

House Interim Committee on Human Services

Oregon Department of Human Services Wildfire Response

December 18, 2020

Presenter:
Fariborz Pakseresht, ODHS Director

Agenda

- Leading with equity
- Acronyms and definitions
- COVID-19 impact on wildfire response
- Responding agencies
- Current status
- Transition to housing



Leading with equity

- Emphasis on communication with survivors in a linguistically and culturally appropriate way
- Oregon provides shelter and food without regard to documentation status and directs these vulnerable survivors to community-based organizations (CBOs) that are best suited to support their needs



Holiday meal served in Jackson County

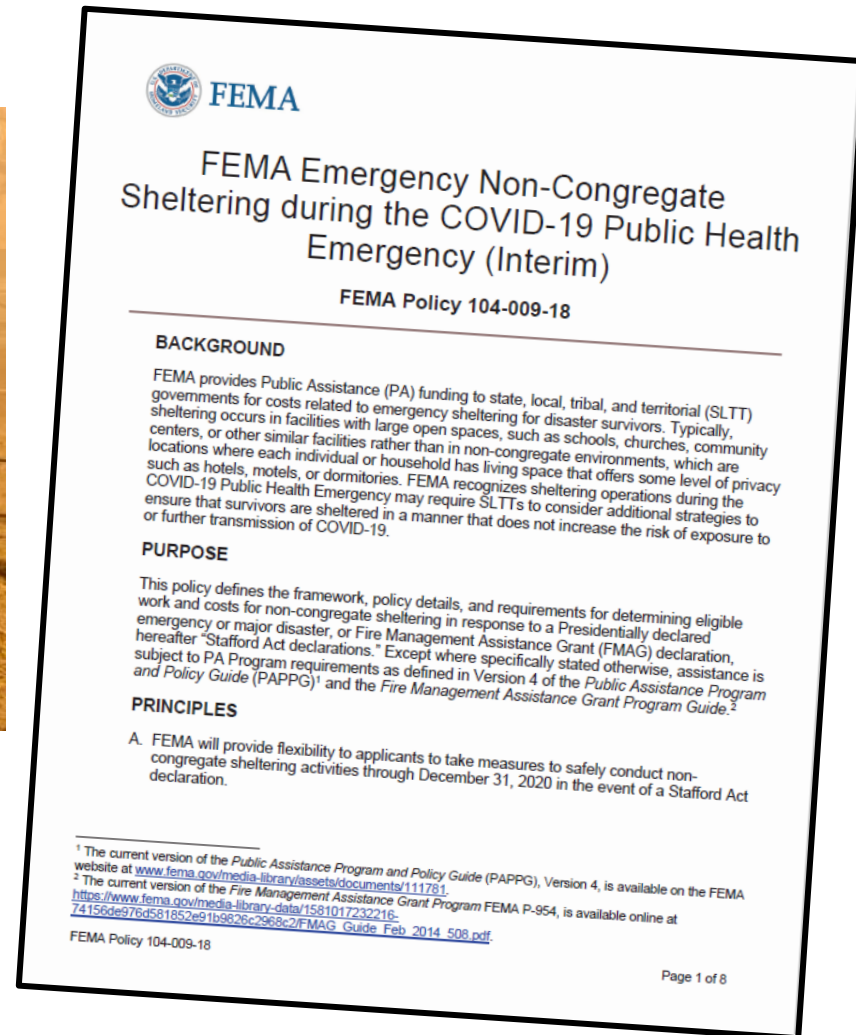
Acronyms and definitions

- **CBO:** Community-Based Organization, e.g., non-profit, church, community group
- **Direct Housing:** FEMA's program that provides short- and long-term housing solutions directly to survivors without state involvement, e.g., RVs; manufactured homes; facilities repurposed into housing
- **DCM:** Disaster Case Management: Intermediate to long-term assistance to navigate private, local, state, federal programs
- **ESF:** Emergency Support Function: Role assigned by the Oregon Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)
- **IA:** Individual Assistance: FEMA's program that provides funds and services directly to survivors
- **MASTT:** Multi-Agency Sheltering Transition Team: Group to assist survivors with sheltering transitions and connections to community resources
- **NCS:** Non-Congregate Sheltering: Hotels, et al.
- **Public Assistance:** FEMA's reimbursement program for states, local, Tribal, and territorial governments up to 75% of costs related to disasters. Highly structured and complex. Chances of audit and claw-back of funds in future very high

