



REGIONAL SOLUTIONS: PROGRAM OVERVIEW

MARCH 2015

Purpose

The Regional Solutions Program approaches community and economic development by recognizing the unique needs of each region in the state and working at the local level to identify priorities, solve problems, and seize opportunities to get specific projects completed. Leveraging all funding opportunities to address the highest regional priorities is necessary for sound and long-term economic growth. To grow Oregon's economy and create jobs, all resources in the community – public, private, and civic – must join forces to shape the state's future and to successfully accelerate and complete on-the-ground projects.

Regional Solutions Centers

A partnership between state government and institutions of higher education has created a network of Regional Solutions Centers and satellite offices designed to serve all Oregonians. Centers are located at or near universities in Bend, Medford, Eugene, Portland, Tillamook, and La Grande. The entire network of centers addresses the needs of all Oregon counties and cities by providing a neutral forum and a place for state agencies to work collaboratively with local governments, as well as civic and private interests, to help solve problems and seize opportunities that local leaders have identified as priorities.

Housing the centers with universities and community colleges connects government to research and innovation and gives students the opportunity to work on real, on-the-ground projects. Citizens see integrated government service connected to institutions of higher education addressing regional priorities identified by and for local communities. The focus of these centers is on completing specific, tangible projects that bring new jobs, or retain existing ones.



Regional Solutions

Office of the Governor

Valley North Coast

- North Coast Region
- Mid-Valley Region
- South Valley/Mid Coast Region

Southern Oregon

- South Coast Region
- Southern Oregon Region

Metro

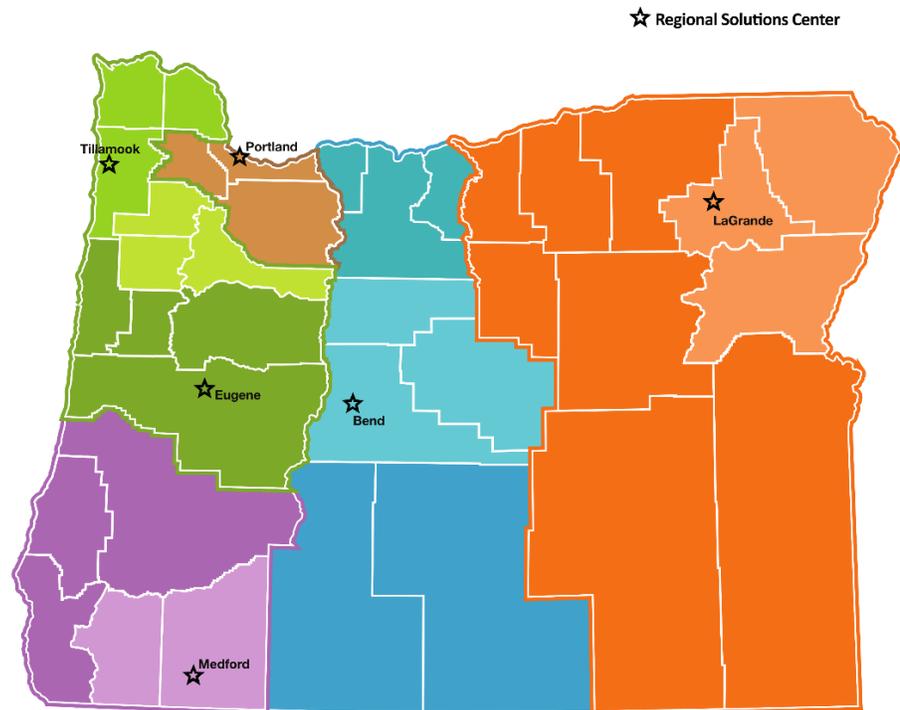
- Metro Region

Central Oregon

- Central Region
- North Central Region
- South Central Region

Eastern Oregon

- Greater Eastern Oregon Region
- Northeast Oregon Region



Regional Solutions Teams

Regional Solutions Teams were built on the foundation of the previous models of Community Solutions and Economic Revitalization Teams. In 2014, the Legislature adopted House Bill 4015 which formally established the Regional Solutions Program in Oregon Law. Five state agencies are part of each team: the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the Department of Land Conservation & Development (DLCD), the Department of Transportation (ODOT), the Department of Housing & Community Services (OHCS), and the Business Development Department/Business Oregon (OBDD). Each of these agencies have staff that are located in the Regional Solutions Centers. Regional Solutions Teams serve each of the economic development districts that represent all 36 counties.

