



Fact Sheet

Frequently Asked Questions for Septic Financial Aid Program Applicants

The American Rescue Plan Act, passed in early 2021, provided funding to address economic recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and an opportunity to revitalize and rebuild communities. The Onsite Septic Financial Aid Program is a new opportunity utilizing these ARPA funds for eligible partner organization to apply for funding from DEQ to provide financial assistance to property owners and small businesses with old or failing septic systems.

Through a competitive proposal process, DEQ will provide subaward grants to selected organizations that will then provide grants and/or affordable loans to property owners. DEQ will prioritize projects that benefit low- and moderate-income property owners or others that have faced disparate hardship from the pandemic. DEQ will not directly fund property owners needing septic repairs.

The Oregon Legislature prioritized the use of these funds for 2020 wildfire recovery. DEQ anticipates issuing two rounds of calls for proposals. First-round proposals will go live June 2022 for projects that focus exclusively on assisting community members whose properties were affected by these historic blazes. Second-round proposals are expected to go live Fall 2022 and further details will be available at that time. For additional information about this program please see our [website](#).

How do I know if my organization is eligible to apply for ARPA grants from DEQ?

The following organizations are eligible to apply for these funds through the Request for Grant Proposal (RFGP) process.

- Tribal Governments
- Public agencies including Federal, state or local agencies.
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- Council of Governments, or COGs
- Community Development Financial Institutions, CDFIs
- Other eligible agencies as defined in ORS 190

Can my non-profit 501(c)(3) organization apply if we partner with an eligible entity?

Only the above eligible organizations can directly apply for this funding opportunity, and the applicant organizations are directly responsible for complying with the subaward grant terms and conditions. Non-profit organizations can partner with eligible organizations to assist with implementation of the financial aid

programs. Nonprofits can assist with outreach, project administration, application review, or other functions. Proposals must clearly explain the responsibilities of the applicant organization and any partners.

Which round of funding should my organization apply for?

DEQ grant funding is anticipated to be available through two Request for Grant Proposal (RFGP) rounds.

- Round 1 opens from mid-June 2022 with funding decisions expected August 2022. Organizations applying during this round are required to be serving areas impacted by the 2020 wildfires.
- Organizations that do not serve these wildfire impact areas are eligible to apply during the Fall 2022 RFGP if DEQ has funds remaining.
- Organizations may apply to both rounds if they qualify; there are no penalties for applying to both rounds.

Can my sewer district use these funds to repair / expand our system?

Communities and homeowners with existing sewer infrastructure may request ARPA funds to decommission systems and hook in lateral connections from homes or businesses that otherwise meet qualification requirements. ARPA funding cannot be used to expand sewer districts and extend main lines.

My Manufactured Home Community would like to apply for these funds.

MHC's cannot apply directly for these funds because they are not eligible entities. Eligible entities may apply for funds to assist these communities if the proposals meet criteria outlined in the request for grant proposal.

Will DEQ consider disbursing funds to subawardees up front rather than reimbursement?

DEQ prefers reimbursement as a dispersant method. The department will consider disbursing funds for startup costs or based on benchmarks and progress, dependent on the organizations structure, needs, and successful implementation of the financial aid program.

How much of our award can be used for overhead/indirect costs?

ARPA allows indirect costs based on modified total direct costs. The allowable indirect rate is 10%, or their federally negotiated rate. Indirect costs include things like shared rent, supplies and personnel not directly working with the program. For more information refer to the U.S. Treasury [guidance](#).

Can my organization issue loans or are only grants allowed?

Organizations can issue loans and/or grants for their financial aid programs. DEQ will fund existing loan programs but not start-up loan programs due to the complexity of issuing and servicing loans. Loan programs will have additional reporting and funding requirements, and your organization must demonstrate a track record of successfully administering a loan program.

Contact us

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Alternate formats

DEQ can provide documents in an alternate format or in a language other than English upon request. Call DEQ at 800-452-4011 or email deqinfo@deq.oregon.gov.