



Well Abandonment, Repair and Replacement Fund (WARRF)

Guidance for Homeowners 2025-26



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Questions or Need Assistance?

Contact us at:



(503) 779-5763



Oregon Water Resources Department
Attention: Well Fund
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A
Salem, OR 97301



OWRD.Well.Funding@water.oregon.gov
Visit: owrd.info/warrf

Program Overview

The Oregon Water Resources Department's (OWRD) Well Abandonment, Repair, and Replacement Fund (WARRF) provides grants up to \$40,000 to help qualifying low- to moderate-income homeowners or members of a federally recognized tribe in Oregon experiencing well water supply issues. Grants can help with the cost of repairing or abandoning and replacing a dry well (including wells experiencing a severe decline in water levels) or a well that was damaged or destroyed by wildfire when the well no longer supplies enough water for essential in-home uses including drinking, cooking, and bathing.

To qualify for funding, an applicant must meet ALL the following:

Well Eligibility

- ✓ Your well is connected to your home to supply water for household use.
- ✓ Your well can no longer provide enough water for essential in-home use including drinking, cooking, and bathing.
- ✓ The well is not a public water supply well.
- ✓ Another source of water is not available for your property.

Property Eligibility

- ✓ You own the property and live there full-time (unless displaced by wildfire).
- ✓ You do not own any other property, and:
 - If your well is dry, you have owned the property for at least one year.
 - If your well was damaged or destroyed by wildfire, you owned the property before the fire.

Income Eligibility

- ✓ Your household is considered low- to moderate-income.

Please see the Eligibility section for more details.

Definitions

Abandon - permanently removing a well from service as defined in [Oregon Administrative Rules \(OAR\) 690-200-0050 \(1\)](#).

Eligible well - an affected household water supply well, or components of the well system, that is dry or was damaged or destroyed by wildfire, and whose condition is unable to supply water for essential in-home use including drinking, cooking, and bathing.

Household - all individuals who reside at the household's physical address, including all family members and roommates who are not related and not part of a separate lease agreement.

Repair - implementing actions necessary to restore the condition of an affected household water supply well, or components of the well system, for essential in-home use including drinking, cooking, and bathing. Repair includes, but is not limited to, deepening.

Replace - installing a new water supply well in place of an existing well. Replacement may occur when repair is not appropriate as determined by Oregon Department of Water Resources (OWRD).

Eligibility

WARRF may reimburse qualified homeowners up to \$40,000 for work to permanently abandon, replace, or repair a well that is used for household purposes.

To qualify, you must meet ALL these requirements:

◇ Well Requirements

- Your well is connected to your primary home to supply water for household use including drinking, cooking, and bathing.
- Your well no longer supplies enough water for essential in-home use including drinking, cooking, and bathing.
- Your well is dry, including wells experiencing severe decline in water levels, or was destroyed or damaged by a recent wildfire. If your well is dry, you have submitted a [Dry Well Reporting Form](#).
- The well is not a public water supply. Public water supply wells serve four or more households or are part of small community or city water systems.

◇ Property Requirements

- You own the property and live there full-time (unless displaced by wildfire).
- It is the only property you own, and:
 - If your well is dry, you have owned the property for at least one year.
 - If your well was damaged or destroyed by wildfire, you owned the property before the fire.
- Your property does not have another water source available for household use. Examples of other water sources are public water systems or another water supply well.

◇ Compliance Requirements

- You are not applying for or receiving any other funding for the expenses to abandon, repair, or replace your well. This includes money from a county well fund, a federal grant, or any other OWRD well funding program.
- You are not involved in an unresolved OWRD regulation order, notice of violation, or well construction compliance violation.

If you need help completing a [Dry Well Reporting Form](#), please call us at 503-779-5763.

Property Information

Single property - one or more tax lots with a direct physically connected shared property line. This can include properties on opposite sides of a public road or land divided by utility easements and private rights-of-way.

Properties owned by trusts - if you are the trust's current trustee and meet all other requirements, then you may qualify. If you are the trustor, beneficiary or a successor trustee and not the current trustee, then you are not eligible for funding.

Please include a copy of the trust documents and a list of the properties owned by the trust with your application. If the trust owns multiple properties, then you do not qualify.

Eligibility (continued)

◇ Income Requirements

- Your household qualifies as low- to moderate-income. Your household includes everyone who lives at your address, including family members and roommates, unless they have a separate lease. You meet the definition of low- to moderate-income if your total yearly household income (all income before taxes or deductions) is less than the amount shown for your household size in the table below.

