



School Seismic Safety Grant Program

2023–25 Capital Project Request

Project Title: School Seismic Safety Grant Program

Starting Fiscal Year: July 1, 2023

Project Summary

In the 2022 Legislative Session, the Legislature enacted Substitute Senate Bill 5933, creating the School Seismic Safety program. This program provides grants to school districts and state-tribal education compact (STEC) schools to cover the costs of retrofitting or relocating schools located in high seismic areas or tsunami zones. The Legislature provided the first installment of \$100 million to address the seismic and tsunami risks facing our schools, and this request is for the next \$100 million of funding.

Project Description

Substitute Senate Bill 5933 provides planning and construction grants to schools who have the option to relocate their schools located in the tsunami zones, make needed seismic retrofits, and build a vertical evacuation tower. Grant funding provided will pay for at least two-thirds of the total project costs which include both direct and indirect costs, including land acquisitions. In addition, all projects must be eligible for School Construction Assistance Program (SCAP) funding.

In the spring and summer of 2022, OSPI, in collaboration with its Citizens Advisory Panel (CAP) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to develop administrative rules to implement the new seismic program created by the Legislature during the 2022 Legislative Session. New and revised Washington Administrative Code (WAC) developed will be going through the public hearings process before implemented which will allow seismic projects to become eligible for SCAP funding and outline how schools apply and receive grant funding provided by the new program.

In consultation with OSPI's School Seismic Safety Committee (SSSC), the Committee has recommended that initial grant funding should address the needs of schools which face both a seismic and tsunami risk. Most these schools are located along Washington's Pacific coast and Grays Harbor area. This request will allow OSPI to provide grants to school districts and STECs located in these areas to identify the school's seismic and tsunami risks and create a conceptual design of the needed remediation to address these risks. Once a school district or STEC identifies a project and receives grant funding, OSPI will require the district or STEC to present its proposed remediation to the SSSC. Then, the Committee will make its recommendation by majority vote to accept the proposal and make a recommendation for the project to proceed to request construction grant funding.

Projects identified will be eligible to receive a planning grant and funded in two phases. Phase I grants will pay the costs of a geotechnical evaluation, including project management costs of the proposed site for a school relocation, the school which will receive retrofit funding or site where a vertical

evacuation tower will be constructed. Phase II grants will pay for the cost of the conceptual design, cost estimating, and project management for the proposed remediation. Geotechnical information collected from the phase one grant will provide needed information to ensure the proposed remediation addresses the seismic and tsunami risks facing the students, staff, and community. When a school project remediation plan is complete, the owner of the project will present its plan to the SSSC which will make its recommendation to OSPI to move forward to request construction funding.

Projects that receive funding recommendation from the SSSC and approved by OSPI to move forward to construction, will be prioritized by the Committee for funding. Construction grants will pay for the costs associated with land acquisitions, design, and related direct and indirect costs. The amount of the grant will be determined considering the amount of state SCAP funding and local funding provided for the proposed project. The amount of grant funds will be at least two-thirds of the total project costs and will not have a maximum as outlined in SSB 5933.

The \$100 million funding request will provide grant funding to projects identified on the attached priority list of projects. The projects identified have both a high seismic and tsunami risk. OSPI has consulted and received prioritization recommendations from the SSSC for the projects listed. Cost estimates were based on the draft WACs developed in consultation with OSPI's CAP and TAC and will be going through the public comment process before adoption.

Describe how this project supports the agency's strategic master plan or would improve agency performance. Reference feasibility studies, master plans, space programming, and other analyses as appropriate.

This project supports State Superintendent Chris Reykdal's K-12 Education Vision of his goal for Washington's public education system to prepare every student who walks through our school doors for post-secondary pathways, careers, and civic engagement.

Does this project include IT-related costs, including hardware, software, cloud-based services, contracts, or IT staff?

This proposal does not include costs for IT related costs.

If the project is linked to the Puget Sound Action Agenda, describe the impacts on the Action Agenda, including expenditure and FTE detail.

This proposed project will not impact the Puget Sound Action Agenda.

How does this project contribute to meeting the greenhouse gas emissions limits established in RCW 70A.45.050, Clean Buildings performance standards in RCW 19.27A.210, or other statewide goals to reduce carbon pollution and/or improve energy efficiency? Please elaborate.

The projects funding by this grant program will meet OSPI's Washington Sustainable Schools Protocol. In addition, most of the schools identified are at the end of their useful life or are close to the age

eligibility requirements for replacement through SCAP. The schools replaced or retrofitted will meet current building codes which will decrease energy use and carbon pollution.

Historical Significance

Local school districts and STECs will be required to identify any buildings which may have a historical significance.

Location

Address: Statewide

Zip Code: Statewide

County: Statewide

City: Statewide

Legislative District: Statewide

Describe Growth Management Impacts

School districts are responsible for determining whether and how they need to participate in the planning process with the city or county planning authority.

Grant Recipient Organization

Local School Districts and State Tribal Education Compact Schools

Application Process Used

OSPI will use the grant application process recommended by the SSSC as required by SSB 5933.

Funding Requested

2023-25 \$100 million

2025-27 \$100 million

2027-29 \$100 million

2029-31 \$100 million

2031-33 \$100 million