



## **Household Sewage Treatment System Repair/ Replacement Program**

The Ottawa County Health Department (OCHD) is participating in the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's (OEPA) Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) to assist low to moderate income homeowners with the repair and replacement of failing home sewage treatment systems (HSTS). The program may also assist homeowners with connections to existing centralized sanitary sewer systems. The WPCLF is a form of principal forgiveness subsidy which does not require a repayment of principal or any interest. This packet explains how the program works and who may be eligible to apply for financial assistance which may cover up to 100% of all costs depending on your income.

### **What is a failing system?**

A septic system may not show any apparent signs of failure but still may be considered a "failing" system if:

- ▢ It discharges sewage to bedrock, drain tiles, groundwater, surface water or into zones of seasonally saturated soils and exceeds the public health nuisance standards and effluent quality limits;
- ▢ It discharges sewage onto the ground surface; or
- ▢ It has components such as the concrete septic tank or distribution box that are showing signs of deterioration.

### **Who is eligible to apply for the program?**

- ▢ All residents of Ottawa County who may have a failing HSTS and meet the income guidelines are eligible to apply.
- ▢ Home must be occupied by the owner.

### What are the income guidelines?

# of people in home	<u>100%</u> of project costs paid if annual income is at or below:	<u>85%</u> of project costs paid if annual income is at or below:	<u>50%</u> of project costs paid if annual income is at or below:
1-4	\$26,200	\$52,400	\$78,600
5	\$30,680	\$61,360	\$92,040
6	\$35,160	\$70,320	\$105,480
7	\$39,640	\$79,280	\$118,920
8	\$44,120	\$88,240	\$132,360

- For families with more than 8 persons, add \$4,480 for each additional person
- Number based on 2015 U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services Poverty Guidelines

### What costs are covered by this program?

Allowable costs for HSTS repair and replacement include:

- Initial pumping of the system
- Soil evaluation
- Design fee
- Site and design review fee
- Installation permit fee
- Cost of HSTS repairs
- Indoor plumbing repairs if needed per Ohio Administrative Code 3701-29 (reviewed on case-by-case basis)
- Cost of installation and materials (estimates required)
- Other costs may be allowed per review

The amount of cost that will be reimbursed is based on the income level.

### How does the program work?

If you meet the criteria and get approval from OCHD for the repair or replacement of your HSTS, your information will be included in a list of qualified applicants.

- The list of qualified applicants will first be submitted for bid by professional soil evaluators and HSTS designers to conduct a soil evaluation of your parcel of land and design an HSTS in accordance with the soil types.
- Once an HSTS design is approved for your household, the design will then be submitted for bid by sewage installers that are registered with OCHD.
- Once the HSTS is installed and approved by OCHD and upon receipt of all required documents by the contractor, the contractor will be reimbursed the amount in accordance with the approved application. This amount is based on the household income level verified at time of application.

## **What paperwork is required to apply?**

If you decide to proceed with applying for grant assistance to replace or repair your HSTS, you will need to submit the following required information and documentation to OCHD:

- Income verification form, including most recent tax documents; and
- Application for sewage treatment system replacement and repair program

## **Who to Contact**

Questions concerning the Household Sewage Treatment System Replacement/Repair Program can be directed to the following:

Ottawa County Health Department—Attn: Tracy Brown

1856 E. Perry Street

Port Clinton, OH 43452

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