



# Forum on Rural Population Health

May 19-21, 2025  
Seaside, Oregon  
[ohsu.edu/orhforum](https://ohsu.edu/orhforum)



## Creating a Collaborative Approach to Emergency Preparedness: Roles, Responsibilities and Actions for Serving Rural Communities

Bandana Shrestha, AARP Oregon

Philip Warnock, Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities

Kayla Thompson, Oregon Department of Emergency Management

**Genentech**  
*A Member of the Roche Group*







Oregon

# Creating a Collaborative Approach to Emergency Preparedness

## Roles, Responsibilities, and Actions for Serving Rural Communities





# Session Speakers



**Phil Warnock**

**O4AD**



**Kayla Thompson**

**OEM**



**Bandana Shrestha**

**AARP**



# Emergencies & Aging



NIRANJAN SHRESTHA/AP



# Where Do Older Adults Live?



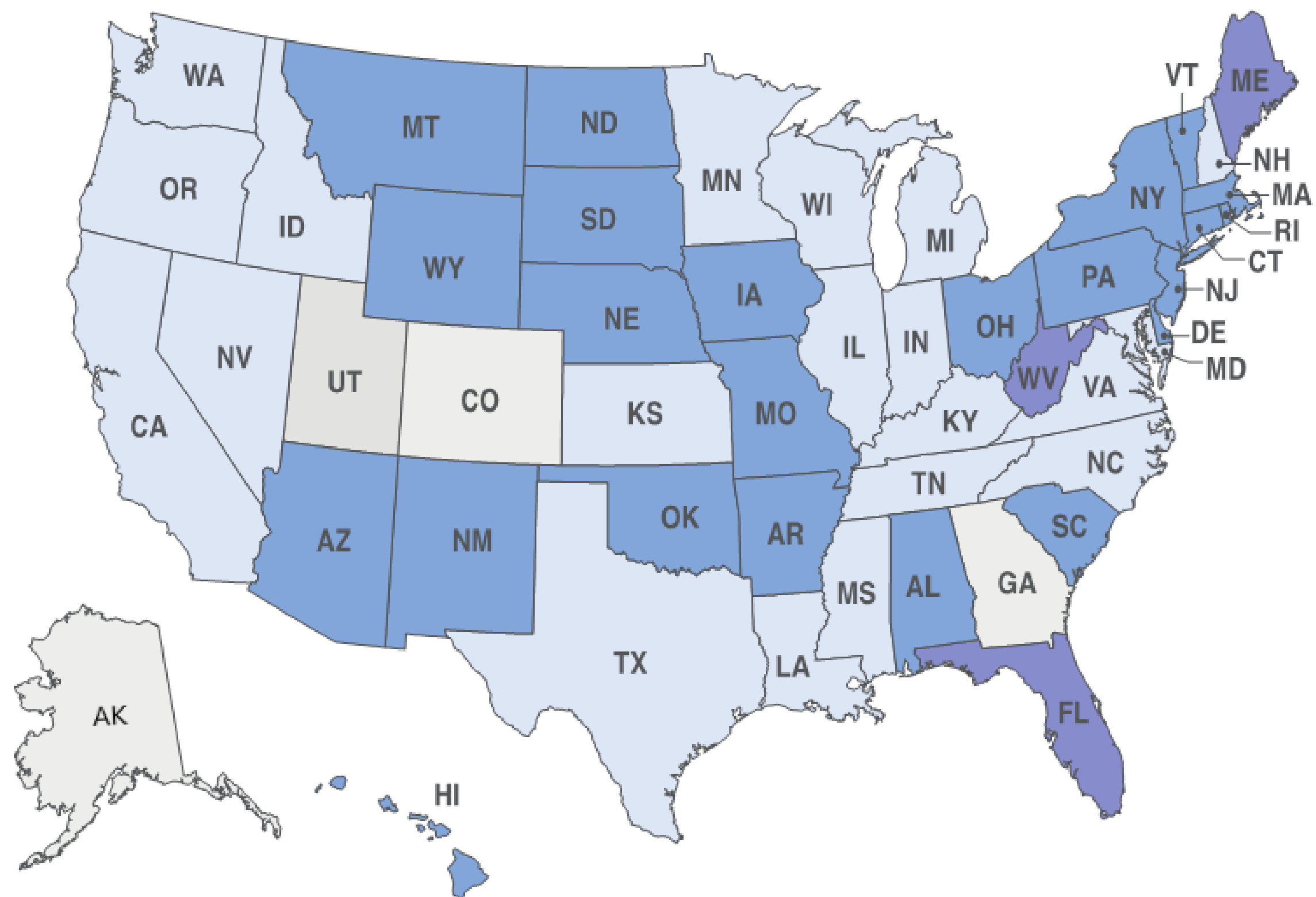




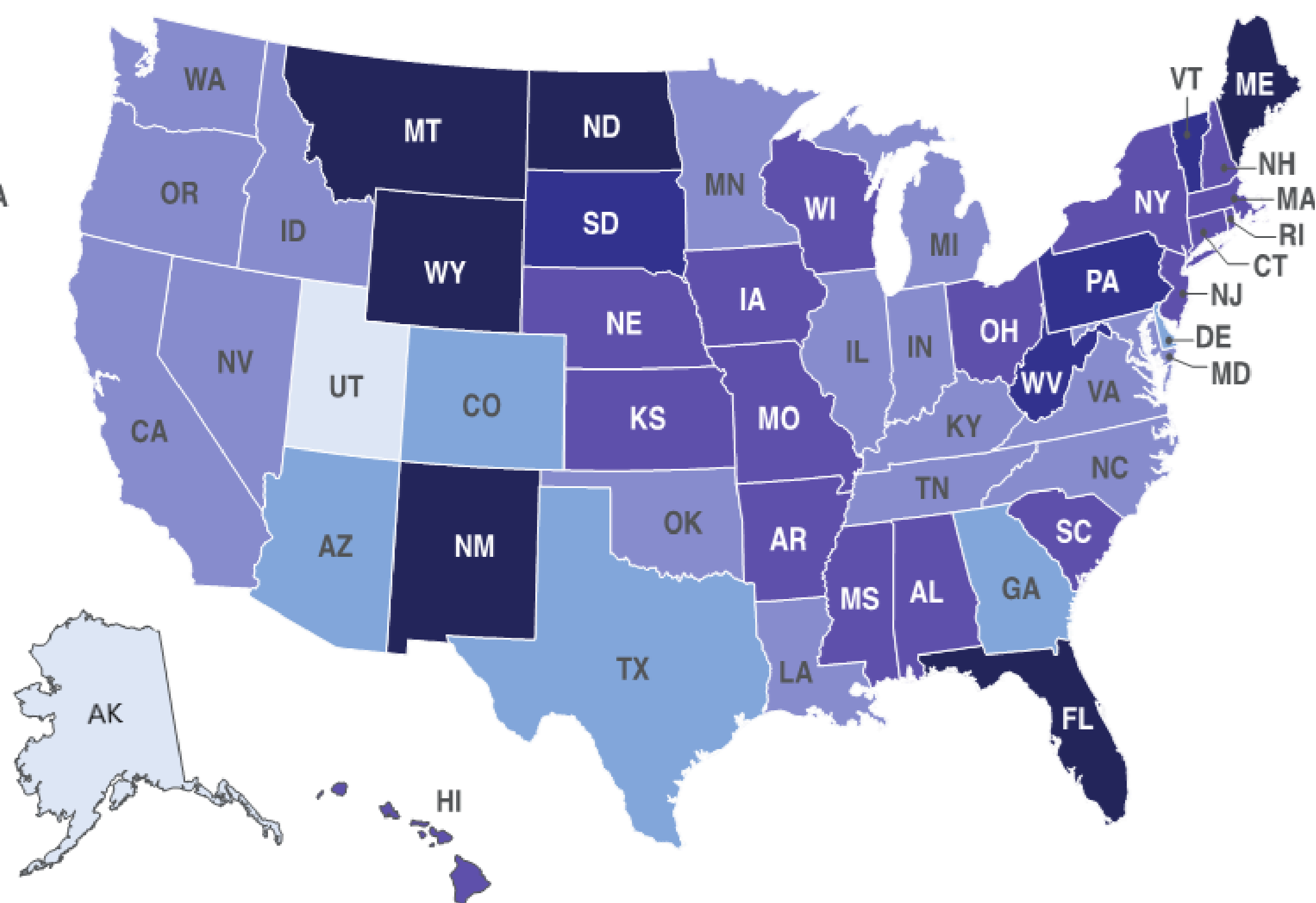


# America is aging

## 2015



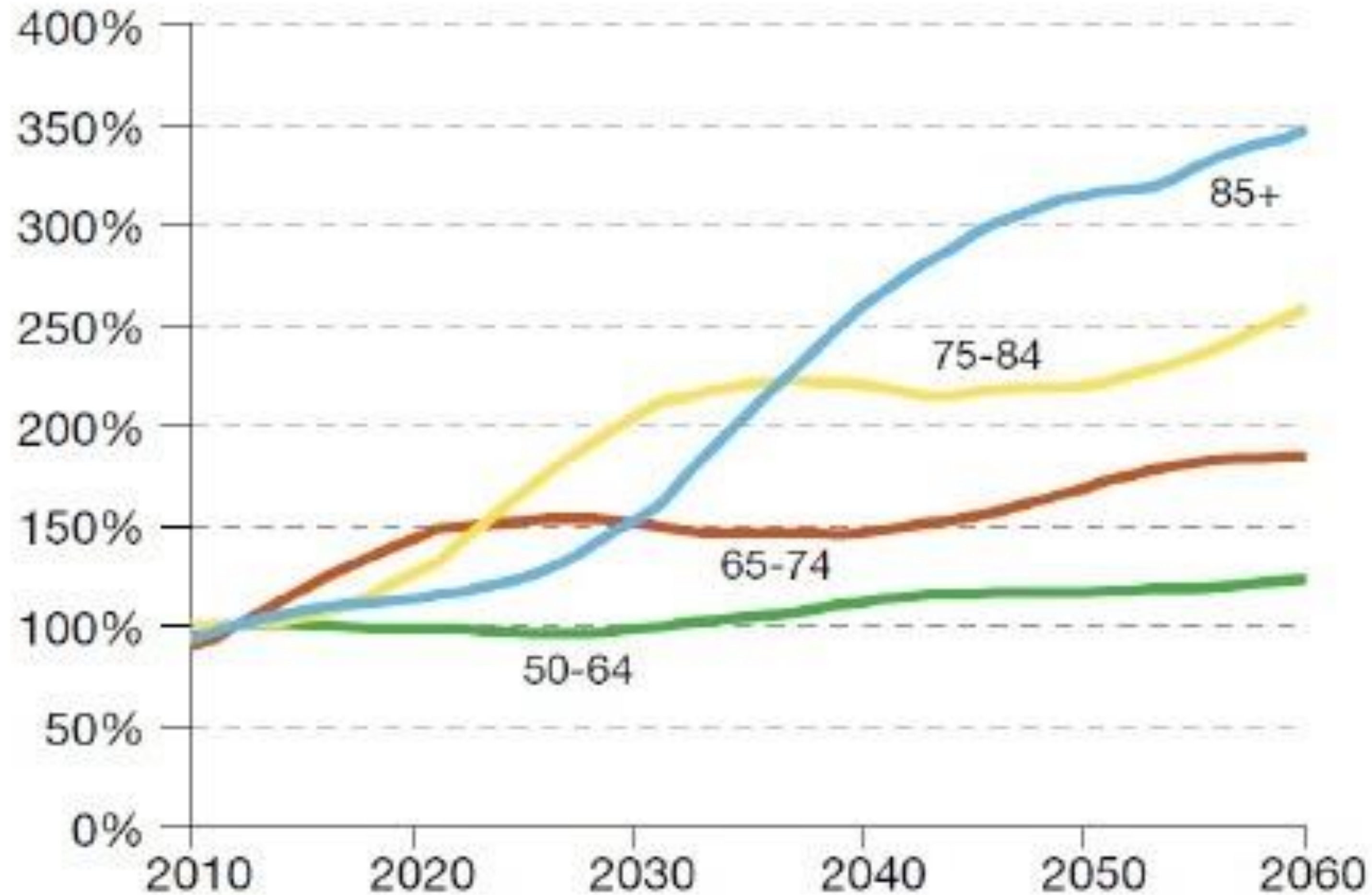
## 2030



**PERCENT OF POPULATION AGE 65+**



# Percentage of Growth of Older Population in Oregon





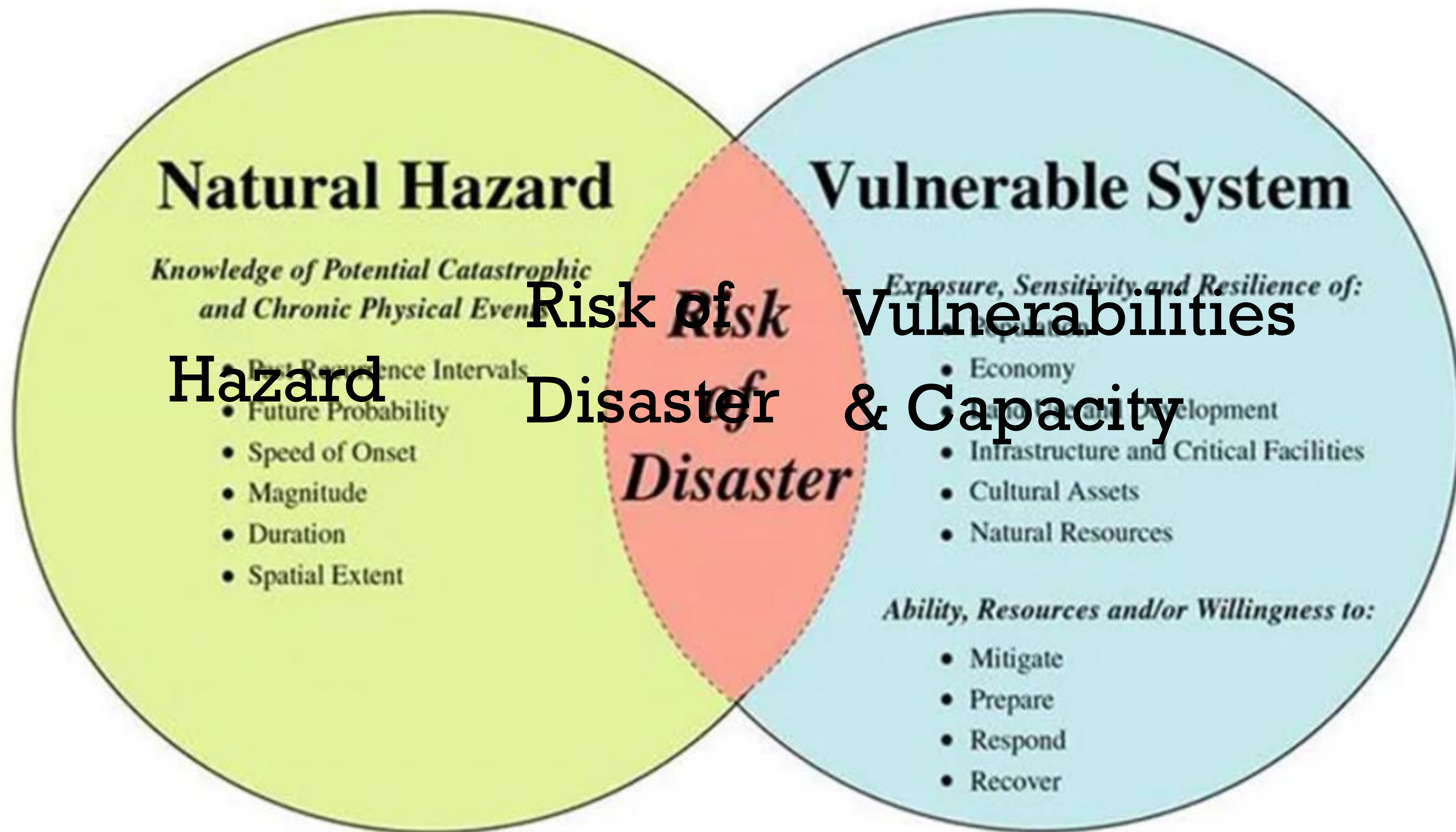
# Disparities Matter



**Life expectancy and other  
outcomes, including disaster  
resiliency, are impacted by a  
person's gender, race, sexuality,  
income, ability, education, and  
location.**







