

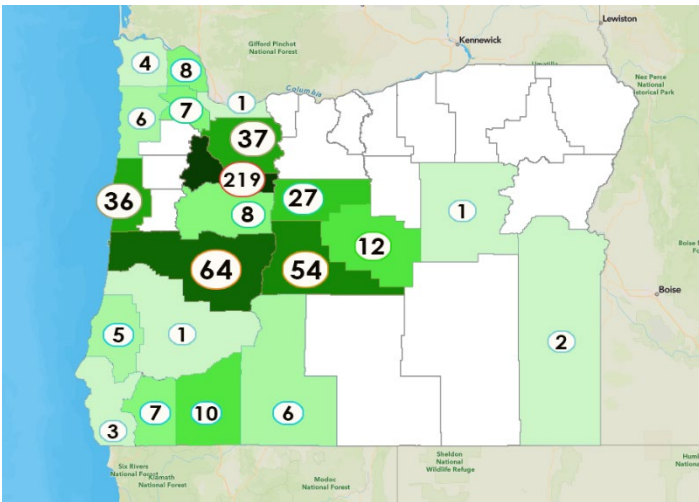


Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

# Onsite Septic Financial Aid Program

2025 Legislative Update

In a June 2021, the Oregon Legislature allocated \$15M in funding from the American Rescue Plan Act for septic system repair and replacement. In response, Department of Environmental Quality established the Onsite Septic Financial Aid Program to award pass-through grants to local public agencies and other qualified institutions which in turn provide financial assistance (including grants as and loans) to eligible property owners. Priorities for this funding are recovery after the historic 2020 Labor Day wildfires, protection of sensitive watersheds, and additional projects that primarily benefit low-and-moderate income households.



Systems by county funded through the OSFAP

In 2022, DEQ allocated over \$7.3 million for wildfire recovery to five organizations: Craft3, Lincoln County, Lane County, Homes for Good, Eugene Water and Electric Board, and the Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Government. In 2023, the remaining \$7.7 million was awarded to Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District, Clean Water Services, Tillamook County, Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council and an additional award to Craft3 for a statewide program. Each of the sub awards and outcomes to date are summarized in this report.

Over 1,200 property owners have applied for septic funding through these awards, highlighting the need for financial assistance.

The OSFAP is transforming access to effective wastewater treatment<sup>□</sup> for rural and low to moderate-income Oregonians by addressing damaged and outdated septic treatment systems. As of January 2025, 519 projects were completed across nine subawards – over 60% of the funds used. These projects prioritize focus on granting funds to the lowest-income residents, and a mix of grants and loans to moderate-income residents.

Upgrading these systems enhances public health, reduces harmful nitrates in our waters, and focuses financial aid where it is needed most, making this program vital for thriving rural communities.

## Contact

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503-539-3295

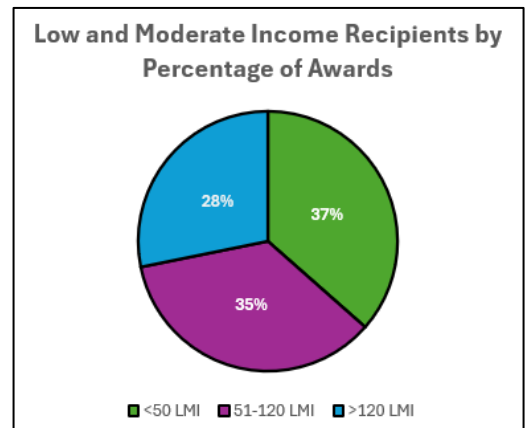
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72% of funding recipients are considered low or moderate-income households and earn less than 120% of area median