

# Cross-jurisdictional Regional Collaboration



Photo Credit: Andy Nelson/The Register Guard

## The Problem

Natural hazards in Lane County - extreme winter storms, flooding, wildfires, etc. - can cause negative economic, infrastructure, and social impacts that cross jurisdictional and agency boundaries. The predicted Cascadia earthquake threatens significantly greater disruption. It is increasingly clear that reducing risk and recovering from large-scale disasters requires cross-jurisdictional/cross-agency leadership, coordination, and collaboration. While some collaborative networks exist in a number of stakeholders in Lane County, they do not support the level of cross-boundary problem solving necessary to adequately protect residents, businesses, and institutions.

## A Solution

Regions throughout the nation (and around the world) are creating successful partnerships that link agencies, sectors, and jurisdictions in order to implement mutually-beneficial projects in the short-term and increase coordination around a shared vision of resilience. These collaborative efforts serve to share information and best practices, link and leverage local hazard mitigation efforts and resources, coordinate risk reduction policy approaches, and engage with state and federal agencies for technical assistance and funding support.

Local stakeholders are ready to establish a regional partnership that caters to the unique strengths, assets and threats in Lane County.

Multiple cross-jurisdictional or regional collaboration models exist. This document presents key considerations that stakeholders in Lane County should consider when framing a Lane County resilience collaborative. The Institute for Policy Research and Engagement at the University of Oregon prepared this document based on a preliminary review of academic and practitioner reports.

## Consideration #1: Scope

Regional collaboratives vary in both mission and the geography they serve. From serving several states, to counties, or cities, or an area comprised of urban and rural communities, each chooses to tackle problems facing their area slightly differently. Lane County is interested in pursuing a regional collaborative that is topically focused on hazard mitigation and community resilience. However, the geographic scope of the collaborative has not been determined. Participating jurisdictions and agencies will need to define how the regional collaborative will be structured.

Will this collaborative be:

- County-wide from the Cascades to the coast?
- Urban and rural communities from the Coast range to the Cascades?
- Metro Eugene-Springfield and adjacent towns?

### **Example:** The Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization (RDPO)

**Scope:** build and maintain regional disaster preparedness capability in the Portland Metropolitan Region.

**Structure:** RDPO is governed by its Policy, Steering, and Program Committees.

**Membership:** government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and private-sector stakeholders in the Portland Metropolitan Region. Partnership agreement includes a membership status where financial contributions are distributed by a formula based on jurisdictional population.

**Outcomes:** created the Emergency Toilet Project to provide information to the public about how to stay healthy after a disaster; delivered a regional emergency fuel tabletop exercise in partnership with the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) called "Fueling Anxiety;" and are actively working to update the designated regional Emergency Transportation Routes and debris management plans in the metro region.

**Example: Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC)**

**Scope:** regional issues in the District of Columbia, suburban Maryland and Northern Virginia.

**Structure:** CEEPC is the principal policy advisor to The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) on climate change and environmental issues. CEEPC coordinates the region's resilience collaborative.

**Membership:** MWCOG's 22 member governments, state agencies, state legislatures, the Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee, federal agencies, utilities, environmental organizations, business organizations, and academics.

### Consideration #3: Membership

Membership in collaboratives can be as open as the organization would like. However, the rules that govern membership should match the organization's geographic, topical, and structural scope. Member organizations can include municipalities, county government, special districts (e.g. utility, school), higher-ed institutions, healthcare, businesses, nonprofits, etc.

Each collaborative must define the decision-making power of the members participating in the collaborative.

For example, some collaboratives establish tiered membership based on financial contribution to the collaborative. Members in higher contribution tiers have more decision-making power than those in lower contribution tiers. Conversely, other collaboratives set all members as equal, regardless of population size or ability to financially contribute.

Finally, requirements for membership must be established. This ensures that member expectations are clear, understood, and monitored to make sure that participants remain engaged. These membership requirements include, but are not limited to:

- Financial contributions
- Staffing requirements
- Participation requirements

### Consideration #2: Structure

Collaboratives are structured in a variety of ways. The most successful structures suit the needs and capabilities of the participants, connecting them with resources, research, and oversight that will move their mission forward. Some collaboratives develop a stand-alone governance organization that oversees and coordinates their activities. Others choose to embed within a pre-existing organization, such as a university, nonprofit/NGO, or local government. Collaboratives can also opt to elect boards or committees to provide additional oversight.

**Example: Sierra Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Partnership (Sierra CAMP)**

**Scope:** connect rural and urban areas to build resiliency in the Sierra Nevada region.

**Structure:** Sierra CAMP was founded by Sierra Business Council and operates under the strategic guidance of the Sierra CAMP Leadership Committee, composed of Sierra Business Council Staff and volunteer Sierra CAMP members. Sierra Business Council is a 501(c)(3) organization. There is no financial requirement for membership in Sierra CAMP.

**Membership:** leaders from government, public health, business, academia, and community groups from a 22-county region. Any member of Sierra CAMP is eligible to serve on the Leadership Committee.