



RS EXCHANGE

REGIONAL SOLUTIONS

June 27, 2023

Introducing the Regional Solutions Team

During the month of June, we've been happy to welcome four new Coordinators to the Regional Solutions Program. These new staff add great energy and breadth of backgrounds to our experienced team and we're all eager to get to work with you. Our new and continuing staff are working hard to connect with partners across the state and deepen our understanding of the most pressing needs in each community. Read on for a little information about each of us, the areas we serve and the best way to contact us. You may also reach any of us by phone at our main **Regional Solutions line: 503-378-8636**. Please let us know how we can be of help!



Amelia Porterfield – Amelia.Porterfield@Oregon.gov

Regional Solutions Director

Metro Region: Clackamas, Multnomah & Washington Counties

It's been a great pleasure to join Governor Kotek's team and the Regional Solutions Program and get to know the many of you who've had a long history with this work. Having grown up in Bend and spending half my life on either side of the Cascades, I know how different (and similar!) the needs are in Oregon's varied communities and how possible it is to affect change when people pull together. In addition to serving as Regional Solutions Director, at present I am also supporting the Metro Region. Based in Portland and working from the Governor's Office in Salem, I also seek opportunities to join our regional staff in the field and hear from communities around the state how we can make this collaboration stronger. I hope to see you soon!



Beth Wytoski – Beth.Wytoski@Oregon.gov

Mid-Valley Region: Marion, Polk & Yamhill Counties

I am so excited to join Regional Solutions and support local governments and partners in community and economic development work. I have passionately served local government for more than 15 years and I have deeply enjoyed being a part of good governance with many years on the Dayton City Council, including 9 years as Mayor, where I worked on infrastructure improvements including parks, transportation, downtown facades, water, wastewater, and property development. I was also the Chair of Yamhill Community Action Partnership (YCAP), the President of the Oregon Mayors Association, and a high school teacher of advanced courses in Economics and Government. My background also includes extensive agricultural work, as a third-generation nurseryman who still often spends weekends helping on my family's farm just outside of Dayton. I look forward to supporting your projects and working collaboratively to find solutions that work.



Courtney Crowell – Courtney.Crowell@Oregon.gov

Greater Eastern Region: Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla & Wheeler Counties

Northeastern Region: Baker, Union & Wallowa Counties

I'm excited to continue working in Eastern Oregon and advancing the work of our local communities. I've been working as the Eastern Oregon Regional Solutions coordinator for the past six years and am excited to continue working across our great region. I'm based in Baker City but work across all of Eastern Oregon. Please reach out if you need anything.



Courtney Flathers – Courtney.L.Flathers@Oregon.gov

South-Valley/Mid-Coast Region: Benton, Lane, Lincoln & Linn Counties

Greetings! I am excited to (re)connect with the region and help move important projects forward as part of Governor Kotek's Regional Solutions team. I'm joining Regional Solutions after a year at Business Oregon, the state's economic development agency, where I was responsible for leading the department's engagement with Oregon public ports and helping them fulfill their economic development mission. Prior to my time at Business Oregon, I served as U.S. Senator Merkley's Field Representative in the South Valley/Mid-Coast Region for nearly five years. My family calls Junction City home and I will be working from the Eugene Regional Solutions Center.



Jessica LaBerge – Jessica.LaBerge@Oregon.gov

South Coast Region: Coos, Curry & Douglas Counties

Southern Oregon Region: Jackson & Josephine Counties

Hello partners! I'm excited to meet you, hear from you, and do this important work! I am joining the Regional Solutions team with an extensive emergency management background and experience working at the community level in counties across Oregon. Most recently the Disaster Services Program Manager at Catholic Charities of Oregon, where I served Oregonians impacted by the 2020 and 2021 wildfires. I have worked in the public sector, including as Emergency Services Manager for Josephine County and for Oregon Health Authority during the COVID-19 response. I'm based in Grants Pass and will be working from the Medford Regional Solutions Center.



Nate Stice – Nate.Stice@Oregon.gov

North Central Region: Hood River, Sherman & Wasco Counties

North Coast Region: Clatsop, Columbia & Tillamook Counties

I'm excited to continue working with communities in the North Central Region and also deepen relationships with communities in the North Coast Region. This July will mark my seventh year of service in Regional Solutions. While I make my home in The Dalles, I try to make it to the North Coast and to other areas of the North Central Region every week. Please let me know how the team and I can be of service.



