



Housing Response Assistance

The Food Security and Farmworker Safety Program provides three opportunities for housing assistance in order for producers to provide safe housing to farmworkers who would have traditionally had access to employer-provided housing. Housing assistance is available for the difference between traditional on-farm occupancy and temporary occupancy.

- 1. Temporary Modifications to On-Farm Housing:** Materials and supplies purchased by a producer on or after April 28, 2020 to complete temporary modifications to on-farm housing, including existing or temporary housing, are eligible for a one-time payment of up to \$100/occupancy unit provided with modifications that are necessary to comply with OR-OSHA's temporary rules. Use of a hotel/motel is not considered a modification.
- 2. Temporary on-farm alternative housing:** Producers who rent or otherwise secure temporary on-farm alternative housing (e.g., modular office units, trailers, RVs, tents, etc.) on or after May 11, 2020 can receive assistance for up to \$350/month per occupancy unit provided by a temporary option, based upon receipts. This includes portable toilets and portable handwashing stations (i.e. portable sanitation units) needed to comply with OR-OSHA's temporary housing rules.
- 3. Hotel/Motel Assistance:** Producers who secure hotel/motel housing for workers on or after May 11, 2020 can receive assistance up to the standard government rates to comply with the reduced occupancy levels in OR-OSHA's temporary rules.

Oregon's Food Security and Farmworker Safety Program provides assistance to Oregon's agricultural producers in order to help secure Oregon's food supply chain and protect essential agricultural workers from COVID-19 exposure and illness.

The COVID-19 emergency led to Oregon's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OR-OSHA) issuing temporary rules requiring increased field sanitation measures and more stringent labor housing and transportation regulations. The Food Security and Farmworker Safety Program provides financial assistance to comply with these increased measures during peak harvest.

Eligible Applicants

To be eligible for grant funds under the program, an applicant must be:

1. An agricultural employer to which OR-OSHA temporary rule 437-001-0749 applies; and
2. Registered to do business and in good standing with the Oregon Secretary of State.

In addition, to be eligible for housing assistance under this program, an applicant must:

- Exhaust/maximize their traditional on-farm occupancy under the OR-OSHA temporary rules; and
- Maintain OR-OSHA compliance.

Program Funding Limitation

The Food Security and Farmworker Safety Program funding has a maximum benefit of \$20,000 in combined housing and field sanitation assistance and \$1,000 in transportation assistance to any individual producer applying for assistance throughout the 2020 harvest season. Producers that have costs in excess of \$21,000 may also submit documentation of those excess costs. If any program funds remain at the end of the harvest season in October, additional payments may be equitably distributed to producers.

Eligible Costs

Costs associated with temporary, on-site alternative housing or hotel/motel to provide safe housing to farmworkers in order to comply with the reduced occupancy requirements under OR-OSHA's temporary rules. Example of calculating eligible costs:

EXAMPLE: A producer has a traditional OR-OSHA occupancy rate for 15 beds. Under the temporary OR-OSHA rules, the occupancy rate has been reduced by 5 beds. The producer hires and intends to house 15 farmworkers and rents a mobile office trailer unit to house the 5 displaced workers and retain the OR-OSHA registration of 15. The producer also needs one additional portable sanitation unit as required under the temporary rules. The producer is eligible for:

1. A one-time payment of up to \$100 for modifications for each occupancy provided, not to exceed OR-OSHA registered occupancy;
2. A monthly payment of up to \$350 for each temporary housing occupancy unit and associated portable sanitation provided.

This equates to a maximum reimbursable amount of up to:

- **\$1,500 one-time modification payment** (\$100 modification/occupancy x 15 occupancies provided = \$1,500)
- **\$1,750 monthly payment** (\$350/occupancy x 5 occupancies and associated portable sanitation provided x 1 month = \$1,750)

How and When to Apply

Applications will be accepted beginning June 10, 2020 and will be processed in the order received. Financial assistance will be available for eligible costs incurred on or after May 11, 2020. It is anticipated that the Food Security and Farmworker Safety housing assistance will be available through October 25, 2020.

The [financial assistance application](#) can be submitted via email to FSFSapplication@oregon.gov or via fax to 503-986-0199. If you are unable to access the application online, please call 503-986-0058 to request that an application be faxed to you.

Applicants should be prepared to provide the following information with their application:

- Completed [Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification W-9 Form](#)
- Occupancy registration for OR-OSHA registered operations;
- Reduction in housing capacity due to compliance with the OR-OSHA temporary rules;
- Projected duration of worker housing needed;
- Alternative housing/hotel information;
- Hotel contract (if applicable)

More Information About Food Security and Farmworker Safety Assistance

More information on the program, including Housing Response, Field Sanitation, and Transportation, is found on the [FSFS Program Website](#).

For specific questions on the program, please review the [FAQs](#) or send your question to FSFSquestions@oregon.gov.