Household Size	Maximum Gross Yearly Income
1	\$46,950
2	\$63,450
3	\$79,950
4	\$96,450
5	\$112,950
6	\$129,450
For each additional household member above 6, add \$16,500.	

Please include proof of eligibility with your application. There are several ways to show income eligibility, but you only need to provide **one** form of proof to qualify:

Proof of eligibility:	Examples of proof of income eligibility accepted:
Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)	You do not need to provide additional proof. We will verify eligibility with Oregon Housing and Community Services.
Oregon Medicaid (OHP)	A current eligibility notice or letter identifying that you receive OHP.
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	A current eligibility notice or letter identifying that you receive SNAP benefits.
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	A current eligibility notice or letter identifying that you receive TANF benefits.
Low to Moderate Gross Yearly Household Income	Current income documentation for all household members aged 18 and older: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entire current federal tax return for each filer Letters from Social Security, Veteran's Affairs, Employment Department, or other agencies Retirement or insurance statements Proof of rental income Court documents like child support, custody, divorce, or support orders
Note: A benefit or insurance card and bank statements are not accepted as proof of eligibility.	

Eligibility (continued)

◇ Shared Wells

Shared wells may qualify for funding if the following conditions are met:

- The shared well provides water for no more than three households.
- There is a written shared well agreement that includes:
 1. How much water each household can use, and
 2. How the costs for well maintenance, reconstruction, and pump replacement are shared.

Each landowner must apply for their own grant. Funding will be based on the percentage of responsibility listed in the shared well agreement.

- **Well Repair**
You may receive funding for your share of repair costs, up to the percentage you are responsible for in the shared well agreement.
- **Well Replacement**
You may receive funding for your share of well related costs (well construction, electrical, pump, etc.) up to the percentage you are responsible for in the shared well agreement, plus up to 100% of the cost to connect the new well to your home.
- **Well Abandonment**
When a well is replaced, and the owner of the property where the well is located is the applicant, the owner is responsible for abandoning the old well. You may receive funding up to 100% of the abandonment costs.

You are not required to continue sharing your well to qualify for funding. While the funding percentage the grant provides will be as outlined in the current shared well agreement, the program supports both individual and shared wells.

Grant Process

Step 1: Apply

Submit your [WARRF application](#) with cost estimates for the work and proof of income.

WARRF staff:

- Review application for completeness.
- Contact you if anything is missing.
- Notify you if you are not eligible.
- If eligible, request a pre-award inspection.

Step 2: Pre-award Inspection

An OWRD well inspector visits your well for a pre-award inspection and sends a report to WARRF staff.

WARRF staff review the inspection report:

- If your well qualifies, WARRF staff complete final review.
- If your well does not qualify, your application is denied, and you will be notified.

If approved, WARRF staff determine your grant limit and prepare to award you the funds.

Step 3: Grant Agreement

WARRF staff send you a grant agreement.

You sign and date the grant agreement and return it.

OWRD signs the grant agreement and sends you a copy.

Step 4: Complete the Work

You hire the well constructor and contractors, schedule the work, and make payment arrangements.

Licensed professionals (well constructor, pump installer, etc.) repair or replace and abandon the well.

You notify WARRF staff when the work is done and submit all invoices and receipts.

Step 5: Post-Work Inspection

WARRF staff requests a post-work inspection from an OWRD inspector.

The inspector will review the well report(s), check the work to make sure it was completed to OWRD standards, and send a post-work inspection report to WARRF staff.

Step 6: Get Paid

WARRF staff review the post-work inspection report and invoices and receipts.

WARRF staff notify you of the inspection results and review and approve your fund request.

OWRD fiscal staff process the request and mail you a check.

Eligible Costs

The maximum WARRF grant is \$40,000, but not all grants receive that amount. Grant funding amounts depend on the estimated cost of work to repair, replace, or abandon the well. Homeowners will not be reimbursed for any expenses that exceed the approved grant amount or for any costs that are not deemed eligible.

Please refer to the list below for eligible costs. Only items listed under ‘Eligible Costs’ are eligible for reimbursement. The ‘Ineligible Costs’ section provides examples of expenses that are not covered.

