

Thursday, July 31, 2003 (3).max

How Much Money Can I Receive?

The maximum grant is limited to the amounts listed in tables published in Comm 87, Wis. Adm. Code, or \$7,000. (Your participating zoning office or health department has copies of these funding tables and can explain how they are used.) Amounts may vary based on the extent of the work needed to bring your system into compliance with the state plumbing code. Experimental systems are not included in the \$7,000 maximum.

If my application is approved, when do I get the money?

Grant funds are allocated on an annual cycle. The county submits an application to Commerce in January for all eligible individuals within their jurisdiction. Commerce makes grant awards for these applications in the following fiscal year or in the fall of each year.

If I'm not qualified for a grant or my application is denied, do I still need to correct my failing system?

Yes. Remember, a failing private sewage system is a violation of your local ordinance and state statutes and can result in water pollution and health hazards. You may be ordered to correct a violation even if your county is not participating in the program or if you are not eligible to receive financial assistance.

Wisconsin Fund grant money is not guaranteed.

If approved applications exceed available funding; Commerce is required to prioritize funds based on potential environmental harm associated with different types of private sewage system failures.

Category 1 grants are paid in full before Category 2 grants are eligible for any funding. If there are insufficient funds to provide payments for all Category 1 grants, these grants are prorated, and no funds are provided for Category 2 systems. If funds are adequate to fully fund Category 1 grants, then remaining funds are used for Category 2 grants. If these Category 2 grants cannot be fully funded from remaining funds, these grants are also prorated.

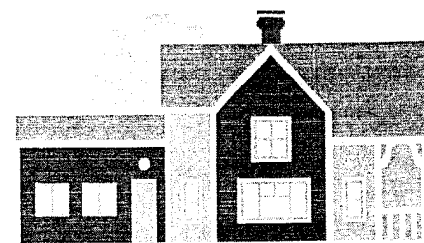
Of the funds available each year, a maximum of 10 percent are allowed for small commercial establishments and a maximum of 10 percent for experimental systems.

Who to Contact

Questions concerning the program may be addressed to your county zoning or health department office or the Department of Commerce office at 608/267-7113. Deaf, hearing or speech-impaired callers may reach us through the Wisconsin Telecommunication Relay System (WI TRS).

**State of Wisconsin
Department of Commerce
Safety and Buildings Division**

Wisconsin Fund Private Sewage System Replacement or Rehabilitation Grant Program



Application Guide

Established in 1978, the Private Sewage System Replacement or Rehabilitation Grant Program provides financial incentives to protect public health, safety, and the waters of the state. Since its inception, the program has awarded over \$58 million in grants for nearly 28,000 residences and businesses to replace or rehabilitate failing private sewage systems statewide.

As part of this program, Wisconsin counties, Indian tribes, and municipalities within Milwaukee County may apply to the Department of Commerce (Commerce), Safety and Buildings Division, for grants to assist owners of principal residences (PR) and small commercial establishments (SCE) in rehabilitating or replacing a failing private sewage system. This publication explains how the program works and who is eligible for financial assistance.

The program is voluntary. As of March 2001, most counties, the City of Franklin within Milwaukee County, and the Oneida Tribe are participating. The counties of Ashland, Bayfield, Crawford, Douglas, and Florence currently do not participate.

Who can apply for a Grant?

You may be eligible for a grant under this program, if ALL of the following requirements are met:

- You reside in a county or governmental unit that is participating in the program.
- You have received a written enforcement order/determination of failure to correct the violation from an approved county or local governmental unit representative before replacement begins.
- Your PR or SCE is not located in an area served by municipal sewer.
- The private sewage system serving your PR or SCE was constructed prior to July 1, 1978.
- The family income of all owners of the PR is less than \$45,000 or the gross revenue of the SCE is less than \$362,500. (Grant awards for PRs are reduced by \$.30 for each \$1.00 earned over \$32,000.)
- Your PR or SCE is served by a category 1 or 2 failing system.
- The PR or SCE is occupied 51% of the year by the owner.
- The SCE is operated by the owner and has a daily wastewater flow rate less than 5,000 gallons per day.
- Your application is submitted within three years from the date of the verification of failure.