Zavier Borja – Zavier.Borja@Oregon.gov

Central Region: Crook, Deschutes & Jefferson Counties

South Central Region: Klamath & Lake Counties

Hello key stakeholders! I'm excited to meet, collaborate and help serve our regions together! I am joining the Regional Solutions team with an extensive community engagement background. Prior to this role, I was Community Relations Manager with the City of Bend, working to increase access to City services. I have been actively engaged with organizations that serve Central Oregon and the whole state of Oregon such as Heart of Oregon Corps, Bend Parks and Recreation District, Grey Family Foundation, Latino Community Association, The Roundhouse Foundation and Oregon Community Foundation. And in 2019-2020 I was able to form and establish the non-profit Vamonos Outside. I am currently based in Bend and look forward to traveling around our regions.



Zach Piippo – Zach.Piippo@Oregon.gov

Regional Solutions Assistant

Scheduler for Director Porterfield

Hello! It has been great meeting many of you over the last several months and I am excited to continue my work with the Regional Solutions team. I'm based in Portland and work from the Governor's office in Salem. Please let me know if there are any questions or anything I can do to help!

Regional Project Updates

North Central Region

Wasco County Housing and Housing and Houselessness Taskforce:

As a follow on to the Mid-Columbia Houseless Collaborative, the Mid-Columbia Columbic Community Action Council is launching Housing and Houselessness taskforce in Hood River, Sherman, and Wasco Counties. The taskforce includes members of key service organizations, law enforcement, local government, faith communities, and others. These groups will develop work plans centered around four key goals areas: 1) shelter; 2) services; 3) housing; 4) advocacy.

Housing remains a top priority for the North Central Region, and I was invited to participate in an advisory role for the launch of the Wasco County Housing Taskforce. The team has active projects which will intersect and hopefully support the work of the taskforce in each county. Many thanks to MCCAC and in particular, Kelli Horvath, for advancing the work in this important area.

North Coast Region

Pier 2 West: Pier 2 West at the Port of Astoria is home to three large seafood processors and is an economic driver to the region and the state. Pier 2's supporting structure has exceeded its useful life and is at risk of complete failure. A large portion of its sub-structural timber

components are in poor to critical condition. Large steel plates have been laid down on various portions of the dock to cover the gaping holes in the asphalt and concrete decking. Sections of the dock are cordoned off from any use. The Oregon Dept of Transportation imposed a 3-ton weight limit on the dock which limits transportation access and increases handling costs. Although these measures allow operations to continue, they present significant safety issues and reduce the efficiency of the operations on the pier. The rapidly deteriorating condition imperils the reliability of the movement of goods across the pier. Without significant investment in the structure, fish processing operations and the nearly 600 jobs supported by the industry are in peril. Failure of the pier would force the relocation of current operations and the loss of 500-600 jobs on the piers in a disadvantaged area of the state. It would damage the competitiveness of this industry in the state as the processors would have increased transportation costs. The Port conducted an alternatives analysis and feasibility assessment and completed a 30% design for the preferred alternative. The estimated cost for improvements is \$19 million.

Update: Business Oregon Team member Melanie Olson secured an additional \$583,000 through Business Oregon's Emerging Opportunity Fund program for preconstruction costs on the project. This amount adds to the \$617,000 already secured by Olson for the project previously. The project is on Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici's priority list for community project funding in 2024, and the Port has additionally submitted a grant application through the U.S. Maritime Administration's competitive Port Infrastructure Development Program.

Metro Region

Government Camp Rest Area

Since winter 2020, discussions have been underway between Timberline Lodge, the community of Government Camp, the Governor's Office and state and federal agencies to rethink infrastructure on Mount Hood. The rest area at Government Camp is old and in poor condition, causes traffic challenges, and is in such high demand that it taxes the capacity of the adjoining Summit Ski Area parking lot, especially for truck traffic. Concerns have also been raised that the increasing pass-through and visiting traffic to the mountain is creating safety issues and high levels of greenhouse gas emissions. A recent change to a concession of a ski slope at Government Camp and a transit planning effort related to Mount Hood have spurred discussion about improving the mountain's infrastructure. Under the guidance of Oregon Solutions and the leadership of the Project Steering Committee, the Mt. Hood Rest Area Relocation Project received \$715,000 in Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) funding for the first phase of concept development and site selection for a relocated rest area. The approval of FLAP funding followed an 18-month collaborative process that brought together interested parties led by Oregon Solutions in coordination with Regional Solutions. This summer Regional Solutions staff are working closely with Oregon Solutions staff and the Project Steering Committee to ensure the project keeps momentum as we await the future funding from the FLAP program.

