



Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

DEQ Onsite Septic Financial Aid Program

Update Dec. 5, 2022

The 2021 Oregon legislature allocated \$15 million in ARPA funding to DEQ to establish a financial aid program for septic system repairs and replacements. As guided by the House Special Committee on Wildfire Recovery, DEQ prioritized 2020 Wildfire Recovery in the first round of funding awarded in July and August 2022. That funding opportunity was open only to projects focused on 2020 wildfire recovery, and all applicants were awarded the requested funding. The table below summarizes these awards.

ARPA subrecipient	Funding allocated	Status of subaward as of 12/1/2022	Estimated new or repaired septic systems	All 2020 wildfire areas	Lane County	Lincoln County	Marion County
Craft 3	\$2,155,000.00	Contract signed July 2022. \$63,987.00 committed to property owners	160	X	X	X	X
EWEB	\$1,592,410.00	Contract drafted and ready for DOJ final Review	115		X		
Homes for Good – Lazy Days MHP	\$575,431.00	Awardee is finalizing construction plan and scope of work.	1 new system serving 30 households		X		
Lincoln County	\$1,164,924.00	Contract drafted and ready for DOJ final Review	150			X	
MWVCOG	\$2,000,000.00	Contract drafted ready for DOJ final Review	200				X

A second round of funding is now open through Dec. 14, 2022. Any proposals that focus on demonstrated unmet 2020 or 2021 wildfire needs will receive priority review with up to 8 additional bonus points available in addition to the total 100-point base score. This statewide funding opportunity has received widespread interest for projects to assist underserved communities and low- or moderate-income households in need of grant funding or flexible loans. Fifty people attended DEQ's public information meeting on Nov. 14, 2022, representing cities, counties, watershed councils, soils and water conservation districts, and other organizations. Decisions for round 2 will be made in January 2023 for projects to start by June 2023.

Funding Impacts

The benefits of the first round of funding are already being felt in wildfire recovery areas through the available Craft3 funding. Detroit Oregon experienced significant damages in 2020 and property owners have been able to utilize these grants as they rebuild. One homeowner recounted their experience both with the fire and the benefit of the grant funds.

My home in Detroit, Oregon was my pride and joy in every way. On Labor Day my neighbor woke me up pounding on my door at 12AM to warn me the fire was coming and even though I didn't believe it, I packed my four dogs and cat into my car and left. I never would have believed I wouldn't see my precious home again. I drove through fire on both sides of the highway as I evacuated. It has been one of the most difficult things I've experienced in life. I am so grateful for this septic system replacement grant; it is making a huge difference in being able to move forward with permanent housing." – Grant recipient in Detroit, Oregon



Burned septic system – Detroit Fire, Marion County

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.