



RS EXCHANGE REGIONAL SOLUTIONS

Monday, December 8th, 2025

Upcoming RSAC Meetings

Central (Crook, Deschutes, and Jefferson Counties)

Tuesday, December 16th from 4:00-5:00pm

[Virtual Link](#)

South Central (Klamath and Lake Counties)

Wednesday, December 17th from 2:00-3:30pm

[Virtual Link](#)

Governor Kotek Releases Prosperity Roadmap

Last week, Governor Kotek [released](#) her [Prosperity Roadmap](#) - an economic development strategy that lays out three broad goals: retain and grow Oregon businesses, catalyze job creation, and accelerate Oregon's economic



growth. The Governor will work to advance these goals through a series of administrative actions and within legislation during the 2026 session.

There are a couple elements of this plan that particularly relate to Regional Solutions and this program's ability to support all corners of our state to thrive:

- The Roadmap will "amplify regional economic development strategies and support local efforts to utilize unique regional resources, talent pools, and market opportunities to build economic strength around the state."
- The Governor is directing state agencies to "prioritize economic development and support key projects through the Governor's Office Regional Solutions Program."

We wanted to make sure you saw this news, and make sure you know that Regional Solutions' role in uplifting regional priorities is also a part of this news. This strategy was informed by the work of each of the eleven RSACs to identify regional needs and opportunities, and by the individual conversations businesses and community partners have been having with Regional Coordinators and agency teams.

We will stay in touch as the next steps of this roadmap unfold, and - as always - encourage you to reach out to us to share your ideas and opportunities to support your communities.

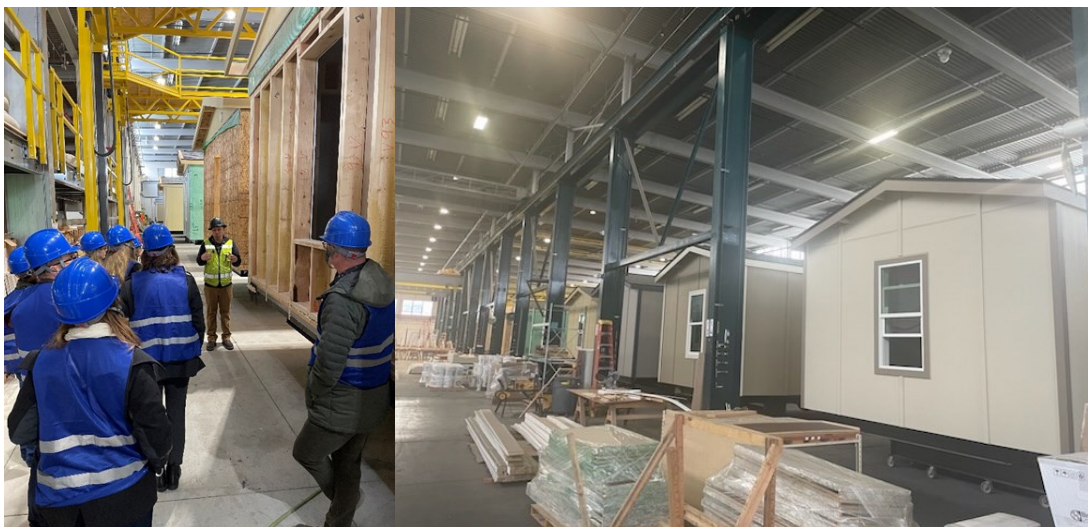
Governor Kotek and Regional Solutions Attend AOC Annual Conference

It was again great to spend some quality time with our county partners at the AOC annual conference in Eugene this November. Governor Kotek

joined the conference for the morning, sharing remarks with attendees. She discussed how critical it is that state government works with county leaders and staff as essential partners. Though faced with budget challenges at the state and county level alike, she called on us all to continue working together to make everyday Oregonians' lives easier and give them opportunities to build strong futures. Later in the day, dozens of agency leaders joined AOC members for a meet-and-greet – with ice cream! – and had the chance to talk about available programs and work through emerging needs. As always, we appreciate the chance to connect with counties across the state and learn about the many lively topics facing counties across the state.