South Coast Region

GMA Garnet Facility in Coos Bay – Inaugural Ship Offload Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Garnet is a natural occurring mineral which GMA mines in Montana. GMA is a global leader in industrial garnet and has been providing garnet abrasives to the waterjet cutting and protective coating industries for over 35 years. In recent years, the dock infrastructure and channel depth has been inadequate to bring in the transport ships; resulting in the material having to be

offloaded in a different location and trucked into the Coos Bay processing facility. This was costly and inefficient. GMA, the Port of Coos Bay, South Coast Development Council, and other local agencies invested funds to breathe life back into site infrastructure and dredge the channel. Now that this project is complete, we were able to celebrate the first time that a ship has been able to dock and offload here in nearly 20 years.



Resources and Opportunities

DLCD Funding for Housing Planning Assistance to Local Governments

DLCD has opened their application process for new funding to support local governments seeking to increase housing production, affordability, and choice during the 2023-25 biennium.

This funding was allocated by the Oregon Legislature during the 2023 Session to assist local governments in critical housing planning work. Since last biennium, DLCD has adjusted the application process to make completing an application easier and more straightforward. Below are links to documents that provide detailed context and instructions to complete the application:

1. A [one-page summary](#) of the various grant programs available at DLCD.
2. A [grant packet](#) providing detailed information about housing planning assistance priorities.
3. An [application form](#) with detailed instructions on how to apply for assistance.
4. A [sample work program](#) containing detailed tasks and products for a variety of common project types that an applicant may request.

In addition to these materials, the DLCD Housing Team held and recorded a [webinar](#) explaining the application process, and a [Question and Answer Session](#), both of which are available online.

Because this is a competitive application process, not every community project identified in this application will be funded. However, DLCD will do their best to maximize available resources while ensuring each project has the resources necessary for success. Prioritization of projects will be determined based on the factors identified in the Planning Assistance Grant Packet. To increase the likelihood that your jurisdiction will receive assistance, please read the attachments carefully and respond to the criteria listed in the application. To apply, please

return the application form(s) to DLCD.GFGrant@dlcd.oregon.gov with your [Regional Representative](#) copied by **close of business on July 31, 2023**. Applicants are asked to submit a unique form for each requested project.

- If you have questions about the Housing Planning program or projects funded by this round of planning assistance, please contact the Housing Team at Housing.dlcd@dlcd.oregon.gov.
- If you have questions about the Grant Program or application process, please contact Angela Williamson, Grants and Periodic Review Administrative Specialist, at Angela.williamson@dlcd.oregon.gov.
- For all correspondence, please include the appropriate [Regional Representative](#).

New Technical Assistance Grants for Transportation Projects in Rural and Tribal Communities

USDOT opened the [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) for a new technical assistance [Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program](#). The NOFO combines two years of funding (Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023), \$3.4 million in total, to provide grants to eligible applicants on a first-come, first-served basis. Individual awards will range in value up to the statutory limit of \$360,000. As part of the Administration's commitment to advancing equity and opportunity for all American Indians and Alaska Natives, the Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program will set aside up to \$800,000 for each fiscal year for Tribal applicants.

There is no local funding match required to participate in this program. Grants may be used to hire staff or advisors to assist with early development-phase activities including, but not limited to, feasibility studies; preliminary engineering and design; environmental review; revenue forecasting; financial feasibility analysis; statutory and regulatory analysis and drafting and negotiation of agreements. The Build America Bureau has created a simple, four-page funding application, available [here](#), and will **begin accepting submissions at 2:00 p.m. ET on August 14, 2023**. USDOT hosted a free informational webinar to provide more information for interested applicants and a recording of the webinar and a copy of the presentation are available [here](#).

ODOE Publishes Online Tracker for Federal Funding Opportunities

The Oregon Department of Energy has developed a [new spreadsheet](#) to track energy-related funding opportunities through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act.

Significant investments are [coming to Oregon](#) thanks to these federal acts – and we look forward to working with other state agencies and public and private partners to weave these opportunities together to help achieve Oregon's goals. Programs in the federal acts will support Oregon's equitable clean energy transition, grow our economy, protect the environment and public health, create jobs, and more. The goal of this tracker is to help Oregonians learn more about opportunities relevant to their work.

The spreadsheet is available for download on [ODOE's website](#); it will be updated regularly as program information changes or the agency learns of new additions. It includes information about program type, available funding, eligible applicants, helpful links, and more. The tracker is updated weekly and links are checked monthly.