Water Well Abandonment, Repair, and Replacement Fund

Guidance for Homeowners

2022
Program Overview & Eligibility

The Water Well Abandonment, Repair, and Replacement Fund (Fund) was authorized through the passage of HB 2145 to 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.

The Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) will establish the Fund in two stages:

- Stage I is designed to meet the urgent public health needs of low to moderate income households in areas recently impacted by drought and wildfire.
- Stage II will follow and include full Fund implementation

To be eligible for Stage I funding, you must meet all the following requirements. See the Eligibility Checklist on pages 4 and 5 for more information on these requirements.

**Income Eligibility:**

✓ Your household is low to moderate income.

**Property Eligibility:**

✓ Your property is in an area recently impacted by wildfire or drought.
✓ You own the property.
✓ The property is your primary residence (unless displaced by natural disaster).

**Well Eligibility:**

✓ 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.
✓ Your water supply well, or components of the well system, is unable to supply water for drinking, culinary, washing, bathing, or household purposes.
✓ Your property does not have an alternate source of water available.

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**Definitions**

*Water supply well used for household purposes* - A water supply well that 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.

*Eligible well* - An affected household 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.

*Abandon* - Permanently abandon a well and remove it from service as defined in Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) 690-200-0050 (1).

*Repair* - Means to implement actions necessary to restore the condition of an affected household water supply well, or components of the well system, for drinking, culinary, washing, bathing, or household uses. Repair includes, but is not limited to, deepening.

*Replace* - Means installation of a new water supply well for household purposes that replaces an existing affected water supply well used for household purposes when repair is not appropriate as determined by a licensed water supply well constructor or OWRD.
The Water Well Abandonment, Repair, and Replacement Fund provides up to $40,000 to permanently abandon, repair, or replace a water supply well used for household purposes. **To apply, you must meet the following requirements:**

- ✓ You must submit all required documentation. See the Document Checklist on page 6.
- ✓ You are not applying for or receiving financial assistance from a county funding source or any other OWRD well funding program for expenses to abandon, repair, or replace your domestic water supply well.
- ✓ You are not involved in an unresolved OWRD regulation order, notice of violation, or well construction compliance violation.
- ✓ Your household qualifies as low to moderate income. There are three ways to establish income eligibility:
  1. You qualify if you are determined eligible in this Oregon Housing and Community Services program and complete **Option 1a. Income Eligibility Form:**
     - Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

     OR

  2. You qualify if you are determined eligible in certain Oregon Department of Human Services or Oregon Health Authority programs and complete **Option 1b. Income Eligibility Form:**
     - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
     - Oregon Health Plan (OHP) (Medicaid)
     - Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) (*this option is available only for households consisting of six or fewer people*)
     - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

     OR

  3. You are eligible if your Household Gross Yearly Income falls within the range indicated next to your Household Size. 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. **You must provide Oregon Department of Revenue tax transcript(s) for the most recent tax filing year for each tax filer residing at the household’s physical address as proof of income if you select this option to qualify and complete **Option 1c. Income Eligibility Form.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Size</th>
<th>Gross Yearly Income</th>
<th>Household Size</th>
<th>Gross Yearly Income</th>
<th>Household Size</th>
<th>Gross Yearly Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$0 – $38,640</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$0 – $65,880</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>$0 – $93,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$0 – $52,260</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>$0 – $79,500</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>$0 – $106,740</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For each additional household member above 6, add $13,620.
Eligibility Checklist

✓ You are a homeowner whose primary residence is in an area recently impacted by wildfire or drought:

1. **Wildfire** – Your primary residence is within a 2020 or 2021 wildfire perimeter area *(Check the OSU Extension Wildfire Map to confirm).*

2. **Drought** – Your primary residence is in an area recently impacted by drought and located in either:
   - A Governor Declared Drought area and you have submitted a Dry Well Reporting Form online to OWRD, or
   - An area shown on the Secretarial Disaster Designations for Drought within 6 months prior to submitting an application and have submitted a Dry Well Reporting Form. (Need help? Call (503) 779-5763 or email us at OWRD.Well.Funding@water.oregon.gov).

✓ You own the property and are either listed as borrower on the mortgage of the property or listed on the property deed.

✓ You live at the property, and it is your primary residence. There is an exception for households displaced by a natural disaster.

✓ If your property is in a wildfire area, you owned the property prior to the date of the wildfire.

✓ If your property is not in a wildfire area, you owned the property by January 1, 2021.

✓ Your well is a water supply well used for household purposes, which means a water supply well that 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.

