Mattress Recycling Council
Request for Proposals

Funding for Illegally Dumped Mattress Mitigation Pilot Study

Release Date:
October 30, 2026

Due Date:
December 18, 2026

Mattress Recycling Council Oregon, LLC
Attn: Abbie Beane
abeane@mrc-us.org
www.MattressRecyclingCouncil.org

BACKGROUND

The Mattress Recycling Council Oregon LLC, (MRC) is soliciting applications for pilot study(ies) aimed at preventing or eradicating the illegal dumping of mattresses and box springs (together referred to as mattresses) in impacted Oregon communities.

This solicitation implements the illegal dumping pilot-project phase of MRC's Oregon Mattress Stewardship Program Plan approved by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) on July 25, 2024. The pilot projects will build upon MRC's statewide illegal-dumping baseline data collection efforts and stakeholder research and are intended to identify effective, scalable and cost-effective approaches for reducing illegal mattress dumping and associated costs in Oregon communities.

Based on the applications received in response to this solicitation, MRC intends to award funding to project(s) that will:

- Increase public education and awareness of existing mattress disposal and recycling options (such as no-cost curbside pickup, retailer take-back, and MRC drop-off sites), with an emphasis on accessibility, convenience and reducing confusion about available services. Multifamily and other high turnover locations may be prioritized.
- Strengthen awareness and enforcement of illegal dumping laws specific to mattresses, including deterrent strategies such as signage, drones, cameras, community reporting channels and coordinated enforcement partnerships.
- Expand access to convenient and affordable mattress collection programs, including enhanced drop-off sites, or partnerships with retailers, solid waste companies and junk haulers.
- Increased deterrents at known illegal mattress dumping locations through cleanup integrated with prevention measures, landscaping, lighting, barriers, signage, monitoring or other environmental design strategies intended to discourage recurrence.
- Test approaches that respond to other priorities identified by Oregon stakeholders such as rural and remote dumping, roadside dumping, limited disposal access, dumping on tribal lands and urban dumping in the public right of way.

Coordination among jurisdictions/agencies responsible for illegally dumped material is encouraged.

The deadline for submitting completed applications is 5:00 P.M. PST Friday, December 18, 2026. All awarded projects under the Illegally Dumped Mattresses Pilot Studies program (hereby referred to as "Program"), must be completed by March 31, 2028.

Routine cleanup of illegally dumped mattresses or stand-alone mattress collection events are not eligible as the sole purpose of a pilot project. However, cleanup, collection or remediation costs may be eligible when they are an integral component of a pilot intervention designed to test whether the strategy reduces future illegal mattress dumping. For those interested in becoming a permanent collection site or hosting a collection event, please contact MRC's Oregon Program Coordinator Darcy Perez, dperez@mrc-us.org.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Program funding is open to Oregon-based public agencies, local governments, Tribal governments, special districts, nonprofit organizations, service providers, and other entities capable of implementing and evaluating an illegal dumping pilot project.

Applicants are required to submit available historical or current mattress-specific illegal dumping data, but lack of local baseline data will not, by itself, make an applicant ineligible. MRC may provide or supplement baseline information developed through its Oregon statewide illegal dumping census, collection initiative and related program data.

Where applicant data is available, the proposal should summarize, to the extent reasonably available:

- Number of illegally dumped mattresses collected or observed in the previous calendar year;
- Location(s) of dumping, using a practical geographic unit such as ZIP code, neighborhood, road segment, service area or jurisdiction;
- Collection or observation timeframe;
- Source of the data (e.g., public works records, hauler logs, code enforcement, complaint systems, public-land managers); and
- Known limitations, gaps or changes in data collection practices.

MRC and each awardee will establish an appropriate pre-intervention comparison period or other evaluation baseline before implementation. The final report must assess whether and how the pilot affected illegal mattress dumping and document limitations in attributing observed changes to the intervention.

MRC will prepare a case study summarizing pilot results, based on the final report. Awardees will be required to participate in the case study process and provide a final review before publication.

EXAMPLES OF ELIGIBLE PROJECTS AND USE OF FUNDS

Education & Outreach

Promote proper mattress disposal by educating residents and other generators on available collection and recycling options and on the economic, environmental and community impacts of illegal dumping. Oregon projects may specifically target multifamily housing, high-turnover populations, rural communities or other populations identified through baseline and stakeholder work.

- Social media campaigns and geographically targeted campaigns
- Community workshops and neighborhood outreach
- School- or community-based programs
- Partnerships with local organizations, property managers, housing providers, Tribes, and service organizations

Eradication & Beautification

Deter recurring dumping by improving known dumping locations and testing whether site remediation or environmental design changes reduce subsequent dumping.

