

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). This program was created to assist low to moderate income homeowners with the repair and replacement of failing home sewage treatment systems (STS) and to 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 STS 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	\$25,100	\$50,200	\$75,300
5	\$29,420	\$58,840	\$88,260
6	\$33,740	\$67,480	\$101,220

- Add for each additional person—\$4,320
- Number based on 2018 U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services Poverty Guidelines

What costs are covered by this program?

Allowable costs for STS repair and replacement may include:

- Initial pumping of the system
- Soil evaluation
- Design fee
- Site and design review fee
- Installation permit fee
- Cost of STS repairs
- Indoor plumbing repairs
- Cost of installation and materials
(estimates required)
- Other costs may be allowed per review

How does the program work?

If you meet the criteria and get approval from OCHD for the repair or replacement of your STS, 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 STS designers to conduct a soil evaluation of your parcel of land and design a STS in accordance with the soil types.
- Once the STS design is approved for your household, the design will then be submitted for bid by sewage installers that are registered with OCHD.
- Once the STS 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 STS, you will need to submit the following required information and documentation to OCHD:

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

Who to Contact

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

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