



RS EXCHANGE REGIONAL SOLUTIONS

Monday, December 22nd, 2025

Upcoming RSAC Meetings

Mid-Valley (Marion, Polk, and Yamhill Counties)

Thursday, January 8th from 1:30-3:30pm

Chemeketa Community College (Salem); Building 9, Room 128

[Virtual Link](#)

A Message from RS Director Amelia Porterfield

Dear Regional Solutions Partners and Friends,

As 2025 winds down, we're reflecting on the good work done and the partnerships built throughout the year. In a time marked by volatility and funding uncertainty, we leaned on each other to continue supporting Oregon's communities - making progress, managing through difficulties, celebrating successes and planning for the future.

Before moving forward into 2026, I wanted to uplift a few highlights from this past year:

- All 11 Regional Solutions Advisory Committees (RSACs) adopted **Regional Priorities for Community & Economic Development**. Priorities can be found on the regional pages on our [website](#).
- Regional Solutions hosted **informational webinars** on topics arising across the state. You can view them here:
 - [Infrastructure Funding 101](#) (Password: !zIOsiD%)
 - [Child Care](#) (Password: A%vH8SgH)
 - [Housing Production](#) (Password: 6YJ+W8T!)
- The Regional Solutions Team conducted a [Workshop and Roundtable at the Oregon Infrastructure Summit](#) in Seaside.
- We shared **over 100 Resources & Opportunities** in the RS Exchange, which now reaches a list of nearly 1400 recipients. Please reach out if you have info we can highlight and share the [sign-up page](#) with others who might be interested!
- And as always, Regional Solutions Teams continued their strong **community outreach**, conducting dozens of site visits to learn about and provide ideas for projects envisioned and underway, and RS Coordinators met with hundreds of individual community leaders to build relationships, offer support and brainstorm solutions.

This is certainly not a comprehensive list of the year's activities - we could never hope to capture on the page all the incredible ways that our communities consistently come together. Looking ahead, we also know we have lots more work to do... and some significant headwinds to manage through. Regional Solutions will be there alongside you, finding ways to uplift Regional Priorities, supporting innovative partnerships, and helping the [Governor's Prosperity Roadmap](#) come to fruition.

We'll be taking a little holiday break from the Exchange so the team can rest and regroup - our next edition will be in your inbox on January 12th. Until then, we offer our appreciation for your partnership and wish you the happiest holidays and a prosperous New Year.

Regional Updates

Central – Scott Aycock

Central Oregon Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) – Regional Interdependence and Alignment: I attended [COIC's](#) CEDS Strategy Committee meeting on December 8, at which Committee members provided updates on [CEDS](#) outcomes and accomplishments to date, including: 1) the establishment of the Central Oregon Innovation Hub; 2) the [Central Oregon Regional Business Alliance's](#) first Forum; 3) [East Cascades Works' Strategic Plan](#) and the accomplishments of their [Business Response Network](#); 4) significant outcomes to date from [NeighborImpact's Childcare Provider Resources](#) program; 5) housing-related updates including the development and evolution of the [Regional Housing Council](#) (RHC) and efforts to align the [Coordinated Houseless Response Office](#), the regional [Multi-Agency Coordination \(MAC\) Group](#), and the [Homeless Leadership Coalition](#); 6) an update from [Visit Bend](#) on efforts to diversify the tourism industry; 7) coordination of regional infrastructure development (e.g. [CORE3](#), Highway 97 improvements, etc.); 8) COIC's Community Resource Development program of technical assistance to local communities to support infrastructure development; and 9) regional efforts to prioritize broadband investments. The group plans to update the CEDS to reflect these accomplishments as well as to incorporate and respond to new developments such as recent federal policies impacting health care.

The Strategy Committee benefits from the participation of an extraordinarily skilled and interconnected group of individuals and agencies, and the group plans to continue meeting together to deepen and expand their coordination efforts. The Committee aims to connect the CEDS work with the Central Oregon Regional Business Alliance and with local economic development plans such as Invest Bend, and to engage these local and regional economic development efforts with Governor Kotek's Prosperity Roadmap. I remain impressed with Central Oregon's culture of local/regional coordination, alignment and engagement!

South Central – Scott Aycock

Business Oregon RDO Transition – Thank You Larry Holzgang! After 30 years serving rural Eastern Oregon with Business Oregon, South-Central Regional Development Officer (RDO) Larry Holzgang is retiring at the end of December. I have had the pleasure of working with Larry on projects in Harney and Lake County in the past, and recently with the South-Central Regional Solutions Team. In addition to serving as an RDO, Larry also served as a subject matter expert on the timber/wood products industry for



the agency. Larry is highly knowledgeable about community economic development needs and history, and brought a great deal of commitment, professionalism, and a personal touch to his work. Larry will be replaced Marta Tarantsey, who has been the RDO for Jackson and Josephine counties since 2017 (and who will continue serving those counties). Marta brings energy, experience, and creativity to her work and will be a great asset to Klamath and Lake counties. We at Regional Solutions wish Larry all the best in his well-earned retirement!

