



# Office of School Facilities

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TAP)

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

1. Where does the revenue come from to fund the Technical Assistance Program (TAP) grants?
  - a. Technical assistance grants are funded through a sub-grant of the State School Fund.
2. How much technical assistance funds will be available for each annual application period?
  - a. \$2 million to \$2.5 million per application period.
3. How much is available for each assessment type?
  - a. The maximum (statutory cap) grant award is:
    - i. \$20,000 for a facilities assessment;
    - ii. \$25,000 for a long-range facility plan;
    - iii. \$25,000 for a seismic assessment; and
    - iv. \$25,000 for an environmental hazards assessment (radon testing)
4. What is the purpose of the Technical Assistance Program grants?
  - a. Provide assistance to districts to determine the level of deferred maintenance and capital construction needs. Also, providing ODE access to information on the status of district facilities across the state.
5. How will applications be chosen to receive the grants?
  - a. Each application will be given 1 to 5 preference points. All applications with 5 preference points will be awarded a grant, followed by applications with 4 preference points, and so on until ODE has awarded up to the available funding amount. For 2019, the total available funding for TAP grants is \$2,500,000.
6. What are the preference points that ODE will use to rank the applications for the technical assistance program grants?
  - a. The following provides the preference points for each assessment type.
  - b. ODE will calculate the preference points regarding ADMr and poverty based on State School Fund data to ensure accuracy and facilitate the application process for school districts.



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### **Preference Points for the Facilities Assessment Grant (5 maximum points possible)**

- District has under 2,500 ADMr according to the annual reports for the same school year as used to calculate the Priority List under OAR 581-027-0010. *\*as calculated by ODE*
- District has 25% or more of its ADMr identified as Students in Poverty. The number of Students in Poverty shall be same as used in OAR 581-027-0010. *\*as calculated by ODE*
- District's ADMr has changed by 10% or more over the last 5 years based on the latest annual reports submitted to the Department. *\*as calculated by ODE*
- District has not conducted a Facility Assessment in the last 10 years
- District has not passed a general obligation bond in the last 15 years

### **Preference Points for the Long-Range Facility Plan Grant (5 maximum points possible)**

- District has under 2,500 ADMr according to the annual reports for the same school year as used to calculate the Priority List under OAR 581-027-0010. *\*as calculated by ODE*
- District has 25% or more of its ADMr identified as Students in Poverty. The number of Students in Poverty shall be same as used in OAR 581-027-0010. *\*as calculated by ODE*
- District's ADMr has changed by 10% or more over the last 5 years based on the latest annual reports submitted to the Department. *\*as calculated by ODE*
- District has not conducted a Long-Range Facility Plan in the last 10 years.
- District has not passed a general obligation bond in the last 15 years.



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### **Preference Points for the Seismic Assessment Grant (5 maximum points possible)**

- District has under 2,500 ADMr according to the annual reports for the same school year as used to calculate the Priority List under OAR 581-027-0010. *\*as calculated by ODE*
- District has 25% or more of its ADMr identified as Students in Poverty. The number of Students in Poverty shall be same as used in OAR 581-027-0010. *\*as calculated by ODE*
- District has not conducted an assessment for an Oregon Infrastructure Finance Authority Seismic Rehabilitation Grant.
- District identifies a number of schools it intends to assess and at least 50% are listed as “High” or “Very High” for collapse potential in the Rapid Visual Survey created by the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries.
- District’s Mapped Spectral Acceleration for 1-second period ( $S_s$ ) is greater than 0.6 as calculated by the United State Geological Survey and published on the USGS website for the district’s central office.

### **Preference Points for the Environmental Hazards Assessment Grant (5 maximum points possible)**

- District has under 2,500 ADMr according to the annual reports for the same school year as used to calculate the Priority List under OAR 581-027-0010. *\*as calculated by ODE*
- District has 25% or more of its ADMr identified as Students in Poverty. The number of Students in Poverty shall be same as used in OAR 581-027-0010. *\*as calculated by ODE*
- District has not conducted radon tests for all schools as of 2016 or later.
- District’s Radon Risk Category is either High or Not Assigned according to the Map of Radon Risk Levels in Oregon or the Zip Code Table of Radon Risk Levels in Oregon created by the Oregon Health Authority.
- District qualifies for the Remote Small Elementary School Correction and/or Small High School Correction under the State School Fund.



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7. Can a district apply for more than one grant?
  - a. A district may apply for any or all four assessment types.
8. Does a district have to submit a separate application for each type of grant?
  - a. Yes, because each grant receives different priority rankings, the applications will need to be separated to properly apply all rankings.
9. Can a district submit a separate application for an assessment of each building?
  - a. No. The technical assistance grants are provided at the district level. That means that if a district receives a technical assistance grant for an assessment, the district will have to decide the most effective use of the funds, whether that be for one or two building assessments, or a district wide assessment.
10. What if the assessment costs exceed the grant funds?
  - a. The district will be required to pay the difference. The grants are statutorily capped.
11. What if the assessment costs are less than the grant funds?
  - a. ODE will reimburse the district up to the actual cost of the assessment (not to exceed the statutory cap).
12. If a district does not need to assess all buildings, will ODE require the district to assess all buildings?
  - a. No. However, if a district receives a grant, that district will not be able to apply for additional grant funds for that same assessment type to later assess the remaining buildings until the 4-year waiting period has elapsed.
13. Will there be a list of certified providers for the seismic assessments?
  - a. No. ODE does not certify seismic assessment providers because the statute does not require certification for seismic assessment providers.
  - b. However, seismic assessments are required to meet the standards listed in [Seismic Assessment Requirements OAR 581-027-0045](#).
14. Will providers of the long-range facility plans and facilities assessments be certified?
  - a. Yes. ODE requires school districts to use Certified Assessors and conducts an annual certification training for assessors that provide long-range facility plans and facility assessments.



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15. How does an individual or business get certified?
  - a. Further information can be found on the [Office of School Facilities](#) website.
16. What standards will be required for facility assessments?
  - a. The standards for a facility assessment are in [OAR 581-027-0035](#).
17. What standards will be required for a long-range facility plan?
  - a. The standards for a long-range facility plan are listed in [OAR 581-027-0040](#).
18. What standards will be required for seismic assessments?
  - a. The standards for a seismic assessment are listed in [OAR 581-027-0045](#).
19. What costs will ODE cover for the environmental hazards assessment grant?
  - a. ODE anticipates that it will cover the following costs associated with testing for radon:
    - i. Testing kit costs
    - ii. Lab fees
    - iii. Shipping fees
    - iv. Additional tests/controls as needed to ensure accuracy of tests (single-blind tests, etc.)
    - v. Staff time/consultant fees for persons setting up test equipment and conducting the testing.
    - vi. Costs for facility managers, custodial and other key staff to attend trainings on radon testing and mitigation including associated travel costs.
20. How often may a district receive a technical assistance grant?
  - a. A district may receive funds for each assessment type once every four (4) years.
21. When is the application period open?
  - a. Applications can be submitted between January 15 and February 15 of each year.