Acronyms and definitions (cont'd)

- **SSEL:** Social Service Emergency Liaisons: ODHS employees who are deployed to their region to work directly with survivors
- **Sheltering** (no hard definitions):
 - **Emergency sheltering:** Immediately following a disaster to protect life
 - **Short-term housing:** Prolonged housing after emergency sheltering and before long-term housing
 - **Long-term housing:** Housing designed to re-establish survivor's regular life in place of lost home
- **TSA:** Transitional Shelter Assistance to US citizens only. Does not include feeding or other services.
- **SRF:** State Recovery Function: Role assigned by Oregon Recovery Plan
- **Wrap-around services:** Individual, culturally, and linguistically responsive services provided to ensure access to health care, behavioral health, housing, food, and other needs.
- **Agencies:**
 - **ODHS:** Oregon Department of Human Services
 - **OHCS:** Oregon Housing and Community Services agency
 - **OEM:** Oregon Office of Emergency Management

COVID-19 impact on response



Responding state, federal agencies



- Multiagency coordination
- Sheltering
- Feeding
- Disaster Case Management
 - MASTT
 - FEMA-supported DCM
- Social service integration



FEMA

- Non-congregate sheltering reimbursement
- Individual Assistance
 - Rental assistance
- Direct (short-term) Housing
 - RV or mobile home
 - Direct lease
- TSA



- Intermediate housing
- Long-term housing



- State Coordinating Officer
- Information and planning

Current sheltered population

Current sheltering situation 12-16-20

County	Evacuees	Hotel locations
Baker	4	1
Benton	1	1
Curry	2	1
Deschutes	14	3
Douglas	25	3
Jackson	545	17

County	Evacuees	Hotel locations
Josephine	4	2
Klamath	8	2
Lane	169	11
Lincoln	165	8
Marion	91	6
Multnomah	6	1

Reflection from a survivor

“I lost my entire home and all my belongings in the wildfire.

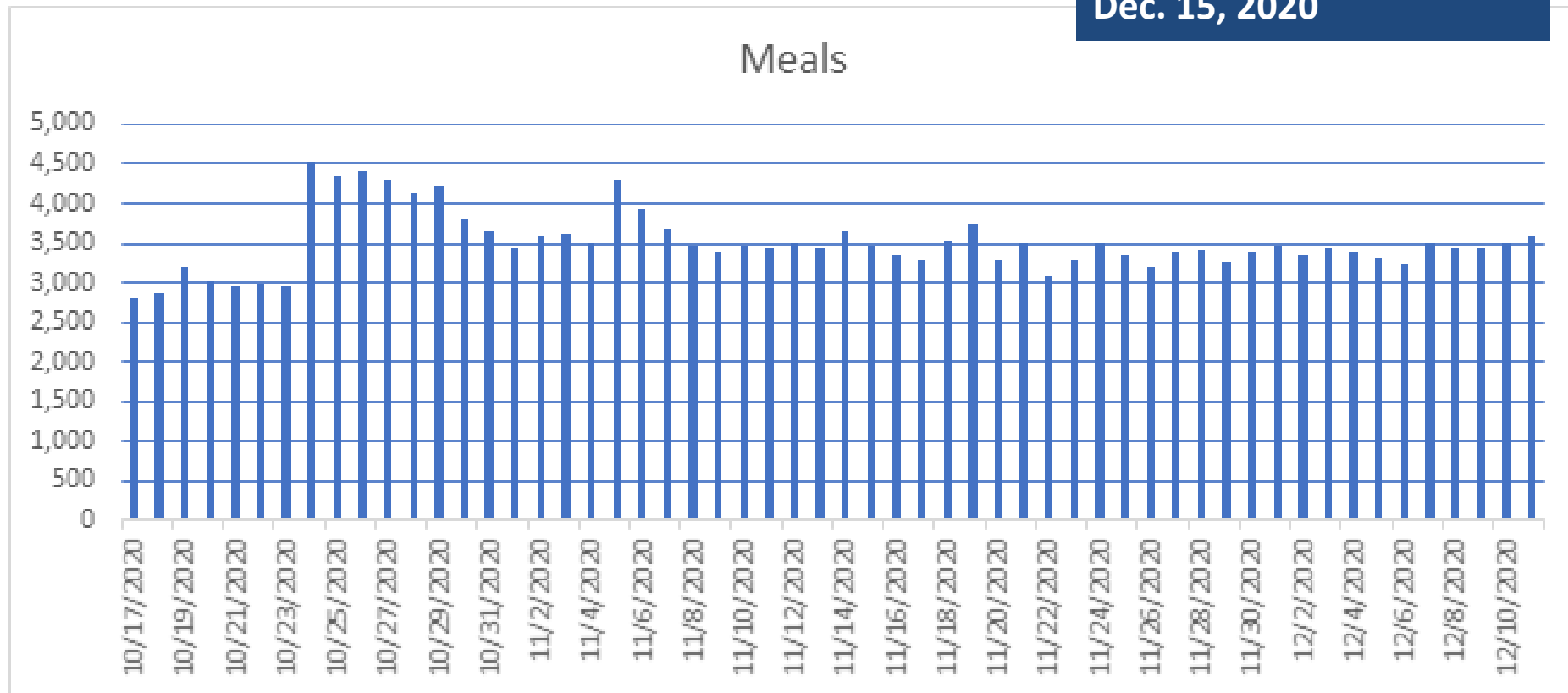
Now homeless and living on sole income of social security. I am 73 years old.”

