



Harney Domestic Well Remediation Fund

Guidance for Homeowners 2024



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Questions or Need Assistance?

Contact us at:



(503) 779-5763



Oregon Water Resources Department
Attention: Harney Well Fund
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A
Salem, OR 97301



OWRD.Well.Funding@water.oregon.gov

www.oregon.gov/owrd/programs/FundingOpportunities/HDWF

Program Overview

The Harney Domestic Well Remediation Fund may reimburse qualifying homeowners in the [Greater Harney Valley Groundwater Area of Concern](#) (GHVGAC) for the cost to abandon and replace or repair a household water supply well.

The well must have provided household water for the purpose of supplying water for drinking, culinary, washing, bathing, a small household garden, or other household uses. The home must have been in existence prior to April 15, 2016.

The funding is a grant, not a loan. The applicant is responsible to schedule and pay for the work. If approved, OWRD will reimburse the applicant for a portion of the associated and eligible well expenses.

Funding will be prioritized based on the following criteria:

- ✓ The well is unable to supply adequate water for household purposes
- ✓ The homeowner is low to moderate income
- ✓ The property is owner-occupied
- ✓ The property is in an area within the Harney Critical Groundwater Area prioritized based on the highest groundwater decline.

Funding Levels

Repair:

75% of cost up to \$10,000

Replacement:

75% of cost up to \$10,000

Abandonment:

100% of cost up to \$3,500

Definitions

Water supply well used for household

purposes - a well connected to a residential dwelling for the purpose of supplying water for drinking, culinary, washing, bathing, or household uses and is not a public water supply.

Abandon - permanently remove a well from service as defined in [Oregon Administrative Rules \(OAR\) 690-200-0050 \(1\)](#).

Eligible well - an affected household water supply well, or components of the well system, that is one in an area recently impacted by drought or wildfire, and whose condition is unable to supply water for drinking, culinary, washing, bathing, or household uses.

Household – all individuals who resides at the household’s physical address, including all family members and roommates who are not related and not part of a separate lease agreement.

Repair - implementing actions necessary to restore the condition of an affected household water supply well, or components of the well system, for drinking, culinary, washing, bathing, or household uses. Repair includes, but is not limited to, deepening.

Replace - installation of a new water supply well for household purposes in place of an existing affected water supply well used for household purposes. Replacement may occur when repair is not appropriate as determined by a licensed water supply well constructor or Oregon Department of Water Resources (OWRD).

Eligibility

The Harney Domestic Well Remediation Fund may reimburse qualified homeowners to permanently abandon, replace, or repair a well that is used for household purposes.

To apply, an applicant must meet all of the following requirements:

