



DROUGHT RESILIENCE GRANT PROGRAM

OVERVIEW AND GUIDANCE: Jefferson County Drought Resilience

Technical Assistance

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Introduction

During the 2021 Oregon Second Special Legislative Session, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) received funding to provide grants to support drought resilience. This grant program is supported by General Funds. Funding is provided to support drought resilience projects in Jefferson County, including grants to support resilience and water use reduction projects (2021 Senate Bill 5561).

Proposed activities should aim to promote long-term solutions, rather than short-term actions, related to drought resilience. Improving drought resilience is enhancing the ability to respond to and recover from drought conditions. For the purposes of this grant program, a long-term solution is considered an action that will improve resilience and lessen drought impacts to the watershed for at least 10 years.

Program Structure

The funding source for this program is General Funds provided during the 2021 Second Special Legislative Session. The lifespan of these funds is anticipated to end June 30, 2023. All funding must be obligated and fully expended during the 2021-23 biennium.

Eligible geography is Jefferson County, Oregon.

Funding for eligible project activities is retroactive to December 14, 2021.

The final funding level for awarded grants will depend on the number of proposed projects recommended for funding following technical review. The total grant funding for this program is \$852,073.

For additional information about eligible applicants, eligible costs, and budget development, refer to [OWEB's GoBig document for OWEB Drought Program - Jefferson County Drought Resilience Technical Assistance Grant Program](#).

Eligible application types include:

Assessment and Planning

"Assessment and Planning Project" includes planning activities, such as an economic study, feasibility study, or long-term drought planning effort.

Eligible activities include:

- Development of an economic study for a drought resilience action(s).
- Development of an appraisal study for a drought resilience action(s).
- Long-term drought planning effort to develop a drought resilience plan.

Water Management Transaction Program

"Water Management Transaction Program" means a program that facilitates the reallocation of water as a drought response tool.

Applicants must demonstrate the capacity to plan and implement successful actions over a relatively short timeframe (see information above about funding lifespan).

A 25% match (cash and/or in-kind contributions) is encouraged. However, applications with less than 25% match will be accepted.

Under this grant program, grantees will be required to complete quarterly billing and reporting and submit a project completion report. Annual post-implementation status reporting may be required once the grant has ended. Post-implementation status reporting requirements will be detailed in the grant agreement.

Grant Cycles and Grant-Making Considerations

The Jefferson County Drought Resilience Technical Assistance Grant Program application cycle will be timed as follows, with award decisions to be made within approximately 4-6 weeks following the application deadline:

- The grant cycle will open on September 1, 2022, with a deadline of 5 p.m. on September 30, 2022.

OWEB strongly recommends that applicants submit their grant applications at least 24 hours prior to the application deadline. OWEB's online grant applications include a verification step that will flag missing and incomplete information in the application. Verifying and submitting your grant application at least 24 hours in advance allows time for applicants to correct errors that are found during verification. **All applications must be successfully submitted through OWEB's online grant application system by 5 p.m. on the application deadline. No exceptions will be made.**

Applicants should carefully review all guidance and information (including iButtons) in the online grant applications. This review will help applicants confirm before submission of their application that all questions are answered completely, based on the guidelines included in the application, and all required uploads are provided.

Grant Program Evaluation Process

Evaluation of grant applications will be based upon the [OWEB Technical Assistance](#) Grants evaluation criteria. Within that evaluation framework, grant applications will be assessed to ensure proposed activities align with the following expectations:

- Project needs align with the priorities identified in the legislative intent for this funding, including long-term drought resilience solutions and water use reduction.
- Organizational capacity to complete project during a limited timeframe.
- Demonstrate coordination among local partners and stakeholders in Jefferson County.
- The applicant must have an established track record in working collaboratively on drought resilience issues and have a strong presence in Jefferson County.

For the purpose of information gathering, the grant application includes questions about tribal coordination and equity and climate considerations by the applicant.

Grant applications will be reviewed by a team of agency staff who are knowledgeable on drought impacts and drought resilience needs. The review team will also have experience with organizational capacity, coordination, and partnership considerations related to planning and implementation of successful projects and programs. This team will coordinate with agency representatives in the affected areas to ensure an understanding of local needs.

Additional Resources for Applicants

For additional information about applying for OWEB grants, see OWEB's Online Application Guidance at <https://apps.wrd.state.or.us/apps/oweb/oa/Images/Online%20Application%20GuidanceV3.5.pdf>. While not specific to the Drought Grant Program, this general guidance may provide helpful tips.

For information about grant budgets, getting access to OWEB's Grant Management System, understanding insurance requirements, or using OWEB's online applications, see the video resources at <https://www.oregon.gov/oweb/manage-grant/Pages/videos-training.aspx>.

For eligibility questions, or other questions about OWEB's Jefferson County Drought Resilience Technical Assistance Grant Program, please contact Theresa DeBardelaben, Drought Programs Specialist, Theresa.M.DEBARDELABEN@oweb.oregon.gov or 971-719-3112.