Regional Solutions Team Visits HOPE Community Corporation

While in Eugene, the Regional Solutions Team also went to visit HOPE Community Corporation to learn about their work to address the housing crisis by manufacturing affordable housing. Their state-of-the-art facility builds high-quality, affordable, HUD-Certified homes for low-income Oregonians and people recovering from disasters. Working in partnership with St. Vincent de Paul of Lane County, HOPE (Housing Options Production Enterprise) has spent the last two years bringing a bustling manufactured-home production line to life in an old American Steel facility, beginning to sell its first homes in 2024. Made possible by \$15million in funding from the State of Oregon in 2022, HOPE aims to remedy the housing crisis and shortage for low-income Oregonians. Their program also includes an educational element, training high school students on the fundamentals of manufacturing and construction and improving their future career readiness. It was an inspiring visit, and the team left with optimism about what is possible with innovation and determination.



Regional Updates

Mid-Valley — Beth Wytoski

Three Basin Rule CHANGED: The Environmental Quality Commission unanimously adopted proposed amendments to the Three Basin Rule. This concludes the consideration process that began when Marion County submitted a rulemaking petition that would allow DEQ to issue new National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits to domestic wastewater treatments facilities in the Clackamas, McKenzie, and North Santiam basins, which was previously prohibited. The U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Maui v. Hawaii Wildlife Fund*, which required NPDES permits of wastewater systems where the discharge is likely to be considered a functional equivalent, also prompted discussions about potential amendments, because Oregon has been using the Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) permit to allow indirect discharge in the three basins. After multiple meetings and public hearings, DEQ recommended approval of the rule amendments to be consistent with the Maui ruling and also to allow certain systems and projects to advance. Of significant importance, the EQC's adoption of the amendments pave the way for Mill City to apply for an NPDES permit for its new wastewater treatment facility and consideration of options in Detroit and Idanha.

Surplus Wine Grapes: Tourism and hospitality have seen recent declines which are affecting more than the bottom line for winegrowers and makers. As the busy, long hours of harvest began to draw near a close, many vines still held fruit and the industry began looking for solutions. A group with shared interests - utilization of surplus fruit, minimizing waste, opportunities for economic growth, and promotion of value-added Oregon viticulture products - recently met and will likely engage with Oregon Solutions to talk about ag-waste, now a hot topic in Oregon wine. Bringing together the Governor's Office, Business Oregon, SEDCOR, OSU, higher education, the Oregon Wine Growers Association, Department of Ag, and a handful of private growers, producers, and retailers, the conversation talked about current trends, potential for market growth in new areas, and responsible product management. There are opportunities to connect growers to alternative product producers and waste processors, but there are challenges with hauling material, scale, and cost-benefit data. Hopefully future harvests will benefit from this work and new relationships will bear new opportunities.

Visit to Confederated Tribe of Grand Ronde: I joined Business Oregon's Director Sophorn Cheang, Regional Development Officer Arthur Chaput, and additional staff for a discussion and tour with the Confederated Tribe of Grand Ronde. The conversation centered around updating our understanding of the Tribe's current approach to economic development, including growing and leveraging their real estate/commercial lands portfolio and renewed focus on needs of tribal members, rather than external investment(s). We toured several of their recently developed housing areas, talked about the nearby health and education facilities that are critical for the community, as well as the short-term cabins and RV sites at the casino. The tribal leaders, staff and councilors, welcomed the conversation and are looking forward to more regular connections to better facilitate collaboration.

Visit with Garmin: BizO's Arthur Chaput, SEDCOR's Erik Andersson, and I gathered at Garmin, adjacent to the Salem airport. While many of their popular consumer products like GPS units and fish finders are manufactured elsewhere, they make (and provide consumer support on) a buffet of aviation components locally in Salem. Much of their innovation and new development concepts come from in-house ideas with many pilots employed and an open encouragement for other employees to become pilots, if that is of interest. The experience with the products often leads to improvements in design and new products. Garmin manufactures new equipment for aircraft as well as retrofitting (and certifying) planes with new technology. They also have a small facility in Newport and additional support for audio products in Portland.

Newberg Housing Innovation Village Experience: Employers in Newberg collaborated to initiate changes in housing production and affordability, creating the Newberg Workforce Housing Consortium (NWHC). Since then, the Consortium has partnered with city and state officials as well as SEDCOR to identify strategies and resources to change local housing options. With joint effort from SEDCOR and NWHC, and advocacy by Representative Anna Scharf, the Consortium was awarded \$3M, intended to drive development of workforce housing, a critical need for Newberg employers to continue operations. The intent was to emphasize innovative approaches that could be replicable and scalable and would promote sustainability and affordability of materials and design. A groundbreaking of the HIVE, the first cottage cluster of its kind, celebrated the success of the initiative and of changes in local policy, labor, and financing options.

