



## Jackson County Community Long-Term Recovery Group

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Dear Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

I request your support in making House Bill 2849 a priority in this legislative session.

The Almeda and South Obenchain fires changed the face of Jackson County on September 8, 2020. More than 3,000 families and individuals suffered catastrophic damage to their residences and lives. The impact was swift and massive, and the eyes of the world were on us for a short time. While the immediate devastation is behind us, our community still faces challenges and opportunities. As the public's attention toward disaster recovery dwindles, LTRGs across the state are watching philanthropic dollars diminish. Supporting HB2849 and LTRGs as the centerpiece in disaster-affected communities is crucial so that LTRGs can maintain the ACTUAL work of reaching and serving survivors.

The JCC LTRG is committed to strengthening our collective spirit to ensure impactful recovery outcomes for our community. LTRG partners at the Unmet Needs Roundtable provided more than \$2.2M in financial support to more than 360 survivors. Together they helped 131 households complete the recovery plan goals survivors developed with their Disaster Case Managers. While we have moved mountains in this community, much work remains to ensure every survivor can be made WHOLE.

As our organization evolved, we looked to create a framework to strengthen our communities by making us more resilient to future disasters. Following the best practice of Paradise, California, JCC LTRG embarked on a post-disaster collaborative Regional Long-Term Recovery Plan (R-LTRP) process. The R-LTRP includes local CBOs, emergency management, and jurisdictions within and around the burn scar working together to support a community-based, post-disaster vision. The R-LTRP continues to carry forward a collaborative and inclusive recovery while fortifying and building Oregon's resilience for future disasters.

As the Oregon Housing and Community Services CDBG-DR funding and ReOregon program arrive in our community, the JCC LTRG will coordinate outreach across CBOs, ensuring that messaging is consistent while identifying and addressing gaps in the demographics we reach. Funding for our LTRG from HB 2849 will help us (support?) provide equitable and inclusive survivor outreach and program navigation as this crucial and complex resource for survivors becomes available.

The JCC LTRG has become the de facto hub of disaster coordination and keeper of collective knowledge. Your support will help us leverage all the lessons learned to advocate for better systems and SHARE what we've learned with neighboring high-risk communities to ensure inclusive, equitable, and efficient future recoveries. The JCC LTRG has acted as the backbone for the long-haul recovery. The financial support House Bill 2849 will provide LTRGs is a critical measure and essential to continuing the work of collective and individual recovery in our communities.

Thank you for supporting LTRGs, our communities' recovery, and future disaster preparedness in Oregon.

Sincerely,

*Elib Crist Dwyer*

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Jackson County Community Long-Term Recovery Group  
Interim President