



Opportunity Announcement for the County Energy Resilience Program

Opportunity Announcement #24-021

Grant funding to support Oregon counties with the creation of energy resilience plans.

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Section 1. Purpose and General Information

1.1 Introduction

The purpose of the County Energy Resilience Program opportunity announcement is to solicit grant applications and outline the grant process, following the requirements of the legislation and rules under which the County Energy Resilience Grant Program is administered.

1.2 Objectives

The County Energy Resilience Grant Program provides grants to Oregon counties to develop energy resilience plans that:

- Map: current energy infrastructure, natural hazard risks, and communities that experience social vulnerability.
- Identify needs to increase resilience.
- Identify steps for implementation.
- Receive input from environmental justice communities to identify communities that experience social vulnerabilities.

Exact requirements for plan content are stipulated in [HB 3630](#).

1.3 Grant availability

The Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE or the Department) has up to \$50,000 per Oregon county available for this program for a total of \$1.8 million for the program. This is a non-competitive grant program with no match requirement. Every one of Oregon's 36 counties are eligible to receive funds provided they meet the eligibility requirements.

Counties may work together and pool funds in a cohort.

1.4 Eligibility

The eligibility requirements for this program are as follows:

- 1) Oregon county
- 2) County does not have an energy resilience plan meeting the requirements of HB 3630

If a county already has an energy resilience or other type of energy plan, the funding can likely be used to update that plan as per the requirements of HB 3630, but please contact ODOE staff to discuss.

Section 2. Application Requirements & Process

2.1 Overview of Application

On the application form, the applicant must identify a project manager, who will be the primary point of contact for the county's participation in the program. The applicant must also identify an applicant authorized representative, who is a representative of the county with signatory

authority to sign and submit the application on the county's behalf, if this is not the same individual as the project manager.

Counties applying in a cohort must submit one application together that identifies a lead county for the program. All participating counties must provide a point of contact, authorized representative if needed, and sign the application. There is a separate application form for cohorts.

Counties must specify the amount of funds they are requesting and anticipated expenses under the program. County Energy Resilience Program funds may be used to pay for county staff time to work on the plan, as well as contracting with a technical assistance provider. Outreach costs for plan development such as materials and event supplies, as well as travel costs related to plan development are allowed. Additional costs, as necessary for plan development, are also permitted. Funds must only be spent on expenses necessary for plan development. ODOE staff can help with determining allowable costs.

A complete grant application includes, at a minimum: 1) applicant eligibility information and contact details and 2) funds request and anticipated expenses. The applications will be available on the [program website](#).

2.2 Submission of Applications

Applications should be submitted to county.resilience@energy.oregon.gov. There is a rolling deadline for applications from May 22, 2024 to February 28, 2025. February 28, 2025 is the final date ODOE will be able to receive and process applications.

2.3 Questions

Questions, including requests for explanations of the meaning or interpretation of provisions of this opportunity announcement, can be submitted via email to county.resilience@energy.oregon.gov or by phone at 971-240-3577. Questions and answers may be edited for privacy and clarity and added to the frequently asked questions (FAQs) document on the program website.

Section 3. Review Process

3.1 Application Review

The County Energy Resilience Program coordinator will review all applications for completeness and eligibility. The coordinator will work with counties to address any incomplete information in the application.

3.2 Performance Agreement

Following application completion, eligible counties will proceed through the performance agreement process with ODOE. The performance agreement contains the terms associated with the grant and the requirements for disbursement of grant funds.

For cohorts, the lead county will be responsible for completing the program processes and paperwork and be held responsible for upholding the program requirements on behalf of the cohort. The lead county will complete the performance agreement process with ODOE.

If there are more than five counties in a cohort, there may be additional review, and time, required for the performance agreement process.

Section 4. Grant Process and Payment

4.1 Disbursing Grant Award

Once a performance agreement has been executed, the program funds will be provided to the county following a disbursement request by the county. For cohorts, the lead county will receive the funds distribution on behalf of the cohort. If a county requests, some or all the funds may be disbursed directly to a technical assistance provider.

4.2 Reporting and Period of Performance

Counties are required to complete biannual interim reports while active in the program. These will be due by October 31, 2024 and March 31, 2025. The ODOE program coordinator will send out the report templates to counties in advance of the deadlines.

All counties participating in the program will need to complete a program completion form by the program deadline of August 1, 2025. This is a self-attestation form for counties to identify that they have met the program requirements and spent the funds on approved costs. Counties must also submit a copy of their completed plan. If a county has completed their plan without spending all of the funds disbursement, ODOE may request a return of unspent funds.

If a plan is not complete, or all requirements for the plan content are not achieved by the program deadline of August 1, 2025, counties can request an extension of their performance agreement to December 31, 2025 in the August program completion report.

Counties who receive an extension through December 31, 2025 will be required to submit another interim reporting form by October 31, 2025, and a program completion form, as well as a copy of their final plan by December 31, 2025.

If a plan and/or all requirements for the plan content are not complete by December 31, 2025, ODOE will not request a return of funds provided that a good faith effort to complete the plan and requirements has been undertaken. ODOE will request information on the effort undertaken by the grantee as part of the December program completion form and may request additional information as needed.

ODOE reserves the right to revoke funds if a county cannot demonstrate that a good faith effort was undertaken to try and complete the plan and meet the requirements by December 31, 2025. ODOE will require a copy of the draft plan at this date. ODOE may also request an extension of the performance agreement to the anticipated termination date for the plan. Once the county has completed their plan, ODOE requests a copy of the final version, and if

applicable, ODOE will also request an accounting of final use of funds and may request a return of any unspent funds.

For cohorts, in the case that funds are revoked or required to be returned, the lead county will be responsible for the return of funds.

4.3 Audit

The Department reserves the right to audit all documentation relating to a project for which a grantee and the Department have entered into a performance agreement.

Section 5. Additional Information

5.1 Public Information, Confidentiality

The State of Oregon's Public Records Law (ORS 192.311 through 192.478) applies to filings and applications submitted to the Department. The law states every person has a right to inspect any public record of a public body, subject to certain exceptions. Applications are public records, and the Department may be required by law to disclose information in the application to the public on request. An applicant may request confidentiality of certain information in its application by marking the information confidential. Marking information does not guarantee that it will be kept confidential, however, and the Department will make any decisions regarding public disclosure of information contained in this application in accordance with Oregon Public Records Law. Recognizing that a county energy resilience plan may contain security sensitive energy information, please contact the Department to discuss confidentiality agreements for such information as necessary.

Grant funding from the state of Oregon may be reported on Oregon Transparency, a state agency tool available for Oregonians to learn about how state government works, taxes are used, and more. The data and information on this website are provided to users for general knowledge and information. It excludes data and information that is confidential, protected, or private under state and federal laws, and is unaudited.

The Department may publicly announce awarded grantees under this program. The public announcement may include but is not limited to: partners' names, type of project and/or description, location of project, total cost of the project, and the awarded grant amount.

5.2 No Obligation

The Department is not obligated as a result of the submission or acceptance of an application to award a grant through a performance agreement to an applicant if an application does not meet program requirements.

5.3 References and Resources

Background on the County Energy Resilience Program and its general requirements may be found in Sections 5-7 and 10 of Oregon [HB 3630](#).

Please visit the program [website](#) for additional information about and resources for the program.