Eligible Costs including work by a licensed professional and materials associated with and necessary to abandon, repair, or replace eligible wells in accordance with [690-210](#), [690-215](#), and [690-220](#) include:

- [OWRD Start Card fee](#) (up to \$490)
- [OWRD Groundwater use registration fee](#) (up to \$300)
 - Annular seal
 - Casing
 - Drilling
 - Electrical necessary to connect the pump to a power source
 - Hose spigot or hydrant (one at well head or residential connection)
 - Liner
 - Mobilization
 - Perforating and/or removing casing
 - Pitless adapters
 - Plumbing necessary to connect the well head to the residence
 - Pressure tank
 - Pump
 - Seal material to abandon well
 - Storage tank
 - In the case of a well affected by wildfire, a confirmed previously existing water treatment system when the water treatment system was destroyed by wildfire

Ineligible Costs

Costs **NOT** eligible include but are not limited to:

- Electrical wiring inside the residence
- Electrical wiring to out-buildings or non-residential structures
- Fencing
- Finance charges
- Heaters
- Homeowner or family labor
- Landscaping costs (including cleanup of excess materials from drilling or trenching)
- Maintenance of any kind
- Plumbing to out-buildings or non-residential structures, to landscaping, or within the residence
- Road or driveway construction or reinforcement expenses
- Trenching for hydrants
- Water testing and treatment
- Water treatment systems when not destroyed by wildfire
- Water witching or water dousing or any other method to predict water production
- Well/pump house costs (including construction, reconstruction, heaters, lights, and electrical outlets)
- Wells used only for irrigation
- Work completed by unlicensed well constructor, electrician, plumber, etc.

How to Apply for a Grant

◇ Review the [Eligibility Section](#) Before You Submit Your Application

The eligibility section of this document outlines the requirements for this grant. You must meet all the eligibility requirements to be eligible to apply.

◇ Complete the Application

We highly recommend that you submit your application using our online [Application Form](#).

If you are unable to apply online, please contact WARRF staff to request a paper application by mail. Completed paper applications must be returned by mail to our office. To protect your confidential information, **we do not accept applications by email**.

◇ Submit Required Documents

- ✓ If your well is dry, you must complete a [Dry Well Reporting Form](#) prior to submitting your application. You do not need to include a copy with your application as it is available electronically to WARRF Program staff.

The following documents are required to apply for funding. Please have these documents available when you are ready to submit your application.

- ✓ Documents necessary to establish your income eligibility (such as an OHP, SNAP, or TANF eligibility letter or your complete current federal tax return).
- ✓ Estimates for all expected costs to abandon and replace or repair your well. The estimates may include drilling and abandonment or repair from a [licensed well constructor](#), pump, electrical, and/or plumbing costs.
- ✓ For your existing well, include the [Well Report](#) number or provide a copy of the well log report for your well (if available).
- ✓ If your property is owned by a trust, include a complete copy of the trust and a current list of all properties owned by the trust.



If you are applying online, you will upload electronic copies of these documents during the application process. Please have .pdf, .jpg, .doc, or .docx files available to upload.



If you are mailing your application, please do not send originals as they will not be returned to you.

Questions and Answers

General Eligibility

◆ **Is funding guaranteed if I am eligible?**

No. Even if you qualify for the program, funding is limited and not guaranteed.

◆ **I own multiple properties. Am I eligible?**

No. You are not eligible if you own multiple properties, but two or more tax lots with a direct physically connected shared property line are considered one property. This can include properties on opposite sides of a public road, and land divided by a utility easement or private right-of-way.

◆ **I co-own the property. Do we both apply?**

No. Only one person applies per property. If approved, that person:

- Signs the grant agreement,
- Is responsible for grant compliance,
- Receives the reimbursement check, and
- Is responsible for tax obligations.

◆ **My property is owned by a trust. Can I apply?**

Maybe. You may qualify if:

- You are the trust's current trustee,
- The trust owns only one property, and
- You meet all other requirements.

You must include a copy of the trust documents and a list of current properties owned by the trust with your application.

◆ **Are renters eligible for funding?**

No. Only property owners can apply. Landlords are required to provide safe drinking water to their renters ([more information](#)).

◆ **I am not eligible. Are there any other options?**

Maybe. You might qualify for help from:

- Home insurance (in case of fire),
- Veterans' programs,
- The [Single Family Housing Repair Grant and Loan](#) from the USDA Rural Development Program,
- The [Harney Domestic Well Remediation Fund](#) if you are a well owner in the Greater Harney Valley Groundwater Area of Concern, or
- [Klamath County Domestic Well Financial Assistance Program](#) may be an option if you live in Klamath County.

