amount for the distribution systems grant is \$150,000. Matching funds are not required, however partnerships with other federal, state, local, private, and nonprofit entities are encouraged.

To get started, contact the Oregon USDA-RD [office](#). Applications are accepted year round and may be filed electronically using [RD Apply](#) or at your local state office.

USDA Disaster Assistance for Agricultural Producers Impacted by Drought & Wildfire

Agricultural operations in Oregon have been significantly impacted by recent drought and wildfires. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has technical and financial assistance available to help farmers and livestock producers recover from these events.

Livestock producers who suffered grazing losses for covered livestock due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land, or fire on federally managed land, may be eligible for the 2026 [Livestock Forage Disaster Program \(LFP\)](#).

Producers who experience livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality, sell injured livestock at a reduced price or suffer livestock losses due to qualifying extreme heat may be eligible for the [Livestock Indemnity Program \(LIP\)](#).

The [Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program \(ELAP\)](#) provides eligible producers with compensation for feed and grazing losses. ELAP can also help offset the above normal economic impacts of transporting livestock to feed or hauling feed and water to sustain livestock through these disaster conditions. ELAP also assists commercial apiarists who experience a loss of feed due to drought conditions that may need to purchase short-term feed to sustain the honeybees until additional natural feedstock becomes available.

Producers must submit applications and supporting documentation for these programs no by March 1, 2027, for 2026 losses.

Eligible orchardists and nursery tree growers may be eligible for cost-share assistance through the [Tree Assistance Program \(TAP\)](#) to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes or vines. TAP complements the [Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program \(NAP\)](#) or crop insurance coverage, which covers the crop but not the plants or trees in all cases. For TAP, a program application must be filed within 90 days of the disaster event or the date when the loss of the trees, bushes or vines is apparent.

FSA also offers a variety of direct and guaranteed [farm loans](#), including

operating and emergency farm loans, to producers unable to secure commercial financing. Producers in counties with a primary or contiguous disaster designation may be eligible for low interest [emergency loans](#) to help them recover from production and physical losses. Loans can help replace essential property, purchase inputs like livestock, equipment, feed and seed, cover family living expenses or refinance farm-related debts and other needs.

For more information on these and other disaster assistance programs, visit farmers.gov.

USDA Opens New \$410M Program to Boost Affordable, Reliable Rural Electric Energy

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) announced \$410 million available in the new Powering Affordable Reliable Technology (PART) Program to increase the supply of rural power and support the reliability of America's electrical grid.

PART, administered through USDA Rural Development's RUS, offers partially forgivable loans to invest in infrastructure that produces electricity from hydro, geothermal or biomass energy sources as well as investments in energy storage systems to make intermittent renewable energy systems more reliable. Financing new reliable, resilient and affordable sources of power as well as storage devices adds reliability, resiliency and dispatchability to sources of power.

Individual awards for partially forgivable loans will range between \$1 million and \$100 million. RUS is accepting Letters of Interest between September 8 - October 9, 2026.

For more information on this program, visit the [program page online](#) and review the full [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#).

For more information on USDA Rural Development investments in rural America, visit the [Rural Data Gateway](#). The Rural Data Gateway is an online tool that strengthens USDA Rural Development partnerships with rural people, entrepreneurs, government officials and Congress by making agency investment data accessible to the public

Applications for Fall 2026 Community Development Block Grants Open Through 9/30

Business Oregon is now accepting Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications for the 2026 Fall application round. Applications will be accepted through *September 30th, 2026*.

Grants and technical assistance are available through the CDBG Program to develop livable urban communities for persons of low and moderate incomes by expanding economic opportunities and providing housing and suitable living environments. This is the regular bi-annual CDBG application round for activities governed under the 2026 [CDBG Method of Distribution](#).

Potential applicants with well-developed, ready-to-proceed projects should first work with the Regional Development Officer (RDO) in their area in preparation for submitting an application, which will be accepted via email through your Business Oregon RDO.

If you have questions, please contact your local [Regional Development Officer](#), [Shelby Gonzales](#) (CDBG Project Manager) or [Fumi Schaadt](#) / [Tracy Loomis](#) (CDBG Program and Policy Coordinators).

Oregon Department of Forestry Grants & Incentives

More than 44 percent of land in Oregon is privately owned. The Oregon Department of Forestry's (ODF) financial incentive programs are available to encourage and assist landowners so they can manage their forest resources and meet their objectives. Typical forestry projects include protecting the landowner's resources/investment from fire or insect and disease infestation, and increasing monetary and environmental values of their forested property for the future.

The ODF Grants and Incentives website (<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/aboutodf/pages/grantsincentives.aspx>) contains links to information about incentive programs common to private forestland owners. You will also find contact information for inquiries about each program, or [visit their helping landowners page](#).

USDA Seeks Applications for the Rural Decentralized Water System Grants Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development is accepting applications for grant funding to improve water and wastewater infrastructure for communities across the nation. USDA is accepting applications through the [Rural Decentralized Water Systems Grant Program](#) through Sept. 30, 2026.

USDA expects to make approximately \$11 million available through the program. Grants will be awarded to qualified non-profit organizations to create a revolving fund and to issue sub-grants to finance the costs of individually owned household water well systems and individually owned household decentralized wastewater systems. Approximately \$1 million will be available for applications directly supporting individually owned household decentralized wastewater system subgrants. All funds are subject to availability. Additional information about this funding is available on [Grants.gov](#).