Gervais Strategic Planning: After a period of turmoil and turnover, the city of Gervais is back on its feet and getting to work. With an interim City Manager and severe budget limitations, the city needed clear direction with near-term and midterm goals to focus the work of staff and create points of shared interest in community conversations. After surveying staff,

professional service providers, councilors, and the general public, I facilitated one council session to identify 6 key goals with roughly 35 objectives, and a second session to prioritize the list to inform budget and planning processes. In just a few weeks, they've already knocked out three of their 'immediate' goals! I'll be keeping up with Gervais as they are poised to tackle some big challenges of a struggling budget, outdated code, deep need for updated master plans, and shifting communication trends. Some lessons they have already internalized include: adding seats to the table is positive; partnerships are productive; and relationships can yield resources.

Van's Aircraft Tour: Representatives from Business Oregon and SEDCOR joined me at the Aurora-based Van's Aircraft and discussed their experimental aircraft offerings, including the new RV-15 which joins the lineup after more than 50 years of dream-building, before touring the manufacturing facility. A focus of the company is accessibility, with the goal to get more people affordably building and safely flying planes. The tour emphasized the importance of location-based, proximity sensitive manufacturing and cross-sector supply chains (like the Garmin avionics being installed in Van's aircrafts).

Restored Federal CDS Funding: Small cities like Carlton often rely on state and federal funding to complete large capital improvement projects. Without the benefit of economies of scale, residents would otherwise struggle to bear all necessary costs for maintenance, delivery, billing, expansions, and improvements. In recent years, Carlton secured \$5.8M through ARPA to fund critical improvements on the wastewater treatment plant. They also secured Congressional Direct Spending Funds (CDS) of \$2.2M with EPA as the funder to replace some major sanitary pipelines on the west side of town. When they were awarded a little over \$1M in CDS again, leaders were thrilled because they had been able to raise rates slowly to funding city match dollars with USDA as the funder. Then the congressional budget Continuing Resolution (CR) last spring did not include their allocation, meaning \$1M of their budget was gone. Carlton altered plans, came up with an alternative scope, and lobbied hard for alternative funds including state resources and future cycles of CDS in order to replace some of what had been lost. Fortunately, with the help and support of Congresswoman Salinas, Carlton was recently notified that the December CR restored the \$1,015,000 for the East Main Street sanitary pipe replacement. They weren't alone. Stayton recovered its allocation of \$1M for wastewater system improvements and Idanha-Detroit Rural Fire Protection District will receive \$2M for station construction. Good news for the Mid-Valley!

South Coast — Jessica LaBerge

South Coast RSAC: At the December meeting we heard from Sara Stephens, Executive Director for Southwest Oregon Workforce Investment Board, who presented on childcare on the south coast. The committee had a robust discussion; there was a lot of interest in elevating rural issues at the state level and speaking with one voice. At the meeting we also celebrated Keith Tymchuk's tenure as Convener for the Advisory Committee after almost 20 years of RS participation. Keith, who was a 6-term mayor of Reedsport, an educator for 43+ years and a passionate advocate for South Coast issues, is looking forward to more fishing and hunting in retirement. Keith is still active on several committees including the Elliott State Forest Board and as incoming President of the OPUD Association. Keith will be missed but we know we'll still work with him on various South Coast initiatives. Thank you Keith for your public service and passion for rural communities!

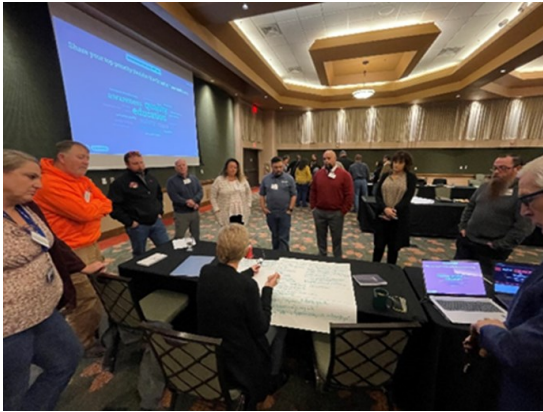


Port of Port Orford: After years of funding challenges, increased construction costs and leadership turnover, the Port has installed two new cranes to lift vessels in and out of the ocean. The previous cranes were rated for 15 tons and 25 tons; the two new cranes are rated for 50 tons each – increasing the potential for larger vessels. Margaret Barber of