– Program applicant



Feeding mission

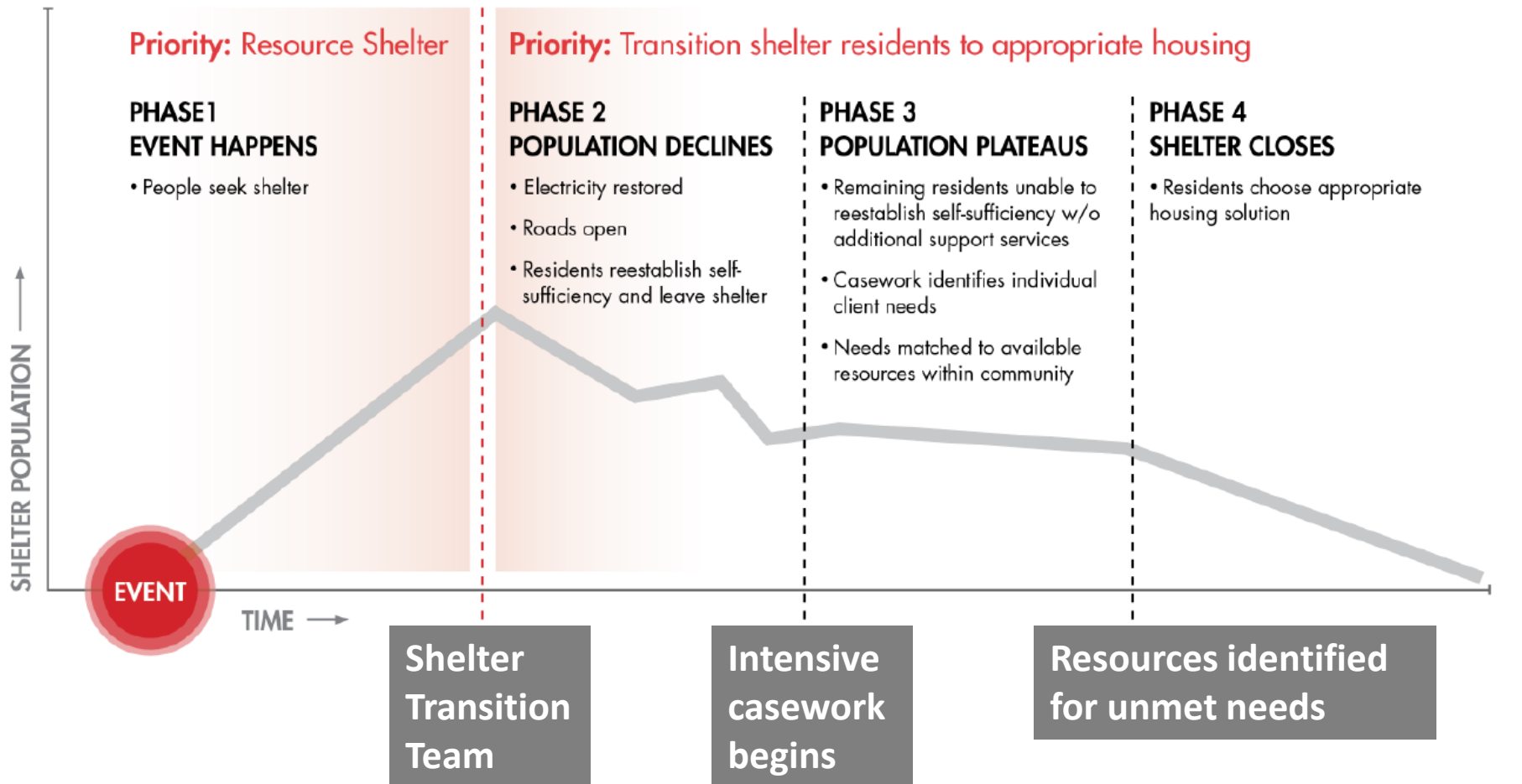
More than 200,000 meals
have been prepared and
served to survivors as of
Dec. 15, 2020