Questions and Answers (continued)

Application and Approval Process

◆ Can I submit my application without a cost estimate and send it later?

No. You must include cost estimates for all expected costs to abandon and replace or repair your well with your application. The estimates should include drilling and abandonment or repair from a [licensed well constructor](#), pump, electrical, and/or plumbing costs. Because funding is based in part on the cost estimates, we recommend you wait to apply until you have all of the estimates.

◆ How will I be notified if I am approved or denied for funding?

- After your application is reviewed by WARRF staff, an OWRD well inspector will visit your well. Based on their report, we will decide if you will be offered funding.
 - You will get an email notifying you if you are approved or denied.
 - If you do not have email, we'll contact you by phone or mail.
- Please see the [grant process](#) section for more information.

Reimbursement and Financial Concerns

◆ How will I receive the funding?

1. After all work is finished, you will:
 - Make sure your well constructor has submitted the well report(s).
 - Notify WARRF staff.
 - Submit a funding request with copies of all invoices or receipts.
2. An OWRD Well Inspector will complete a post-work inspection and send WARRF staff an inspection report.
3. WARRF staff will verify the inspection report shows that all work is complete and complies with OWRD standards. Staff will then review and approve the fund request for your eligible costs.
4. OWRD Fiscal staff will process the request and send you a reimbursement check by mail.

Please see the [grant process](#) section for more details.

◆ I'm worried about paying upfront and waiting for reimbursement. Can I get the money sooner?

No. WARRF is a reimbursement grant, so funds are only given after the work is completed and inspected.

Past recipients have used these options to cover their upfront costs and any extra costs that were not eligible:

- Borrowing from a retirement or savings account,
- USDA low-interest loans for rural low-income homeowners - [Single Family Housing Repair Loan](#),
- Low-cost home repair loans from Community Action Networks or other non-profit organizations for low-income homeowners,

Questions and Answers (continued)

- Home equity loans, personal loans, or veteran loans, or
- Financing offered by contractors or third-party lenders.

Important: Finance charges are not reimbursed, so check the costs before choosing a financing option.

◆ **How long do I have to pay the money back?**

This is a grant, not a loan – there’s nothing to pay back to OWRD.

◆ **I already paid for work on my well. Can I get reimbursed for it?**

Maybe. It depends on the type of work and when it was done.

Not Eligible:

- If the work was for a dry well.
- If well was not damaged or destroyed by a 2025 wildfire **or** if wildfire-related work was done before July 1, 2025, or after January 1, 2026, without prior approval.

Possibly Eligible (if the well was damaged or destroyed by a 2025 wildfire):

- If the work was done between July 1 and December 31, 2025.
- You and the well must meet all eligibility requirements.

◆ **Will I have to pay taxes on this funding?**

Possibly. Grant funds are considered taxable income.

- You will receive a 1099-G form for the year you’re reimbursed.
- You are responsible for understanding tax impacts.
- OWRD can’t give tax advice—please contact the IRS or a tax professional for help.

◆ **Do I have to pay the money back if I sell my home after the work is done?**

No, you do not have to repay the funds. Once the well work is completed and inspected by an OWRD well inspector, you can sell the home. WARRF does not impose ownership requirements after reimbursement.

Well Eligibility

◆ **My well produces some water, but not enough for household use. Am I eligible?**

Possibly. If your well does not provide enough water for essential in-home use – such as drinking, cooking, and bathing – you may be eligible. In some cases, a well that is still producing water as the groundwater levels decline, but not enough water to meet household needs, may be eligible after OWRD verifies the condition of the well.

◆ **My household well is old and not registered with OWRD. Am I eligible?**

Yes, you may still be eligible.

Well repairs: Undocumented wells are not eligible for repair unless OWRD can confirm the repaired well will meet minimum well construction standards.

Well abandonment and replacement: Wells are eligible regardless of their registration status.

◆ **My well is only used to water my garden and livestock. Is it eligible for funding?**

No. To qualify for funding, the well must be connected to your home and used for essential household uses – such as drinking, cooking, and bathing. Wells used only for irrigation or livestock are not eligible.

◆ **I have a shared well. Is my well eligible?**

It depends. Shared wells may qualify for funding if there is a written shared well agreement that identifies:

- How much water each household may use, and
- How the cost of well maintenance, reconstruction, and pump replacement are shared.