Business Oregon's Ports program attended and shared this report: "It was an exciting and well attended event with approximately 100 people congregated on the dock to see the new cranes in operation, lifting a vessel from the ocean up onto the dock. This was followed by remarks from port and community leaders and a barbeque that was open to those in attendance. Attendees were also able to watch fresh seafood being unloaded on the dock at the NorCal facility throughout the event. The two cranes add lift capacity at the Port with 50-ton lift capacity each, as well as strengthened foundations to support the new equipment." Congratulations Port of Port Orford on your new infrastructure!

Construction Workforce Grant Kickoff Event: In mid-November, the Southwestern Oregon Workforce Investment Board (SOWIB) hosted a successful kickoff event for the Construction Workforce Grant, drawing over 25 construction industry partners and more than 20 local and state stakeholders. This event marked the launch of a \$750,000 investment from the Governor's Statewide Activities Grant, aimed at expanding pathways into construction and trades careers for youth and job seekers. The event



featured robust discussions with industry leaders, economic development partners, and community colleges, focusing on identifying workforce gaps and opportunities in the trades. Their insights will help shape the direction of this initiative. This investment will strengthen workforce development efforts across Coos, Curry, Douglas, Jackson, and Josephine counties, with a particular emphasis on housing construction.

Greater Eastern – Courtney Crowell

Cairnspring Flour Mill Project: Regional Solutions continues to stay engaged in the Cairnspring Flour Mill that is being constructed on the CTUIR reservation on their industrial land. It will be a new organic flour mill that takes wheat from across the region and develops it into organic flour options. This is a big new business project in the region and our team is continuing to stay engaged with the company as they develop.

Highway 20 Wildlife Crossing Project: We had our third project team meeting for the Oregon Solutions Highway 20 Wildlife Crossing project recently and things are continuing to move forward. The group is considering a mix of possible solutions that include public safety, signage, habitat interventions, infrastructure, and outreach. We have short, medium and long-term solutions for each of the topic areas and are beginning to look at what would need to be done under each of those ideas. Overall, the collaboration has been great and everyone seems on the same page about the direction that the group is headed.

Northeast – Courtney Crowell

Wallowa Lake Dam Project: Regional Solutions continues to help coordinate conversations on the Wallowa Lake Dam and recently brought the co-fisheries managers together to discuss the maintenance and operations plan for the fish passage of the dam. We will continue to convene partners to move this project along.

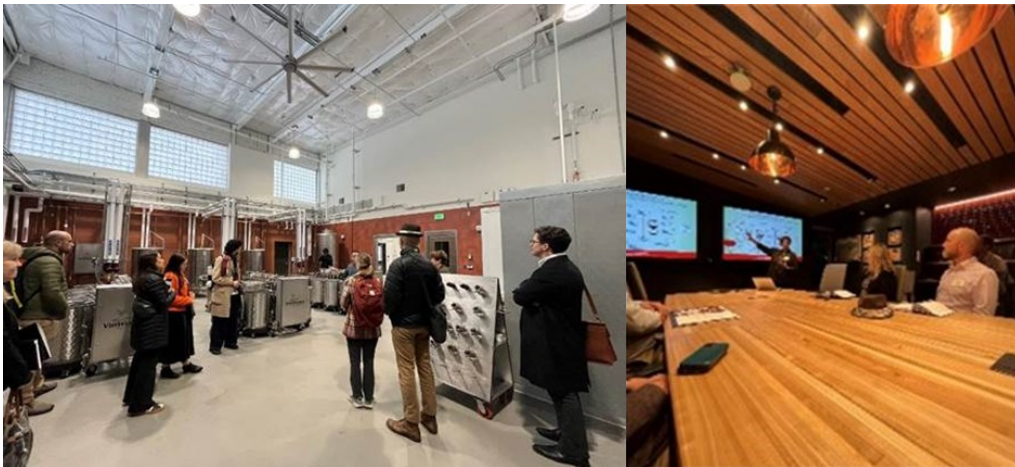
South Valley/Mid-Coast – Courtney Flathers

