

ANALYSIS

Item 10: Department of Emergency Management National Earthquake Hazard Reduction

Analyst: Steve Robbins

Request: Approve, retroactively, the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, in the amount of \$136,084 for the National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program grant.

Analysis: The National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program (NEHRP) is designed to support the management and reduction of geological hazards in the state. The Oregon Department of Emergency Management (ODEM) has successfully applied for this grant in prior years, utilizing initial funds for projects and activities of the ODEM Geological Hazards Program, as well as programs like “Be 2 Weeks Ready.”

If awarded, ODEM plans to utilize 5% of the available funding, or \$6,804, for administration of the grant. 95% of the grant award is used directly to support earthquake related projects in alignment with federal guidance. There is a 25% match requirement for this grant, which the Department can meet with existing General Fund in its 2025-27 budget. Sufficient Federal Funds expenditure limitation is already included in the agency’s current service level budget. Federal terms and conditions of the grant have been reviewed by the Oregon Department of Justice and no concerns currently exist over the agency’s ability to comply.

The grant was announced July 28, 2025, and the application deadline was August 11, 2025, and the agency submitted the required 10-day letter requesting retroactive approval on August 1, 2025. The grant’s period of performance is from October 1, 2025, through March 31, 2027.

Recommendation: The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means approve the request.

Request: Retroactive authorization to apply for a \$136,084 National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Discussion: The Oregon Department of Emergency Management (OEM) requests retroactive authorization to apply for a grant of \$136,084 million from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The grant would be used to assist with risk reduction of geological hazards including implementation of earthquake safety, mitigation, and resilience activities at the state and local level. Specifically, grant funding will support several projects and activities led by OEM's Geological Hazards Program, such as the *Be 2 Weeks Ready* program.

Of the \$136,084 requested, OEM would retain five percent (\$6,804) for management and administration of the grant. The remaining 95 percent (\$129,280) will be dedicated to related projects that directly support earthquake preparation and mitigation. OEM was notified of the grant on July 28, 2025, and the application deadline was August 11, 2025. Due to the short window of opportunity, the 10-day letter deadline was not met, but OEM worked closely with the Department of Administrative Services Chief Financial Office and the Legislative Fiscal Office prior to submitting an application. The anticipated performance period for this grant is October 2025 through March 2027.

The grant award requires a 25 percent state match (\$34,021), which OEM expects to support through General Fund dollars appropriated in the agency's 2025-27 Legislatively Adopted Budget. FEMA has agreed to exempt this grant from the 2025 standard terms and conditions around participation in statewide immigration enforcement.



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Oregon Department of Emergency Management

3930 Fairview Industrial Drive SE

Salem, OR 97302

Phone: 503-378-2911

TTY: 7-1-1

www.Oregon.gov/OEM

August 25, 2025

The Honorable Senator Kate Lieber, Co-Chair
The Honorable Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair
Interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means
900 Court Street NE, H-178
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Senator Lieber and Representative Sanchez:

Nature of the Request

The Oregon Department of Emergency Management (OEM) requests retroactive authorization to apply for a National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program (NEHRP) States Assistance grant in the amount of \$136,084 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) of the Department of Homeland Security. This grant would be used to assist with risk reduction of geological hazards including implementation of earthquake safety, mitigation, and resilience activities at the state and local level.

Agency Action

The mission of OEM is to lead collaborative state-wide efforts to organize and facilitate assistance for local jurisdictions in an emergency and to protect, mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies or disasters regardless of cause. This funding is dedicated to the management and reduction of geological hazards in the state. Some key points of this program are as follows:

- Funding opportunity is available to states and territories classified as having a high or very high risk of earthquakes
- There is a 25% match requirement
- Period of Performance is 10/01/2025 – 03/31/2027
- OEM will retain 5% Management and Administration (M&A) (\$6,804.20) to fund costs directly related to grant administration
- 95% of funds directly support earthquake related projects in alignment with federal guidance

The funding from NEHRP supports some of the projects and activities of the OEM Geological Hazards Program as well as programs like *Be 2 Weeks Ready*.

OEM was notified of the grant on July 28, 2025. The grant application deadline was August 11, 2025. This grant is 75% funded by FEMA and has a 25% match requirement. As this is a grant renewal, OEM has sufficient federal expenditure limitation. Grant matching funds come from state General Fund dollars supported by OEM's 2025-27 Legislatively Adopted Budget.

Action Requested

OEM respectfully requests retroactive authorization to apply for the NEHRP grant.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Em', followed by a horizontal line.

Erin McMahon

Director

**Revised per DAS' feedback 08.27.2025