



RS EXCHANGE

REGIONAL SOLUTIONS

Tuesday, September 5, 2023

Regional Updates

Greater Eastern Oregon – Courtney Crowell

- **Baker City Maternity Service Shutdown:** St. Alphonsus officially shuttered the maternity services at the Baker City hospital this last week. The community continues to grieve over the loss of this facility and express their frustration at the situation on the ground. The public health services officers that Governor Kotek and Senators Wyden and Merkley requested from US Health and Human Services Secretary arrived on the ground in Baker City over the past few weeks and hit the ground running in meeting with the community, county, hospital, nurses, and medical community. Regional Solutions is meeting with them multiple times each week to help them get access to the resources they need both locally and at the state level. These public health service officers are working on providing an assessment to the county for recommendations related to the short-term and long-term barriers related to maternity services in the community. That assessment is scheduled to be completed this week and we should get a final report soon.
- **LUBGWMA:** Last week the state held community forums in both Umatilla and Morrow Counties where nearly 400 community members attended. These events were opportunities for community members to access safer water services and talk with subject matter experts about the drinking water situation in the Lower Umatilla Groundwater Management Area. The state had multiple state agency experts including OHA toxicologists and epidemiologists on hand to talk with community members as well as community-based organizations to offer support to community members. Additionally, the state provided incentive giveaways like backpacks with school supplies for kids heading back to school.

Central Region – Xavier Borja

Governor Visits Jefferson, Crook, Deschutes Counties on One Oregon Tour

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of last week, Governor Tina Kotek and First Lady Aimee Kotek Wilson visited community members during stops in Culver, Madras, Prineville, Redmond, Bend, and Sisters on the One Oregon Listening Tour.



The tour began with a tour of Macy Farms in Culver. Jefferson County produces 55% of the world's carrot seed. Macy Farms is a multi-generational family farm specializing in carrot seed, potato seeds, and mint. They were joined by the manager of the North Unit Irrigation District to discuss water issues in the basin.

The First Couple then had a working lunch with Jefferson County leaders at Madras Public House, before heading to a briefing at the Madras Campus of Central Oregon Community College to learn about their expansion plans to address the area's health care and early childhood workforce needs.

In Crook County, the Governor and First Lady attended a roundtable discussion at BestCare, the largest behavioral health provider serving Central Oregon. The topics discussed included serving individuals with serious mental illness who are experiencing homelessness, the substance use crisis fueled by fentanyl, and the lack of services for youth with mental health or addiction challenges. They wrapped up their first day with dinner at the ranch home of House Republican Leader Vikki Breese Iverson.

On Thursday, they started bright and early at Debbie Sue’s Cafe in Prineville for a working breakfast with city and county leaders to discuss the Prineville Renewable Energy Project. They then moved on to Deschutes County, starting with a Latino Community Engagement meeting at Redmond City Hall followed by lunch with city and county leaders in at Diego’s Spirited Kitchen.

After lunch, they headed to Shepherd’s House Ministries’ new Redmond location for a roundtable conversation about housing and homelessness with providers and local public officials for a wide-ranging discussion about shelter and transitional services for the unhoused, as well as housing supply and funding sustainability.

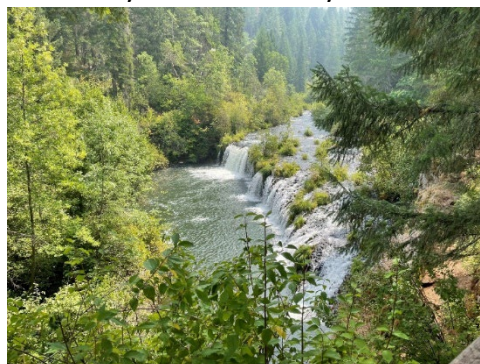
The First Couple then enjoyed a visit to the Redmond Farmers Market to support local makers and farmers, and then ended the official portion of their day with a meeting with Juntos Aprendemos to learn about their culturally-specific early literacy and school readiness program for Spanish-speaking parents and their children ages 3 to 5.

On Friday, their day started with a working breakfast at the Original Pancake House in Redmond with local leaders, followed by a tour of the Central Oregon Veterans Ranch in Bend. For the past five years this nonprofit organization has brought healing and hope to veterans on their 19-acre working farm by engaging hundreds of veterans of different ages and eras in peer support and agriculture-related activities.

