

STATEMENT OF NEED AND FISCAL IMPACT

A Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Hearing or a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking accompanies this form.

Oregon Health Authority- Public Health Division

333

Agency and Division

Administrative Rules Chapter Number

Healthy Homes Grant Program - housing improvements for seniors and individuals with disabilities.

Rule Caption

Statutory Authority: ORS 431A.400

Other Authority:

Stats. Implemented: ORS 431A.400

Need for the Rule(s):

These proposed permanent rule amendments establish definitions necessary to implement [HB 3506](#) (Oregon Laws 2025, chapter 509), which appropriates \$3,000,000 from the General Fund to the Healthy Homes Repair Fund for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025. By funding essential home repairs, the Healthy Homes Grant Program (HHGP) helps low-income families improve indoor air quality, reduce medical costs, and lower energy bills. The funds appropriated by HB 3506 support housing improvements for seniors and individuals with disabilities, including installation of accessibility modifications. Clear definitions are necessary to ensure consistent interpretation and application of program requirements and eligibility criteria.

Documents Relied Upon, and where they are available:

HB 3506 (Oregon Laws 2025, chapter 509) –

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2025R1/Measures/Overview/HB3506>

Statement Identifying How Adoption of Rule(s) Will Affect Racial Equity in This State:

The adoption of these rule amendments will help ensure equitable access to housing repair and accessibility resources for seniors and individuals with disabilities, including individuals from historically marginalized communities, including communities of color. By defining key terms, the rules will promote clarity and fairness in program administration and support the Oregon Health Authority's commitment to health equity.

The age threshold for determining senior eligibility, which is still under discussion during the RAC process, may carry important equity implications. A lower age threshold could better reflect the earlier onset of age-related health conditions in some communities, while a higher threshold may limit access for groups already experiencing health inequities.

In addition, clarifying the definition of disability may expand eligibility for individuals who have historically faced barriers in establishing disability status, including communities of color who experience higher rates of disability and environmental health burdens.

Fiscal and Economic Impact:

The rule amendments themselves do not create a fiscal impact; however, HB 3506 (2025) appropriates \$3,000,000 to the Healthy Homes Repair Fund. These funds will be distributed through grants to eligible entities, resulting in investments in local economies statewide. Funds will be used for housing improvements and accessibility modifications, generating economic activity through payments to contractors, retailers, and service providers, and improving property values and generating energy savings for individuals receiving services.

Statement of Cost of Compliance:

1. Impact on state agencies, units of local government and the public (ORS 183.335(2)(b)(E)):

There is no anticipated cost of compliance impact on state agencies, units of local government or the public. These rules provide definitions and do not impose compliance obligations on state agencies, local governments, or the public.

2. Cost of compliance effect on small business (ORS 183.336):

a. Estimate the number of small businesses and types of business and industries with small businesses subject to the rule:

While these rules define terms and do not directly regulate small businesses, some small businesses may be indirectly affected if they are eligible entities that choose to apply for funding through the Healthy Homes Grant Program (HHGP). Potentially affected small businesses could include mission-oriented construction firms, weatherization contractors, nonprofit housing or community-service organizations, and other entities involved in home-repair or health-related housing services.

The Oregon Health Authority does not possess the information needed to accurately estimate the number of small businesses that may meet the eligibility criteria for HHGP funding or may otherwise be subject to the effects of these rules.

b. Projected reporting, recordkeeping and other administrative activities required for compliance, including costs of professional services:

Although Healthy Homes Grant Program (HHGP) grantees that meet the definition of small business will be required to comply with these rules, the projected cost of compliance is minimal. Administrative activities include verifying participant age and income, collecting and reviewing supporting documentation, and maintaining required records for monitoring or audit purposes. These functions are consistent with standard eligibility-determination and recordkeeping practices commonly performed by entities administering means- or age-based benefit programs. It is anticipated that these tasks can be completed using existing staff resources, and no additional professional services are expected to be necessary.

c. Equipment, supplies, labor and increased administration required for compliance:

As stated above, the definitions included in these rules are anticipated to make compliance with program rules easier, not more difficult, and should not increase the equipment, supplies, labor, or administrative resources already required to comply with program rules.

How were small businesses involved in the development of this rule?:

Small businesses (non-profit eligible entities) were invited to participate in the RAC.

Administrative Rule Advisory Committee consulted?:

Yes.

If not, why?:

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