✓ Your water supply well, or components of the well system, is 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.
The following documents are required to apply for funding to repair, replace, or abandon an affected household water supply well.

Documents required of all applicants:

1. Application

2. Documents necessary to establish your income eligibility by selecting one of the three available options (see Eligibility Checklist above).
   - **Option 1a. Income Eligibility Form** establishing eligibility in the Oregon Housing and Community Services, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
   - **Option 1b. Income Eligibility Form and copy of an Eligibility Notice** for one of the following Oregon Department of Human Services or Oregon Health Authority programs (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Oregon Health Plan (OHP) (Medicaid), or Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) (this option is available only for households consisting of six or fewer people)).
   - **Option 1c. Income Eligibility Form and Oregon Department of Revenue tax transcript(s)** for the most recent tax filing year for each tax filer residing at the household’s physical address as proof of income.

3. A cost estimate from a licensed water well constructor for the abandonment, repair, or replacement planned for your domestic well. See information for eligible costs on page 7.

4. If you are in an area of drought, confirmation that a Dry Well Reporting Form has been completed.

5. Note the Well Report number or provide a copy of the well log report for your domestic well (if available).

Please note: By applying, you agree to verify your stated income with additional documentation whenever requested. If, during the evaluation of your application, or after you have received the assistance, it is later determined that you provided false information in your application, false income or documentation, or if you do not provide supporting information when later requested, your application will not be approved, or, if funded, you may be subject to criminal prosecution or civil action.
OWRD will reimburse applicants approved for funding for 100% of the eligible costs associated with the work to repair, replace, or abandon their eligible well up to the funding limit of $40,000 per applicant. The applicant homeowner will be responsible for any costs incurred that are identified as ineligible costs below and costs above the funding limit.

**Eligible costs**
- Costs including work and materials associated with and necessary to permanently abandoning eligible wells in accordance with [690-210](http://example.com), [690-215](http://example.com), and [690-220](http://example.com)
- **OWRD Start Card fee**
- **OWRD Groundwater use registration fee**
- Costs including work and materials associated with and necessary to abandon, repair or replace eligible wells include:
  - Mobilization
  - Perforating and/or removing casing
  - Seal material to abandon well
  - Drilling
  - Casing
  - Annular seal
  - Liner
  - Storage tank
  - Pressure tank
  - Pump
  - Plumbing necessary to connect the well head to the residence
  - Pitless adapters
  - Electrical wiring necessary to connect the pump to a power source
  - 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:
  - Road construction expenses
  - Water witching or water dousing or any other method to predict water production
  - Fencing
  - Homeowner labor
  - Landscaping costs
  - Ongoing maintenance of any kind
  - Water treatment systems when not destroyed by wildfire
  - Interior residential electrical wiring
  - Electrical wiring to out-buildings or non-residential structures
  - Plumbing to out-buildings or non-residential structures, to landscaping, or within the residence
### Application and Funding Process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicant Actions</th>
<th>Funding Steps</th>
<th>OWRD Actions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. The applicant obtains a cost estimate from a licensed well constructor to abandon, repair, or replace an affected well.</td>
<td>Cost Estimate</td>
<td>3. The Well Fund Coordinator reviews the application for completeness and eligibility.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. The applicant completes the application, with assistance from the well constructor and OWRD staff if needed, and submits the application, required documents and cost estimate.</td>
<td>Application</td>
<td>4. OWRD schedules a pre-inspection of the affected well with the Applicant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. The applicant signs the grant agreement, returns it to OWRD.</td>
<td>Grant Agreement</td>
<td>5. The OWRD Well Inspector visits the home and conducts pre-inspection of the affected well to confirm the condition of the affected well or well components.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Applicant schedules work with well constructor, able to verify funding approval with grant agreement.</td>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>6. The OWRD Well Inspector sends the pre-inspection results to the Well Fund Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. The well driller conducts the appropriate work to abandon, repair, or replace the affected well.</td>
<td>Post Inspection and Payment</td>
<td>7. The Well Fund Coordinator approves or denies the application and develops a grant agreement for eligible applicants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. The applicant submits a request for a post-inspection and the final invoice.</td>
<td>9. The grant agreement is signed by OWRD and returned to the applicant.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>13. The OWRD Well Inspector conducts post-inspection to verify that the approved work was conducted and that the work complies with OWRD standards, and to document the current condition of the well.</td>
<td>14. The Well Fund Coordinator reviews the post-inspection report, and approves/denies payment.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. OWRD reimburses eligible costs.</td>
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</table>
Questions and Answers

Questions about Eligibility and Funding

I am not eligible for this funding opportunity; are there any other funding sources I could access?