<http://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2011/3008/>

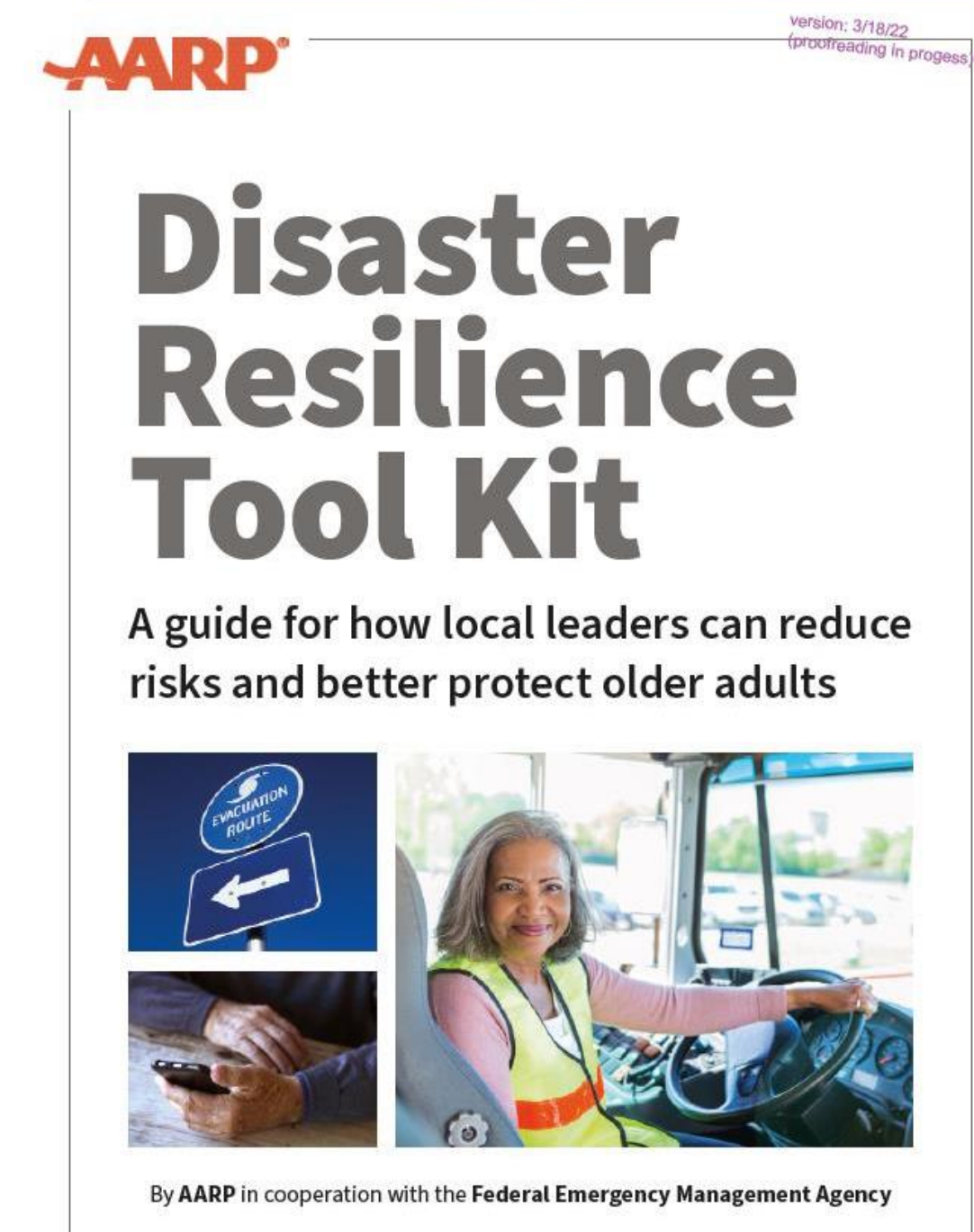
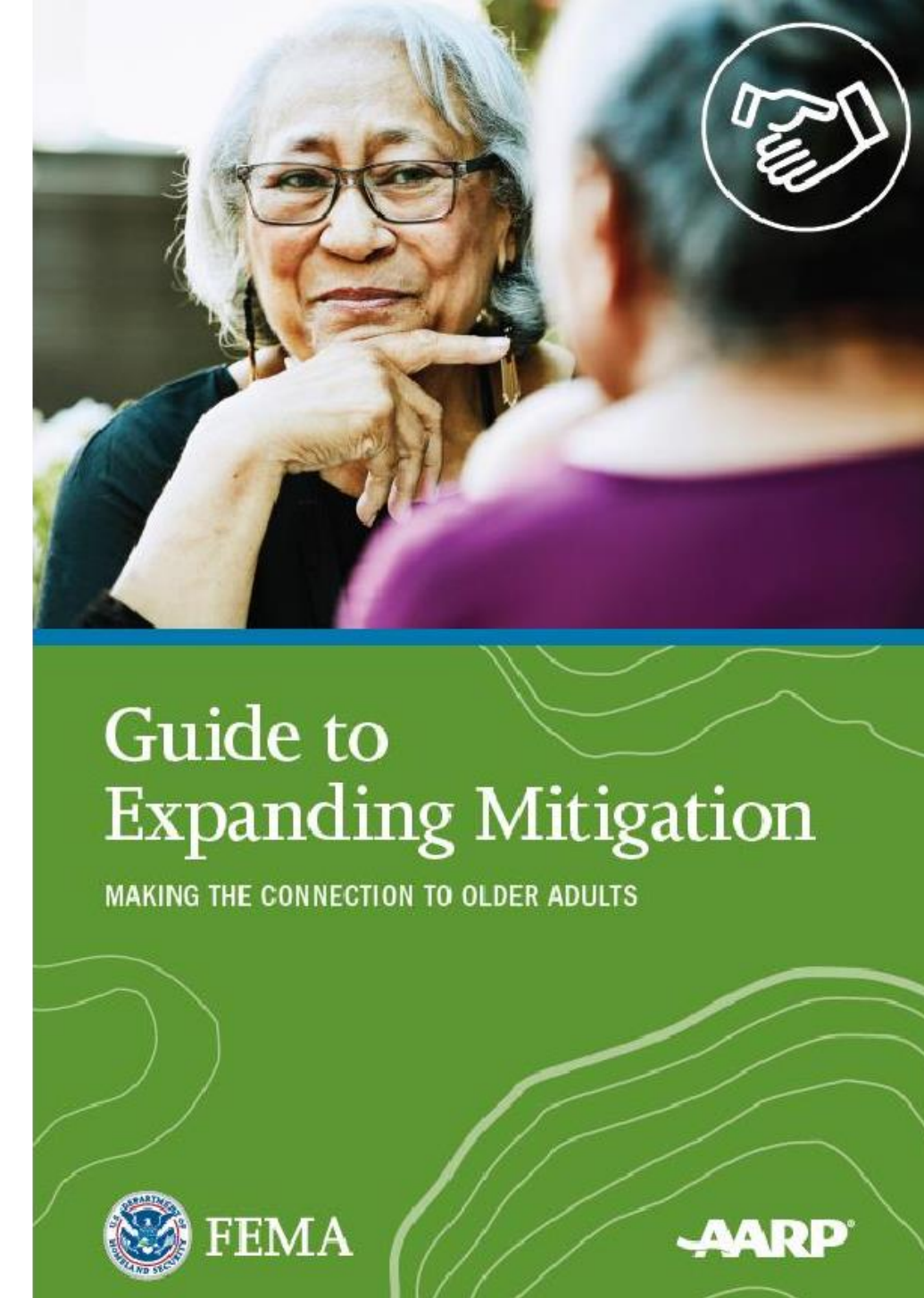
Based on Dr. M Degg's Model



# Understanding the Gaps

- Incomplete understanding of where and how older adults live
- Different communication needs exist (e.g. 15% of adults >50 do not have access to internet)
- Different transportation, evacuation, and congregate sheltering needs
- Lack of financial ability to prepare, modify homes to withstand risk, secure insurance
- Lack of coordination and communication between stakeholders
- Absence of a common language and understanding