Situational awareness

- The process to rebuild will be a multi-year effort
- Interim housing solutions may not be in adequate quantities for everyone to transition from shelter by June 30, 2021
- FEMA may extend the Public Assistance reimbursement period to March 9, 2021
- Some survivors who are currently self-sustained or survivors in other accommodations will seek state-supported sheltering
- Some affected people are undocumented and ineligible for FEMA Individual Assistance

Phases of Shelter Operations



Moving from shelter to housing

Short term response

Intermediate response

Long-term response

Mass Care

Action items

- ⚠️ Evacuation**
- Emergency sheltering
 - Feeding
 - Disaster case work
 - Emergency first aid and supplies

- Short-term sheltering
- Benefits assistance
- Ongoing casework
- Moving people closer to home
- Eliminate barriers to people leaving shelter

- Long term sheltering
- Benefits assistance
- Ongoing casework

Priorities

- Locating impacted people
- Immediate health & safety

- Reaching populations not engaged in shelter or hesitant to use Federal aid
- Spend down Federal aid

- Limit financial exposure
- Non-congregate waiver



Intermediate housing

Sep '20 Oct '20 Nov '20 Dec '20 Jan '21 Feb '21 Mar '21 Apr '21 May '21 Jun '21

Oregon Housing and Community Services

Wildfire Response

Kim Travis, Oregon Housing and Community Services, Wildfire Recovery Manager



State Recovery Function 5

- The mission of SRF 5 is to address **pre- and post-disaster housing issues** and coordinate the delivery of state resources and activities to assist local and tribal governments as they rehabilitate and reconstruct destroyed and damaged housing when feasible, and develop new accessible, permanent housing options.
- The scope is to provide guidance to state departments in aiding local and tribal partners in providing temporary, short-term, and long-term disaster housing for individuals and families with a goal of long-term housing solutions wherever feasible.

Activation Responsibilities for OHCS

- A. Ensure smooth transition from ESF 6
- B. Define short-, medium-, and long-term housing goals
- C. Coordinate assignments for supporting agencies
- D. Provide status reports and briefings to Gov Disaster Cabinet, OEM command structure
- E. Deploy capabilities (i.e. resources and expertise) where needed
- F. Support other agencies as needed
- G. Prepare a Disaster Housing Recovery Action Plan

Disaster Housing Recovery Action Plan Basics

- Articulates existing data on housing impacts and priorities for disaster housing recovery
- Informed by Disaster Housing Task Force, comprising specific state agencies and community partners
- Inclusive of short-, medium-, and long-term activities
- Should form basis of CDBG-DR Action Plan, if funds appropriated
- Assumes local and tribal governments are the primary decision-makers driving community recovery

Moving from Shelter to Housing

Near Term Priorities:

1. Support and track placement of fire survivors into FEMA Direct Housing programs.
2. Strengthen coordination with ODHS, Multi Agency Shelter Transition Teams, private landlords, non-profits, and local Community Action Agencies to secure interim and permanent housing options.
3. Work with OEM and local officials to obtain and analyze available data on unmet housing needs; continually update and develop tracking and reporting systems.

Questions?



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