SVMC RSAC Meeting: The South Valley/Mid-Coast Regional Solutions Advisory Committee met on November 13th in Corvallis. It was the first meeting for newly appointed tribal representative Kerry Brainard, President of the Blue Earth Tribal Corporation. Thank you Kerry for your service! The committee heard a presentation by ECONorthwest staff about the [Southern Willamette Valley Innovation Corridor Initiative](#) before taking a deep dive into water and wastewater infrastructure needs across the region. Rep. Gomberg joined the meeting to share a bit about his work on infrastructure funding in the legislature. Lebanon and Monroe provided updates about their major infrastructure challenges to help demonstrate the scope and scale of infrastructure needs facing communities in the region. Willamette Partnership gave a presentation about their work supporting small, struggling wastewater districts and highlighted their newly developed toolkit for wastewater providers. Our next meeting will be in March with a likely focus on mass timber.

Timberlab Topping Out Celebration: I was honored to join dozens of others in marking the “topping out” of Timberlab’s Independence Hall in Millersburg on November 18th. This 192,000-square-foot facility is expected to be one of the largest cross-laminated timber manufacturing plants in the U.S. Independence Hall is scheduled for completion in early 2027 and projected to produce 7-9 million square feet of CLT annually. When the facility is at full capacity, Timberlab anticipates they will add approximately 100 jobs.



Business Oregon Visit to OSU: In November I joined Business Oregon's Global Trade and Innovation teams on a visit to Oregon State University to learn about some of the university's current programs and partnerships that are advancing Business Oregon's target industries. In addition to getting an introduction to OSU's Economic Development & Industry Relations office, we had the opportunity to learn about several areas of research and innovation happening at the university that directly support economic development efforts in the state, including in bioscience, high tech and semiconductors, food and beverage, and forestry and wood products. The day ended with a tour of the Advanced Technology and Manufacturing Institute (ATAMI) on the HP Campus, an incubator space for small companies, most of which are striving to commercialize OSU technologies. Much appreciation to OSU for hosting us and for the continued commitment to fostering a strong relationship between the state and the university.



SVMC Regional Solutions Team Visit to Halsey: On December 2nd, the South Valley/Mid-Coast Regional Solutions Team spent the morning in Halsey. Our visit focused on the city's water treatment plant project, wastewater treatment needs, and Main Street revitalization and economic development opportunities. We wrapped up the visit with a walk down Main Street on a beautiful December morning. Many thanks to the city for hosting our team. We look forward to continuing to work closely with you in support of your vision for your community.



North Central – Nate Stice

North Central Regional Solutions Advisory Committee: The North Central Regional Solutions Advisory Committee (RSAC) met virtually on December 3, 2025, to talk through priorities for Hood River, Wasco, and Sherman Counties. The group—made up of local leaders from government, business, tribal communities, philanthropy, and nonprofits—spent the first part of the meeting reviewing past work and hearing public comment. In the second hour, the committee presented the regional priorities directly to Governor Tina Kotek.

The committee laid out a mix of statewide and local focus areas. On the statewide side, they emphasized housing production, community resilience, and infrastructure—topics that align closely with the Governor’s broader agenda. Locally, they highlighted economic opportunity for future generations, bi-state collaboration (especially around the Dallesport Airport), and strengthening regional partnerships. The presentation reflected months of collaboration and input from across the region, and the Governor responded with thoughtful feedback and encouragement.

As the meeting wrapped up, RSAC members talked about what’s next in 2026. They’re looking to dig deeper into some of these priority areas, bring in outside voices, and keep building momentum. The conversation with Governor Kotek reinforced the value of regional collaboration and the importance of making sure local perspectives help shape statewide decisions.

North Coast – Nate Stice

Outreach meeting with City of Clatskanie: At the December 4 North Coast Regional Solutions Team meeting, the City of Clatskanie shared updates on several major issues. The biggest concern was the cost of replacing the city’s wastewater treatment plant. With a \$20 million loan and limited grant support, the city is planning a \$120/month increase per sewer hookup. When added to current water and sewer charges, the total monthly utility bill could reach nearly \$300—putting Clatskanie among the highest in the state. Given that over half the population is low-to-moderate income and many renters are already stretched thin, city leaders are looking for ways to reduce the burden and secure more funding.

