

## **Oregon's Seismic Rehabilitation Grant Program: aka Courtney Grants**

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by Yumei Wang

Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI), 800 NE Oregon St., Ste 965, Portland, OR 97232; 971-673-1551; [yumei.wang@dogami.state.or.us](mailto:yumei.wang@dogami.state.or.us)

In 2009, Oregon will establish a new seismic rehabilitation grant program, which will provide state bond funds to help strengthen public school buildings prone to major structural damage. This program has been created as a means to eliminate collapse-prone, high occupancy, school buildings to avoid mass casualties in future major earthquakes, as well as increase community preparedness. The Oregon seismic rehabilitation grant program will be administered by the Oregon Emergency Management. Grant applications can be accessed at <http://www.oregon.gov/OMD/OEM/>.

The Pacific Northwest's extreme disaster is a magnitude 9 earthquake on the Cascadia subduction zone, which would produce minutes of strong ground shaking, coastal subsidence, landslides, liquefaction, lateral spreads, and a near-field tsunami. Since 2001, state laws (Oregon Revised Statutes 455.400) have required public schools to meet seismic life safety with a deadline of 2032. Due to the lack of seismic engineering and construction of most older school buildings, over 1,000 school buildings are at high risk. Seismic survey results for specific schools are provided on <http://www.oregongeology.org/sub/projects/rvs/default.htm> and <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=2061>.

Under the leadership of Senate President Peter Courtney, in 2009 the 75<sup>th</sup> Oregon Legislature provided \$15 million bond funds for public schools, \$15 million bond funds for emergency facilities, and three staffers for the new seismic rehabilitation grant program. In addition, the Legislature provided \$31 million for seismic mitigation for university buildings and \$3 million for seismic upgrades for community college buildings.