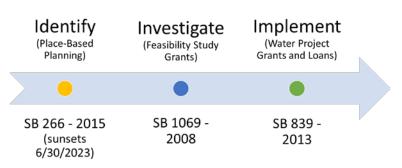


# Grant Funding to Support Water Security

# **Trajectory of Support Towards a Secure Water Future**

Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy provides a blueprint for understanding and addressing our water resources needs and challenges. The Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) provides grant funds to partner with an incentivize Oregonians to address instream and out-of-stream needs, for all Oregonians and Oregon's environment, economy, communities, and cultures.



# Place-Based Integrated Water Resources Planning

Place-Based Water Planning empowers communities to work collaboratively, in partnership with the state, to understand their instream and out-of-stream water resources needs and identify integrated solutions. Authorized as a pilot program, OWRD's ability to provide financial and technical assistance sunsets on June 30, 2023. Learn more.

# **Feasibility Study Grants**

**Feasibility Study Grants** cover qualifying costs to evaluate the feasibility of developing water conservation, reuse, and storage projects that advance the Department's mission and goals. This competitive funding opportunity helps you investigate whether a project is worth pursuing. Grants are offered on an annual basis, with applications due each fall. Grants may provide up to \$500,000 and require 50% cost match. Any local government, Indian tribe, or person may apply for funding. Learn more or access application materials including instructions and guidance online.

# Water Project Grants and Loans

Water Project Grants and Loans funds instream and out-of-stream water supply projects that achieve economic, environmental, and social/cultural public benefits. This competitive funding opportunity helps you fund project implementation. Grants are offered on an annual basis, with applications due each spring. Grants require a 25% cost match. Any non-profit organization, Indian tribe, or person may apply for funding. Learn more or access application materials online.

## Studies/Projects Eligible for Funding

Project Type	Feasibility	<b>Water Projects</b>
Above-Ground Storage	•	•
Below-Ground Storage	•	•
Conservation	•	•
Reuse	•	•
Flow Restoration and		<b>A</b>
Protection		
Water Infrastructure		•

## Interested in Applying? Consider a Pre-Application Conference

We encourage prospective applicants to participate in a Pre-Application Conference prior to applying for funding. The purpose of a Pre-Application Conference is to answer your questions, identify additional information needed or issues with eligibility, connect you to other resources, and help you submit a well-prepared application.

Contact: Adair Muth, Grant Coordinator | Adair.Muth@water.oregon.gov | 971-301-0718

# **OWRD Grants – How Applications are Evaluated**

# **Feasibility Study Grants**

OWRD reviews applications for eligibility and completeness Multi-agency Review Team reviews applications Review Team meets to discuss applications, hold a Fund/Do Not Fund Vote for each application, and Score Proposals that receive a "Fund" vote by at least 50% of Review Team members.

OWRD posts funding recommendations for 30-day public comment period Water Resources Commission makes funding awards

## "Fund" or "Do Not Fund" Vote

A study with *any* of the below criteria merits a **Do Not Fund** vote.

- <u>Readiness/Technical Preparedness</u> The proposal does not demonstrate readiness for funding (i.e., significant or important activities or details are either missing or insufficient to signal that the study could be completed successfully).
- Not a Feasibility Study The proposal veers too much into implementation, or the proposal is predominantly research and not clearly linked to a future project.
- Water Not Available Water is not available from either a regulatory or physical perspective and so the proposal is unlikely to meet the water need. If water may be available, benefit of the doubt is given to the applicant.

## **Scoring Proposals**

Review Team members score applications during the meeting. Median scores are compiled to rank projects.

Scoring categories and points possible:

- Study goal: 20 points
- Water need: 20 points
- Technical planning and preparedness: 40 points
- Community engagement: 10 points
   Considers the collaborative effort and level of community support.

# **Water Project Grants and Loans**

OWRD reviews applications for eligibility and completeness OWRD posts applications for 60-day public comment period Multiagency Review Team reviews applications

Review Team meets to discuss and score applications and make funding recommendations. OWRD posts funding recommendations for 30-day public comment period Water Resources Commission makes funding awards

### **Scoring Applications**

Statute requires projects provide public benefits in three categories: **economic, environmental, and social/cultural**. Scoring criteria for the public benefits are listed in statute. Projects must achieve a minimum score of 7 in each of the three public benefit categories to be funded.

Review Team members use the <u>Scoring Criteria Guidance</u> to ensure members are applying a consistent approach to scoring. The document lays out the scoring criteria for each of the public benefits. The document includes a general framework for scoring and provides greater detail for some public benefits on how an application can qualify for a particular score.

Review Team members score the public benefits based on:

- Positive and negative impacts
- Likelihood of achieving claimed benefits
- Change in conditions described
- Supporting evidence or documentation

#### **Preference Points**

Applications receive additional points for collaboration. Scores are automatically doubled for the following criteria:

The promotion of collaborative basin planning efforts, including but not limited to efforts under the state Integrated Water Resources Strategy.