The group also talked about the proposed NEXT Renewable Fuels project at Port Westward. If it moves forward, it could bring jobs and housing demand to the area, but there are infrastructure concerns—especially traffic impacts and the need for a stoplight at Van Street. Senator Johnson suggested focusing on getting the final federal permit approved first, and then revisiting transportation needs once construction begins. The Governor’s Office is tracking the project as an economic development priority.

Other topics included downtown revitalization, housing development, and administrative capacity. The city is seeing some new housing construction, but wetlands and floodplain issues make expansion tricky. There's interest in brownfield redevelopment and planning grants to support downtown improvements. The team also discussed how small cities are struggling with unfunded mandates and administrative requirements—like public records requests and ethics rules—that can overwhelm limited staff and discourage volunteers.

Resources and Opportunities

Business Oregon's Business Incentives Modernization Project Webinar 12/16

Feedback from economic development stakeholders is helping Business Oregon prioritize proposals to modify existing business incentives, introduce new business incentives, and make administrative changes to increase the effectiveness of their incentives portfolio. As they move from the initial work of generating ideas into Screening & Prioritizing Incentive Options, Business Oregon is hosting a webinar to share the agency's Incentives Modernization workshop findings and outline next steps. Please attend the webinar ready for active engagement on the call.

The webinar takes place on December 16th from 1:00-2:30 pm.

Register for the Webinar by [clicking here](#).

You can also find summaries of the workshop feedback for the Business Incentives Modernization Project and the Statewide Economic Development Strategy, as well as Business Oregon's OEDA presentation, "Modernizing Business Incentives for Tomorrow's Economy" on the agency's [business incentives web page](#), where you can still weigh in by taking the Incentives Modernization survey.

ReOregon Homeowner Assistance and Reconstruction Program (HARP) Closing to New Applications by Year's End

December 2025 is the last month for survivors of the 2020 Labor Day wildfires and straight-line winds to submit new applications for the Homeowner Assistance and Reconstruction Program (HARP).

HARP is part of a suite of wildfire recovery programs called ReOregon, which is funded by a \$422 million [Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery \(CDBG-DR\)](#) from the [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\)](#). HARP, which opened in March 2024, helps survivor homeowners of the 2020 disasters rebuild, repair, replace, or buy a new home, as well as be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses incurred during their recovery. **OHCS has expanded eligibility criteria for these recovery pathways to help more survivors apply before the deadline.**

Applying for HARP is a two-part process. First, the survivor fills out an [Eligibility Questionnaire](#), which will help ReOregon determine whether a homeowner is qualified to apply. If found to be eligible, they will receive an email invitation to begin the full application process. OHCS encourages survivors to start the HARP application process as soon as possible, as it may take some time to gather their documentation for the application. Regional [HARP Intake Centers](#) are available to assist survivors.

During the past several months, HARP has helped 70 survivors buy a new home, and 31 other homeowners have received reimbursement funds. Some survivors have started or are close to completing reconstruction, while many more are making their way through the application process.

Survivors of the 2020 wildfires are highly encouraged to apply for HARP as soon as possible before the Eligibility Questionnaire closes on Dec. 31. If there are people hesitant about applying, OHCS urges them to visit a [new webpage](#) highlighting survivors who have been through the process and received a HARP award for a new home.

To learn more about the application process and expanded eligibility, visit the [HARP website](#). To learn more about all of ReOregon's programs, visit re.oregon.gov.

Mini Grants for Libraries – Apply by January 16, 2026

In 2026, Oregon Humanities will award up to \$25,000 in funding to enable Oregon libraries to create and host events in their own communities around their Consider This theme, Beyond 250, which marks the 250th anniversary of the ratification of the Declaration of Independence. Applicants are welcome to interpret this theme and develop topics that are relevant to their communities. The maximum award per organization is \$3,000. Awards can fund one event or multiple events.

See the [Beyond 250 Toolkit](#) to might spark additional ideas, and utilize the [Mini Grants for Libraries Project Planning Worksheet](#) to help you plan your programming.

Public, volunteer, community college, or tribal libraries and library branches that are located within the state of Oregon are eligible.

Humanities is hosting several opportunities to learn about this funding:

[Online Info Session #2: Tuesday, December 9, at 3:00 pm](#)

["Complete an application together" session: Thursday, January 8, from 12:00 -1:30 pm](#)

Applications are due: Friday, January 16, 2026, by 5:00 p.m., with awards being announced mid-February 2026.