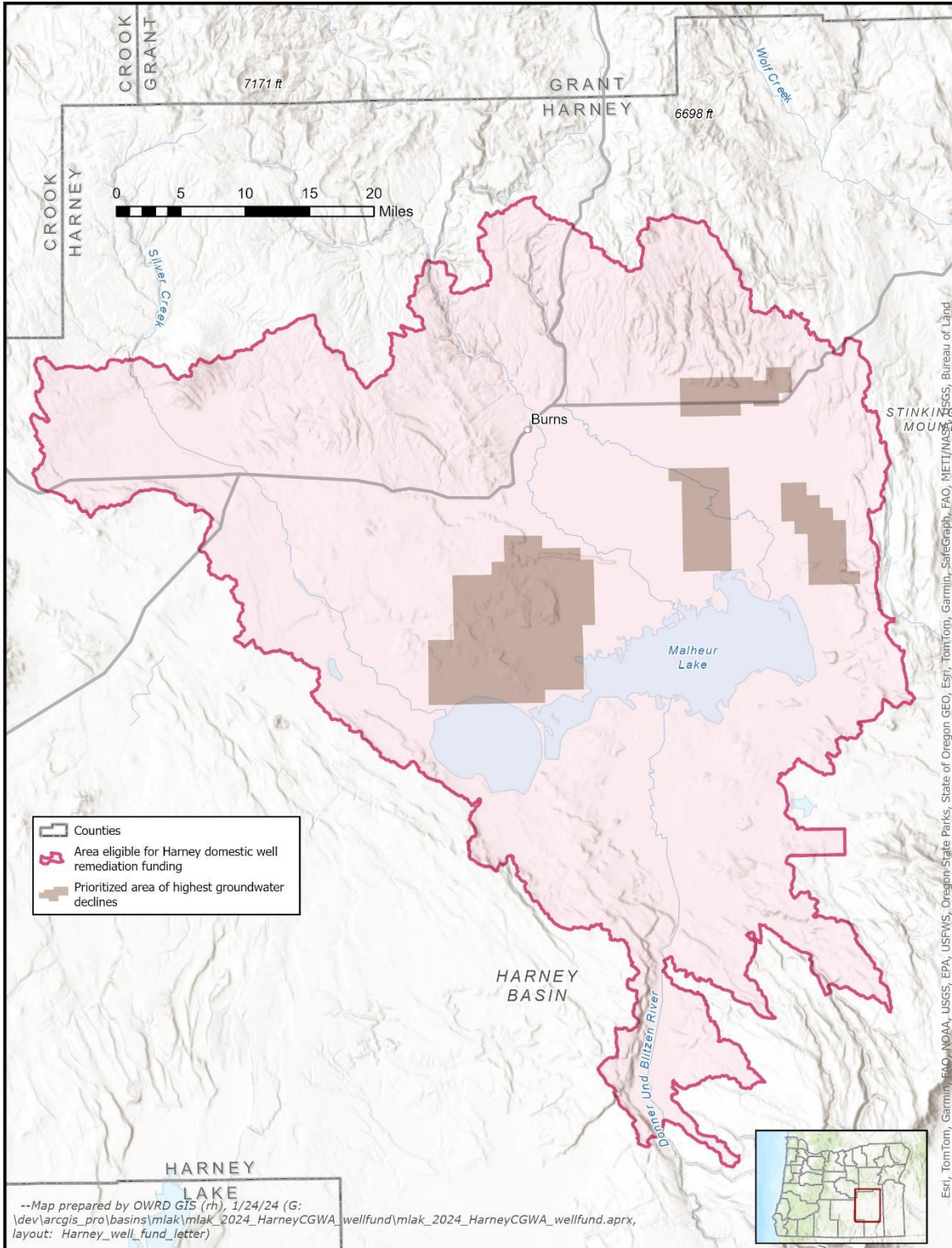
1. They own property in the [Greater Harney Valley Groundwater Area of Concern](#) and are either listed as borrower on the mortgage of the property or listed on the property deed, and you owned the property **1-year** (365 days) prior to the application date.
2. They own a residential dwelling on the property constructed prior to April 15, 2016, that is supplied by an eligible well.
 - The well is a water supply well used for household purposes, which means a water supply well that is connected to a residential dwelling for the purpose of supplying water for drinking, culinary, washing, bathing, or household uses and is not a public water supply.
 - The household water supply well is not able to supply enough water for the household’s drinking, culinary, washing, bathing, a small garden, or other household needs or is at risk of not being able to supply the household needs due to groundwater declines.
 - The property does not have an alternate source of water available to support the household.
3. They are not applying for or receiving funding from any other source for expenses to abandon, repair, or replace the domestic water supply well. This includes funding from home insurance; other grants; or city, local, state, federal, or non-profit funding.
4. They are not involved in an unresolved OWRD regulation order, notice of violation, or well construction compliance violation.

An eligible well is an affected household water supply well, or components of the well system that supplies water for drinking, culinary, washing, bathing, or household uses. Wells that whose condition is unable to supply adequate water for household uses will be prioritized for funding.

Note: If your well met these qualifications and has already been repaired or replaced, you may be eligible for funding. The work to repair or replace the well may not have been completed prior to September 15, 2021.

Funding Area

The area within the pink boundary is the [Greater Harney Valley Groundwater Area of Concern](#) and is eligible for funding. Funding will be prioritized to the areas of highest groundwater declines. These areas can be seen in brown on the map. For additional information on prioritization, please see page 6.



Funding Prioritization

Funding will be prioritized based on whether the well is able to sustain the household or at risk of going dry, if the landowner’s household is low to moderate income, whether the property is owner-occupied, and if the household is within a prioritized area based on groundwater declines. Applications will be ranked in the following order for funding until all funds have been exhausted. Applications within the same level will be prioritized based on order of receipt. Below are the specific prioritization levels.

Funding Prioritized by Level

Well does not provide adequate water to sustain the household*			
Owner’s household QUALIFIES as low to moderate Income		Owner’s household DOES NOT QUALIFY as low to moderate Income	
Home is owner-occupied	Home is not owner-occupied	Home is owner-occupied	Home is not owner-occupied
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4

*Level 1-4 prioritized regardless of whether home in prioritized area.

