



RS EXCHANGE

REGIONAL SOLUTIONS

Monday, August 7, 2023

Regional Updates

South Coast Region – Jessica LaBerge

- Regional Solutions toured the Fred Wahl Marine property last week with Fred. They are one of very few companies along the west coast who upgrade and repair boats of this size, up to 140' long and 60' wide. They sit on 38 acres; a large part of their business is making Alaskan fishing and crabbing boats longer or wider. They also build fishing/crabbing boats for sale. Fred said they have been very impacted by the closure of Alaskan King and Snow Crab harvest the last 3 seasons in the Bering Sea and Bristol Bay. Workforce retention, development and recruitment were also mentioned as a business challenge, this is felt up and down the coast. Regional Solutions is working with local partners to increase communication on workforce needs, regional training opportunities and workforce housing.

Mid Valley Region – Beth Wytoski

- After the devastating fires of 2020, the Santiam region has faced a multitude of challenges. The destruction affecting the cities of Detroit, Gates, Mill City, and Sweet Home resulted in the losses of homes, belongings, vehicles, pets, and in some cases, loved ones. Neighbors of these cities have mobilized to help by donating cash, time, and materials for recovery in an incredible story of community. One such effort coordinated suppliers and volunteers for a project known as the **Santiam Shed Build**. Storage areas were needed for many residents to protect items that survived the fires and to store belongings while homes were being rebuilt. Donors included several councils and committees within the Oregon-Columbia Chapter of Associated General Contractors, the Professional and Industry Associates Council, the Construction Leadership Council, the Salem Chapter of the National Association of Women in Construction, Weyerhaeuser; and several high school CTE programs spent time in spring and summer classes to build the sheds. More than 3,000 volunteer work hours were contributed toward the project resulting in the placement of hundreds of sheds in the area, reaching their goal and completing the project.



The Santiam Long Term Recovery Group is another organization of community leaders and volunteers working to support those affected by the fires. They have many projects that are ongoing. One element is their work with Santiam Disaster Services, an arm of the Santiam Hospital that has been providing case management including support for navigating insurance, FEMA claims, housing vouchers, and social programs. They also have facilitated the replacement of durable medical equipment, furniture, and household goods. They have provided food, eye glasses, gas cards, and move-in costs for survivors. Their efforts have been incredible and the need is ongoing. Please visit [Santiam Recovery](https://www.santiamrecovery.org) @ <https://www.santiamrecovery.org> for more information including updated unmet needs and ways that you can help. Some help is likely on the way as Marion County recently secured \$12 million from the appropriation to OHCS through HB 5006 (2021). The Marion County Board of Commissioners, in partnership with the LTRG will be able to provide grants to primary homeowners still without permanent housing. This will bring some families the last bit of funding needed to finish their homes and for others, it will finally allow the rebuilding to begin after a long wait.

Resources and Opportunities

- **EPA Climate Action Funding Fair August 7th-11th**

EPA is hosting the **Investing in America: Climate Action Funding Fair** online the week of August 7, 2023. Representatives from various federal agencies, academia, and non-profit organizations will present their insights on key funding programs and share ideas on opportunities for leveraging complementary incentives. The fair is a virtual series of events designed to assist states, local governments, Tribes, and territories to effectively identify, navigate, and prepare to leverage the many federal funding opportunities available as they develop climate action plans as required under EPA's [Climate Pollution Reduction Grant \(CPRG\)](#) program. Attendees will gain a better understanding of the many funding opportunities available to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as how they may interact to achieve greater outcomes. Each of the 90 – 120 minute sessions will include a panel discussion, agency-specific presentations, and Q&A. All sessions will be recorded and available for viewing after the event. For more information or to register, visit the [CPRG site](#).

- **OHCS Funding Available for Homeless Housing Response and Capacity Strengthening**

On August 1, OHCS announced the release of the Homeless Housing Response and Capacity Strengthening Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA). This NOFA provides resources for developing service-enriched housing for people experiencing or at-risk of homelessness, veterans, and domestic violence survivors in rural communities, and helping rural communities increase capacity to develop service-enriched housing.

