



Well Abandonment, Repair, and Replacement Fund

Guidance for Homeowners 2023



Table of Contents

Program Overview & Eligibility	3
Eligibility Checklist	4
Document Checklist	6
Eligible and Ineligible Costs	7
Application and Funding Process	8
Questions and Answers	9
Other Resources	12

Questions or Need Assistance?

Contact us at:



(503) 779-5763



Oregon Water Resources Department
Attention: Well Fund
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A
Salem, OR 97301



OWRD.Well.Funding@water.oregon.gov

Program Overview & Eligibility

In areas impacted by drought or wildfire, the Well Abandonment, Repair, and Replacement Fund (WARRF) may reimburse qualifying homeowners for the cost to abandon and replace or repair a well that is unable to supply water for household purposes. The well must have provided household water for individual households, or members of a federally recognized tribe in Oregon. WARRF funding is grant, not a loan. The applicant is responsible to schedule and pay for the work. If approved, WARRF will reimburse the applicant for associated well expenses.

Funding is currently available to qualifying low-to-moderate income households. To be eligible for funding, the applicant must meet ALL the following requirements. See the Eligibility Checklist on pages 4 and 5 for more information on these requirements.

Income Eligibility:

- ✓ Your household is low to moderate income.

Property Eligibility:

- ✓ Your property is in an area recently impacted by wildfire or designated drought.
- ✓ You own the property.
- ✓ The property is your only residence (unless displaced by natural disaster).
- ✓ This is the only property you own.

Well Eligibility:

- ✓ Your well is connected to your home for the purpose of supplying water for drinking, culinary, washing, bathing, a small household garden, or other household uses.
- ✓ Your well, or components of the well system, are unable to supply water for household purposes.
- ✓ Your property does not have an alternate source of water available.

Definitions

Water supply well used for household purposes - a well connected to a residential dwelling for the purpose of supplying water for drinking, culinary, washing, bathing, or household uses and is not a public water supply.

Abandon - permanently remove a well from service as defined in [Oregon Administrative Rules \(OAR\) 690-200-0050 \(1\)](#).

Eligible well - an affected household water supply well, or components of the well system, that is one in an area recently impacted by drought or wildfire, and whose condition is unable to supply water for drinking, culinary, washing, bathing, or household uses.

Household – all individuals who resides at the household’s physical address, including all family members and roommates who are not related and not part of a separate lease agreement.

Repair - implementing actions necessary to restore the condition of an affected household water supply well, or components of the well system, for drinking, culinary, washing, bathing, or household uses. Repair includes, but is not limited to, deepening.

Replace - installation of a new water supply well for household purposes in place of an existing affected water supply well used for household purposes. Replacement may occur when repair is not appropriate as determined by a licensed water supply well constructor or Oregon Department of Water Resources (OWRD).

Eligibility Checklist

The Well Abandonment, Repair, and Replacement Fund (WARRF) may reimburse up to \$40,000 to qualified homeowners to permanently abandon, replace, or repair a well used for household purposes.

To apply, an applicant must meet All of the following requirements:

1. You are not applying for or receiving a grant from a county funding source or any other OWRD well funding program for expenses to abandon, repair, or replace your domestic water supply well.
2. You are not involved in an unresolved OWRD regulation order, notice of violation, or well construction compliance violation.
3. Your household qualifies as low to moderate income. There are multiple ways to establish income eligibility:

Qualifying option:	Examples of Proof of eligibility accepted:
Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)	No additional proof is required, we will contact the Oregon Housing and Community Services to verify eligibility.
Oregon Medicaid (OHP)	A current copy of an eligibility notice or letter.
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	A current copy of an eligibility notice or letter.
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	A current copy of an eligibility notice or letter.
Low to Moderate Gross Yearly Household Income (see table below)	<p>You must submit documentation for all income:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entire federal tax return from prior year for every filer residing at the household physical address • Agency letter showing money received from Social Security, Veteran’s Affairs, Employment Department, or another federal, state, or local agency • Retirement statement • Paternity, custody, divorce decree, or support order

Low to Moderate Gross Yearly Household Income:

You meet this qualification if your household gross yearly income (income before taxes or deductions) falls within the range indicated next to your household size:

Household Size	Gross Yearly Income	Household Size	Gross Yearly Income	Household Size	Gross Yearly Income
1	\$0 – \$44,281	3	\$0 – \$75,498	5	\$0 – \$106,716
2	\$0 – \$59,890	4	\$0 – \$91,107	6	\$0 - \$122,324

For each additional household member above 6, add \$15,609.