When is my Private Sewage System Considered Failing?

When properly operating, a private sewage system safely treats wastewater by storing sludge and solids in the septic tank and by treating and dispersing wastewater in a soil absorption field. However, a failing system can harm the environment by discharging sewage to the surface, to a lake or stream, or to groundwater. Your private sewage system may not show any apparent signs of failure and yet be failing.

The types of failing private sewage systems are divided into three categories:

Category 1 systems are those which fail by discharging sewage to surface water, groundwater, drain tiles, bedrock or zones of seasonally saturated soils. These are considered the most serious types of failure, and are given highest priority for grant assistance.

Category 2 systems are those which fail by discharging sewage to the surface of the ground. This type of failing system is eligible for a grant but has a lower priority for funding than Category 1 systems.

Category 3 systems are those which fail by causing the backup of sewage into the structure served. This type of failing system is not eligible for grant assistance.

OWNER'S APPLICATION

Instructions For Property Owners:	TO BE COMPLETED BY COMMERCE
<p>You may apply for a grant award for up to three years after you have received a determination of failure and after you have obtained a sanitary permit. Complete Part A of this form, attach evidence of your annual income explained in Section #8, and return those items to the county sanitation or health department office in the county where the property is located.</p>	

PART A. TO BE COMPLETED BY THE PROPERTY OWNER

Owner Name*	Social Security No.**	Additional Owner	Social Security No.**
Address		Telephone Number (include area code)	
City, State	Zip Code	If there are additional owners, attach documentation listing all owners and their social security numbers.	
*Grant awards will be issued in the name and address of this owner.		**Note: Your Social Security Number may be used to verify your income and status of support or maintenance payments.	
1. Was the failing private sewage system installed prior to July 1, 1978?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
2. Is this application for a principal residence or a small commercial establishment? (Complete both if applicable.)		<input type="checkbox"/> Principal Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Small Commercial Establishment	
If applying as a principal residence, do you occupy this residence 51% of the year?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA	
If applying as a small commercial establishment, do you own and occupy the small commercial establishment?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA	
3. If applying as a small commercial establishment, what is the small commercial establishment's name: _____			
Description of Small Commercial Establishment (farm, restaurant, etc.): _____			
4. Has there been a change in ownership of the principal residence or small commercial establishment served by the failing system within the last three years?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
If yes, please explain: _____			
5. As the owner, are you a licensed plumber or contractor engaged in the business of installing private sewage systems?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
6. Will a portion of the replacement system be funded by another program?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
If yes, explain: _____			
7. How did you hear about the Wisconsin Fund-Private Sewage System Replacement or Rehabilitation Program?			
8. Evidence of income. If applying as a principal residence, attach a copy of your federal income tax return for the year of or prior to the enforcement order or determination of failure. If you were married and filed separate forms, you must also include your spouse's return for the same year. You must include evidence of income for each owner and for each owner's spouse. If you are applying as a small commercial establishment, submit a copy of your federal profit and loss form for the year of or prior to the order or determination of failure. If you or any owner listed above were a part-year resident or did not file an income tax return, contact your governmental unit for further instructions. Evidence of income will be kept on file at the governmental unit and is subject to verification by the Department of Commerce.			
Property Owner's Certification. I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information I have provided on this form and all attachments are true and correct.			
Owner's Signature	Date Signed	Co-Owner's Signature	Date Signed

Personal information you provide may be used for secondary purposes [Privacy Law, s. 15.04(1)(m)].

PART B. TO BE COMPLETED BY THE GOVERNMENTAL UNIT

1. VERIFICATION OF OWNERSHIP

On the document used to verify ownership, do the names match those on Part A of this application? If no, please attach additional documentation explaining.

Yes No

If the applicant answered yes to question 4 on Part A of this application, did the applicant(s) own the property when the order or verification of failure was issued or the system installed and incur the cost of replacement?

Yes No

Document used to verify ownership: _____

Document or Page Number: _____

2. Will the system serve a structure that's being replaced?

If yes, have all requirements outlined in Comm 87.20(4), Wis. Adm. Code, been met?