Well is at risk of going dry							
Owner’s household QUALIFIES as low to moderate Income				Owner’s household DOES NOT QUALIFY as low to moderate Income			
Home is owner-occupied		Home is not owner-occupied		Home is owner-occupied		Home is not owner-occupied	
In prioritized area	Outside prioritized area	In prioritized area	Outside prioritized area	In prioritized area	Outside prioritized area	In prioritized area	Outside prioritized area
Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Level 8	Level 9	Level 10	Level 11	Level 12

Funding Prioritization

List of Funding Prioritization Levels

Prioritization Level	Description
1	Well does not provide adequate water to sustain the household, home is OWNER-OCCUPIED, and owner's household qualifies as low to moderate income.
2	Well does not provide adequate water to sustain the household, home is NOT OWNER-OCCUPIED, and owner's household qualifies as low to moderate income.
3	Well does not provide adequate water to sustain the household, home is OWNER-OCCUPIED, and owner's household does not qualify as low to moderate income.
4	Well does not provide adequate water to sustain the household, home is NOT OWNER-OCCUPIED, and owner's household does not qualify as low to moderate income.
5	Well is at risk of going dry, home is OWNER-OCCUPIED, owner's household qualifies as low to moderate income, located in prioritized area of highest groundwater declines.
6	Well is at risk of going dry, home is NOT OWNER-OCCUPIED, owner's household qualifies as low to moderate income, located in prioritized area of highest groundwater declines.
7	Well is at risk of going dry, home is OWNER-OCCUPIED, owner's household qualifies as low to moderate income, located outside of prioritized area of highest groundwater declines.
8	Well is at risk of going dry, home is NOT OWNER-OCCUPIED, owner's household qualifies as low to moderate income, located outside of prioritized area of highest groundwater declines.
9	Well is at risk of going dry, home is OWNER-OCCUPIED, owner's household does not qualify as low to moderate income, located in prioritized area of highest groundwater declines.
10	Well is at risk of going dry, home is NOT OWNER-OCCUPIED, owner's household does not qualify as low to moderate income, located in prioritized area of highest groundwater declines.
11	Well is at risk of going dry, home is OWNER-OCCUPIED, owner's household does not qualify as low to moderate income, located outside of prioritized area of highest groundwater declines.
12	Well is at risk of going dry, home is NOT OWNER-OCCUPIED, owner's household does not qualify as low to moderate income, located outside of prioritized area of highest groundwater declines.

Low to Moderate Income Qualification

You do not need to be low to moderate income to qualify, but funding will be prioritized for low to moderate income homeowners. You meet the definition of low to moderate income if your household gross yearly income (income before taxes or deductions) falls within the range indicated next to your household size:

Household Size	Gross Yearly Income
1	\$0 – \$44,281
2	\$0 – \$59,890
3	\$0 – \$75,498
4	\$0 – \$91,107
5	\$0 – \$106,716
6	\$0 - \$122,324
6+	For each additional household member above 6, add \$15,609.

There are multiple ways to establish income eligibility. Please include proof of eligibility with your application. You only need to provide proof for one of the following to qualify for this priority:

Qualifying option:	Examples of Proof of eligibility accepted:
Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)	No additional proof is required, we will contact the Oregon Housing and Community Services to verify eligibility.
Oregon Medicaid (OHP)	A current copy of an eligibility notice or letter.
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	A current copy of an eligibility notice or letter.
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	A current copy of an eligibility notice or letter.
Low to Moderate Gross Yearly Household Income (see table below)	<p><i>You must submit documentation for all income:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entire current federal tax return for every filer residing at the household physical address • Agency letter showing money received from Social Security, Veteran’s Affairs, Employment Department, or another federal, state, or local agency • Retirement statement • Paternity, custody, divorce decree, or support order

Document Checklist

The following documents are required to apply for funding to abandon, repair, or replace an affected household water supply well.



Documents required of ALL applicants:

- ✓ Completed [Application Form](#)
- ✓ Receipt for work completed or cost estimates for all expected costs to abandon and replace or repair your well. These estimates should include drilling and abandonment or repair from a [licensed well constructor](#), electrical, plumbing, and/or pump costs. If replacing your well, you must include a cost estimate to abandon your existing well. *Please see page 8 for a list of eligible costs.*
- ✓ A well log or well report documents the construction of your well. These are provided by drillers at the time of construction and may be located with the papers you received when you purchased your home. In many cases, the well document can be found [online](#). Please include a copy of the well log and/or well report for your well (if available).