Eligibility Checklist

4. You are a homeowner whose primary residence is in an area recently impacted by wildfire or drought:
 1. **Wildfire** – My well or well components were damaged or destroyed by a recent wildfire.
 2. **Drought** – Your primary residence is in an area recently impacted by drought and located in either:
 - A [Governor Declared Drought area](#) and you have submitted a [Dry Well Reporting Form](#) online to OWRD, or
 - An area shown on the [Secretarial Disaster Designations for Drought](#), and you have submitted a [Dry Well Reporting Form](#).
5. You own the property and are either listed as borrower on the mortgage of the property or listed on the property deed, and:
 - If your property is in a [recent wildfire perimeter area](#), you owned the property prior to the date of the wildfire.
 - If your property is in a [drought designated area](#), you owned the property **1 year** (365 days) prior to WARRF application date.
6. You live at the property (unless displaced by wildfire), it is your only residence, and it is the only property you own.
7. Your well is a water supply well used for household purposes, which means a water supply well that is connected to a residential dwelling for the purpose of supplying water for drinking, culinary, washing, bathing, or household uses and is not a public water supply.
8. Your well, or components of the well system, is in an area recently impacted by drought or wildfire and it is unable to supply adequate water for drinking, culinary, washing, bathing, a small garden, or other household uses.
9. Your property does not have an alternate source of water available.

If you do not have access to a computer and would like help completing a [Dry Well Reporting Form](#), please call us at 503-779-5763.

Document Checklist

The following documents are required to apply for funding to abandon, repair, or replace an affected household water supply well.



Documents required of ALL applicants:

- ✓ Completed [Application Form](#)
- ✓ Documents necessary to establish your income eligibility (such as entire Federal Tax Return, or eligibility letter or notice from OHP, SNAP, or TANF).
- ✓ Cost estimates for all expected costs to abandon and replace or repair your well. These estimates should include drilling and abandonment or repair from a [licensed well constructor](#), electrical, plumbing, and/or pump costs. If replacing your well, you must include a cost estimate to abandon your existing well. *Please see page 7 for a list of eligible costs.*
- ✓ If you are in an area of drought, a [Dry Well Reporting Form](#) must be completed prior to submitting your application. You do not need to include a copy with the application as it is available electronically to WARRF Program staff.
- ✓ For your existing well, include the [Well Report](#) number or attach a copy of the well log report for your well (if available).

Please note: By applying, you agree to verify your stated income with additional documentation upon request. If, during the evaluation of your application, or after you have received the assistance, it is later determined that you provided false information in your application, false income, or documentation, or if you do not provide supporting information when requested, your application will not be approved, or, if funded, you may be subject to criminal prosecution or civil action.

Eligible and Ineligible Costs

The Well Abandonment, Repair, and Replacement Fund (WARRF) may reimburse up to \$40,000 to qualified homeowners to permanently abandon, replace, or repair a well used for household purposes.

The homeowner will not be reimbursed for any costs above the funding limit or costs identified as ineligible.

Eligible costs

- Costs including work and materials associated with and necessary to permanently abandoning eligible wells in accordance with [690-210](#), [690-215](#), and [690-220](#)
- [OWRD Start Card fee](#)
- [OWRD Groundwater use registration fee](#)
- Costs including work and materials associated with and necessary to abandon, repair, or replace eligible wells include:
 - Mobilization
 - Pump
 - Perforating and/or removing casing
 - Plumbing necessary to connect the well head to the residence (must be licensed professional)
 - Seal material to abandon well
 - Pitless adapters
 - Drilling
 - Electrical wiring necessary to connect the pump to a power source (must be licensed professional)
 - Casing
 - In the case of a well affected by wildfire, a confirmed previously existing water treatment system when the water treatment system was destroyed by wildfire
 - Annular seal
 - Liner
 - Storage tank
 - Pressure tank

Ineligible costs

Costs **NOT** eligible include but are not limited to:

- Road construction expenses
- Water witching or water dousing or any other method to predict water production
- Fencing
- Homeowner or family labor
- Landscaping costs
- Ongoing maintenance of any kind
- Work completed by unlicensed driller, plumber, etc.
- Water treatment systems when not destroyed by wildfire
- Interior residential electrical wiring
- Electrical wiring to out-buildings or non-residential structures
- Plumbing to out-buildings or non-residential structures, to landscaping, or within the residence
- Wells used only for irrigation
- Reconstruction or construction of well/pump houses

Application and Funding Process

1

Application

Applicant submits completed WARRF application, including proof of income and estimates for all work.

WARRF staff review application for completeness & preliminary eligibility:

- If application is incomplete, applicant is notified of missing information and given opportunity to provide additional information.
- If applicant is not eligible, application is denied.

For complete and eligible applications, WARRF staff request a pre-inspection of the affected well.

2

Pre-Inspection

OWRD inspector completes pre-inspection of the affected well and sends report to WARRF staff.

WARRF staff review inspection report:

- If well is eligible, WARRF staff approve application and determine award amount.
- If well is not eligible, application is denied.

3

Grant Agreement

WARRF staff prepare grant agreement and send to applicant.

Applicant signs grant agreement and returns it to OWRD.

OWRD signs agreement and returns copy to applicant.

4

Work Completed

Applicant schedules all work and makes payment arrangements.

All work is completed to repair or replace and abandon the old well by licensed well driller, electrician, plumbers, and/or pump company.

Applicant notifies WARRF staff that all work is complete.

5

Post-Inspection

WARRF staff schedule a post-inspection with OWRD inspector to verify work was completed to OWRD standards.

Inspector sends post-inspection results to WARRF staff.

WARRF staff review post-inspection report.

WARRF staff notify applicant of results and sends fund request form to applicant.

6

Payment

Applicant completes and submits fund request form with all invoices and/or receipts.

WARRF staff review and approve fund request.

OWRD fiscal staff process fund request and send check to applicant.

Questions and Answers

Questions about Eligibility and Funding

I am not eligible for this funding opportunity; are there any other funding sources I could access?

- Funding may be available through your county, home insurance (in case of fire), veterans' programs, or other sources. If you apply for or receive funding from any other grant fund, you are not eligible to apply for funds from WARRF.

Are renters eligible for funding?

- Renters are not eligible; it is the responsibility of the landlord who is the property owner to provide safe drinking water. ORS 90.320 ([More information](#)).

I own multiple properties, am I an eligible applicant?

- No, you are not eligible for funding.

Is funding guaranteed if I am an eligible applicant?

- No. Funding is limited and applying for the program does not guarantee that your application will be approved.

How will I be notified if I am approved or denied for funding?

- After your application has been evaluated for completeness, OWRD will schedule a pre-inspection of the affected well with an OWRD Well Inspector. The OWRD Well Inspector will send a pre-inspection report to the Well Fund Coordinator, who will then verify you and your well are eligible and approve or deny the application. You will then receive an email notifying you if you are approved or denied for funding. If you do not have an email address, WARRF Program staff will contact you by phone or mail with the decision. Please see the Application and Funding Process section for more information.

How will I receive the funding?

- After the eligible work to abandon, repair, or replace your well is completed, you will request a post-inspection visit from OWRD. The OWRD Well Inspector will complete a post-inspection to verify the approved work was conducted and complies with OWRD Standards. The Well Inspector will provide the results of the post-inspection to WARRF Program staff who will review the post-inspection report and notify the applicant of the findings. If approved, WARRF Program staff will then provide a Fund Request Form for the applicant to complete and return with copies of all receipts and invoices for the completed work. Once the Fund Request is approved by WARRF Program staff, OWRD Fiscal staff will then process the request and you will be sent a check to reimburse you for your eligible costs.

Questions and Answers

I have already paid for work to repair or replace my well. Can I get reimbursed for it?

- No. Work completed prior to WARRF grant approval is not eligible for reimbursement.

Will I have to pay taxes on this funding?

- Program participants are responsible for understanding any tax implications as a result of accepting this funding. OWRD cannot provide tax advice. For additional information, contact the IRS or a tax professional.

