

Summary of Discussions from March 31st CEDS public meeting

Breakout Discussion #1: How might we create a recovery strategy where no one was left behind? What would that look like?

Support for underserved communities

- Leverage community support organizations to build trust - Gorgegrown, The Next Door Inc., One Community Health, others
- Coordinated effort to bring underserved populations to the table
- Migrant seasonal farmworkers – food insecure and need better housing opportunities
- Warm Springs water project needs capital – will be inclusive for underserved communities
- Support for native populations – in-lieu sites and community development
- Support for single caregivers and rural residents

Housing

- Reform Oregon land use policies/costs
- Focus on supporting BIPOC communities accessing resources for home ownership equity
- Zoning mandates at the state level
- Identify root causes – construction is expensive, not enough builders available
- Utilize community investments in business attraction to translate into affordable housing
- Need maximum flexibility for dense and affordable developments in development code
- Align housing production with wages and employment base
- Explore how vacation homes are impacting housing availability
- Engage local governments to invest in low-income housing projects
- Consider giving new businesses requirements to develop housing before they come into the region
- Get community support for higher density, affordable housing

Improved infrastructure

- Broadband expansion
- Convenient access to transit, increase routes available

Industry support

- Agriculture sectors are not all viable long-term, i.e. orchard industry, support value-added ag products
- Engage industries in recovery process

Improved communication channels

- Use plain language, make sure policies are understandable by all
- Offer information in multiple languages

Workforce support

- Improve housing opportunities
- Expand childcare options that support all income levels
- Explore large spaces for childcare – churches?
- Low wage jobs (food/bev) having a difficult time hiring
- Support partners like CGCC who are developing programs to address workforce shortages

Small community support

- Small communities often silo themselves; how can we bring them to the table?

Breakout Discussion #2: What would it look like if the region was prepared for the next major economic shock or natural disaster? What can we do to get there?

Energy

- Power outages are common, shows instability of power grid
- Community outreach events to prepare community for power outages
- Support renewable energy infrastructure, diversify energy sources, more backup generators

Regional Preparedness

- Make sure essential supplies are available in communities
- More trainings for communities, especially for Cascadia subduction event
- Host consistent preparation events so people know how to respond to multiple disasters
- Bring underrepresented groups into the planning process
- Improve mental health services for residents/law enforcement/first responders
- Involve youth leaders in planning process

Transportation

- Transportation infrastructure needs to be improved
- Prepare for failures of infrastructure ahead of time – what will we do if a bridge fails?

Food

- Focus on value-added agriculture products
- Create a food hub where we could store and source food locally
- Diversify our agriculture sectors
- Make sure our food banks have appropriate equipment to handle major events

Communication channels

- Communicate and prepare prior to events, not just in response and recovery phase
- Continue the Economic Resilience Team meetings on a regular basis
- Capture lessons learned from COVID-19 coordination
- Outreach should be offered in multiple languages
- A coordination checklist to make sure we are covering all of our bases during response/recovery

- Model economic response after Emergency Operation Response practices
- Determine which organizations are the best points of contact to share information
- Leverage connection of networks in the region, identify agencies and orgs involved in response ahead of time
- Incident commands should be cohesive across the region
- Identify capacity of the systems we rely on – chambers, extension, Business Oregon, etc.

Supply chains

- We lack infrastructure to support our supply chain during major events
- Stores have a 'just-in-time' inventory – not efficient to support a week or more without deliveries

Business support

- Track new businesses created to make sure they receive necessary communications
- Best practices for engaging with and informing local businesses
- Continue to diversify business sectors
- Support cross-industry relationships e.g., relationships between agriculture and tech
- Identify future workforce/employment trends

Resources:

Community-Rooted Economic Inclusion: <https://www.brookings.edu/essay/community-rooted-economic-inclusion-a-strategic-action-playbook>

Accessible, affordable communities: <https://www.upforgrowth.org/>