Documents required of low to moderate income landowners:

If you are a low to moderate income landowner, please include the documents necessary to establish your income eligibility. *Please see page 6 for a list of required documentation.*



Documents required of applicants with dry wells:

If your well is unable to provide adequate water to sustain your household, a [Dry Well Reporting Form](#) must be completed prior to submitting your application. You do not need to include a copy with the application as it is available electronically to staff.



Document recommended for at-risk wells:

If your well provides enough water to sustain your household, but you are concerned that it may go dry in the near future, please attach evidence to support your concern.

Eligible and Ineligible Costs

The Harney Domestic Well Remediation Fund may reimburse qualified homeowners to permanently abandon, replace, or repair a well used for household purposes. The homeowner will not be reimbursed for any costs above the funding limit or costs identified as ineligible. Ineligible costs may not count towards the 25% required match for well repair or replacement.

Eligible costs

- Costs including work and materials associated with and necessary to abandon, repair, or replace eligible wells include:
 - Annular seal
 - Casing
 - Drilling
 - Liner
 - Mobilization
 - Perforating and/or removing casing
 - Seal material to abandon well
 - Storage tank
 - Pressure tank
 - Pump
 - Plumbing necessary to connect the well head to the residence (must be licensed professional)
 - Pitless adapters
 - Electrical wiring necessary to connect the pump to a power source (must be licensed professional)
- Costs including work and materials associated with and necessary to permanently abandoning eligible wells in accordance with [690-210](#), [690-215](#), and [690-220](#)
- [OWRD Start Card fee](#)
- [OWRD Groundwater use registration fee](#)

Ineligible costs

Costs **NOT** eligible include but are not limited to:

- Electrical or plumbing to out-buildings or non-residential structures, to landscaping, or within the residence
- Fencing
- Homeowner or family labor
- Interior residential electrical wiring
- Landscaping costs
- Maintenance of any kind
- Road construction expenses
- Work completed by unlicensed driller, plumber, etc.
- Water filtration or treatment systems
- Water witching or water dousing or any other method to predict water production
- Wells used only for irrigation
- Well/pump house construction or reconstruction

Application and Funding Process

Work Not Complete

For applications where work to repair or replace and abandon the well **has not** already been completed, the following process will apply.

1	<p style="text-align: center;">Application</p> <p>Applicant submits Harney Domestic Well Fund application, including estimates for all work and proof of income (if applicable).</p> <p>Well Fund staff review application for completeness & preliminary eligibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If application is incomplete, applicant is notified of missing information and may be given an opportunity to provide additional information.• If applicant is not eligible, application is denied. <p>For complete and eligible applications, Well Fund staff complete preliminary prioritization. Based on prioritization, Well Fund staff request a pre-inspection of the affected well.</p>
2	<p style="text-align: center;">Pre-Inspection & Prioritization</p> <p>OWRD inspector completes pre-inspection of the affected well and sends report to Well Fund staff.</p> <p>Well Fund staff review inspection report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If well is eligible, Well Fund staff complete final prioritization.• If well is not eligible, application is denied. <p>Well Fund staff will approve applications and determine award amounts.</p>
3	<p style="text-align: center;">Grant Agreement</p> <p>Well fund staff prepare grant agreement and send to applicant. Applicant signs and dates grant agreement and returns it to OWRD. OWRD signs grant agreement and returns copy to applicant.</p>
4	<p style="text-align: center;">Work Completed</p> <p>Applicant schedules all work and makes payment arrangements. All work is completed to repair or replace and abandon the well by licensed well driller, electrician, plumber, and/or pump company. Applicant notifies Well Fund staff that work is complete.</p>
5	<p style="text-align: center;">Post Inspection</p> <p>Well Fund staff schedule a post-inspection with OWRD inspector to verify work was completed to OWRD standards. Inspector sends post-inspection results to Well Fund staff. Well Fund staff review post-inspection report. Well Fund staff notify applicant of results and sends fund request form to applicant.</p>
6	<p style="text-align: center;">Payment</p> <p>Applicant completes and submits fund request form with all invoices and/or receipts. Well Fund staff review and approve fund request. OWRD fiscal staff process fund request and send check to applicant.</p>

Application and Funding Process

Work Complete

For applications where work to repair or replace and abandon the well **was** completed between September 25, 2021, and May 31, 2024, the following process will apply.