Focus on institutionalized older adults





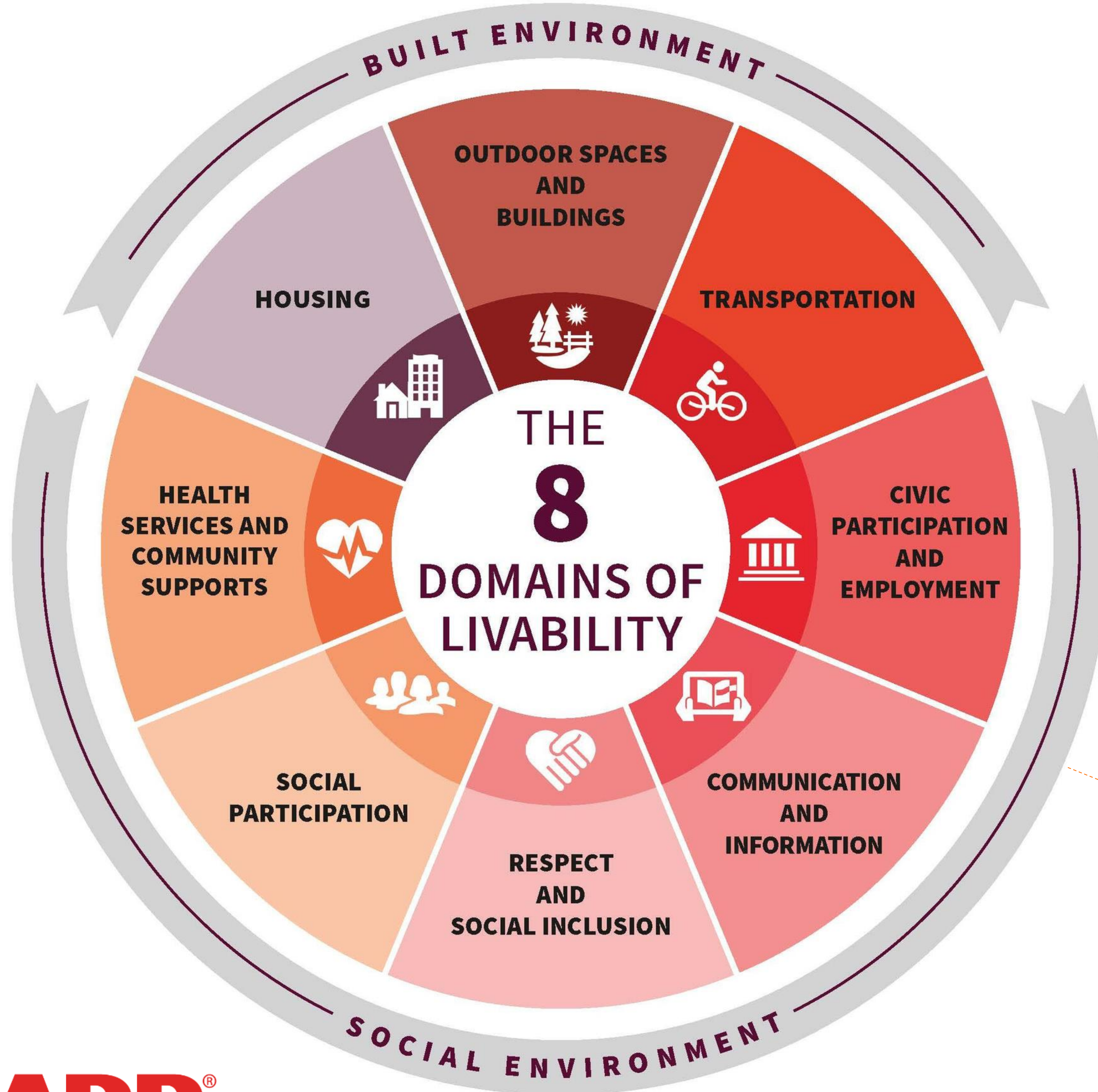




# Age-Friendly Communities Framework

*The availability and quality of these community features create*

*inclusive and accessible environments that impact our wellbeing as we age.*



Disaster  
preparedness  
+ resilience



# Collaborative Approaches



Creating a VOAD



Building a Community Resilience Hub

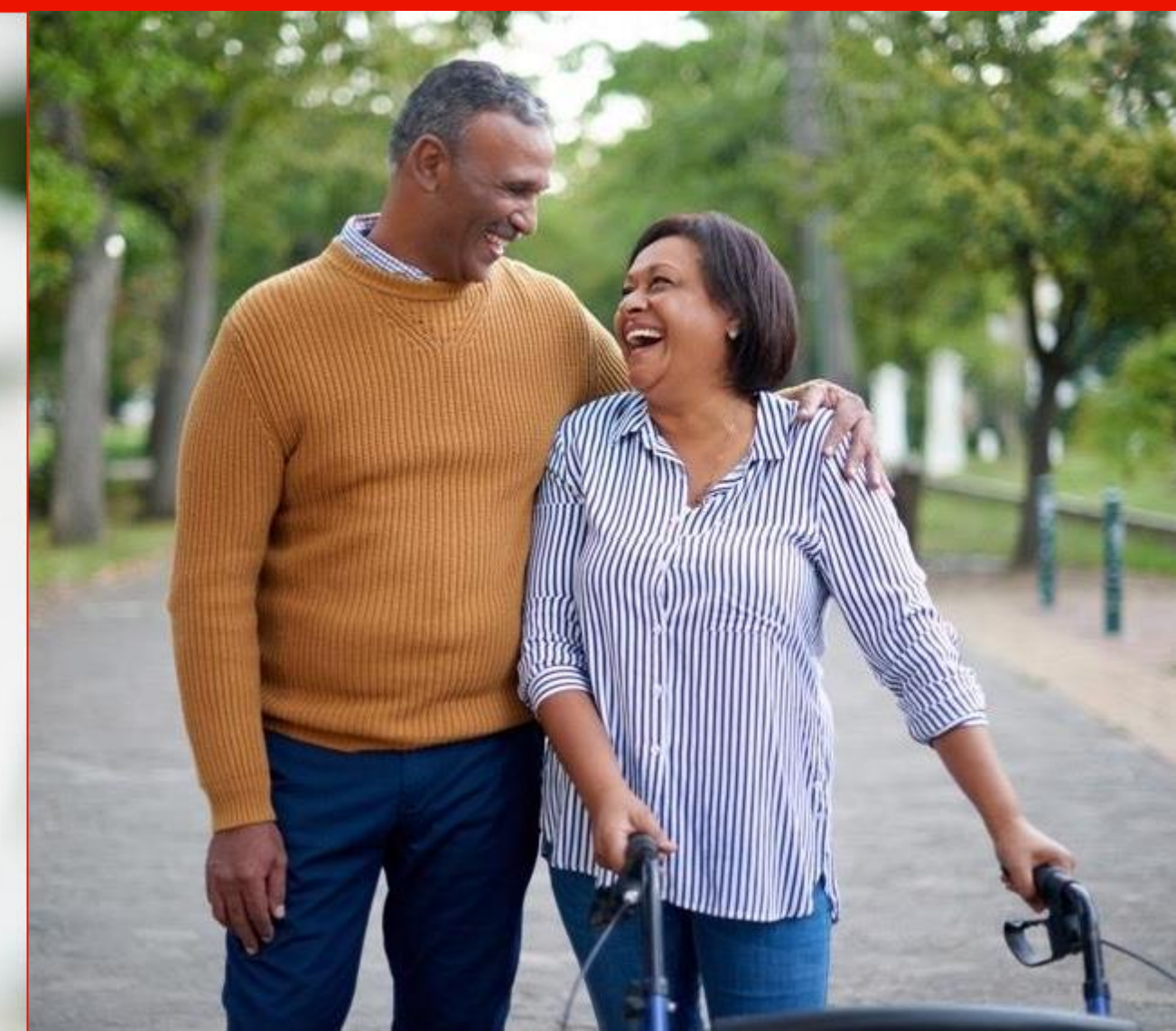
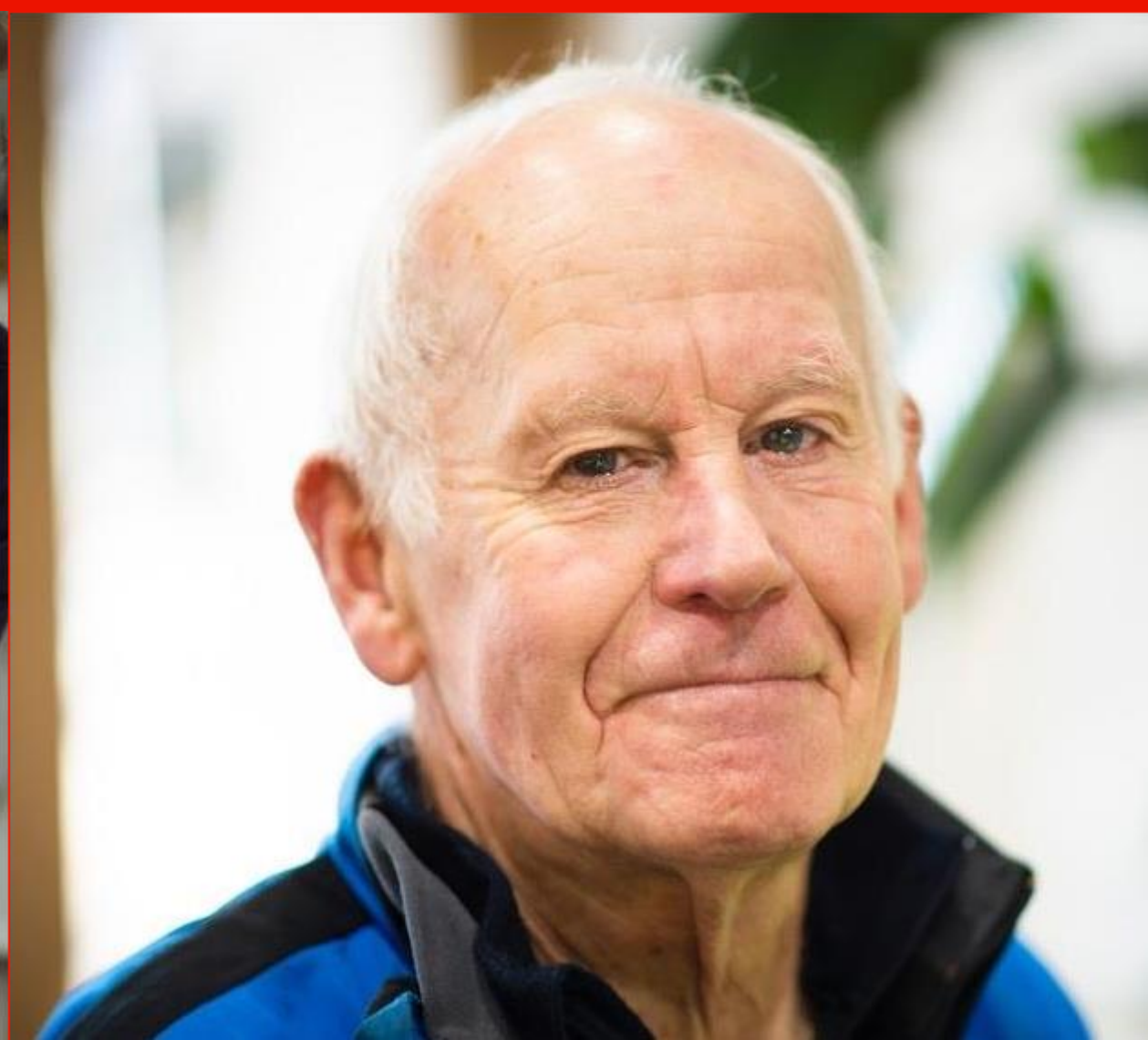