- 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 (Coming soon)
  - Jackson County Well Assistance
  - Klamath County, (541)-851-3637

Are renters eligible for funding?

- Renters are not eligible; it is the responsibility of the landlord to provide safe drinking water. ORS 90.320 (More information).

I own multiple properties, am I an eligible applicant?

- Owners of rental or multi-family properties are not eligible for Stage 1 funding.

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 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 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. Please see the Application and Funding Process section for more information.

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, the well report, and submit the final invoice. The OWRD Well Inspector will conduct a post-inspection visit to verify that the approved work was conducted and that the work complies with OWRD Standards. 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.
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.

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.

Questions about Wells and Well Contractors

What wells are not eligible for funding?

- A well that is a Public water system or a Public well
- A monitoring well or observation well
- A low-temperature geothermal well with no domestic secondary consumptive use component
- A water supply well on an applicant’s property not plumbed to the house.
- Wells for new residential development unless the residence was destroyed by a natural disaster.

Do I have to permanently abandon my affected well?

- If the well constructor’s recommended action is to install a replacement well, the affected well shall be permanently abandoned, unless otherwise pre-authorized by OWRD. In some cases, if the replacement well is unable to supply water for drinking, culinary, washing, bathing, or household uses, the well owner may have the option to use both the original affected well and the replacement well. This may only occur if pre-authorized as a result of the OWRD Pre-Inspection determination that some water may be produced by the original affected well, or the well has the potential to supply some water to household.

My well produces some water but is unable to supply water for drinking, culinary, washing, bathing, or household uses, am I eligible?

- In some cases, a well or components of the well system that has a high likelihood of becoming unable to supply water sufficient to meet household purposes and whose condition is verified by OWRD may also be considered an affected well.
My household well is old and not registered with OWRD, am I eligible?
- A well is eligible regardless of registration status for abandonment and replacement. An undocumented well is not eligible for repair unless it can be documented by OWRD that the repaired well will meet minimum well construction standards.

I have a well that I used solely to water my garden and livestock, is that well eligible for funding?
- No. An eligible well is an affected household 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.

Is there a limit on the diameter of a replacement well?
- Yes. The replacement well shall be constructed in a manner consistent with the original affected well's diameter and shall not exceed the diameter of the original affected well. In cases where the original well is less than six inches, the replacement well may exceed the original affected well's diameter but shall not exceed six inches.

Can I be reimbursed for my own labor and costs?
- No. Funding will only be provided for work performed by a Licensed Water Supply Well Constructor who holds a current Water Well Constructor's License with a water supply well endorsement issued in accordance with Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 537.747(3).

What are the requirements of the well constructor?
- The well constructor holds a current Water Well Constructor's License with a water supply well endorsement issued in accordance with ORS 537.747(3). Find a licensed well constructor.
- All work performed by a well constructor shall comply with all OWRD Well Construction Standards.
- Well driller shall be bonded in accordance with 537.753. (1) or shall 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 a minimum amount of $20,000.

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.
Other Resources

• **Find a Licensed Well Constructor**

• **Find licensed contractors** to work on water pumps or electrical: [http://search.ccb.state.or.us](http://search.ccb.state.or.us) and [https://go.usa.gov/x6QCW](https://go.usa.gov/x6QCW)
  - 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](http://search.ccb.state.or.us)
  - [Well Construction and Compliance](http://search.ccb.state.or.us), Phone: 503-302-8618
  - [Well Inspector Contact Information](http://search.ccb.state.or.us)
  - [Water Resources Department Well Owners Handbook](http://search.ccb.state.or.us) (English)
    - [Español](http://search.ccb.state.or.us)
  - [Water Right Information](http://search.ccb.state.or.us), Phone: 503-986-0900
  - [Saving Water Inside the Home](http://search.ccb.state.or.us)
  - [Learn More about What You Can Do to Use Water Wisely](http://search.ccb.state.or.us)

• **Oregon Health Authority** - *Information on water well testing and potential water contaminants.*
  - [Domestic Well Safety Program Webpage](http://search.ccb.state.or.us), Phone: 971-673-0440
  - [Tips for Testing Water](http://search.ccb.state.or.us)
  - [List of Accredited Labs for Water Testing](http://search.ccb.state.or.us)

• **Environmental Protection Agency**
  - WaterSense Program [Fix a Leak Week](http://search.ccb.state.or.us)