1	<p style="text-align: center;">Application</p> <p>Applicant submits Harney Domestic Well Fund application, including invoices and/or receipts for all work and proof of income (if applicable).</p> <p>Well Fund staff review application for completeness & preliminary eligibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If application is incomplete, applicant is notified of missing information and may be given an opportunity to provide additional information.• If applicant is not eligible, application is denied. <p>For complete and eligible applications, Well Fund staff complete preliminary prioritization. Based on prioritization, Well Fund staff request an inspection of the affected well.</p>
2	<p style="text-align: center;">Inspection & Prioritization</p> <p>OWRD inspector completes inspection of the affected well. Inspector verifies that work was completed to OWRD standards and sends report to Well Fund staff.</p> <p>Well Fund staff review inspection report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If well is eligible, Well Fund staff complete final prioritization.• If well is not eligible, application is denied. <p>Well Fund staff will approve applications and determine award amounts.</p>
3	<p style="text-align: center;">Grant Agreement</p> <p>Well fund staff prepare grant agreement and send to applicant. Applicant signs and dates grant agreement and returns it to OWRD. OWRD signs grant agreement and returns copy to applicant. OWRD sends fund request form to applicant.</p>
4	<p style="text-align: center;">Payment</p> <p>Applicant completes and submits fund request form with all invoices and/or receipts. Well Fund staff review and approve fund request. OWRD fiscal staff process fund request and send check to applicant.</p>

Questions and Answers

Questions about Eligibility and Funding

I am not eligible for this funding opportunity; are there any other funding sources I could access?

- Funding may be available through your county, home insurance, veterans' programs, or other sources. If you apply for or receive funding from any other grant fund, you are not eligible to apply for funds from the Harney Domestic Well Remediation Fund.

Are renters eligible for funding?

- Renters are not eligible; per ORS 90.320, it is the responsibility of the landlord who is the property owner to provide safe drinking water ([More information](#)). Property owners may be eligible to apply for their rental property.

Is funding guaranteed if I am an eligible applicant?

- No. Funding is limited and applying for the program does not guarantee that your application will be approved.

What happens after I turn in my application?

- After the application deadline, applications will be evaluated for completeness and ranked. Based on ranking and funding availability, OWRD will schedule a pre-inspection of the affected well with an OWRD Well Inspector. The OWRD Well Inspector will send a pre-inspection report to Well Fund staff, who will then verify that you and your well are eligible and approve or deny the application. You will then receive an email notifying you if you are approved or denied for funding. If you do not have an email address, staff will contact you by mail with the decision.

How will I receive the funding?

- After the eligible work to repair or replace and abandon your well is completed, you will notify Well Fund staff who will request a post-inspection visit. The OWRD Well Inspector will complete a post-inspection to verify the approved work was conducted and complies with [OWRD Standards](#). The Well Inspector will provide the results of the post-inspection to Well Fund Program staff who will review the post-inspection report and notify the applicant of the findings.

If the well meets the requirements, Well Fund Program staff will then provide a Fund Request Form for you to complete and return with copies of all receipts and invoices for the work. Well Fund Program staff will review and approve the fund request then forward it to OWRD Fiscal staff who finalize the payment and mail you a check to reimburse you for your portion of the eligible costs.

Questions and Answers

Will I have to pay taxes on this funding?

- These grant funds are considered taxable income. You will receive a 1099G form for the year your reimbursement is processed. Program participants are responsible for understanding any tax implications as a result of accepting this funding. OWRD cannot provide tax advice. For additional information, contact the IRS or a tax professional.

I have already paid a well constructor for work on my well. Can I get reimbursed for it?

- Potentially. In cases where an applicant meets all criteria and the work to abandon, replace, or repair a household well was completed between September 15, 2021 and May 31, 2024, Well Fund staff will review the application for eligibility, completeness and ranking, then schedule an inspection to determine if the original household supply well met the criteria for funding. After the inspection and review of all information, reimbursement funding for the work may be authorized and a grant agreement may be developed if all criteria are met. All expenses incurred prior to September 15, 2021, are not eligible for reimbursement.