Additional state agencies are added to the team based on the regional priorities, but are not always located at the centers. For example, if availability and use of water is a critical issue, the Water Resources Department (WRD) joins the region's team. If development of alternative energy is a priority, the Department of Energy (ODOE) is added to the team. Participating on a

Regional Solutions Team does not take the place of an individual agency's responsibilities or authorities. Rather, state agencies work in collaboration with other governments, as well as the private and civic sectors, on priorities and issues for which a single agency solution is not sufficient. The state agencies on each solutions team meet as determined by the Governor's Regional Solutions Coordinator.

Regional Solutions Advisory Committees

Regional Solutions Advisory Committees were formed for two purposes. First, they help coordinators and teams identify high level priorities for community and economic development for the region. Second, the advisory committees help connect resources from the community to expand the collective capacity to solve problems and seize opportunities.

There is an advisory committee (supported by the Regional Solutions Team) for each of the 11 federally designated economic development districts in Oregon. For example, one advisory committee and team covers Hood River, Wasco, and Sherman counties while another covers Jefferson, Crook, and Deschutes counties. Each local advisory committee determines its meeting schedule, which should include at least two meetings per year, with its Regional Solutions Team. Advisory committee meeting notices, agendas, and minutes are available on the Regional Solutions website at www.regionalsolutions.oregon.gov.

The Governor appoints five members to the advisory committee for each region: a local convener who represents the region and serves as chairperson of the committee, a member recommended by the League of Oregon Cities, one by the Association of Oregon Counties, another from the philanthropic community, and one from the business community. Additional members are appointed by those first five members who are known as the Executive Committee. The specific makeup of each advisory committee varies depending on the needs and priorities of the region.

Governor's Regional Solutions Coordinators

The primary job of a Regional Solutions Coordinator is to be the catalyst for action in their region. In addition to being the Governor's representative in the region, they assist in the formation and staffing of Advisory Committees and bring state agencies, local governments, and the other sectors together to undertake projects that address regional priorities.

The coordinators are based in Regional Solutions Centers in Bend, Medford, Eugene, Portland, La Grande, and Tillamook, and in satellite offices in The Dalles and Salem. The coordinators work to address local issues, coordinate Regional Solutions Teams, and support the Advisory Committee in their region.

