

Oregon Housing and Community Services

2023 Legislative Session



HB 3215: Supporting Housing Recovery After Disasters

The historic Labor Day 2020 fires were among the most destructive natural disasters in Oregon’s history. Impacted survivors and communities are still recovering. More than 4,100 homes were damaged or destroyed.

Impacted Counties	Destroyed & Damaged Homes
Clackamas	62
Douglas	138
Jackson	2,373
Klamath	11
Lane	615
Lincoln	288
Linn	71
Marion	633
TOTAL	4,191

Source: Oregon Office of Emergency Management

Problem Statement

OHCS administered the Wildfire Damage Housing Relief Program after the 2020 fires to provide flexible funding for low- to moderate-income households to repair or replace housing damaged by wildfire. However, the Oregon Department of Emergency Management is requesting resources to administer a similar program that would be paired with case management for disaster survivors immediately in the wake of a disaster. This is in better alignment with the roles of state agencies in disaster response and recovery.

Policy Solution

With HB 3215, OHCS will maintain a disaster recovery account, now to be called the Disaster Housing Recovery Fund, while removing the specific program framework. OHCS’ role is to support recovery, and this fund will allow the Legislature to allocate resources and provide intent and direction specific to tailor resources better to respond to individual disasters and the needs of the affected communities.

HB 3215 also permits OHCS to contract directly with entities rebuilding residential homes post-disaster. This will allow OHCS to assist homeowners better in the rebuilding process by removing that trauma-inducing process and ensuring fair pricing.

Contact

Alexandra Ring, alexandra.ring@hcs.oregon.gov, 971-209-0007

