Oregon Disaster Recovery Factsheet

OREGON HOUSING *and* COMMUNITY SERVICES

Overview
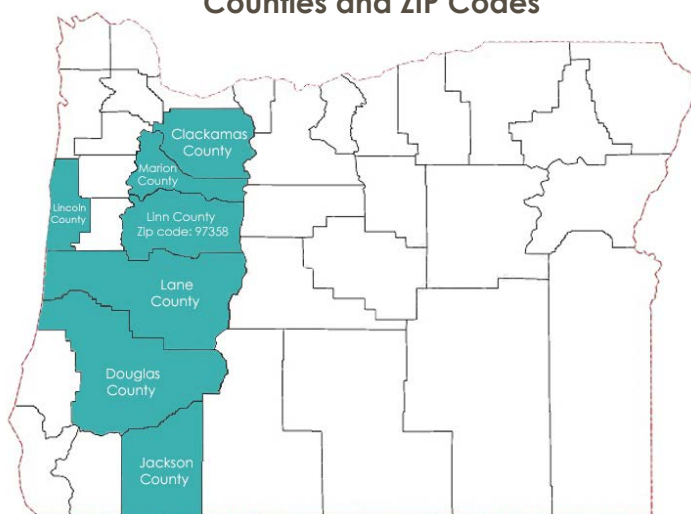
In September 2021, Congress set aside recovery funds for states hardest hit by 2020 disasters. The State of Oregon was designated to receive $422 million to help with the long-term recovery needs from the Labor Day 2020 wildfires. The funds will come to the state through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as a Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery/Mitigation (Disaster Recovery) grant.

Disaster Recovery Grant

The funds are used to help households and communities in the most-impacted and distressed areas recover.

- At least 15% of funds must be used to mitigate future disasters. Mitigate means to "build back better" so the investments are more resilient to future disasters.
- Disaster Recovery funding can be used for long-term recovery projects such as housing, rebuilding the local economy and restoring infrastructure.
- At least 80% of the funds must be spent in areas that HUD defines as most impacted and distressed. Those areas include the following counties: Clackamas, Douglas, Jackson, Lane, Lincoln, Linn and Marion. The state can add more impacted counties, such as Klamath, to programs.
- 70% of CDBG-DR funding must be used for projects that will directly benefit low-to-moderate income residents or investments in infrastructure that serve a majority (over 50%) of such residents.

Most Impacted and Distressed (MID) Counties and ZIP Codes

Map of Oregon showing MID counties: Clackamas County, Marion County, Lincoln County, Linn County Zip code: 97358, Lane County, Douglas County, Jackson County.

How can funds be used?

- **Housing Programs:** Some programs can help renters and new and existing homeowners with, for example, new construction and rebuilding projects, homelessness prevention, buyouts, counseling, and/or mobile home replacement and more.
- **Infrastructure Programs:** Grant funds can be used to pay for state and local portions of infrastructure projects that are funded by FEMA. Funds can also be used to repair damaged infrastructure or for new projects that will help create new housing options or make communities more resilient to future disasters.
- **Economic Revitalization Programs:** Loans or grants to small businesses to help revive the local economy.

Process

To receive Disaster Recovery funds, the state must complete several tasks. The state will conduct an Unmet and Mitigation Needs Assessment and develop an Action Plan that identifies how the state will use grant funds to address these needs. An Action Plan will be submitted to HUD in June.

☑ **Unmet Needs Assessment:** The state must conduct an analysis of the impact the disaster had and the remaining needs that have not been addressed through other funding sources.

☑ **Mitigation Needs Assessment:** The state must identify priority natural hazards in each of the disaster-impacted counties.

☐ **Action Plan:** Based on unmet needs and mitigation assessments, the state develops an Action Plan that includes programs to address those needs.

☐ **Public Comment:** A draft plan will be shared with the public to collect feedback. After a 30-day public comment period, all comments will be responded to, feedback will be incorporated into the plan, and the final Action Plan will be submitted to HUD for review and approval.

Community Participation

Public input is essential to developing the Action Plan and implementing recovery and mitigation programs. Community partners are needed to help ensure program information reaches and addresses the needs of disaster survivors, especially those who have low-to-moderate income.

How you can help:
- Talk with your local leaders and community partners to understand their disaster recovery needs and share this information with OHCS.
- Provide additional feedback on the Action Plan during the public comment period.
- Share the Action Plan with your partners and invite them to review it, ask questions and submit their feedback.

For more information about Oregon's Community Development Block Grant disaster recovery and mitigation efforts, stay tuned to **OHCS' CDBG-DR webpage** and sign up for **wildfire housing recovery email updates**.

Disaster Recovery Action Plan Development Timeline

Federal Actions

Congress appropriates **Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery** funds to states affected by disasters in 2020

HUD **Federal Register Notice** specifies fund use requirements

HUD approves **CDBG-DR Action Plan**

Historic wildfires result in a **Major Disaster Declaration**

September 2020 — **September 2021** — **February 8, 2022** — Initiate **public engagement** — **May 4, 2022** — **June 8, 2022** — **August 7, 2022**

OHCS Actions

Initiate **Unmet Needs Analysis and Mitigation Needs Assessment**

Complete **Unmet Needs Analysis and Mitigation Needs Assessment**

Develop **CDBG-DR Action Plan** Programs

Draft CDBG-DR Action Plan posted for **public comment period**

CDBG-DR Action Plan Submitted