

JOHN A. KITZHABER, MD
GOVERNOR



February 2, 2015

Senator Richard Devlin
Representative Peter Buckley
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

Nature of the Request

The Governor intends to apply for a grant from the United States Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the HUD National Disaster Resilience Competition (HUD-NDRC). This two part competition provides funding for eligible communities and counties that have experienced Presidential-declared disasters from 2011-2013, with the goal of recovery and resiliency for the future. The competition is co-sponsored by the Rockefeller Foundation which is providing technical assistance and training workshops to every eligible state and local government. The Governor's Office is working with the Department of Administrative Services (DAS), Regional Solutions (RS), the Department of Land Conservation (DLCDC), Oregon Emergency Management (OEM), Oregon Business (ORBiz), Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) and Oregon State University (OSU) who have provided staff support and/or funding for an expert grant advisor to develop a competitive proposal. The competition will award \$1 billion, with \$181 million earmarked to counties recovering from Hurricane Sandy. The minimum award is \$500,000 and the maximum is \$500 million. The Phase One of the competition is due March 16, 2015. The amount of assistance requested will be determined in the Phase 2 submission, however, the current estimate for Oregon is in the range or \$5-15 million.

Oregon has had three major disaster declarations in the three year period, two severe storms with flooding, mudslides and landslides and one tsunami disaster. Oregon's greatest risk is the Cascadia fault located about 60 miles off the coast. The impact of this is inevitable event dwarfs all other catastrophes. Our goal is to build for resilience which addresses the challenges of increasingly regular weather disasters as well as "the big one", a magnitude 9 Cascadia earthquake and local tsunami. Coupled with regional partners, an approach that focuses on the response and building resilience to catastrophic weather and geologic events for the future, while emphasizing the changing climate, may be the best approach for Oregon to win federal dollars in this competition.

Our target communities are the coastal towns of Brookings (including the Port of Brookings and community of Harbor) and Reedsport.

Background

Cities and towns face significant economic and social risks from extreme weather events including heat waves, drought, tropical storms, high winds, and heavy downpours. In many places, these risks are projected to increase substantially due to climate changes, sea level rise, and increased development in coastal areas and other vulnerable locations. Recent droughts, and longer wildfire seasons illustrate the rise in natural disasters and the grave consequences of such events. In spite of advances in disaster preparedness, extreme weather is now affecting the safety, health, and economies of entire regions. Oregon communities cannot effectively reduce their risks and vulnerabilities without considering future extreme events and the effects of climate change in their everyday planning and decision-making.

Following a disaster, the recovery phase presents a valuable opportunity for communities to consider how to rebuild more resiliently. The National Disaster Resilience Competition (NDRC) will make nearly \$1 billion available to communities that have been impacted by natural disasters in recent years. The competition will encourage communities to not only consider how they can recover from a past disaster but also how to avoid future disaster losses. Applicants will need to link or "tie-back" their proposals to the disaster from which they are recovering, as well as demonstrate how they are reducing future risks and advancing broader community development goals within their target geographic area. For example, a community that lost housing during a mudslide may consider constructing homes in a safer area for the survivors. It may also find a financing mechanism for affected downstream businesses to survive the effects of the event and prepare and plan for future hazards.

Oregon's culture of collaboration and innovation is a good fit for this competition. The competition aligns with the Governor's priorities of revitalizing rural communities, supporting economic development and building for resilience. It is an opportunity to leverage state and federal funding and programs as well as strengthen relationships with the non-profit and philanthropic community to bring new resources to our rural communities.

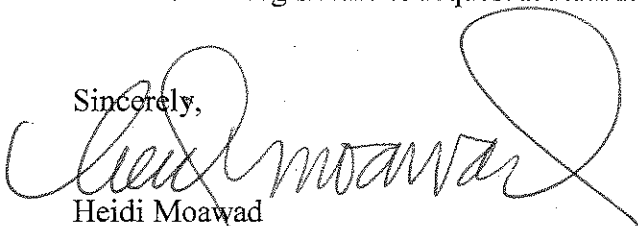
Action Requested

The Office of the Governor respectfully requests permission to apply for the National Disaster Resilience Competition.

Legislation Affected

If the grant application is successful, the Governor will instruct the appropriate state agency to return to the Legislature to request federal funds expenditure limitation to carry out the grant.

Sincerely,



Heidi Moawad

Public Safety Policy Advisor to Governor Kitzhaber