



Resource Assistance
for Rural Environments

Reporting Our Progress on the **Rural Needs Assessment**

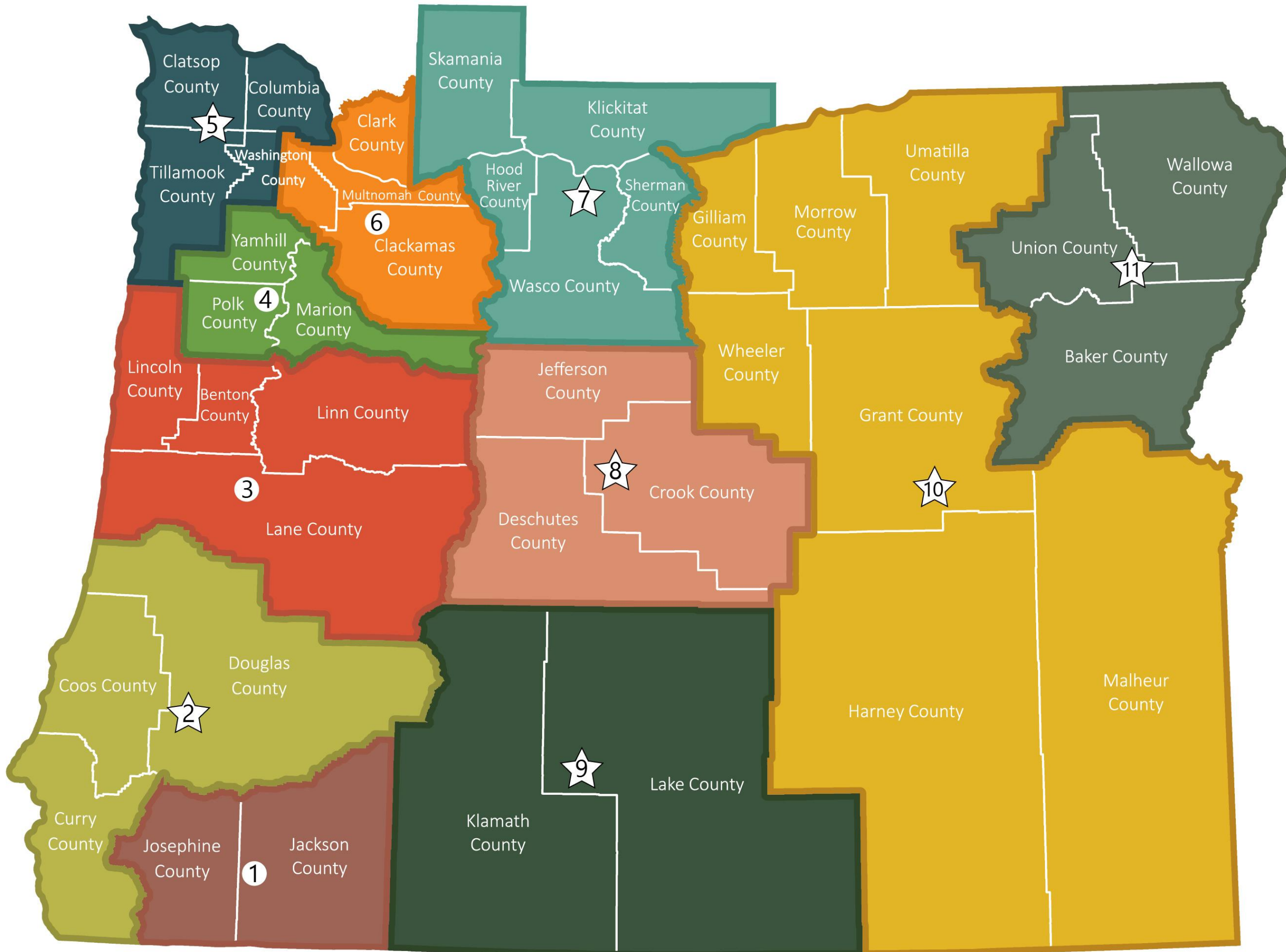
Presented by
RARE Members

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Acknowledgements:



Oregon Economic Development Districts (OEDD)



