



DROUGHT RELIEF GRANT PROGRAM

OVERVIEW AND GUIDANCE: Klamath County Drought Resilience Technical Assistance and Stakeholder Engagement *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 Klamath County, including grants to support resilience and water use reduction projects (2021 Senate Bill 5561).

Proposed activities should aim to promote long-term solutions related to drought resilience, rather than short-term actions. 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. These funds are anticipated to last until June 30, 2023. All funding must be obligated and fully expended during the 2021-23 biennium.

Property must be within Klamath County, Oregon to be eligible for this program.

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

Grant awards are capped at \$75,000 per application. Smaller funding requests are welcome. 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 these programs is a minimum of \$730,750, including awards made under the separate Klamath County Drought Resilience Restoration Grant Program.

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

Eligible application types include:

Technical Design and Engineering

“Technical Design and Engineering Project” includes engineering work to develop project designs or other information (e.g., permits) required to implement project(s).

Eligible activities include:

- Engineering work that includes analysis, survey, and modeling for a drought resilience project.
- Development of a technical design for a drought resilience project.

Assessment and Planning

“Assessment and Planning Project” includes planning activities, such as feasibility studies or implementation plans.

Eligible activities include:

- Analysis and consideration of alternatives for future drought resilience projects.
- Implementation plans, such as a focused action plan to move operation(s) towards drought resilience or irrigation water management plans.

- Other planning activities may be eligible. Before choosing this activity type, contact the OWEB Drought Project Manager to determine if the proposed activity is eligible.

Stakeholder Engagement

“Stakeholder Engagement Project” means a project whose purpose is to communicate and engage with landowners, organizations, and the community about the need for, feasibility of, and benefits of a specific drought resilience project(s). Engagement should lead directly to on the ground drought resilience project(s).

To be eligible, the project must be tied to a specific geography, and address clearly articulated goals that support drought resilience and use reduction, with a clear path toward achieving measurable outcomes.

Education projects are ineligible.

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 Klamath County Drought Resilience Technical Assistance and Stakeholder Engagement 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 October 17, 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](#) and [Stakeholder Engagement](#) 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 in Klamath 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_Application_GuidanceV3.5.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 Drought Grant Program, please contact Heidi Hartman, Drought Programs Specialist, heidi.hartman@oweb.oregon.gov or 971-707-0226.