Empowering Volunteers



# THANK YOU

[Bandana Shrestha](#)  
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# Creating a Collaborative Approach to Emergency Preparedness

Phil Warnock, Executive Director  
Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities

May 20, 2025







# Disaster Preparedness- Area Plan Requirements

AAA will coordinate activities / develop long-range emergency preparedness plans with:

- local and state emergency response agencies,
- relief organizations,
- local and state governments, and
- any other institutions that have responsibility for disaster relief service delivery.

306(a)(17)

An AAA, in cooperation with government officials, state agencies, tribal organizations, or local entities, may:

- make recommendations to government officials in the PSA and the state, to build the capacity in the PSA to meet the needs of older individuals for emergency preparedness. 306(b)(3)(J)





# 2024 Regulations

- **Overview:** Created a new subpart (Part 1321 Subpart E — Emergency and Disaster Requirements)
- **Key provisions of the proposed rule include:**
  - Requires SUAs & AAAs to establish emergency plans.
    - Have policies & procedures in place for coordination with local emergency management, Tribes & Title VI programs
  - Flexibilities for addressing emergency preparedness and response – at § 1321.99 and § 1321.101.
  - Creates a new subpart (Part 1322 Subpart D — Emergency and Disaster Requirements), for Title VI programs



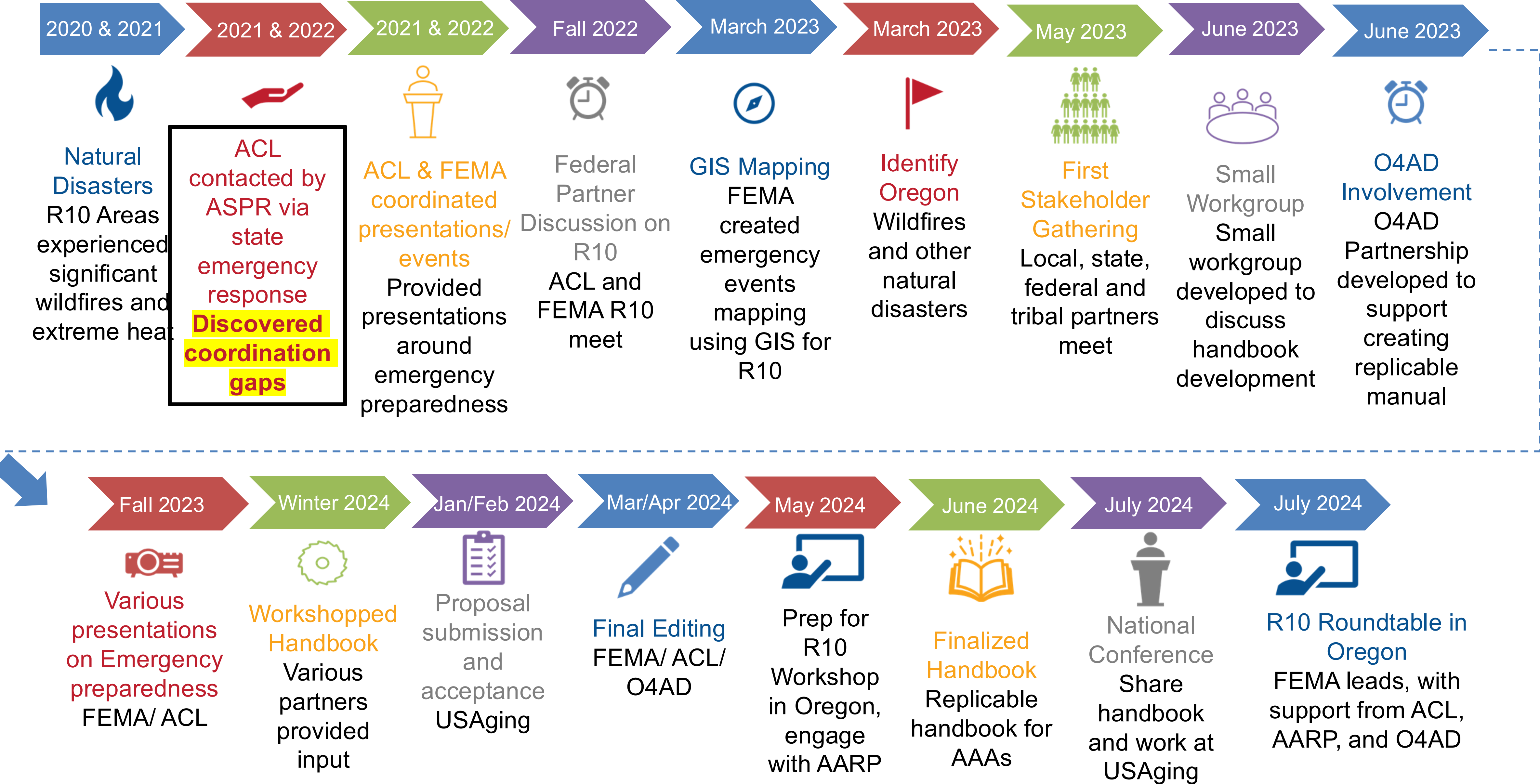
# Recent Events in Oregon...







# Timeline: What & Why







# Use of Data

- Oregon experience led to ongoing meetings between ACL & FEMA
  - Desire to Coordinate at the federal, state and local level
  - Desire to use data to inform next steps –
  - FEMA was able to put together county level maps:
    - Counties with 25% or higher of older adults + fire risk
    - Counties with 30% of older adults
    - Counties with 25-30% of older adults





# Identified Pressure Points

- . Emergency Preparation & Response Challenges:
  - . Understanding Roles & Responsibilities of all parties
  - . Contractual Requirements
  - . Information Sharing, including HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act)
  - . Response during a Presidential Disaster Declaration, Public Health Emergency or local disaster declaration or no formal declaration
  - . Preparation, including development of Continuity of Operations Plan



So, given all of that ...



# Emergency Preparedness Handbook for AAAs in Oregon

Prepared by cross organizational working group:

- Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging (O4AD)
- Local Areas Agencies on Aging (AAA)
- Oregon Department of Human Services: Community Services and Support Unit, Office of Resilience and Emergency Management
- Region 10 Administration on Community Living (ACL)
- Region 10 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)



## Emergency Preparedness Handbook for Oregon Area Agencies on Aging 2024

Prepared by the Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities (O4AD) and partners in coordination with Administration on Community Living (ACL) Region 10, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region 10, and the State of Oregon (Oregon Department of Human Services/Office of Resilience and Emergency Management and the Oregon Department of Emergency Management).

Updated 5/24/24





# Handbook Objectives

- Provide a general overview of Emergency Management
- Requirements of AAAs
- Emphasis on Coordination and Communication
  - Address concerns about HIPAA when responding to an emergency
- Building blocks to develop a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)
  - Agency Preparedness Checklist
- Resources & Promising Practices





# Three Core Focus Areas

- . The Agencies
- . The Staff
- . The Consumers



# Agency Continuity of Operations (COOP)

- What role will you play in supporting your clients?
  - How do you choose who you can help if resources are limited?
  - Transfer plans for clients you can't support long-term
- How do you distribute that information and ensure clients have realistic expectations for support?
- Backup power options that are feasible for your organization
- How can you cross-train employees to support after disasters?
  - Preparing them for their own disasters and expectation
  - Evacuation and emergency plans in place and practiced





Guidebook for  
Oregon Area Agencies on Aging

# **Developing Emergency Operations Plan**

(Including COOP Template)

Prepared by:  
Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities  
(O4AD)

2025

#### **Acknowledgment & Credit**

This guidebook was developed through a comprehensive review of emergency preparedness resources, best practices and strategies, drawing from the O4AD Emergency Preparedness Handbook, FEMA, ACL, and Oregon AAAs' existing emergency plans. It incorporates communication plans, COOP strategies, mutual aid agreements, and collaborative response frameworks to provide a practical resource for AAAs. This guidebook reflects the expertise of emergency planners and is intended to be a living document, evolving as new challenges, resources, and best practices emerge.

