

Feasibility Study Grant Program – Frequently Asked Questions

Oregon Water Resources Department

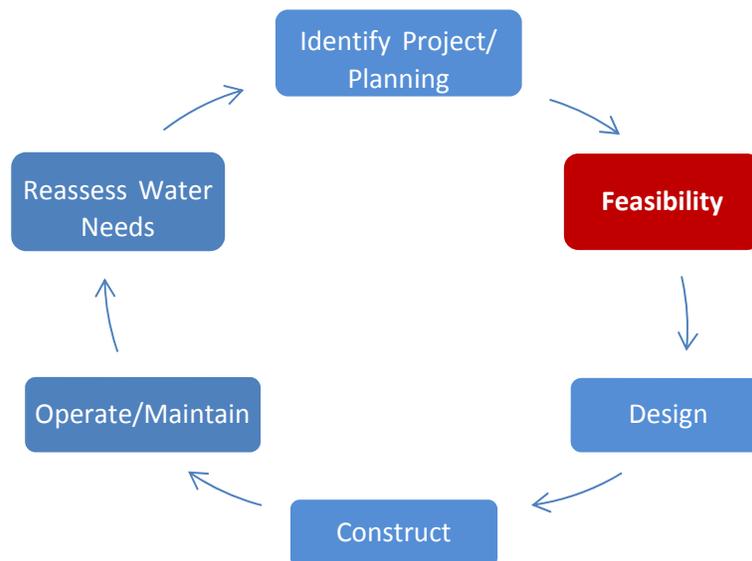
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The Water Conservation, Reuse, and Storage Grant Program, established by Senate Bill 1069 (2008), is designed to fund the qualifying costs of planning studies that evaluate the feasibility of developing water conservation, reuse, or storage projects. Eligibility and application requirements are found in Oregon Administrative Rules Chapter 690, [Division 600](#).

What is a Feasibility Study?

A feasibility study is an assessment of a proposed plan or method. Typically, there should be a previously identified water project that appears to have merit but is lacking important details necessary to determine whether or not to proceed. The feasibility study focuses on helping to answer the essential question of, “should we proceed with the proposed project idea?” All activities of the study are directed toward helping answer this question. Ideally, the project identified will have community support and will have been identified through a collaborative process.

Feasibility is part of the water project development process. After planning has occurred and a project has been identified, a feasibility study can occur to gather the information necessary to make a decision. This is followed by formalized project design and finally construction of the project.



What type of project can be funded under the feasibility grant program?

The Water Resources Department’s feasibility grant fund is limited to water conservation, reuse and storage projects. Examples include the storage of surface water in an underground aquifer to meet summertime community needs, addressing water losses associated with open irrigation ditches and finding alternative uses of wastewater to provide community benefit.

How can I come up with the matching funds?

The grant fund will provide 50 percent of the total cost of the feasibility study. In many cases, grant recipients have used funds to hire consultants or other technical experts. Applicants can come up with the 50 percent match in the following ways:

- Secured funding commitment from other sources. This could be cash or other grant funding sources.
- Pending commitments of funding from other sources. The commitments must be firm and secured prior to the Department releasing any funds.
- The value of in-kind labor, equipment rental, and materials essential to the feasibility study.

What are examples of allowable costs?

Examples of allowable costs to determine the feasibility of a project include but are not limited to the hiring of consultants and engineers, staff time, and the purchase of supplies.

What are examples of unallowable costs?

Costs that are outside of the scope of what is needed to assess feasibility are not allowed. Equipment/assets with a useful life of greater than one year are generally not allowed. Formal engineering design, construction or other implementation costs are not allowed. Please contact us regarding any questions about whether or not a specific cost is allowable.

Can I look at alternatives as part of my feasibility study?

Analysis of alternatives may be useful, and in some cases, a necessary part of a feasibility study. However, it is expected that the bulk of analysis and resources associated with the feasibility grant be directed toward the primary project concept.

What reporting requirements are there?

Grantees are required to submit progress reports and financial status reports on a quarterly basis.

Who should I contact for more information about the feasibility grant program?

Contact the Department's Water Supply Development Coordinator, Jon Unger at (503) 986-0869 or jon.j.unger@wrd.state.or.us.