Funding Sources and Amounts:

- HOME-ARP development: \$25 million
- HOME-ARP operating support and capacity building: \$3 million
- GHAP capacity building: \$2 million

NOFA materials, important dates, and information can be accessed at <https://www.oregon.gov/ohcs/development/Pages/nofa23-homearp.aspx>.

Pre-applications are due by 4 p.m. Friday, Aug. 11. Questions regarding this NOFA should be submitted to MFNOFA.HCS@hcs.oregon.gov with “Homeless Housing Response NOFA” in the subject line. Full NOFA applications are due by 4 p.m. PST Friday, Oct. 13.

- **Oregon Broadband Office Seeks Feedback on Five-Year Action Plan by August 11**

The Oregon Broadband Office has worked to complete the draft [Five-Year Action Plan](#) and wants to hear your feedback. Review the plan and [submit your feedback here](#). The comment period for the draft plan will **close at 5:00 pm PST on August 11, 2023**. The Oregon Broadband Office will consider the comments received as they work to finalize the Five-Year Action Plan and develop the next step, the Initial Proposal. Upon completion of the draft, Oregon Broadband Office will submit the plan to NTIA by August 28, 2023. The Five-Year Action Plan serves as a foundation for alignment with future Initial and Final Proposals. The Initial and Final Proposals are the comprehensive plan on how the Oregon Broadband Office will administer the \$689M from NTIA. The Initial and Final Proposals will be informed by, complementary to, and expand upon Oregon's Five-Year Action Plan.

- **Travel Oregon Competitive Grants for 2023-2025**

Ten percent of Travel Oregon’s budget is dedicated to a competitive grants program for projects that contribute to the development and improvement of local economies and communities throughout Oregon by means of the enhancement, expansion and promotion of the visitor industry. Projects support Travel Oregon’s vision of ‘an Oregon that is a welcoming destination where tourism drives economic prosperity, benefits the natural environment and celebrates rich, diverse cultures.’

The [2023-2025 Competitive Grants Program](#) is designed to address the following strategic priorities that are part of [Travel Oregon’s 2023-2025 Biennial Plan](#):

- 1) Reduce high visitation pressures and increase community livability by investing in the development of niche tourism product that is based on growing visitor demand and Oregon’s competitive advantage (e.g., outdoor recreation, culinary, agritourism, arts and culture).
- 2) Expand opportunities for residents and tourism stakeholders to actively engage and collaborate in destination management processes.

3) Align and support communications across the tourism industry to improve visitor behaviors and experiences with timely information, responsible recreation practices and respect for all communities.

4) Support the development of new and existing tourism-related facilities and products (e.g., visitor experiences, attractions, and public spaces) to better serve historically and currently underserved and under-resourced communities.

The Letter of Intent (LOI) form will be accepted through August 18, 2023. The total funding available for this grant cycle is more than \$3 million.

Read the [grant guidelines](#) to see eligibility requirements, funding parameters and application questions. Please direct questions to grants@traveloregon.com.

Travel Oregon is hosting a lunch-hour Q&A session via Zoom on [Aug. 11, 12-1 p.m.](#)

- **Governor Kotek Seeks Applicants for Boards & Commissions**

The Governor makes appointments to over 250 Boards and Commissions representing a broad range of areas and issues for the State of Oregon. Members of Oregon State Boards and Commissions are vital participants in statewide decision-making and dedicated individuals have the opportunity to participate in developing a wide variety of important governmental policies — all of which are critical to the ongoing success of the State of Oregon.

The Governor is committed to ensuring that all Boards and Commissions represent the growing age, racial and gender diversity of the state, and seeks applicants from around Oregon. Several opportunities are currently available:

- Independent Living Council
- Advisory Committee on DUII
- Trust for Cultural Development
- Human Rights Commission (works on issues for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities) – Need a sibling of someone with an ID or DD
- Licensing Boards recruiting for public members:
 - Construction Contractors Board
 - Plumbing Board
 - Residential & Manufactured Structures Board
 - Veterinary Board
 - Chiropractic Board
 - Physical Therapy Board
 - Naturopathic Medicine Board
 - Massage Therapist Board

People interested in applying can find the application and other information on our website: [Governor of Oregon : Boards & Commissions : State of Oregon](#).