Metro – Kathy Hyzy

League of Oregon Cities' Presidential Regional Meeting: It was great to see a big crowd at the regional LOC meeting, hosted by the City of Sherwood at the wonderful Sherwood Center for the Arts! LOC Board President Mayor Engleke of North Bend helped facilitate a fascinating discussion of LOC's revenue reform project. Oregon's cities and counties are increasingly squeezed by rising costs and caps on property tax and other revenue sources, and LOC is working to identify strategies to enact reform, as well as low-hanging fruit to help cities access the resources they need to provide basic services. The discussion focused on brainstorming the best tools for reaching local communities in the Metro region, but also touched on broader topics. The outreach work LOC has been doing has revealed how much even city electeds have to learn about how Oregon's tax structure works—a point many electeds in the room made. LOC's [Local Revenue Tools Guidebook](#) is a great resource for cities. Thanks to the LOC team for all the work you've done to bring this discussion to cities across the state.

Siltronic Site Visit: Regional Solutions joined forces with Business Oregon staff, Mayor Wilson's office, and Prosper Portland for a window tour of Siltronic's Portland plant. One of five major wafer manufacturers in the world, Siltronic primarily produces 200 mm wafers at this facility. In the photo of Siltronic Portland President Subramania Krishnakumar,



you can see in the background one of the enormous crystals of pure silicon. These are produced at a facility in Germany, then shipped to Portland to be cut into extremely thin wafers and polished to a mirror finish – work that is performed in clean rooms every step of the process. These wafers are then further developed into chips by other companies in the semiconductor industry. The 84-acre campus was established in 1978, making it one of the longest-standing in the industry, and employs roughly 400 workers. Siltronic has a large solar farm on site and several resident deer families that wander through, and they hope to expand their operations in the future by repurposing a currently unused fab building on site.



Micro Systems Engineering Inc Site Visit: Regional Solutions paid a visit to MSEI's manufacturing facility in Lake Oswego to learn more about the fascinating, life-saving devices they manufacture. With a workforce of approximately 450, they design and produce medical microelectronics. This includes components for devices made by other manufacturers as well as implantable devices like pacemakers. They are seeing a lot of growth in devices that incorporate AI technology and apply it to the development of brain-computer interfaces. These devices are helping blind people to regain vision, helping to reverse paralysis, and helping to treat many other neurological challenges. As component manufacturers with a strong engineering team, they sometimes serve an informal accelerator role for startups, working with them to refine ideas and design the custom components for their inventions. We heard about the supply chain challenges they are managing in the face of unpredictable tariffs, and how automation continues to keep them competitive in the marketplace.



African Youth and Community Organization

Meeting: Governor Kotek and First Lady Kotek-Wilson joined other Oregon leaders for a meeting with the Metro region's Somali-American

community. AYCO hosted the gathering at their Dream Center on 82nd Avenue in Portland. The brand-new building serves as a hub for immigrants and refugees of the African Diaspora, and will be the first culturally-specific resiliency hub in the state! The Governor and First Lady enjoyed great food and honest conversations with attendees who shared their stories of coming to Oregon, many as children fleeing violence, gaining citizenship and education and going on to raise families of their own, start successful business, and pursue the same vision of prosperity shared by Oregonians everywhere.

South Valley/Mid-Coast – Courtney Flathers

Governor Kotek Attends Rose Street Ribbon Cutting: On a sunny December day Governor Kotek joined local leaders and community members to celebrate the completion of the Rose Street neighborhood in Blue River. This neighborhood developed by the [McKenzie Community Land Trust](#) (MCLT) consists of six new, fire-resistant homes that will be made available to Holiday Farm Fire survivors and the local workforce earning 80% or less of area median income. Under the community land trust model, MCLT will own the land in perpetuity to ensure affordability and homeowners will purchase the houses. The McKenzie Community Land Trust is a nonprofit organization founded in 2022 to serve the entire McKenzie River Valley and has purchased two additional properties in Blue River it plans to develop.



EDA Main Street Revitalization Project in Cottage Grove:

Congratulations to the City of Cottage Grove who celebrated the official reopening of Main Street to east-west traffic on December 12th. Cottage Grove's Main Street Revitalization Project is funded in part by a \$5 million EDA grant to upgrade infrastructure (water, sewer, sidewalks, and streets), enhance the historic district's appeal with new lights, benches, and landscaping, and improve ADA accessibility. In addition to the EDA grant, the city provided \$1.3 million in match funds for a total project cost of \$6.3 million. The official Main Street Opening Ceremony will be scheduled for the spring of 2026.

Eastern – Courtney Crowell

Grassy Mountain Mine: After years (or decades) of work, the draft permits for the Grassy Mountain Mine in Malheur County are out for public comment. This is a huge accomplishment for this project and a public hearing will take place in January in Vale, OR.

Ash Grove Cement Low Carbon Mill Ribbon Cutting: I attended the grand-opening/ribbon cutting event for the Ash Grove low carbon cement mill in Durkee, OR. This was a \$70 million expansion that will allow Ash Grove to produce 20% more cement while keeping the carbon output at the same level. I will be arranging another business visit for early 2026 and bringing Regional Solutions representatives from both Business Oregon and DEQ with me.

