



Gervais School District

MISSION:

Within our growing, diverse community, we sow the seeds of opportunities to raise prepared, resilient students.

VISION:

Graduating resilient, responsible students whose learning extends to the global community beyond Gervais.



Gervais School District 1
290 First St.
P.O. Box 100
Gervais, OR 97026

**Grant for Gervais School District
Community Members**



Bond Tax Assistance Grant



**A grant for Gervais School District
community members to ease the added
financial burden of a property tax increase
with the passage of a bond.**



Gervais School District

ESTABLISHED 1834



The Bond Tax Assistance Grant

The Gervais School District is excited to announce a very special program for property/home owners and renters called the *Bond Tax Assistance Grant*.

History/Background

In May 2022, the Gervais School District asked voters to consider a bond to fund capital improvement projects at each of the three school buildings. This bond would have raised property taxes for property owners in the district. The bond measure was defeated and many voters said one reason for voting no was because they could not afford additional increases in property taxes.



A first of its kind solution

The school board did some research including seeking legal guidance on establishing a first of its kind grant opportunity for property owners and renters.

The district imposes fees for the rental of its facilities by outside groups. Throughout the year, the facilities are rented for activities like a traveling circus and canine training events. Depending on the number of rentals, the district can receive upwards of \$10,000 per year, which would be used as a dedicated fund (capped at \$10,000) to assist property owners and renters to pay the tax increase incurred with the passage of the bond.

New Bond

The district will be presenting a revised bond proposal to voters in the May 2023 election. This bond proposal is smaller than the one presented a year ago and would ask voters for \$1.97 per thousand of assessed value. Based on information from the Marion County Assessor's office, the average assessed value of property in town is \$145,188 which translates to an average property tax increase of \$286 per year. Outside the Gervais city limits, the average assessed value is \$174,178 which translates to an increase of \$343 per year.

Who is eligible?

- The program would provide financial assistance to low income individuals and families who experience increased costs related to higher property taxes resulting from the bond passing.
 - For purposes of eligibility, low income will be defined by the annual poverty level established by Oregon Department of Human Services as of January prior to consideration for assistance.
 - The applicant will be required to provide financial information necessary to establish their eligibility based on income level and either a lease or a property tax statement in their name. Landlords will be required to attest that rental increases were directly tied to their increased property taxes. (Only one application per residence will be accepted).
 - Applications will be date and time stamped upon receipt and funded in order of arrival up to the cap amount of \$10,000. Awards will cover up to \$200 per year, per residence of increased property taxes or rental increases directly connected to the passage of the bond.
- For example, if the applicant's property had an assessed value of \$145,188, the property tax increase would be \$286. With a successful application, the applicant could

receive a \$200 grant leaving \$86 for them to pay for the year (or just over \$7 a month).

- Applications will be due by March 1 and applicants may apply every year. The committee will meet no later than March 30th annually to process all applications.
- A final decision and communication to applicants will be made no later than the second (2nd) Friday in April.

Who is on the committee and how will my information be protected?

The committee will not have names or addresses made available to them. All personally identifiable information will be redacted and the committee will simply affirm that the application is complete and meets the requirements before granting funds.

The Bond Tax Assistance Grant Committee will consist of:

- Superintendent
- Two (2) local business owners
- Staff member from city
- Two (2) parents
- District business manager
- District legal counsel (ex-officio; advisor to committee)

Committee members will serve a four-year term.

More information will be made available if the May 2023 bond passes. The district would make distributions in April 2024 and annually after as long as funds are generated through facility rentals. The committee and the school board will annual evaluate the sustainability of the program.

If you have questions, please contact the district office at 503-792-3803.