

Oregon's DWSRF Program

Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Current & Proposed Definition Comparison

The purpose of this document is to compare Oregon's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program's current disadvantaged communities (DAC) definition to the newly proposed DAC definition. The intent with the proposed DAC definition is to be more inclusive of indicators that address other socioeconomic, environmental justice, and demographic considerations. This document is to support OHA and Business Oregon's efforts to gather input and support from the public prior to finalizing the proposed DAC definition for future program use in 2025.

Oregon's DWSRF program is accepting public comments until **5pm on Monday, December 16, 2024**. All public comments should be emailed to dws.srf@odhsoha.oregon.gov.

Current DAC Definition:

This single-metric DAC definition is what Oregon's DWSRF program currently uses when determining DAC status for drinking water project funding.

A public water system with a service area that has a Median Household Income (MHI) less than the state MHI.

As noted in Oregon's DWSRF [FAQ](#), the MHI is determined using the most recent American Community Survey (ACS) five-year data available from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Proposed DAC Definition: *Open public comment period is for this definition.*

This multi-metric DAC definition is what Oregon's DWSRF program is proposing to use in the future to determine DAC status for drinking water project funding.

As referenced in the [Revising Oregon's DAC Definition for DWSRF](#) report (pp. 20-21), Oregon's DWSRF program's preferred DAC definition was scenario 5, which uses four indicators to develop and broaden the DAC definition for Oregon and includes an additional 79 public water systems (PWS) and a total population of 2,599,190 in the definition as well as all nine of Oregon's federally recognized Tribes. Additionally, it covers approximately 61% of PWSs and 69% of the population served by PWSs.

Scenario 5 from the report defines DACs as:

- *Any public water system (PWS) with a Median Household Income (MHI) less than the state MHI.*
- *OR, if a PWS has an MHI higher than 100% of the state MHI but less than 120% of the state MHI, then the system must meet two (2) of four (4) criteria:*
 - *Greater than the state poverty rate,*
 - *Greater than the state unemployment rate,*
 - *Greater than the state percentage of people with less than a high school education,*
 - *Greater than the state housing cost burdened.*

Resources: Additional resources can be found in the Definition of Disadvantaged Community (DAC) section of [OHA's website](#).