Questions about Wells and Well Contractors

What wells are not eligible for funding?

- A well that is a public water system or a public well.
- A monitoring well or observation well.
- A low-temperature geothermal well with no domestic secondary consumptive use component.
- A water supply well on an applicant's property not plumbed to the house.
- Wells for residences constructed after April 15, 2016.
- A well with adequate flow but water quality issues.

Do I have to permanently abandon my affected well?

- If the affected is to be replaced, the well must be permanently abandoned, unless otherwise pre-authorized by OWRD. In some cases, if the replacement well is unable to supply sufficient water for drinking, culinary, washing, bathing, or household uses, the well owner may have the option to use both the original affected well and the replacement well. This may only occur if pre-authorized by OWRD. If you are interested in this option, please include a copy of the well log for the existing well and a request to keep the current well with your application package. If your well meets the requirements, you will be notified prior to application approval.

Questions and Answers

My household well is old and not registered with OWRD, am I eligible?

- A well is eligible regardless of registration status for abandonment and replacement. An undocumented well is not eligible for repair unless it can be documented by OWRD that the repaired well will meet minimum well construction standards.

I have a well that I use solely to water my garden and livestock, is that well eligible for funding?

- No. An eligible well is an affected household water supply well that is used to supply water for drinking, culinary, washing, bathing, or household uses.

Is there a limit on the diameter of a replacement well?

- Yes. The replacement well shall be constructed in a manner consistent with the original affected well's diameter and shall not exceed the diameter of the original affected well. In cases where the original well is less than six inches, the replacement well may exceed the original affected well's diameter but shall not exceed six inches.

Can I be reimbursed for my own labor and costs?

- No. Funding will only be provided for work performed by professionals. These can include Licensed Plumbers, Electricians, or Water Supply Well Constructors who hold a current Water Well Constructor's License with a water supply well endorsement issued in accordance with Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 537.747(3).

What are the requirements of the well constructor?

- The well constructor holds a current Water Well Constructor's License with a water supply well endorsement issued in accordance with [ORS 537.747\(3\)](#). Find a [licensed well constructor](#).
- All work performed by a well constructor shall comply with all OWRD Well Construction Standards.
- Well driller shall be bonded in accordance with 537.753. (1) or shall have in effect a surety bond or an irrevocable letter of credit issued by an insured institution, as defined in [ORS 706.008](#), running to the State of Oregon of a minimum amount of \$20,000.

I am having trouble getting a cost estimate for a portion of the work. Can I submit my application without it and submit the cost estimate later?

- No. You need to submit all cost estimates with your application for OWRD to evaluate your grant application.

Other Resources

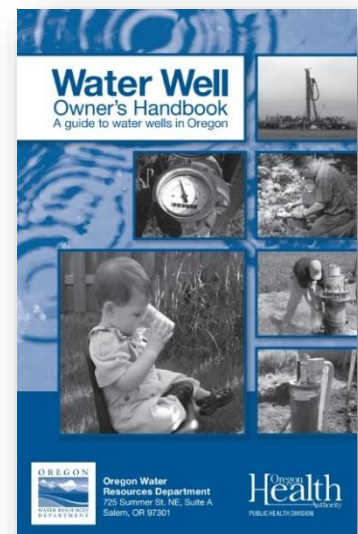
[Find a Licensed Well Constructor](#)

Find licensed contractors to work on water pumps or electrical: <http://search.ccb.state.or.us> and <https://go.usa.gov/x6QCW>

- Type “pump” or “water” in the search bar to find contractors with those words in the name.

Oregon Water Resources Department – *Well construction standards, well logs, well inspections, and well constructor licensing. Processes water right transactions.*

- [Water Wells and Drought](#)
- [Well Construction and Compliance](#), Phone: 503-302-8618
- [Well Inspector Contact Information](#)
- [Water Resources Department Well Owners Handbook \(English\)](#)
 - [Español](#)
- [Water Right Information](#), Phone: 503-986-0900
- [Saving Water Inside the Home](#)
- [Learn More about What You Can Do to Use Water Wisely](#)



Oregon Health Authority - *Information on water well testing and potential water contaminants.*

- [Domestic Well Safety Program Webpage](#), Phone: 971-673-0440
- [Tips for Testing Water](#)
- [List of Accredited Labs for Water Testing](#)

Environmental Protection Agency

- WaterSense Program [Fix a Leak Week](#)