LUBGWMA Advisory Committee Meeting: We held the quarterly LUBGWMA Advisory Committee meeting recently and had a chance to update the committee with the progress that state agencies are making towards the implementation of the Nitrate Reduction Plan. It was a great discussion between committee members and the state agencies about the work happening in the basin.

Southern – Jessica LaBerge

Floating Solar Project – Medford Irrigation District: I'm excited to share that MID's innovative floating solar project is making great progress! This month, solar installation crews are on-site constructing the infrastructure needed to deploy the floating platforms onto the pond, where solar panels will soon be mounted. Under Oregon's Community Solar Program, this energy will be offered to businesses and Jackson County

residents, and at least 30% to low-income community members. In addition, Southern Oregon University (SOU) is partnering with MID to study the environmental impacts of floating solar technology. Their research will focus on how the system affects aquatic life, vegetation, and overall ecosystem health, while also gathering data on how water-based solar installations perform compared to traditional land-based systems.

Floating solar is still a relatively new concept, this is the first one in Oregon I believe—and there is more to learn about its environmental and performance implications. Funding partners include the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) and Energy Trust of Oregon, whose support is helping bring this forward-thinking initiative to life.

South Coast – Jessica LaBerge

South Coast RSAC Update: As we wrap up 2025, we have much to be thankful for—especially the strong partnerships within our community. The South Coast Regional Solutions Advisory Committee (RSAC) would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Diana Carter of Brookings CORE Response for her service as our Community-Based Organization (CBO) representative. As Diana steps down from the committee, we want to acknowledge and appreciate her valuable contributions.

With Diana’s departure, the South Coast RSAC currently has two open positions:

- Convener
- Community-Based Organization (CBO) Representative

If you live in and represent Douglas, Coos, or Curry Counties, we encourage you to consider applying to join the committee and help shape the future of our region. [Link here.](#)

Resources and Opportunities

Oregon Housing & Community Services Funding Trainings

The OHCS Homeownership Development team is offering a series of funding availability training sessions in the new year and ahead of the 2026 NOFA. Find more information and register at the links below:

LIFT-HO 101: Navigating LIFT for Affordable Homeownership Developers

Jan. 8, 2026, 2-3:30 p.m. PDT

This foundational training is designed for developers or staff members new to the LIFT Homeownership (LIFT-HO) Program, which supports the creation of permanently affordable homeownership opportunities using a shared equity model. Participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of the program's policies and expectations from application through project closeout and long-term stewardship. Whether you're new to LIFT or looking to refresh your knowledge, this session will equip you with the tools and insights needed to successfully navigate the program.

Applying with Confidence: A Step-by-Step Guide to the HOD NOFA Process

Jan. 15, 2026, 2-3:30 p.m. PDT

This training provides a detailed walkthrough of the updated biennial multistep application process for the Homeownership Development Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA). Designed for both new and returning development partners, the session will clarify each stage of the application from initial intent to apply through final award and outline key timelines and documentation requirements. Participants will leave with a clear understanding of what to expect and how to prepare to apply.

Application Essentials: Scoring Rubric to Submission

Jan. 29, 2026, 2-3:30 p.m. PDT

This technical training is designed for development partners seeking a deeper understanding of the LIFT Homeownership (LIFT-HO) Program's application and evaluation process. The session will provide a detailed breakdown of the scoring criteria used to assess proposals, guidance on how to prepare and present required documentation, and tips for aligning submissions with program priorities.

ODA Specialty Crop Block Grant Program – Apply by January 30th

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) receives grant funding from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to enhance the competitiveness of Oregon's specialty crops. ODA accepts competitive applications for specialty crop grant funds annually. [The SCBGP is now open and accepting applications](https://data.oda.state.or.us/scbqp.html) at their new online application system: <https://data.oda.state.or.us/scbqp.html>.

To be eligible for a grant, the project(s) must "enhance the competitiveness of U.S. specialty crops" in either domestic or foreign markets. Crops that are eligible:

- Fruits
- Vegetables
- Tree nuts
- Dried fruits
- Christmas trees
- Turf type grasses
- Nursery crops (including floriculture and horticulture)

A complete list of eligible and ineligible crops under the grant program can be found at the [USDA specialty crop block grant website](#).

Applicant eligibility: The following types of organizations can submit projects that aim to enhance the production and competitiveness of Oregon's specialty crop industries:

- Non-profit organizations
- Local
- Government entities
- For-profit organizations
- Industry trade associations
- Producer groups
- Commodity commissions
- Public and private colleges/universities

Exclusions:

- Grant funds will not be awarded for projects that directly benefit or provide profit only to a single organization, institution, or individual.
- Funds may not be used to purchase fixed assets or personal property.
- Expenditures incurred prior to grant award may not be included in the grant request or eligible for reimbursement.
- Administration or indirect costs (defined as expenses incurred in controlling or directing an organization, but not directly identifiable with financing, marketing, or production operations) cannot be paid for with these grant funds.

Applications must be received by January 30, 2026 at 12:00 pm (noon).