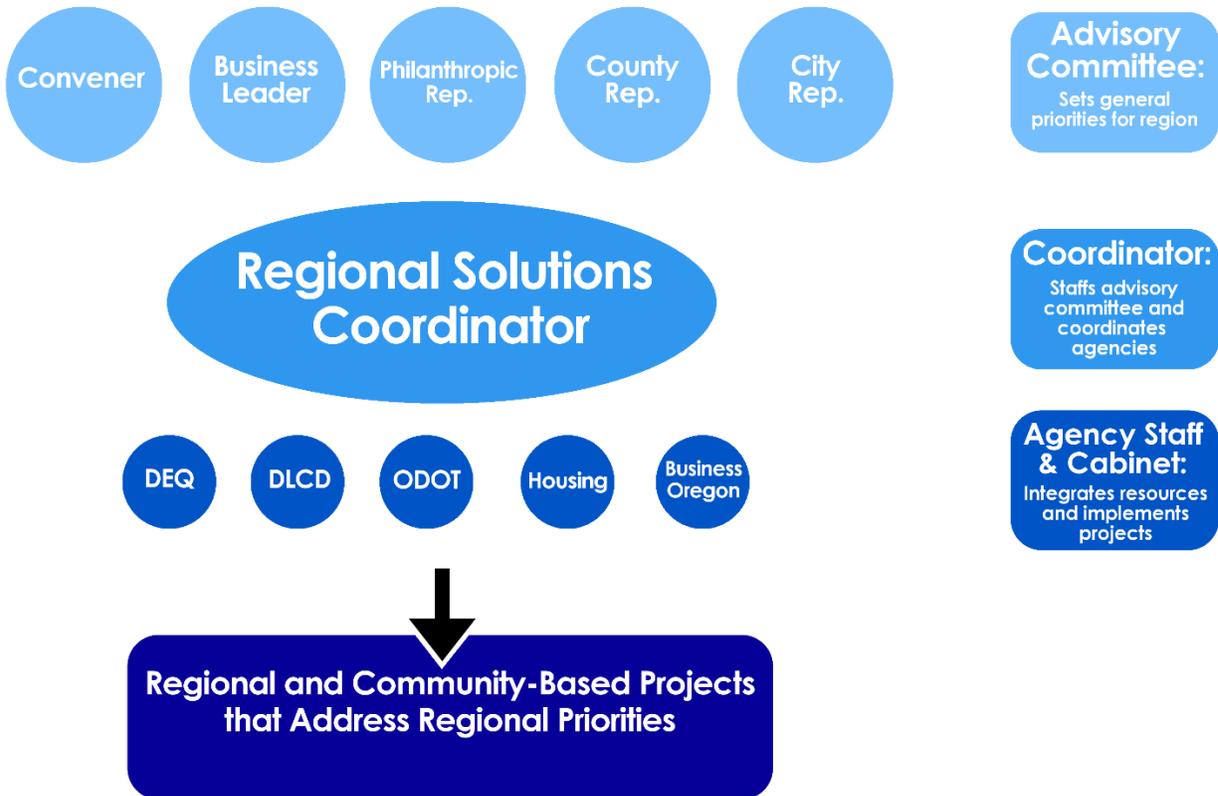
Regional Solutions Cabinet

Agency directors who have staff participating in Regional Solutions Teams are members of the Governor's Regional Solutions Cabinet, along with the Governor's Regional Solutions Director and several policy advisors. The Cabinet meets on a monthly basis to review the progress of the Regional Solutions Program. They also discuss administrative issues, as well as community-based solutions and projects, and (to the extent possible) remove barriers that have been identified by the team to ensure smooth operations. Other agency directors attend the meeting on an as needed basis.



Regional Solutions Centers

Office of the Governor



Sustainable Community Objectives

Sustainable community objectives were adopted by the Oregon State Legislature as part of the Oregon Revised Statutes in the 2001 Legislative Session. Regional Solutions Teams use them as a guide in leveraging investments and achieving multiple project objectives.

Economy

- A resilient economy that provides a diversity of good economic opportunities for all citizens.
- Workers whose knowledge and skills are globally competitive and supported by life-long education.

Community

- Independent and productive citizens.
- Youth who are fully supported by strong families and communities.
- Vital and active downtowns and main streets.
- Efficient development that saves infrastructure investments and natural resources.
- Quality affordable housing that is available to those who need it.

Environment

- Healthy urban and rural watersheds and species abundance and diversity.
- Clean and sufficient water for human and natural use.
- Efficient use and reuse of resources, and the elimination of harmful toxins in the environment.

Community Projects

To keep the team action-oriented, the measure of success for the Regional Solutions Team is the number of community-based projects that are completed in each region that:

1. Address regional priorities and
2. Involve multiple agencies and achieve multiple objectives.

Each region has developed a priority work plan that includes objectives, expected outcomes, agency involvement, targets, and milestones. The coordinators assemble reports on the overall outcome of their team's work. These reports help guide the work being done and highlight the needs to make overall priority work successful. Initially, the measurement was tied to those projects that create or set the stage for the creation of jobs. The goal is for each region to complete 5 projects/reach major milestones every calendar year.

Oregon Solutions Network

Executive Order No. 11-12 connects the work of Regional Solutions with Oregon Solutions and Oregon Consensus via the Oregon Solutions Network. When conflicts, especially natural resource related conflicts, arise and need resolution in order to achieve job creation and economic objectives, coordinators call on the resources of Oregon Consensus, the state's dispute-resolution program. When solutions require the engagement and joint action of the public, private, and civic sectors, coordinators call on the resources of Oregon Solutions, the state's collaborative implementation program. Coordinators work with universities to identify capacity and expertise in undertaking community projects in their regions. They also develop connections to private and philanthropic resources to assist in project delivery.

For more information, please visit the website at www.regionalsolutions.oregon.gov.