Oregon State Fire Marshal Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grants

The Oregon State Fire Marshal is pleased to announce that the 2026-27 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant application period is

open. This annual federal grant supports projects that strengthen hazardous materials planning, training, and response. State, local, and tribal governments are eligible, with priority given to local emergency planning committees.

Eligible project examples include:

- Developing or updating emergency response plans
- Tabletop, functional or full-scale hazmat exercises
- Transportation-related hazmat training, including lithium-ion battery response
- See the full application for additional eligible project types

Application submissions are due by January 16, 2026. The application, unchanged from last year, is available on the [LEPC webpage](#). Submit completed applications and supporting documents to osfm.hmep@osfm.oregon.gov.

For assistance, contact osfm.hmep@osfm.oregon.gov or call MaryAnn at 971-720-0026 or Michelle at 503-791-1956.

Apply for Water Resources Department Water Project Grants and Loans by Jan. 21st

The Oregon Water Resources Department offers funding for water projects that have economic, environmental, and social-cultural benefits. Many of the past-funded projects produced significant water quality benefits. This competitive funding opportunity is meant for implementation-ready projects including: conservation, reuse, above-ground storage, below-ground storage, streamflow protection or restoration, water distribution, conveyance or delivery systems, and other water resource development projects.

All of the needed information is located on WRD's webpage [Water Project Grants and Loans](#). The application **deadline is January 21, 2026** and there is currently **\$2 Million** available. The funding is typically under-prescribed, so a quality application will be competitive. A handout is available here [Water Project Grant and Loan Handout](#).

This is a good opportunity for community partners, designated management agencies, municipalities, Tribes, and others to receive funding and implement a project that achieves water quality benefits. Pre-application conferences with WRD are highly recommended to improve application quality.

Oregon Department of Agriculture - Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) is now accepting proposals for project ideas as part of the US Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) for 2026. The USDA will make approximately \$2 million available to agriculture industry associations, producer groups, processors, commodity commissions, non-profits, for-profits, and local government agencies in Oregon. Funding for Oregon's program is contingent upon federal funding for the SCBGP.

The USDA defines specialty crops as fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, horticultural, and nursery crops. Oregon ranks among the top 10 nationwide in specialty crop production. For the 2026 SCBGP Request for Proposals, ODA uses a single-phase process called the Grant Proposal Application. Applicants are required to **submit their applications online by noon on Friday, January 30, 2026.**

ODA will offer online, recorded, virtual training to give applicants an in-depth look at the program and explain the grant-writing process step-by-step. Details, including the online training, are posted on ODA's website. <https://oda.direct/SCBGP>

A survey of specialty crop producers, associations, commissions, and other stakeholders to determine priority needs has identified the following 2026 SCBGP funding priorities.

- Leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops.
- Assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops.
- Expanding availability and access to specialty crops.
- Addressing local, regional, and national challenges confronting specialty crop producers.

For such other purposes determined to be appropriate by the Director of the Oregon Department of Agriculture, in consultation with specialty crop stakeholders

Projects that must address one of the identified priorities are still eligible for funding if they meet all other program requirements. Details of the funding priorities can be found at <https://oda.direct/SCBGPpriorities>

In March 2026, an industry advisory committee will evaluate proposals and recommend the selection of top-ranked applicants to the ODA Director. Selected applicants will be submitted to the USDA in the Oregon State Plan Application. Projects chosen to receive funding will be announced by

November 2026.

ODA and the advisory committee are looking for innovative two-and-a-half-year proposals with funding ranging from \$50,000 to \$250,000. They encourage interested parties to work regionally to submit collaborative project proposals that benefit Oregon growers, processors, and partners in other states that share common specialty crops. Those who have received specialty crop grant funds in the past are also encouraged to apply, whether they are interested in building on an existing project or proposing a new project.

Match funding is not required for this program; however, applicants are highly encouraged to provide some level of match to demonstrate the project's importance, value, and sustainability beyond SCBGP funds.

ODA staff can provide applicants with directions on submitting grant proposal applications. Other information is available at <https://oda.direct/SCBGP> or by contacting ODA's Market Access and Certification Program at gabrielle.ugalde@oda.oregon.gov or 503-986-6473.