



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TAP)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Where does the revenue come from to fund the Technical Assistance Program (TAP) grants?
 - a. Technical Assistance grants are funded through a sub-grant of the State School Fund.
2. What is the purpose of the Technical Assistance Program grants?
 - a. Provide assistance to districts to determine the level of deferred maintenance and capital construction needs. Also, to provide ODE access to information on the status of district facilities across the state
3. How much Technical Assistance funds will be available for each annual application period?
 - a. \$2 million to \$2.5 million per application period.
4. How much is available for each assessment type?
 - a. The maximum (statutory cap) grant award is:
 - i. \$20,000 for a Facilities Assessment;
 - ii. \$25,000 for a Long-Range Facility Plan;
 - iii. \$25,000 for a Seismic Assessment; and
 - iv. \$25,000 for an Asbestos Environmental Hazards Assessment
5. When is the application period open?
 - a. Applications can be submitted between January 15 and February 15 of each year.
6. How will applications be chosen to receive the grants?
 - a. Each application will be given 1 to 6 preference points. All applications with 6 preference points will be awarded a grant, followed by applications with 5 preference points, and so on until ODE has awarded up to the available funding amount.
7. What are the preference points that ODE will use to rank the applications for the Technical Assistance Program grants?
 - a. The following provides the preference points for each assessment type.
 - b. To ensure accuracy and facilitate the application process for school districts, ODE will calculate the preference points regarding ADMr and poverty based on State School Fund data, while other preference points where indicated are based on data from ODE's Building Collection, the United State Geological Survey, and the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries.

Preference Points for the Facilities Assessment Grant (6 points maximum)

- District has not conducted a Facility Assessment in the last 10 years.
- District has not passed a general obligation bond in the last 15 years.
- District has under 2,500 ADMr according to the annual reports for the same school year as used to calculate the Priority List under OAR 581-027-0010. **as determined by ODE*
- District has 25% or more of its ADMr identified as Students in Poverty. The number of Students in Poverty shall be the same as used in OAR 581-027-0010. **as determined by ODE*
- District's ADMr has changed by 10% or more over the last 5 years based on the latest annual reports submitted to the Department. **as determined by ODE*
- District has submitted and/or updated its facilities information to ODE's Buildings Collection by February 15 of the year to which they are applying. **as determined by ODE*

Preference Points for the Long-Range Facility Plan Grant (6 points maximum)

- District has not conducted a Long-Range Facility Plan in the last 10 years.
- District has not passed a general obligation bond in the last 15 years.
- District has under 2,500 ADMr according to the annual reports for the same school year as used to calculate the Priority List under OAR 581-027-0010. **as determined by ODE*
- District has 25% or more of its ADMr identified as Students in Poverty. The number of Students in Poverty shall be the same as used in OAR 581-027-0010. **as determined by ODE*
- District's ADMr has changed by 10% or more over the last 5 years based on the latest annual reports submitted to the Department. **as determined by ODE*
- District has submitted and/or updated its facilities information to ODE's Buildings Collection by February 15 of the year to which they are applying. **as determined by ODE*

Preference Points for the Seismic Assessment Grant (6 points maximum)

- District has not conducted an assessment for Business Oregon’s Seismic Rehabilitation Grant Program.
- District’s Mapped Spectral Acceleration for 1-second period (S_s) is greater than 0.6 as determined by the United State Geological Survey and published on the USGS website for the district’s central office. **as determined by ODE once District provides the central office address*
- District identifies the schools it intends to assess and at least 50% are listed as “High” or “Very High” for collapse potential in the Rapid Visual Survey created by the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries. **as determined by ODE once District provides a list of schools they would like to have assessed*
- District has under 2,500 ADMr according to the annual reports for the same school year as used to calculate the Priority List under OAR 581-027-0010. **as determined by ODE*
- District has 25% or more of its ADMr identified as Students in Poverty. The number of Students in Poverty shall be the same as used in OAR 581-027-0010. **as determined by ODE*
- District has submitted and/or updated its facilities information to ODE’s Buildings Collection by February 15 of the year to which they are applying. **as determined by ODE*