- Landscaping, murals, or community art installations
- Rehabilitation and active monitoring of known illegal dumping sites
- Cleanup paired with a measurable prevention intervention
- Lighting, barriers, fencing, cameras, signage or other site controls

Access & Infrastructure

Expand convenient legal disposal and recycling opportunities where access barriers may contribute to dumping. This may include:

- Traditional or non-traditional new permanent mattress collection sites in illegal dumping hot spots or low-income areas
- Programs targeted to rural, Tribal and underserved communities
- Transportation or other partnerships that address barriers to legal disposal

Enforcement & Deterrence

Strengthen enforcement and deterrence measures to reduce mattress dumping in high-risk areas. Projects may include:

- Installation of surveillance equipment, signage, cameras, drones, lighting and fencing in illegal dumping hot spots
- Partnerships with public works, public land managers, local code enforcement or law enforcement agencies
- Public reporting tools and awareness campaigns to increase compliance

For more information on illegal dumping issues, please refer to the MRC's Workshop Reports (2019 and 2024), Case Studies and White Paper.

REQUESTED EVALUATION ELEMENTS

MRC's objective is not only to fund promising interventions, but also to learn which approaches work, where they work, at what cost, and whether they can be replicated elsewhere in Oregon.

At a minimum, awardees should collect the following common data elements when applicable and feasible:

- Date the dumped mattress was observed, reported or collected;
- Number and type of units;
- Location or geographic identifier (e.g., ZIP code, service area or hot spot);
- Location type (e.g., roadside, public land, multifamily area, alley, encampment vicinity);

- Reporting/data source;
- Final disposition where known;
- Whether the observation occurred before or after the intervention; and
- Photographic documentation.

Projects should also report intervention-specific measures such as participation, implementation barriers, outreach scope, awareness, complaints, recurrence at treated sites or dumping displacement to nearby areas, increase use of legal collection options, implementation costs or other meaningful measures where feasible.

FUNDING

MRC has allocated up to $125,000 to fund a pilot study(ies) through this Program. Payment and reporting terms are described on page 9 of this RFP.

TIMELINE

The following timeline is subject to revision by MRC.

Key Date	Action Taken
October 30, 2026	Program proposal solicitation released. Question period opens.
November 13, 2026	Question period ends. Send all questions to abeane@mrc-us.org
November 17, 2026	Informational webinar at 10am. Register HERE.
December 18, 2026	Program applications due.
March 1, 2027	Notice of awards and contract process begins.

SCORING CRITERIA

MRC will rank applications based on a score of 0-100, according to the following set of criteria. All scoring criteria are subject to revision by MRC.

Category	Points	Criteria
Quality of Application	10	Application is complete, clear, and submitted on time.
Applicant Qualifications	10	Demonstrated organizational capacity and resources to complete the project. Relevant experience with similar projects (provide examples if applicable). Includes meaningful partnerships.

Category	Points	Criteria
Project Impact/Need	40	Clear articulation of how the project will reduce illegal mattress dumping. Provides some baseline mattress dumping data to justify funding. Demonstrates strong community need. Includes measurable success indicators and an evaluation plan. Describes how final report will document outcomes and will provide learnings that could be scaled.
Project Area	10	Target area is in a Tribal, rural, multifamily/high turnover or underserved community.
Project Work Plan	15	Work plan is logical, efficient, and realistic. Includes measurable outcomes and clear deadlines. Demonstrates readiness and speed to implementation.
Project Budget/ Cost	15	Costs are reasonable and justified. Project demonstrates cost-effectiveness. Matching funds are included (optional but favorable).

Bonus points will be given to applicants proposing to add a new permanent collection location.

GUIDELINES AND QUESTIONS

All applications must include the **Letter of Transmittal** (attached) as the cover page. Applicants may use the MRC template application or their own format. All applications must include the following components:

Applicant Experience

Description of the applicant's experience with illegal dumping mitigation, enforcement, education and outreach, research/evaluation, community engagement or similar projects.

Project Description

- Clear outline of the problem, target area/population, proposed intervention, expected project impact and methods for measuring success.
- Justification of project effectiveness, including:
  - Estimated number of additional mattresses prevented from illegal dumping
  - Improved awareness and/or enforcement of illegal dumping mitigation strategies
  - Enhanced education on proper mattress disposal

Baseline Data and Evaluation

- Provide available historical/current data and identify data limitations. Applicants without a full year of mattress-specific data should describe what information is available and how they will work with MRC to establish a suitable baseline.
- Identify how outcomes will be measured and data sources.

Project Work Plan and Timeline

- Detailed description of tasks, milestones, responsible parties and timeline for implementation.

Project Budget and Funding Request

- Detailed project budget, including any matching funds (optional), and a specific funding request.
- Provide quotes for equipment if equipment is being requested.

Replicability and Lessons Learned

- Explain what the project is intended to teach MRC and Oregon communities and whether the strategy can be replicated or scaled.

Completed applications must be emailed by 5:00 PM PST Friday, December 18, 2026, to: abeane@mrc-us.org.

Comments and questions should be emailed no later than 5:00 PM PST on Friday, November 13, 2026 to MRC at abeane@mrc-us.org. MRC will respond to all questions.

Applications that do not follow the guidelines may not be considered.

Applicants should describe in detail any potential conflicts of interest with MRC leadership or employees or former employment in the mattress industry within their application.