Legal Disclaimer: This guidebook is for informational purposes only and does not represent legal advice. Consult your legal counsel to ensure compliance with relevant laws, regulations, and agreements.



## FEMA Disaster Preparedness Guide for Older Adults

- <https://www.ready.gov/older-adults>

**GET  
PREPARED TODAY**  
*in three*  
**SIMPLE** and  
straightforward  
**STEPS!**



**STEP 1**  
**ASSESS YOUR NEEDS**

**STEP 2**  
**MAKE A PLAN**

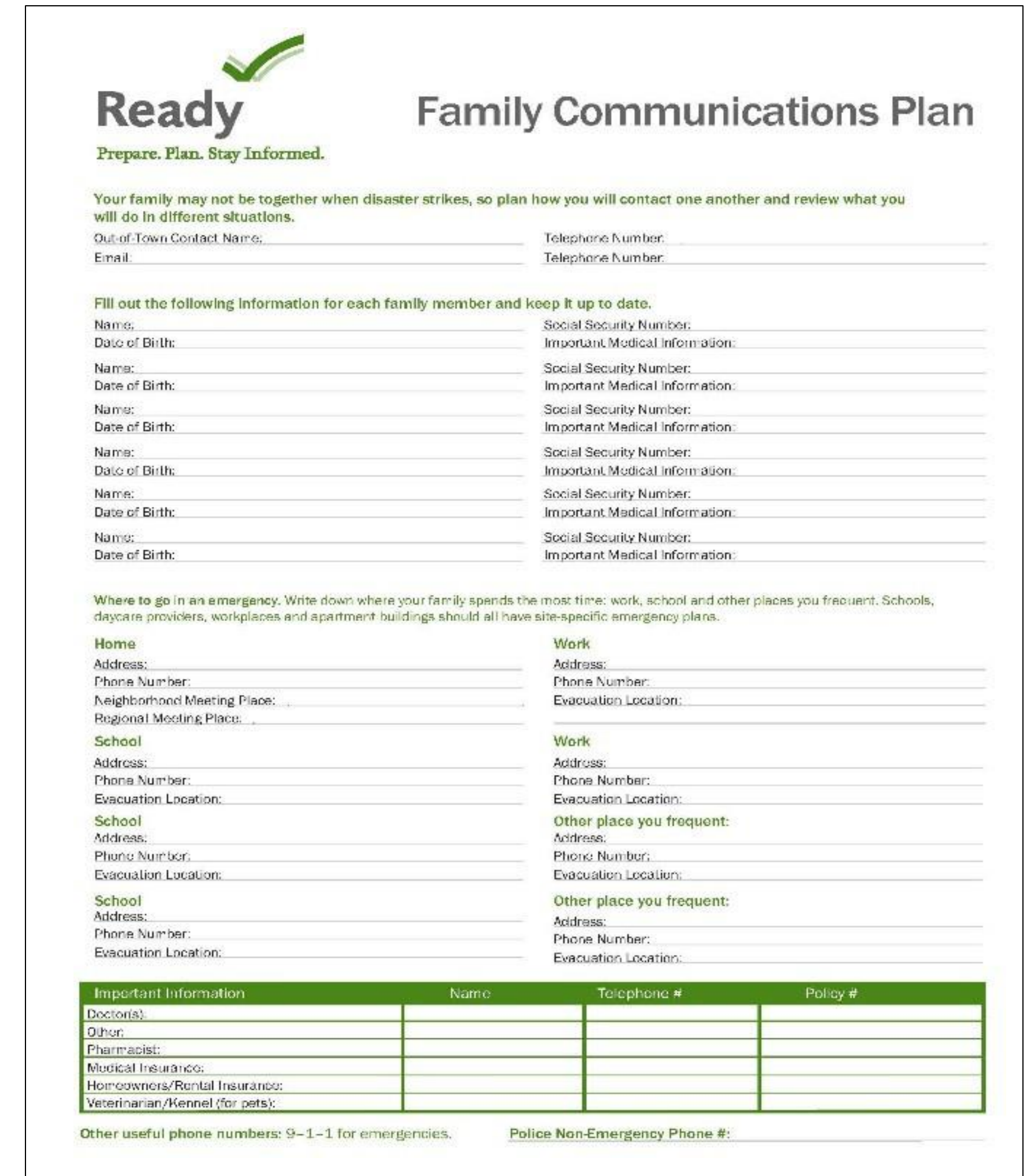
**STEP 3**  
**ENGAGE YOUR  
SUPPORT NETWORK**



# Make a Plan

**Create a support network of family, friends, caregivers, and others who can assist you during an emergency.**

- Discuss medical and/or mobility needs, including routine treatments
- Consider power backup plans
- Don't forget pets or service animals
- Build a Kit with essential supplies (include medications, cash, etc)



The form is titled "Ready Family Communications Plan" with a green checkmark logo. It includes sections for "Out-of-Town Contact", "Family Member Information", "Where to go in an emergency", and "Important Information".

**Ready** Family Communications Plan  
Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed.

Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so plan how you will contact one another and review what you will do in different situations.

Out-of-Town Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Fill out the following information for each family member and keep it up to date.

Name:	Social Security Number:
Date of Birth: _____	Important Medical Information: _____
Name: _____	Social Security Number: _____
Date of Birth: _____	Important Medical Information: _____
Name: _____	Social Security Number: _____
Date of Birth: _____	Important Medical Information: _____
Name: _____	Social Security Number: _____
Date of Birth: _____	Important Medical Information: _____
Name: _____	Social Security Number: _____
Date of Birth: _____	Important Medical Information: _____
Name: _____	Social Security Number: _____
Date of Birth: _____	Important Medical Information: _____

Where to go in an emergency. Write down where your family spends the most time: work, school and other places you frequent. Schools, daycare providers, workplaces and apartment buildings should all have site-specific emergency plans.

Home	Work
Address: _____	Address: _____
Phone Number: _____	Phone Number: _____
Neighborhood Meeting Place: _____	Evacuation Location: _____
Regional Meeting Place: _____	_____

School	Work
Address: _____	Address: _____
Phone Number: _____	Phone Number: _____
Evacuation Location: _____	Evacuation Location: _____

School	Other place you frequent:
Address: _____	Address: _____
Phone Number: _____	Phone Number: _____
Evacuation Location: _____	Evacuation Location: _____

School	Other place you frequent:
Address: _____	Address: _____
Phone Number: _____	Phone Number: _____
Evacuation Location: _____	Evacuation Location: _____

Important Information	Name	Telephone #	Policy #
Doctor(s):			
Other:			
Pharmacist:			
Medical Insurance:			
Homeowners/Rental Insurance:			
Veterinarian/Kennel (for pets):			

Other useful phone numbers: 9-1-1 for emergencies. Police Non-Emergency Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_



Continuing momentum (in uncertain times) ...





# 2025 Region 10 Virtual Roundtable:

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Older Adults and  
Disasters







## Region 10

The states of Region 10 contain nearly one quarter of the land mass of the United States

Includes large urban areas such as Seattle & Portland as well as rural and native communities

