



RDPO Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) FAQ Sheet

September 2014 (Updated on 9.25.2014)

1) What is the purpose of the RDPO IGA?

The RDPO IGA formalizes the all-hazards organization created in the five-county Portland metropolitan region through a merger of the former Regional Emergency Management Group (REMG) and the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) grant management organization.

2) Under what authority is the RDPO being created?

The RDPO is being formed pursuant to the intergovernmental cooperation provisions of Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 190.010 to 190.030 and Revised Code of Washington (RCW) Chapter 39.34. The Agreement specifies the RDPO's authority as an organization under these statutes.

3) Which jurisdictions in the region can/should sign the IGA?

- a) All counties, cities, regional governments, and special districts within the region can sign the IGA and become "Participating Jurisdictions." Many jurisdictions in the region already have elected leaders and/or staff actively participating on the RDPO's start-up committees, discipline work groups and/or task forces. Signing the IGA formalizes these jurisdictions' participation.
- b) State and federal agencies, non-governmental and private sector organizations, and intergovernmental organizations formed under ORS 190 or RCW 39.34 operating in the region with a stake in disaster preparedness are also eligible to be members of the RDPO but will not sign the IGA. The RDPO's Policy Committee may, in the future, elect to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with these members.

4) Why should your jurisdiction sign the IGA and become a member of the formal organization?

- a) Natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other emergency incidents can affect multiple jurisdictions simultaneously. Furthermore, major disasters, such as earthquakes, create large-scale impacts that require outside assistance even for the most prepared agencies and organizations. The cities, counties, special districts, regional governments, non-governmental organizations, and private-sector stakeholders in the region recognize that they can more effectively respond to emergencies and facilitate community recovery if they prepare together.
- b) Regional collaboration in building disaster preparedness capabilities can be more cost-effective for taxpayers, improve resource management, clarify roles and responsibilities, and enhance the relationships needed for efficient disaster response and recovery.

5) What does membership in the RDPO entail? What are the membership categories and privileges?

The IGA establishes two categories of membership – contributing and non-contributing. Contributing members are Participating Jurisdictions and other member organizations that make a financial contribution to the organization in accordance with section VIII of the IGA. They have the right to vote on all organizational activities. Non-Contributing members are Participating Jurisdictions and other member organizations that choose not to contribute financially to the RDPO.

They have the right to vote on all organizational activities with the exception of financial activities as defined in section II of the IGA.

6) What methodology is used to set contribution levels? To what purpose are member contributions put?

- a) The RDPO Policy Committee approved a Local Cost Share Methodology (LCSM) for FY2014 (July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015), as well as a budget and work plan for the same period, which guides jurisdictions in making a contribution to the RDPO.
- b) The City of Portland, the region's five counties, Metro, the Port of Portland and TriMet are asked to fund the RDPO's core operating and administration costs. Those costs include the RDPO Manager's salary, benefits, materials, and services. Funding the manager's costs is critical to organizational vitality and sustainability.
- c) The jurisdictions who agree to contribute in alignment with the LCSM to the RDPO's core operating and administration costs are defined in the IGA as the "Core Group." For FY2014, the Core Group includes the City of Portland; Clackamas, Columbia, Multnomah and Washington Counties; Metro; the Port of Portland; and TriMet.
- d) Contributions above those for the core operating and administration costs are combined with grant funds, when available, and applied to the organization's high priority projects.

7) Why should my jurisdiction contribute funds?

- a) Contributing financially to the RDPO is an expression of ownership over the direction and impact of all-hazards regional disaster preparedness collaborative efforts.
- b) The RDPO provides an opportunity for its members to leverage their resources together with other RDPO funds on projects whose outcomes are important to them and the region and that may not otherwise be completed.

8) What happens if my jurisdiction does not contribute?

Participating Jurisdictions that do not contribute still have access to grant and other RDPO funds (e.g., UASI grant and local member contributions). Projects funded through the RDPO are determined through a strategic and work planning process that engages all parts of the organization. This process aims first and foremost to identify capability gaps/needs/opportunities using a regional all-hazards disaster preparedness lens, then establishes strategic priorities for a three- to five-year period. Projects are developed by discipline work groups and the RDPO Program Committee in line with the strategic priorities then prioritized for the Steering Committee's final approval.

9) When will the IGA become effective? What happens then?

- a) The IGA will go into effect once it is signed by the Core Group -- circa early 2015. Other eligible jurisdictions are encouraged to approve/sign the IGA within the next six months.
- b) When the IGA goes into effect, organizational changes will be made to assure the Policy, Steering and Grants and Finance Committees accurately reflect the composition described in the IGA. In other words, jurisdictions that sign the IGA and do not currently sit on the Policy, Steering and Grants and Finance Committees will be asked to appoint/select their representative to each of these committees.
- c) When effective, the RDPO IGA will supersede the Regional Emergency Management Group IGA, which has been in effect since 1993.