

Disaster Assistance Program – FAQs

What is the Disaster Assistance Program?

The Washington State Conservation Commission's Disaster Assistance Program makes available a limited amount of funding to offer grants for farmers and ranchers who sustained physical damage to their Klickitat County operation due to the major fire event July-August 2024.

What is the timeline for applying to DAP?

Applications for the Disaster Assistance Program must be submitted by November 15, 2024. If there are funds remaining after all applications have been reviewed, a second application window may be made available.

How Do I apply?

There are three ways you may apply to DAP.

1. Download an application, fill it out digitally, and email it along with all required documentation to FireHelp@EasternCD.org.
2. Print an application, fill it out manually, and mail it to or drop it off at Eastern Klickitat Conservation District at 1107 S Columbus Ave., Goldendale, WA 98620.
3. Hard copy applications also are available for you to fill out in-person at the Eastern Klickitat Conservation District at 1107 S Columbus Ave., Goldendale, WA 98620.

If you need an alternative format, please contact SCC by phone (360.407.6200) or TTY Relay (711).

I already made repairs – are those costs eligible?

If you made repairs, conducted cleanup, or otherwise took action on your Klickitat County farm or ranch necessitated by the July-August 2024 fire event – those costs may be eligible. See the Program Guidelines for more details or contact Eastern Klickitat Conservation District at 509.773.5823 x5 or FireHelp@EasternCD.org.

I still need to do work to fix damage – is that eligible?

If you still need to make repairs, conduct cleanup, or otherwise take action on your Klickitat County farm or ranch necessitated by the July-August 2024 fire event – that work may be eligible. See the Program Guidelines for more details or contact the Eastern Klickitat Conservation District at 509.773.5823 x5 or FireHelp@EasternCD.org.

Can I submit expenses I've also claimed on my insurance?

No. Items covered by insurance are not eligible under this program.

Are lost crops eligible?

Lost or reduced crop income is not eligible. In some cases, replacement of lost crops can be eligible. An example would be nursery stock lost or damaged beyond use. Replacement stock in that case may be eligible. Replacement hay is another example. In both cases the lost crop is not eligible, but with proper documentation, the replacement can be eligible.

Am I eligible if I already applied for other federal relief programs?

No. Expenses submitted to the USDA Farm Services Agency (FSA), or other government disaster recovery programs are not eligible under this program.

What if I rent my farm?

If you're renting the farm where the expense occurred or the proposed work is planned, you must obtain written consent from the landowner, along with written confirmation that the same costs have not been submitted for insurance or to FSA/other disaster recovery programs.

Can a farmer or rancher submit applications for multiple business entities?

Yes. However, if the farmer or rancher submits applications for reimbursement for multiple farm or ranch entities that they own, SCC's \$50,000 limit per landowner still applies. That means multiple applications could be funded, but the total awarded cannot exceed \$50,000.

What forms of documentation for eligible expenses are acceptable?

- Itemized invoices showing a \$0 balance.
- Copies of canceled checks (submit image of front and back).
- Credit card statements with account numbers blacked out.
- Payroll documents showing paid staff time dedicated to response to and recovery from the event.

How will decisions be made?

- Applications that meet eligibility requirements will be referred to an advisory committee consisting of representatives from the Washington Department of Agriculture, SCC, Eastern Klickitat Conservation District, and a representative from the agricultural industry.
- SCC will review committee recommendations and make final funding decisions.

I have more questions – who do I contact?

- For questions about eligibility and how to apply, contact Eastern Klickitat Conservation District at 509.773.5823 x5 or FireHelp@EasternCD.org.
- For general questions about the program, contact Jean Fike at the Washington State Conservation Commission at 360.764.0533 or jfike@scc.wa.gov.