Awardees must agree to MRC's Project Terms and complete regular reporting requirements that may include photos or other documentation. MRC will use project documentation for annual Oregon DEQ reporting and marketing purposes. Confidential information must be marked as such and may be subject to regulatory disclosure requirements of Oregon DEQ or other state entities.

Awardees will be reimbursed for costs based on achieving project milestones. Awardees may submit reimbursement requests monthly if the scope of work is complete for the period for which funds are requested. MRC assumes no liability or ownership for infrastructure or equipment purchased with MRC funding. Costs incurred before contract execution or after the end of the term are not eligible. Awardees must have all permits and approvals before funds are disbursed.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. **Content and Liability Disclaimer:** MRC has used reasonable care in preparing the information set forth in this Application Invitation. However, MRC shall not be responsible for any errors or omissions contained in this Invitation or other documents issued or prepared by MRC. MRC provides no warranty, either expressed or implied, regarding the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of those documents.

FURTHER, MRC EXPRESSLY DISCLAIMS ALL WARRANTIES WITH REGARD TO THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THIS APPLICATION, INCLUDING THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, AND NONINFRINGEMENT OF PROPRIETARY RIGHTS.

In no event shall MRC or its affiliates be liable for any damages whatsoever. In particular, MRC and its affiliates shall not be liable for special, indirect, consequential, or incidental damages, or damages for lost profits, loss of revenue, or loss of use, arising out of or related to this document or other pre-contract documents, or the information contained in them, whether such damages arise in contract, negligence, tort, under statute, in equity, at law or otherwise.

2. **Application Questions**: Any questions pertaining to this Application must be transmitted by e-mail. MRC will respond to all questions; however, MRC is not responsible for questions that are not received. It is your responsibility to confirm MRC's receipt of any questions.

If substantive questions are received that, in the MRC's opinion, require a modification or clarification of the Application, the resulting modification or clarification will be provided in the form of an Addendum that will be forwarded to all Application Invitation recipients in advance of the submittal deadline. MRC reserves the right to extend the Application question deadline if it determines in its sole discretion that such an extension is warranted.

Submit one (1) electronic copy of your application, along with the Letter of Transmittal in Microsoft Word or pdf, including all attachments and addendums. MRC will confirm receipt of each application.

3. An Applicant that is selected by MRC to provide services under a formal contract with MRC will be an independent contractor to MRC, and will not function as an agent, partner or employee of MRC. Nothing contained herein shall be construed as contemplating any relationship other than independent contractor. As such, the party under contract with MRC would be responsible for (i) making day-to-day and critical decisions regarding the undertaking, management and supervision of those activities; and (ii) achieving compliance with all applicable federal, state, local or other laws and regulations.

4. Under the Act, MRC has certain legal obligations to report to Oregon DEQ regarding the status and progress of the Program. This includes providing aggregate information furnished to MRC by Program Participants.

5. MRC intends to begin the contract term as early as February 2027.

6. By applying, you agree to be bound by your Application for 180 days or until a formal contract is negotiated.

7. Failure to comply with the terms and conditions specified in the Application could lead to your response being considered non-responsive and ineligible for further consideration.

8. MRC shall not be obligated to disclose any information about the winning (or losing) Applications.

9. MRC shall not be responsible for any costs that you or others incur in preparing an Application.

10. You acknowledge that MRC's decision whether to enter into a contract at the conclusion of this Application process will be at MRC's sole discretion.

11. If you are selected to enter into a contract with MRC, you will be required to furnish at that time:

- **a.** documentation that your organization (as necessary) is qualified to do business in Oregon (and any other relevant jurisdictions if your company is headquartered or located in another state) to provide the services under your program.
- **b.** A valid and current Certificate of Insurance. Minimum limits include, but are not limited to:
    - Commercial General Liability Insurance of not less than $1 million per occurrence.
    - Workers' Compensation Coverage as required by state law.

FORM 1 - LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Please complete this form and include it as the COVER PAGE of your Application

Date:	
Applicant Organization:	
Organization Address:	
Application Contact & Title:	
Contact Phone Number:	
Contact Email Address:	
Alternate Contact and Title:	
Alternate Email Address:	
If a corporation, state of corporation	
Federal Tax I.D. Number	

I am authorized to submit this Application on behalf of the organization identified above to provide the services described in the Application.

I acknowledge receipt of, and have read, Application Invitation (including all subsequent addenda) and that I have prepared the Application. This Application is to the best of my knowledge true and accurate. I acknowledge that if facts stated in this Application are found to be false, MRC in its sole discretion may reject this Application from consideration and disqualify me and/or my organization from responding to invitations issued by MRC.

In the event that MRC selects our organization, we are prepared to enter into a formal written contract with MRC on behalf of our organization for the program described, as well as any ancillary services related to this program. This application will remain valid for 180 days from the closing date.

In preparing and submitting this Application, I certify that:

- no person acting for, or employed by, the Mattress Recycling Council Oregon, LLC has a personal interest in, or is personally concerned with, this bid; and,
- no person or persons, or organizations, other than the undersigned, have, or are interested parties in this Application.

Authorized Signature:

_____

Print Name:

_____

Title:

_____

Date:

_____