If you meet all other eligibility criteria, funding may be available based on your share of responsibility as outlined in the shared well agreement.

Please see the [eligibility section](#) for more details.

◆ **My well provides enough water for daily household use, but I am concerned that it would not be enough if we have a fire. Is my well eligible for funding?**

No. If your well supplies enough water for essential in-home uses – such as drinking, cooking, and bathing – it is not eligible for funding.

◆ **What wells are not eligible for funding?**

- Public water system wells or public wells.
- Monitoring observation wells.
- Low-temperature geothermal wells without a domestic use component.
- Water supply wells that are not plumbed to the home.
- Wells for new construction, unless the home was destroyed by wildfire.
- Wells that produce enough water but have water quality issues.

◆ **What if my property does not already have a well?**

WARRF funding is not available for new residential development or for residences that are not currently served by a household well. If a property does not have a well and public water supply is not available, you could drill your own well, drill a well and share it with neighbors sharing the construction costs, operational costs, and water (shared wells can provide water for up to three households), or install a water storage tank (cistern) and have water delivered long-term.

Resources to finance the work may include:

- USDA Rural Development [Single Family Housing Repair](#) loans for low-income landowners,
- [Water Well Trust](#) low-cost loans,
- Community Action Networks or other non-profit organizations that provide low-cost home repair loans for low-income homeowners, or
- Traditional mortgages, home equity lines of credit, Veteran's home loans, or personal lines of credit.

Questions and Answers (continued)

Technical Requirements

◆ Do I have to permanently abandon my affected well?

In most cases, you will be required to abandon your existing well.

- If your well is being replaced, the well must be permanently abandoned unless you receive approval from OWRD to keep it before your grant is awarded. To ask to keep the current well, include a request and a copy of the well report with your application. You will be notified of the decision before your grant is awarded.
- If construction of the new well is complete but it cannot supply enough water for household use, please reach out to WARRF staff. In some cases, you may be allowed to keep and use both the original and replacement wells.

◆ Is there a limit on the diameter of a replacement well?

Yes. The diameter of the replacement well must be the same or smaller than the original well, unless pre-authorized by OWRD prior to grant approval. If the original well diameter is less than six inches, a larger replacement is allowed but the replacement well must be six inches or less. To ask for an exception, please include a request with your application. You will be notified of the decision before your grant is awarded. If you have a well drilled larger than the original well that was not pre-authorized, you may be responsible for all well replacement costs.

◆ Can I be reimbursed for my own labor and costs?

No. Reimbursement is only available for work completed by qualified professionals. This includes Licensed Well Constructors with a current Water Well Constructor's License with a water supply well endorsement (as required by Oregon Revised Statute [ORS 537.747\(3\)](#)), as well as licensed pump installers, plumbers, electricians, or other contractors.

◆ What are the requirements of the well constructor?

- The well constructor must have a current Water Well Constructor's License with a water supply well endorsement (as required by [ORS 537.747\(3\)](#)). You can find a licensed well constructor [on our website](#).
- All work completed by the well constructor shall comply with all OWRD Well Construction Standards.
- The well constructor must be bonded (as required by [ORS 537.753 \(1\)](#)) or have in effect a surety bond or an irrevocable letter of credit issued by an insured institution, as defined in [ORS 706.008](#), running to the State of Oregon of at least \$20,000.

Other Resources

- [Find a Licensed Well Constructor](#)
- **Find licensed contractors** to work on water pumps or electrical:
<http://search.ccb.state.or.us>
 - Type “pump” or “water” in the search bar to find contractors with those words in the name.
- **Oregon Water Resources Department** – *Well construction standards, well logs, well inspections, and well constructor licensing. Processes water right transactions.*
 - [Water Wells and Drought](#)
 - [Well Construction and Compliance](#),
Phone: 503-302-8618
 - [Well Inspector Contact Information](#)
 - [Well Owners Handbook](#)
 - [Español](#)
 - [Water Right Information](#)
Phone: 503-986-0900
 - [Saving Water Inside the Home](#)
 - [Learn about Using Water Wisely](#)
- **Oregon Health Authority** - *Information on water well testing and potential water contaminants.*
 - [Domestic Well Safety Program](#),
Phone: 971-673-0440
 - [Tips for Testing Water](#)
 - [List of Accredited Labs for Water Testing](#)
- **Environmental Protection Agency**
 - WaterSense Program [Fix a Leak Week](#)