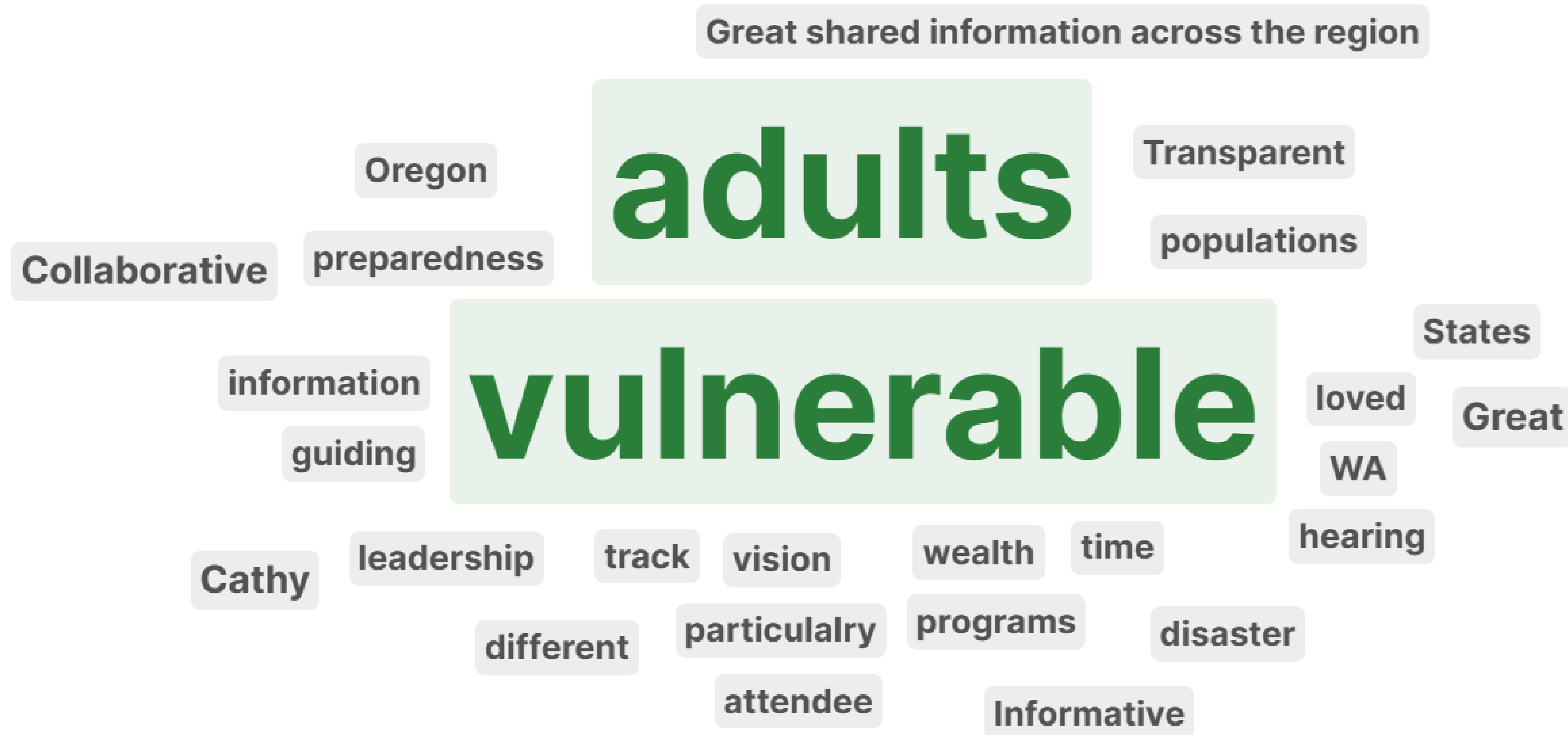
Has 271 federally recognized tribes





## Overall feelings from the Roundtable on 3/26

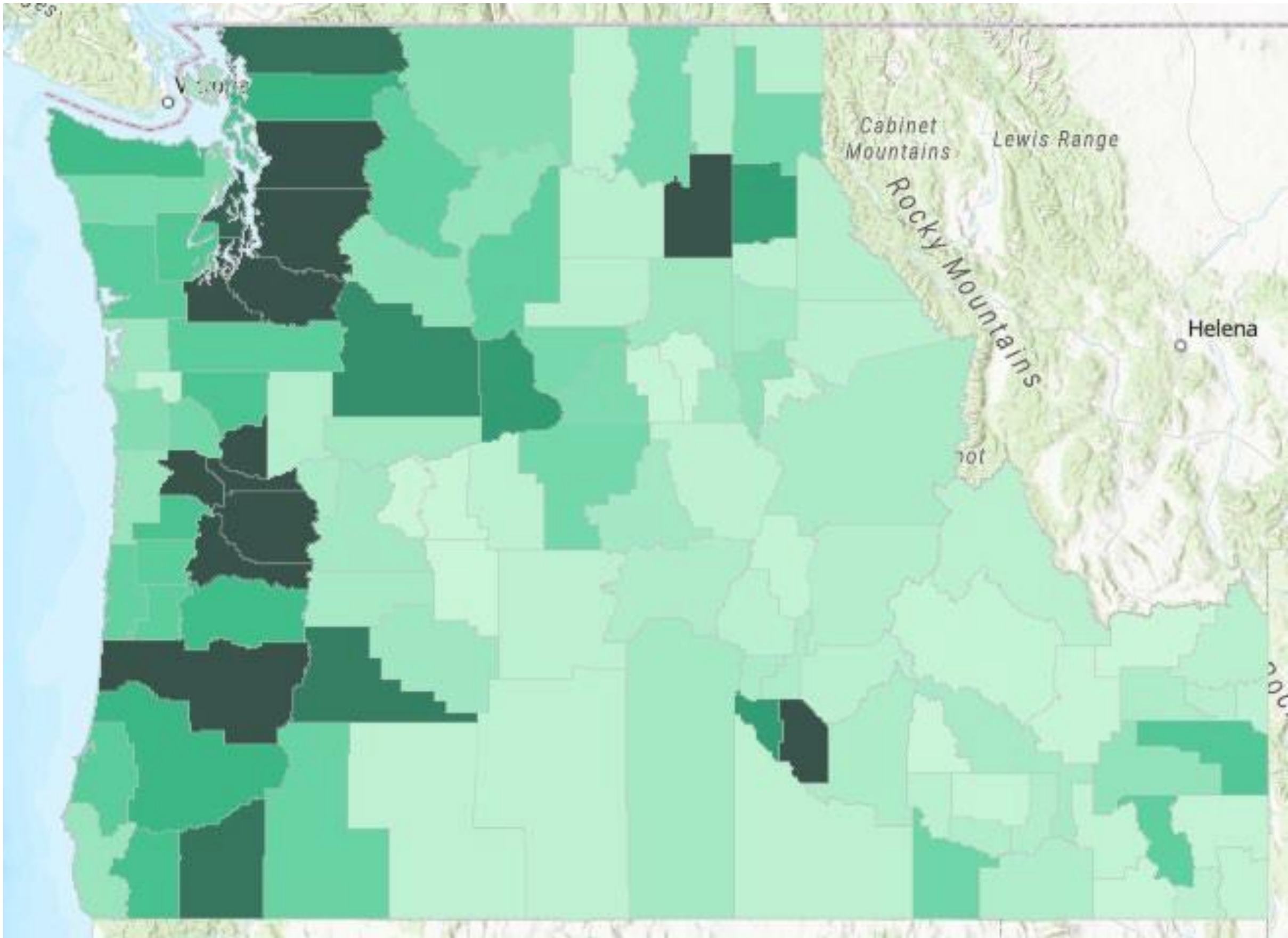
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# ID, OR & WA Population Counts

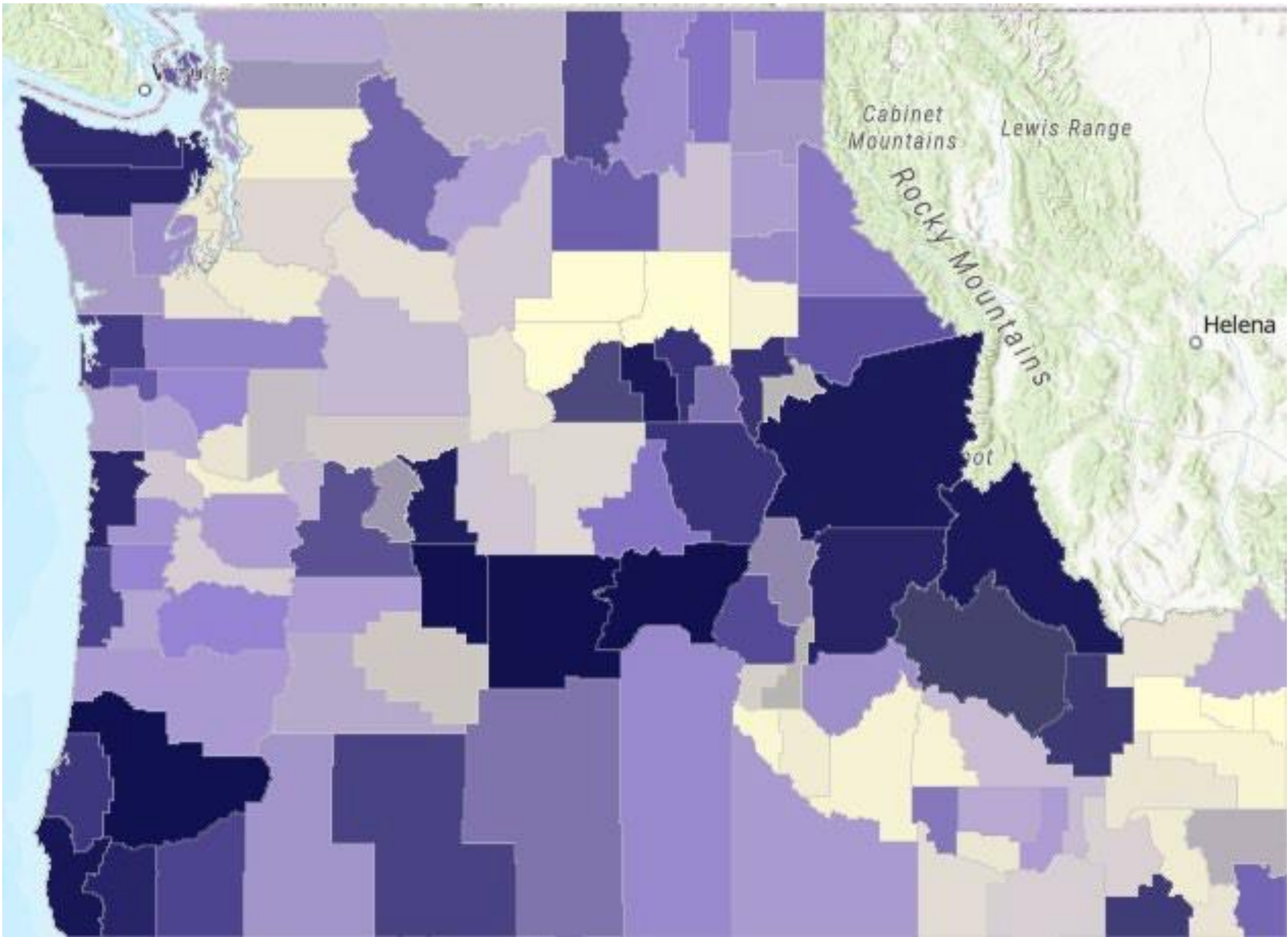
March 2023



Darker shades indicate counties with a higher number of people 65 years and older

