

Disaster Assistance Program - FAQs

What is the Disaster Assistance Program? Where did it come from?

This limited-time program was created by the State Legislature in 2022. It provides grant funding for farmers and ranchers who sustained physical damage or economic loss to their Whatcom County operation due to the major flooding event that occurred in November and December 2021.

How do I apply?

Apply online using the [Disaster Recovery Online Application](#)

If you prefer a hard copy application, you may:

- [Download / print an application](#) and email it along with all required documentation to disasterfunding@whatcomcd.org.
- Hard copy applications also are available for you to fill out at the Whatcom Conservation District main office: 6975 Hannegan Rd, Lynden, WA 98264.

If you need an alternative format please contact the Washington State Conservation Commission (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 Whatcom County farm or ranch necessitated by the November flood events – those costs may be eligible. See the [Program Guidelines](#) for more details or contact Whatcom Conservation District (360-526-2380 or disasterfunding@whatcomcd.org).

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

If you still need to make repairs, conduct cleanup, or otherwise take action on your Whatcom County farm or ranch because of damage from the November flood events – that work may be eligible. See the [Program Guidelines](#) for more details or contact Whatcom Conservation District (360-526-2380 or disasterfunding@whatcomcd.org).

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

No, expenses submitted for insurance are not eligible under this program.

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 rent the farm on which 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 or other disaster recovery programs.

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

Yes, however, if the farmer or rancher submits multiple applications for reimbursement for multiple farm or ranch entities that they own, the Commission's \$50,000 limit per landowner still applies. That means that 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 cancelled checks (submit image of front and back)
- Credit card statements with account numbers blacked out

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, Washington State Conservation Commission, Whatcom Conservation District, and a representative from the agricultural industry.
- The Washington State Conservation Commission will review committee recommendations and make final funding decisions.
- Eligible applications will be reviewed and funded on a rolling basis.

I have more questions — who should I contact?

- For questions about eligibility and how to apply, contact Whatcom Conservation District (360-526-2380 or disasterfunding@whatcomcd.org).
- For general questions about the program, contact Jean Fike at the Washington State Conservation Commission (jfike@scc.wa.gov, 360-764-0533).