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Disaster Debris Grant Program

Metro oversees the region's garbage and recycling system, ensuring that all solid waste generated in the region is managed in a manner that protects public health and safety, and safeguards the environment. Among these responsibilities are planning and coordinating the management and disposal of debris generated by a disaster in the region.

The Disaster Debris Management Reserve and Grant Program, approved by the Metro Council in 2022, recognizes the importance of local economic recovery following a disaster. This program is designed to reduce the financial impact of a debris-generating incident on local governments in the greater Portland area, especially when the volume of debris overwhelms existing solid waste infrastructure.

Grant Program Details

The program will reimburse specified costs related to the management and disposal of debris generated by a qualifying disaster, excluding any amount that is reimbursable by FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Authority).

Program goals include: speeding recovery after a disaster, maintaining public confidence in local and regional governance, and supporting more equitable disaster debris strategies and services after a disaster.

See Metro Code Chapter 5.11 [Disaster Debris Management Reserve and Grants](#)

Where do the funds come from?

Grant funds are accumulated in a Disaster Debris Management Reserve. Beginning July 1, 2022, Metro allocates fees collected on designated clean up material generated in the region to the Reserve until a total of \$5 million is accumulated. The reserve reported accumulating about \$524,000 in its first year.

Who can apply?

Any city or county government located wholly or partly within the [Metro jurisdictional boundary](#) is eligible to apply for a disaster debris management grant following a qualifying disaster.

What disasters qualify?

Qualifying disasters include any disaster that has an impact in the Metro region for which the U.S. President issues a major disaster declaration and thereby authorizes Public Assistance from the federal government, or any disaster declared eligible by Metro's Chief Operating Officer. Metro eligibility will be based on:

- Quantity of debris generated,
- Impact on the region's solid waste system,
- Impact on marginalized communities, and
- Other considerations at the time a disaster occurs.

What debris management work is eligible for grant funding?

Expenses must be for managing debris generated by the qualifying disaster and conducted within the Metro boundary, or within the three county watershed outside the Metro boundary, if the Metro Waste Prevention and Environmental Services Director determines that the work provides a benefit to residents of the Metro region. Other types of expenses, including operation of debris collection sites, public vouchers, contractors or mitigation of imminent hazards not reimbursable by FEMA may also be approved. Expenses cannot include budgeted staff costs.

How to access the grants?

Following a disaster, Metro will communicate with all affected jurisdictions the grant application timeline and requirements. Updates and guidelines for the program will be found at oregonmetro.gov/disaster-debris-management-plan.

What are the reporting requirements for the funds?

Following your project or event, you will be asked to fill out a brief survey and to provide pictures of this work. This helps Metro track the impact of this program and to keep funding sources like this available in the future.

For more information, contact Resilience Planner Jim Quinn at jim.quinn@oregonmetro.gov.