



# Water Well Abandonment, Repair, and Replacement Fund

## Frequently Asked Questions

2022

### What is the Water Well Abandonment, Repair, and Replacement Fund?

The Oregon State Legislature allocated funding to the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) through the passage of HB 2145. The Water Well Abandonment, Repair, and Replacement Fund (WARRF) will provide financial assistance to persons or members of a federally recognized Indian tribe in Oregon to permanently abandon, repair or replace a water well used for household purposes. Eligible homeowners must meet income requirements and live in an area recently impacted by wildfire or drought. Other program requirements also apply.

### How much money is available?

The Department of Water Resources has approximately \$5.4 million dollars available for the Fund. \$2 million of this funding comes from the American Rescue Plan Act and \$3.4 million from the State of Oregon General Fund.

Additional funding was provided directly to Deschutes, Jackson, and Klamath counties. Residents of these counties may want to contact their county offices to learn more about their funding programs. If you apply for, or receive county funds, you may not apply for this funding opportunity.

- Deschutes County (contact information coming soon)
- [Jackson County Well Assistance](#)
- [Klamath County](#), (541)-851-3637

### Is there a funding cap?

Yes. To help as many Oregonians as possible with the funding program, there is a \$40,000 limit per applicant.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Who is eligible?

You may be eligible for Stage I funding if:

- ✓ Your household is [low to moderate income](#).
- ✓ Your property is in an area recently impacted by **wildfire or drought**.
- ✓ You own the property.
- ✓ You live at the property (unless displaced by natural disaster).
- ✓ Your well is a water supply well used for household purposes and is connected to a residential dwelling for the purpose of supplying water for drinking, culinary, washing, bathing, or household uses and is not a public water supply well.
- ✓ Your water supply well, or components of the well system, is one in an area recently impacted by drought or wildfire whose condition is unable to supply water for drinking, culinary, washing, bathing, or household uses.
- ✓ Your property does not have an alternate source of water available.

See the [Eligibility Checklist](#) in the [Guidance for Homeowners](#) document for more information.

## How do I apply?

- ✓ Learn more about the eligibility criteria.
- ✓ Read the [Guidance for Homeowners](#) document.
- ✓ Prepare to apply by understanding what information is needed.
- ✓ Contact a [licensed well constructor](#) to inspect your well and obtain a cost estimate to abandon, repair or replace your well, as conditions warrant.
- ✓ Complete an [application form](#).
- ✓ Mail the application to the Oregon Water Resources Department.

## Is this a grant or a loan?

This is a grant to reimburse homeowners the expenses to abandon, repair, and replace a qualifying well. You will be responsible for contracting with a well constructor and the fund will reimburse 100% of the eligible costs up to the funding cap amount.

## Do I have to be the homeowner?

Yes, you do have to be the homeowner. At this time if you are a renter you are not eligible to apply for funding. [The Oregon Residential Landlord Tenant Act \(ORS 90.320\)](#) requires that all landlords maintain their rental units in a habitable condition and provide safe drinking water.

Owners of rental properties are not eligible for funding at this time.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## What defines “Household” income?

A “Household” means all individuals who reside in the place of residence, including all family members and roommates who are not related and not part of a separate lease agreement. Household income means the combined income of all members of the household ages 18+. See the Eligibility Checklist in the [Guidance for Homeowners](#) document for income limits and more information on income eligibility.

## How do I know if I am in an area recently impacted by drought?

Your primary residence must be located in an area recently impacted by drought and located in either a [Governor Declared Drought area](#) or an area shown on the [Secretarial Disaster Designations for Drought](#) within 6 months prior to submitting an application. To determine if you are in one of these areas, please visit the respective websites provided and contact OWRD if you need assistance.

## I am having trouble getting a cost estimate from a well constructor. Can I submit my application without one and submit the cost estimate later?

No. You need to submit the cost estimate with your application for OWRD to evaluate your grant application. Please wait to submit your application until you are able to obtain a cost estimate.

## Is funding guaranteed if I am an eligible applicant?

No. Funding is limited and applying for the program does not guarantee that your application will be approved. To promote equitable access to the program, funding is allocated for impacted areas throughout the state.

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

You will receive an email to the email address listed on your application notifying you if you are *eligible* for funding. If you are eligible, OWRD will schedule a pre-inspection of the affected well with you, the OWRD Well Inspector, and ideally, the well constructor. The purpose of the pre-inspection visit is to confirm the condition of the affected well or well components. The OWRD Well Inspector will send a pre-inspect report to the Well Fund Coordinator, who will then approve or deny the application. You will then receive an email notifying you if you are approved or denied for funding.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## If I am approved for funding, what happens next?

If you are approved for funding, OWRD will draft a grant agreement for you to review and sign. You will then schedule the well constructor to perform the work.

## How will I receive the funding?

After the work to repair, replace, or abandon your well is completed, you will request a post-inspection visit from OWRD and submit the final invoice. The OWRD Well Inspector will conduct a post-inspection visit to verify that the authorized work complies with OWRD Standards. The Well Inspector will also document the current condition of the well. The Well Fund Coordinator will review the post-inspection report and approve or deny payment. If payment is approved, OWRD will then send you a check for the approved amount.

## Will I have to pay taxes on this funding?

Program participants are responsible for understanding any tax implications as a result of accepting this funding. OWRD cannot provide tax advice. For additional information, contact the IRS or a tax professional.

## What should I know before I contract with a well constructor?

There are several details and resources below that will help you understand what expenses are eligible for reimbursement by the fund and what is not and the applicable criteria

- Find a [licensed well constructor](#).
- Read the [Guidance for Homeowners](#) document and learn more about:
  - Questions and Answers about Wells and Well Contractors
  - Eligible and ineligible costs

## I already paid a well constructor for work on my well. Can I get reimbursed for it?

Potentially. In cases where an applicant meets all criteria and has incurred expenses to abandon, repair, or replace a water supply well used for household purposes between January 1, and July 1, 2022, OWRD will review the application for eligibility and completeness and then schedule a post-inspection. After the post-inspection and review of all information, a grant agreement may be developed if all criteria are met.

## Who do I contact for more information?

**Email:** [OWRD.Well.Funding@water.oregon.gov](mailto:OWRD.Well.Funding@water.oregon.gov)

**Call:** (503) 779-5763

**Visit:** <https://www.oregon.gov/owrd/programs/GWWL/WARRF/Pages/default.aspx>