The First Couple then visited Oregon’s beloved and iconic Blockbuster Video before finishing their trip in Sisters with a stop at Paulina Springs Books and a lunch meeting with the leadership of the Roundhouse Foundation.

Southern Region – Jessica LaBerge

- **Butte Falls Community Forest:** Regional Solutions was in Butte Falls last week to meet with local leaders and volunteers working on the development of the Community Forest. The Butte Falls Community Forest is 430 acres that surrounds the city of Butte Falls. This land was previously Weyerhaeuser land that they were preparing for clear cut; the city was able to purchase prior to the clear cut and now are building a forest for the future. The community is managing the land locally to mitigate wildfires, preserve drinking water, fish, and wildlife; and to promote economic development, recreation, tourism, and natural resource education. The Community Forest can serve as a model of resilience and adaptation for many other small Oregon Communities. This impressive team of local leaders is leveraging partnerships with National Park Service and Oregon State University to develop trails, a food forest, education, and fire management practices. Butte Falls is working with Medford Fabrication for a new viewing platform at the falls, which will increase the safety and accessibility for community members.



Resources and Opportunities

- **2023-25 Technical Assistance Planning Grants for Local Governments Now Available**

The Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) has announced the availability of the 2023-2025 General Fund Technical Assistance (TA) Planning Grants. The application period closes on October 2, 2023. If you are interested in learning more about the application process and qualifications, see the linked documents below.

The Technical Assistance grants are competitive awards to local communities that fund projects to update a comprehensive plan, to update local land use ordinances, or other planning compliance projects. Local governments proposing eligible projects will align their project with the priorities provided in the [Grant Allocation Plan](#).

DLCD will offer optional information sessions to review TA Grant process and timeline, and include a question and answer period and information for TA Grant applicants regarding Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Register here:






[DLCD TA Grant Information Session 2: Wednesday, September 6th, 1:00 – 2:30pm](#)

Application materials for a 2023-2025 Technical Assistance grant must be submitted to DLCD by October 2, 2023.

If you have questions about the Grant Program or application process, please contact: Angela Williamson, Grants and Periodic Review Administrative Specialist, at DLCD.GFGrant@dlcd.oregon.gov.

For all correspondence, please include the appropriate [Regional Representative](#).

Information and Application Materials for a TA Grant

-  [2023-2025 TA Grant Packet Transmittal Memo](#)
-  [2023-2025 TA Grant Packet](#) (Instructions for completing the Application)
-  [2023-2025 TA Grant Application](#)
-  [2023-2025 TA Grant Application](#)
-  [2023-2025 TA Grant Equity Guidance](#)

These documents and additional resources are also located on the Community Grants webpage: <https://www.oregon.gov/lcd/CPU/Pages/Community-Grants.aspx>

- **Nearly \$1 Billion in New ‘Internet for All’ Funding Available to Tribal Lands**

The Department of Commerce’s National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) recently announced the availability of nearly \$1 billion in funding to expand Internet access and adoption on Tribal Lands.

This [second round of funding](#) from the Internet for All initiative’s Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) will make up to approximately \$980 million available for Native American, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian communities for the deployment of Internet infrastructure on Tribal Lands, affordability programs, telehealth and distance learning initiatives.

These investments will provide new opportunities for Tribal communities to participate in telehealth, online education, remote work and countless other benefits that Internet access can bring by providing the resources necessary to deploy affordable, high-quality, high-speed Internet service across Tribal Lands.

TBCP has already awarded \$1.78 billion to 191 Tribal entities since the program began in 2021. By expanding high-speed Internet access and providing digital training and inclusion programs, the program will improve quality of life, spur economic development, and create opportunities for remote employment, online entrepreneurship, remote learning, and telehealth for Native American communities.

NTIA expects to make awards in this round of funding within the following ranges:

- High-speed Internet infrastructure deployment projects proposed by a single applicant: \$1 million to \$50 million
- High-speed Internet adoption and use projects: \$100,000 to \$2.5 million

More information about the program, including application requirements, can be found in the Notice of Funding Opportunity. Applications are due within 180 days of publication of the Notice via [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov).