



Disaster Debris Management Grant

Application overview: January 2024 severe weather event

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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 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 greater Portland, especially when the volume of debris overwhelms existing solid waste infrastructure.

In accordance with Metro Code 5.11, the Disaster Debris Management Reserve and Grants Program, and the program guidelines approved May 2023, Metro has authorized a grant application and award process for the January 2024 severe weather event.

JANUARY 2024 SEVERE WEATHER EVENT

This application guide is for **city and county jurisdictions within the Metro regional boundary** that incurred disaster debris management costs within 30 days of the severe weather event that occurred beginning **Jan. 12, 2024**. A total of \$500,000 has been authorized for grant awards, with awards of \$10,000 to \$50,000 expected to be available for each qualifying jurisdiction. Qualifying debris includes woody and vegetative debris and construction/demolition debris generated as a direct result of the weather event. Eligible clean-up activities include clean-up of public rights of way or other public land, or clean-up of imminent hazards posed by debris on any type of land within the jurisdiction. The clean-up may be conducted by public works staff or contractors; however, no reimbursement is available for regularly budgeted staff time or clean-up activities.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The following minimum qualifications and eligibility requirements were determined for this specific qualifying disaster. As outlined in the Disaster Debris Grant Program guidelines, certain details are approved by Metro's Waste Prevention and Environmental Services Director after an event has been determined to be a qualifying disaster for this fund. All applicants must meet these qualifications and eligibility requirements to be eligible to receive funds. If the applications received exceed the amount of funds authorized for this disaster, Metro may use one or more of the following criteria to prioritize requests:

- Jurisdiction does not have the financial resources to manage post-disaster debris.
- Disaster severity on the requesting jurisdiction.
- Disaster impact area coincides with an equity focus area.

Eligible applicants

This grant is for local governments only. Individuals, nonprofit organizations, businesses, universities, and other types of public or private organizations are not eligible.

Eligible jurisdictions

The 24 cities and 3 counties located within Metro’s jurisdictional boundary are eligible to apply for funds. Jurisdictions located outside the Metro boundary but within Metro’s watershed are not eligible for this round of funding but may be eligible in future disaster events.

Qualifying disaster

The Metro Chief Operating Officer has determined that the severe weather event that began Jan. 12, 2024, is a qualifying disaster for Metro’s Disaster Debris Management Grant.

Available funding

A total of \$500,000 is available for this disaster event.

Award amount

Awards are expected to be \$10,000 to \$50,000 per eligible jurisdiction that meets the minimum qualifications. Larger or smaller awards may be considered depending on need and impact.

Qualifying debris

Woody and vegetative debris or construction/demolition debris generated as a direct result of the severe weather event that began Jan. 12, 2024. Debris must have been generated within the Metro boundary in public rights of way or other public land or must pose an imminent hazard to public safety or access.

Qualifying debris management work

Clean-up completed within 30 days of the qualifying disaster by public works staff or contractors of public rights of way or other public land, or clean-up of imminent hazards posed by debris on any type of land within the jurisdiction as needed for public safety or access. Regularly budgeted local government staff time on debris management work is ineligible.

Debris management work must meet all the following criteria in order to qualify:

- Under the control of the applicant jurisdiction.
- Directly related to the qualifying disaster (January 2024 severe weather event).
- Clean-up of qualifying debris (woody and vegetative debris or construction/demolition debris generated as a direct result of the severe weather event).
- Located within the Metro jurisdictional boundary.

- Related to clean-up of public rights of way or other public land, or clean-up of imminent hazards posed by debris on any type of land within the jurisdiction.

Eligible expenses

- Expenses must be for qualifying debris management work that was completed within 30 days of the qualifying disaster.
- Expenses that are eligible for reimbursement include the following (when part of qualifying debris management work):
 - Contracted professional services (must be procured in accordance with the jurisdiction's own procurement rules and state procurement law).
 - Equipment used in debris management work.
 - Materials and supplies used in debris management work.
 - Debris reclamation or disposal fees.
 - Applicant jurisdiction's labor costs that are above and beyond routine budgeted labor costs, such as temporary staffing, overtime, and/or backfilling for staff assigned to debris management work.

Application format

Applications must be submitted prior to the deadline using the online form that will be available on the Disaster Debris Management [program webpage](#). Applications will not be accepted via email or paper submission.

Application timeline

The application will be made available on the Disaster Debris Management [program webpage](#) 30 days after the qualifying disaster ends. Applications will be open for approximately 3 weeks. This timeline is subject to change if the qualifying disaster is declared a FEMA-eligible disaster.

Multiple applications

Applicants are limited to one application per jurisdiction. If applications received do not exceed the available funding, Metro may open a second round of applications for the remaining funds with updated eligibility requirements.

FEMA eligibility

At this time, it is unknown whether the January 2024 severe weather event in Oregon will be declared a disaster federally, and thus become eligible for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) public assistance funds. If activated, the Public Assistance program would be the primary source of financial recovery support for current events, including debris cleanup costs. The Oregon Department of Emergency Management has started the process of gathering damage information and must decide whether to request a federal disaster determination within 30 days of the event. The timeline for federal response is harder to predict, but at the 30-day mark we will have a better idea of whether public assistance funds will become available.

Metro will move forward with the grant program either way. If the event does become eligible for public assistance funds, and the metro area counties are included in the declaration, that will change the focus of Metro's grant program. Metro funds would be focused on helping cover the local share of debris costs- the portion of costs that applicants will be required to cover under the public assistance program- and adjustments to Metro's application and grant process will be made.

More information about the public assistance funding program can be found [here](#). For more information you can contact Morgan West, the regional recovery support contact at Oregon Department of Emergency Management, at morgan.west@oem.oregon.gov.

CONTACT

For more information, visit oregonmetro.gov/disaster-debris-management-plan, or contact:

Jim Quinn, Resilience Planner

Jim.Quinn@oregonmetro.gov

503-972-2760