Questions about Wells and Well Contractors

What wells are not eligible for funding?

- A well that is a Public water system or a Public well.
- A monitoring well or observation well.
- A low-temperature geothermal well with no domestic secondary consumptive use component.
- A water supply well on an applicant's property not plumbed to the house.
- Wells for new residential development unless the residence was destroyed by a natural disaster.
- A well with adequate flow but water quality issues.

Do I have to permanently abandon my affected well?

- If the well constructor's recommended action is to install a replacement well, the affected well must be permanently abandoned, unless otherwise pre-authorized by OWRD. In some cases, if the replacement well is unable to supply water for drinking, culinary, washing, bathing, or household uses, the well owner may have the option to use both the original affected well and the replacement well. This may only occur if pre-authorized. If you are interested in this option, please include a copy of the well log for the existing well and a request to keep the current well. If your well meets the requirements, you will be notified prior to application approval.

My well produces some water but is unable to supply enough water for drinking, culinary, washing, bathing, or household uses, am I eligible?

- In some cases, a well or components of the well system that has a high likelihood of becoming unable to supply water sufficient to meet household purposes and whose condition is verified by OWRD may also be considered an affected well.

My household well is old and not registered with OWRD, am I eligible?

- A well is eligible regardless of registration status for abandonment and replacement. An undocumented well is not eligible for repair unless it can be documented by OWRD that the repaired well will meet minimum well construction standards.

Questions and Answers

I have a well that I used solely to water my garden and livestock, is that well eligible for funding?

- No. An eligible well is an affected household water supply well, or components of the well system, is one in an area recently impacted by drought or wildfire whose condition is unable to supply water for drinking, culinary, washing, bathing, or household uses.

Is there a limit on the diameter of a replacement well?

- Yes. The replacement well shall be constructed in a manner consistent with the original affected well's diameter and shall not exceed the diameter of the original affected well. In cases where the original well is less than six inches, the replacement well may exceed the original affected well's diameter but shall not exceed six inches.

Can I be reimbursed for my own labor and costs?

- No. Funding will only be provided for work performed by professionals. These can include Licensed Plumbers, Electricians, or Water Supply Well Constructors who hold a current Water Well Constructor's License with a water supply well endorsement issued in accordance with Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 537.747(3).

What are the requirements of the well constructor?

- The well constructor holds a current Water Well Constructor's License with a water supply well endorsement issued in accordance with [ORS 537.747\(3\)](#). Find a [licensed well constructor](#).
- All work performed by a well constructor shall comply with all OWRD Well Construction Standards.
- Well driller shall be bonded in accordance with 537.753. (1) or shall have in effect a surety bond or an irrevocable letter of credit issued by an insured institution, as defined in [ORS 706.008](#), running to the State of Oregon of a minimum amount of \$20,000.

I am having trouble getting a cost estimate for a portion of the work. Can I submit my application without it and submit the cost estimate later?

- No. You need to submit the cost estimate with your application for OWRD to evaluate your grant application. Please wait to submit your application until you are able to obtain all necessary cost estimates.

Other Resources

- [Find a Licensed Well Constructor](#)
- **Find licensed contractors** to work on water pumps or electrical:
<http://search.ccb.state.or.us> and <https://go.usa.gov/x6QCW>
 - Type “pump” or “water” in the search bar to find contractors with those words in the name.
- **Oregon Water Resources Department** – *Well construction standards, well logs, well inspections, and well constructor licensing. Processes water right transactions.*
 - [Water Wells and Drought](#)
 - [Well Construction and Compliance](#), Phone: 503-302-8618
 - [Well Inspector Contact Information](#)
 - [Water Resources Department Well Owners Handbook](#) (English)
 - [Español](#)
 - [Water Right Information](#), Phone: 503-986-0900
 - [Saving Water Inside the Home](#)
 - [Learn More about What You Can Do to Use Water Wisely](#)
- **Oregon Health Authority** - *Information on water well testing and potential water contaminants.*
 - [Domestic Well Safety Program Webpage](#), Phone: 971-673-0440
 - [Tips for Testing Water](#)
 - [List of Accredited Labs for Water Testing](#)
- **Environmental Protection Agency**
 - WaterSense Program [Fix a Leak Week](#)

