

## **Program Element #49: Private Domestic Wells and Public Health: Building Capacity in Local Public Health Authorities**

### **OHA Program Responsible for Program Element:**

Public Health Division/Center for Health Protection/Environmental Public Health Section

- 1. Description.** Funds provided under this Agreement for this Program Element may only be used in accordance with, and subject to, the requirements and limitations set forth below, to deliver Private Domestic Wells and Public Health: Building Capacity in Local Public Health Authorities (LPHAs).

This Program Element is intended to increase the capacity of LPHA, particularly if LPHA has identified domestic wells and water security as local priorities through county hazard assessments. OHA's Domestic Well Safety Program (DWSP) continues to provide grants to support outreach efforts identified by LPHAs in their local program plan as described in Section 4.a. below. In working with LPHAs, the DWSP will help plan and deliver outreach and interventions to communities of concern, as identified by LPHAs.

There are an estimated 350,000 active wells in Oregon. When this estimate is coupled with Oregon census estimates for household size, it suggests that approximately 23% of Oregon's population may be relying on domestic wells. This makes groundwater protection and domestic well stewardship of critical public health importance.

Large drinking water systems are required by the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Act to submit testing information on a regular basis and meet specific standards for safety. Smaller systems may be regulated by Oregon statutes (see ORS 448.119) and rules, rather than the Safe Drinking Water Act. However, there are no such requirements for very small drinking water systems and domestic wells, beyond Oregon's Real Estate Transaction Act (ORS 448.271) that requires water quality testing during property sales and transfers.

The Oregon Water Resources Department reports that every year 3,800 new exempt-use wells are drilled across Oregon. These mostly small system or single residence wells are exempt from the water-rights permitting process and regular water quality testing is not required. Without regulations on permitting and testing, users of these wells are at increased risk for adverse health outcomes stemming from exposure to well water contamination. The purpose of the DWSP is to promote water testing and hazard mitigation to users of domestic wells in Oregon.

To comply with performance standards of this Program Element, LPHA must engage in activities as described below. The purpose of these activities is to support local interventions and outreach efforts as identified and determined by LPHA and the DWSP as being most effective in reaching communities of concern. Collaborative community outreach efforts to enhance domestic well stewardship will be planned and delivered during the period of this Agreement.

Activities include:

- a. Engage local residents.** Engage populations, identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as vulnerable (e.g. race/ethnicity, socio-economic status, geography, gender, age, disability status, risk status related to sex and gender, and other populations identified as at-risk for health disparities).
- b. Foster collaborations among diverse stakeholders.** Collaborate, convene, and facilitate partnerships with traditional domestic well stakeholders (e.g. extension services, watermasters, environmental laboratories, realtor associations and other water-related information providers) to plan outreach activities that enhance local domestic well stewardship.
- c. Develop and provide education and recommendations to residents, partners and stakeholders.** Use input from residents, partners, and stakeholders as well as existing data and literature to

develop recommendations that address public health concerns and maximize the benefits that result from proper well stewardship.

This Program Element, and all changes to this Program Element are effective the first day of the month noted in Issue Date section of Exhibit C Financial Assistance Award unless otherwise noted in Comments and Footnotes of Exhibit C of the Financial Assistance Award.

2. **Definitions Specific to Private Domestic Wells and Public Health: Building Capacity in Local Public Health Authorities.** Not Applicable.
3. **Alignment with Modernization Foundational Programs and Foundational Capabilities.** The activities and services that the LPHA has agreed to deliver under this Program Element align with Foundational Programs and Foundational Capabilities and the public health accountability metrics (if applicable), as follows (see [Oregon’s Public Health Modernization Manual](http://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/ABOUT/TASKFORCE/Documents/public_health_modernization_manual.pdf), ([http://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/ABOUT/TASKFORCE/Documents/public\\_health\\_modernization\\_manual.pdf](http://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/ABOUT/TASKFORCE/Documents/public_health_modernization_manual.pdf)):
  - a. **Foundational Programs and Capabilities** (As specified in Public Health Modernization Manual)

Program Components	Foundational Program				Foundational Capabilities						
	CD Control	Prevention and health promotion	Environmental health	Access to clinical preventive services	Leadership and organizational competencies	Health equity and cultural responsiveness	Community Partnership Development	Assessment and Epidemiology	Policy & Planning	Communications	Emergency Preparedness and Response
<i>Asterisk (*) = Primary foundational program that aligns with each component</i> <i>X = Other applicable foundational programs</i>					<i>X = Foundational capabilities that align with each component</i>						
<b>Engage local residents</b>			*				X				
<b>Foster collaborations among diverse stakeholders</b>			*				X				
<b>Develop and provide education and recommendations to residents, partners and stakeholders</b>			*				X			X	
<b>Build local capacity</b>			*				X				

- b. **The work in this Program Element helps Oregon’s governmental public health system achieve the following Public Health Accountability Metric:** Not applicable.
- c. **The work in this Program Element helps Oregon’s governmental public health system achieve the following Public Health Modernization Process Measure:** Not applicable.

- 4. Procedural and Operational Requirements.** By accepting and using the Financial Assistance awarded under this Agreement and for this Program Element, LPHA agrees to conduct activities in accordance with the following requirements:
- a. LPHA must engage in activities as described in its local program plan, which has been approved by OHA and on file with OHA
  - b. LPHA must use funds for this Program Element in accordance with its local program budget, which has been approved by OHA and on file with OHA. Modification to the local program budget may only be made with OHA approval.
  - c. LPHA must assure that staffing is at the appropriate level to address Subsections 1.a. through c. of this Program Element. Funds for this Program Element must be directed in support of personnel and other expenses in support of Subsections 1.a. through c. of this Program Element.
  - d. LPHA must participate in monthly calls with DWSP to discuss ongoing progress.
  - e. LPHA must share experiences with other public health professionals in local, regional or national exchanges or presentations.

- 5. General Revenue and Expense Reporting.** LPHA must complete an “Oregon Health Authority Public Health Division Expenditure and Revenue Report” located in Exhibit C of the Agreement. These reports must be submitted to OHA each quarter on the following schedule:

Fiscal Quarter	Due Date
First: July 1 – September 30	October 30
Second: October 1 – December 31	January 30
Third: January 1 – March 31	April 30
Fourth: April 1 – June 30	August 20

- 6. Reporting Requirements.** LPHA must submit the result of the Local Program Plan to DWSP and post information about the Local Program Plan on the LPHA’s website by the end of the project period.
- a. LPHA must provide a written final report to OHA that includes a summary of the project goals, objectives, activities and outcomes; and an evaluation of the project goals, including lessons learned, challenges and success stories within the context of your project. This written report must identify stakeholders and collaborations; and recommendations to improve future funding opportunities from the DWSP. DWSP will provide a final report template to the LPHA.
  - b. Share any materials developed and data collected to the DWSP. Materials and data should be relevant to identified target audience and partners. Examples of materials and data may include, but are not limited to:
    - (1) Web content,
    - (2) A formal written report or memo,
    - (3) A letter to the decision making body,
    - (4) A fact sheet,
    - (5) Well test results, and
    - (6) Maps depicting well data or presentations.

**7. Performance Measures.**

LPHA must operate the Private Domestic Wells and Public Health: Building Capacity in LPHAs in a manner designed to make progress toward achieving the following Public Health Modernization Process Measure: Not applicable.