Preference Points for the Asbestos Environmental Hazards Assessment Grant (6 points maximum)

- District is due to conduct its 3-year re-inspection of asbestos-containing material in each school facility. (Last inspection conducted in 2019 or earlier).
- District needs to provide training to a staff person to oversee asbestos-related activities and/or needs to provide asbestos awareness training to custodial staff.
- District has at least 50% or more of its schools built before 1980. **as determined by ODE*
- District has under 2,500 ADMr according to the annual reports for the same school year as used to calculate the Priority List under OAR 581-027-0010. **as determined by ODE*
- District has 25% or more of its ADMr identified as Students in Poverty. See OAR 581-027-0010. **as determined by ODE*
- District has submitted and/or updated its facilities information to ODE’s Buildings Collection by February 15 of the year to which they are applying. **as determined by ODE*

8. Can a district apply for more than one grant?
 - a. A district may apply for any or all four assessment types.
9. Does a district have to submit a separate application for each type of grant?
 - a. Yes, because each grant receives different priority rankings, the applications will need to be separated to properly apply all rankings.
10. Can a district submit a separate application for an assessment of each building?
 - a. No. The Technical Assistance grants are provided at the district level. That means that if a district receives a Technical Assistance grant for an assessment, the district will have to decide the most effective use of the funds, whether that be for one or two building assessments, or a district-wide assessment.
11. What if the assessment costs exceed the grant funds?
 - a. The district will be required to pay the difference. The grants are statutorily capped.
12. What if the assessment costs are less than the grant funds?
 - a. ODE will reimburse the district up to the actual cost of the assessment (not to exceed the grant's statutory limit).
13. If a district does not need to assess all buildings, will ODE require the district to assess all buildings?
 - a. No. However, if a district receives a grant, that district will not be able to apply for additional grant funds for that same assessment type to later assess the remaining buildings until the four-year waiting period has elapsed.
14. Will there be a list of certified providers for the Seismic Assessments?
 - a. No. ODE does not certify seismic assessment providers because the statute does not require certification for seismic assessment providers.
 - b. However, seismic assessments are required to meet the standards listed in [OAR 581-027-0045](#), this includes the requirement that the seismic assessment is certified by a registered Structural Engineer licensed in the State of Oregon. Districts can search the [Oregon State Board of Examiners for Engineering and Land Surveying](#) to check the qualifications of their service provider.
15. Will providers of the Long-Range Facility Plans and Facilities Assessments be certified?
 - a. Yes. ODE requires school districts to use Certified Assessors and conducts an annual certification training open to experienced professionals that want to become certified.
16. How does an individual or business get certified?
 - a. Further information can be found on the [Technical Assistance Program webpage](#).
17. What standards will be required for Facilities Assessments?
 - a. The standards for a facilities assessment are listed in [OAR 581-027-0035](#).

18. What standards will be required for Long-Range Facility Plans?
 - a. The standards for a long-range facility plan are listed in [OAR 581-027-0040](#) and [OAR 581-027-0043](#).
19. What standards will be required for Seismic Assessments?
 - a. The standards for a seismic assessment are listed in [OAR 581-027-0045](#).
20. What costs will ODE cover for the Asbestos Environmental Hazards Assessment grant?
 - a. ODE will cover the following costs associated with asbestos management and inspections:
 - i. Pre-renovation/demolition surveys (asbestos sampling)
 - ii. Initial AHERA inspections and 3-year re-inspections
 - iii. 6-month periodic surveillance
 - iv. AHERA-related training for district personnel – both new and refresher courses
 - v. Upgrading to a web-based record-keeping system
 - b. Please note that the TAP grant will not cover asbestos abatement.
21. How often may a district receive a technical assistance grant?
 - a. A district may receive funds for each assessment type once every four years.
22. Are districts permitted to use TAP grant funds to pay for an assessment that has already been started?
 - a. Yes, TAP grants will pay pre-award costs incurred after July 1st of the prior year only. This applies to all four types of assessments.