☆ EDD with a RARE Member

- 1** Southern Oregon Regional Economic Development, Inc.
- ☆ **2** CCD Business Development Corporation
- 3** Cascades West Economic Development District
- 4** Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments
- ☆ **5** Columbia-Pacific Economic Development District
- 6** Greater Portland Economic Development District, Inc.
- ☆ **7** Mid-Columbia Economic Development District
- ☆ **8** Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council
- ☆ **9** South Central Oregon Economic Development District
- ☆ **10** Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation
- ☆ **11** Northeast Oregon Economic Development District.
- 12** **Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians – Economic Development Corporation** (*Not shown*)
Serving tribal members of the Burns Paiute Tribe, Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Confederated Tribes of Siletz, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Coquille Tribe, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians and the Klamath Tribes

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- Revisiting Project Goals
- Progress Update

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Findings

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- State-wide Needs Assessment and Economic Recovery Plan Alignment
- Roundtable
- Next steps

Part 1:

Context



Revisiting Project Goals

01

Understand general impacts and trends seen within and across districts



02

Understand the internal and external response processes: what worked, what didn't, where can we improve?



03

Understand current and future needs: I.D. barriers and opportunities



Methods

"Listen to Learn" Framework:

"Listening for opportunities to identify the actions necessary to create positive change"
(TFFF)



- 198 people interviewed
- Interviewees chosen to reflect key stakeholders that contribute to economic development, small businesses, community organizations, etc.
- Findings supported by secondary information and data

Part 2:

Findings





Support for Individuals & Families



Key Needs

- Attainable Housing
- Childcare
 - Single parents
- Access to healthcare and mental services
- Support for educators, students

Key Barriers

- Aging population
- The digital divide
- Supply-side housing constraints and increased demand for "Zoomtowns"



Built Environment & Land Use



Key Needs

- Access to broadband
- Redundant and resilient transportation networks
- Sustainable environmental plans

Key Barriers

- Difficult to for ISPs to achieve scale
- Federal disinvestment in infrastructure
- Difficulties in measuring broadband market penetration
- Cultural attitudes about land management



Workforce Development

Key Needs

- New career pathways
 - Mentorships
- Stronger partnerships between industry, higher-ed, and workforce orgs
- Mitigating brain-drain

Key Barriers

- Attainable housing
- Desire for remote work
- Digital divide



Small Business Support



Gary Halvorson, Oregon State Archives

Key Needs

- Recovery programs with fewer barriers to entry
- Rugged individualism
- Technical support
- Targeted support for businesses with less capacity

Key Barriers

- Reaching businesses and marginalized groups in frontier communities
- Mitigating business and nonprofit capacity challenges:
 - Increased strain due to the pandemic
 - Lack of familiarity or technical skills to attain relief
 - Information challenges
- Accessing both technology and broadband



Underserved Communities Support

Key Needs

- Culturally relevant resources
 - Timely translations
- Work directly with community-based organizations to build trust
- Open, “Listen to Learn” conversations
- Financial assistance

Key Barriers

- Accessible services
- Lack of trust
- Prejudice





Preparedness & Resilience



Key Needs

- Ongoing preparedness planning for economic disruptions
- Improved communication networks
- Trainings that are culturally relevant; resources offered in multiple languages
- Develop a local fund to support risk reduction/resilience efforts
- Food access/security/storage
- Recovery dashboard

Key Barriers

- Leadership and ownership
- Capacity
- Transportation
- Community awareness



Part 3:

Next Steps

OEDD recommends that all regional economic recovery plans should be driven by 3 core principles/values

01

Collaboration:
Leveraging
partnerships with
business, local
service providers and
regional governments



02

DEI/JEDI: lens
for impact
assessment
and prioritization



03

Strategic Investments: timely
decisions and taking action
on initiatives that benefit
those most economically
impacted by the pandemic



Governor's 10-Point Economic Recovery Plan

- ★ 1) Investing in Oregon's hardest hit workers (those currently unemployed or underemployed)
- ★ 2) Reinvesting in innovative housing
- 3) Supporting resilient rural communities
- ★ 4) Supporting Oregon's workforce (those currently employed but struggling)
- ★ 5) Creating opportunities for Oregonians (workforce development)
- ★ 6) Getting small business back on its feet
- ★ 7) Investing in Oregon's infrastructure
- 8) Oregonians investing in Oregon
- 9) Safely Reopening Oregon's economy
- 10) Innovation in Manufacturing

Recommended Areas for Opportunities

01

Structural
Inequity



02

Resilience



03

Workforce



04

Cross-district
Collaboration





Discussion Question

For the four opportunity areas, how can the RAREs support OEDD?

- High impact, low effort strategies to pursue as unified districts
- Current RARE cohort has 3 months left of service

Thank You

