



# Oregon

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NR – SRG Awards

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## **\$15 MILLION IN SEISMIC REHABILITATION GRANTS AWARDED**

SALEM, Ore – Oregon Emergency Management (OEM) and Senator Peter Courtney’s office announced today that letters have been sent to public entities that were selected to receive the first round of seismic rehabilitation grants.

Thirteen public education buildings and eleven emergency services facilities will receive funds totaling \$15 million dollars. The Seismic Rehabilitation Grant Program (SRGP) provides funds to strengthen public school and emergency service buildings. This will ensure the safety of students and staff in the event of an earthquake and allow emergency service facilities to remain functional.

In 2001, Oregon voters approved Ballot Measures 15 & 16 amending the Constitution to allow for the state to lend credit through general obligation bonds for seismic rehabilitation of public education buildings and emergency services buildings. Subsequently, Senate President Peter Courtney sponsored a series of companion bills directing a statewide seismic risk assessment, methodology and direction to implement the Seismic Grants Program.

“The Seismic Rehabilitation Grants Committee did a tremendous job reviewing and scoring the numerous applications that were submitted for funding.” Courtney said. “We have a responsibility to keep Oregonians as safe as possible and this is a step in the right direction.”

The committee made its recommendations for funding to Ken Murphy, Director of Oregon Emergency Management who, after thorough review, approved their recommendations.

“This is a very positive step towards saving lives and property in Oregon and could not have been accomplished without Senator Courtney,” Murphy said. “We owe him a debt of gratitude.”

A 2007 report from Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries shows over 1,000 school and emergency services buildings at high or very high risk for collapse during an earthquake.

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