# ID, OR & WA Population Percentages

March 2023



Darker shades indicate counties with a higher proportion/percentage of people 65 years and older





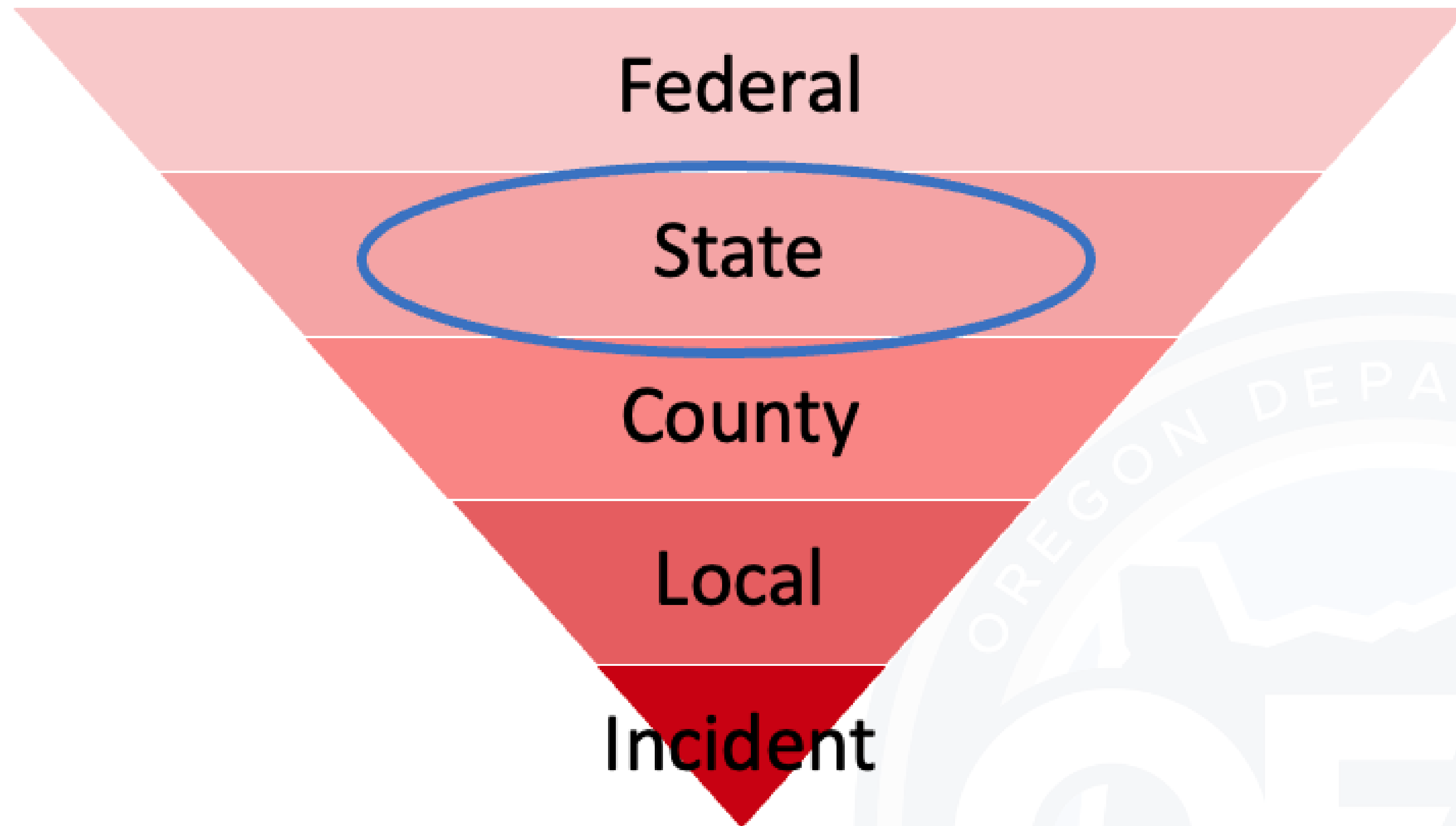
# **PARTNERSHIPS AND PROJECT OUTCOMES FROM THE OLDER ADULTS ROUNDTABLE**

**Kayla Thompson**  
**Community Preparedness Coordinator**





# What is Emergency Management?







## Older Adult Roundtable Takeaways

- community partners  
- local papers  
- local services

who is ~~trusted~~ trusted by older adults?

● Communities helping communities

- Leveraging volunteers, esp. those who are a part of the aging community

★ Establish partnerships

● Apply an equity lens

- Case managers can inquire about ~~the~~ community alert systems or help older adults sign up

- collaborating w/ PIOs (language access)

• Staff & Organizational preparedness









- Two-part webinar series that focuses on the needs and concerns of specific communities when it comes to disasters with presentations from trusted community partners.
- 2024 series: Spanish-speaking communities in Oregon
  - Hosted in Spanish with English translation and ASL interpretation
  - Presentation slides provided in English and Spanish
- 2025 series: Older Adults in Oregon
  - Hosted in English with Spanish, Vietnamese, Russian, and Chinese translation with ASL interpretation
  - Presentation slides provided in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Russian, and Chinese



## April 23 session statistics

### Registration

- 264 people registered
- 178 people attended

### Survey

- 54 survey responses in English
- 1 survey response in Chinese
- 1 survey response in Spanish

### Recording

- 68 views of English recording in the first week
- 16 views of Russian recording in the first week
- 9 views of Spanish recording in the first week
- 3 views of Vietnamese recording in the first week
- 3 views of Chinese recording in the first week





- Second session is May 21 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. PT
- Topics include medication guidance for disasters, scams and misinformation, and the importance of community connection.
- 332 registrants so far



## Roundtable Takeaways Addressed

- community partners  
- local papers  
- who is ~~trusted~~ trusted by older adults?

★ Establish partnerships

● Apply an equity lens

- case managers can inquire about ~~the~~ community alert systems or help older adults sign up

- collaborating w/ PIOs (language access)





[www.Oregon.gov/oem/Be2WeeksReady](http://www.Oregon.gov/oem/Be2WeeksReady)



- Preparedness program that empowers people to be self-sufficient for at least two weeks following a disaster that disrupts daily life.
- Tool kit with 8 units and hands-on activities.
- Available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Russian, Chinese, and American Sign Language.
- Can be completed individually by downloading the tool kit from OEM's website or through a Program Coordinator.







## Be 2 Weeks Ready Outreach Examples

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### **Woodburn CERT**

- Worked through the entire tool kit with a senior living community over 8 months.

### **Neskowin neighborhood group**

- Hosted an open house of their resiliency shed and tsunami route for the neighborhood.
- Presented on units 1 & 2 and followed up individually with neighbors on the rest of the tool kit.

### **Rogue Food Unites, Ashland**

- Incorporates one unit into weekly staff meeting.
- Teaches food plan with camping lens to make it more fun and approachable.



## Be 2 Weeks Ready Program Coordinator Training

- 4.5 hour virtual training
- Offered quarterly
- Receive printed tool kits and promotional items
- Next training is
  - July 9 (8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.)
  - August 21 (1 p.m.-5:30 p.m.)





## Roundtable Takeaways Addressed

● Communities helping communities

- community partners  
- local papers  
- who is ~~the most~~ trusted by older adults?

● Apply an equity lens

★ Establish partnerships

- Leveraging volunteers, esp. those who are a part of the aging community

• Staff & Organizational preparedness

- Case managers can inquire about ~~the~~ community alert systems or help older adults sign up



Thank You!

Kayla Thompson  
Community Preparedness Coordinator  
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# Thank you to the 2025 Forum partners!

Forum on Rural  
Population Health



Boulder



Aledade