Yes No
 Yes No NA

3. Is a public sewer available to this property?

Yes No

4. Has a previous grant been awarded for this property under this program?

Yes No

5. Principal Residence evidence of income. Please indicate applicable annual family income: \$ _____

Federal income tax form _____, Line _____, Year _____ OR Affidavit of _____, Year _____

Small Commercial Establishment evidence of income. Please indicate applicable annual gross revenue: \$ _____

Profit & loss form used: _____, Line _____, Year _____

6. When was the existing failing system installed?

- Prior to 12-1-1969
- 12-1-1969 to 7-1-1978
- 0 to Less than 24"
- 24 to Less than 36"
- Equal to or greater than 36"

Vertical distance from the bottom of the existing infiltrative surface to a limiting condition: _____

Date of the Order or Determination of Failure: _____

7. Private sewage system failure caused by discharge of sewage to (check all that apply):

- Category 1 Surface water or groundwater.....
- A zone of saturation.....
- A drain tile or zone of bedrock.....
- Category 2 The surface of the ground.....
- Category 3 Back-up of sewage into the structure served.....

8. This request is for what type of replacement system:

- At-grade
- Conventional
- Experimental
- Holding Tank
- In-ground Pressure
- Mound

If this request is for a system not listed at the right, please explain: _____

9. Uniform Sanitary Permit Number _____ Date Issued _____

Plan Approval Number _____ Date Approved _____

Experiment Approval Number _____ Date Approved _____

10. After reviewing this application, I have determined the applicant to be:

- Eligible
- Ineligible

If ineligible, reason ineligible: _____

11. Governmental Unit Representative's Certification. I certify that I have reviewed and verified all information provided on this form and attachments and that they are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature of Authorized Governmental Unit Representative

Title

Date Signed

Comm 87.03, 87.10

(10) "Small commercial establishment" has the meaning given in s. 145.245 (1) (e), Stats. Small commercial establishment includes a farm, including a residence on a farm, if the residence is occupied by a person who is an operator of the farm and if the maximum daily wastewater flow rate of the farm and residence is less than 5,000 gallons per day as determined by the design criteria of the state plumbing code.

Note: Section 145.245 (1) (e), Stats., defines small commercial establishment as a commercial establishment or a business place with a maximum daily wastewater flow rate of less than 5,000 gallons per day.

A farm is eligible as a small commercial establishment as long as the farm is 35 acres or more.

If a farmer owns two farms (he lives on one farm and his son that farms with him lives on the second farm) and the second farm has a failing septic system, the second is eligible as a small commercial establishment as long as the individual living in the home on the second farm is active in the farm.

If a farmer owns several farms and rents out the homes on these farms, these systems are ineligible if they fail. These homes are not an active part of the farm but rental property. Rental property is ineligible.

Apartment buildings, duplexes, and other rental property is not eligible. Rental property does not meet the definition of a small commercial establishment as a place where commodities are bought and sold.

A church may be eligible as a small commercial establishment if an end-of-the-year financial statement (churches don't normally file income tax forms) shows that a commodity has been sold. This could be in the form of a church dinner, fall festival, etc.

Comm 87.10 Categories of private sewage systems. The department and the participating governmental unit shall use the following categories of failing private sewage systems to determine grant eligibility under s. 145.245 (5), Stats., and s. Comm 87.20, to grant awards under s. 145.245 (7), Stats., and ss. Comm 87.30 and 87.31:

(1) ELIGIBLE FOR GRANT AWARD. As specified in s. 145.245 (5), Stats., only category 1 or category 2 failing private sewage systems are eligible for funding.

Note: Section 145.245 (5), Stats., defines failure for two categories which are eligible for grant awards-- Category 1, failing private sewage system as defined in s. 145.245 (4) (a) to (c), Stats.; Category 2, failing private sewage system as defined in s. 145.245 (4) (d), Stats.

(2) INELIGIBLE FOR GRANT AWARD. As specified in s. 145.245 (5), Stats., those systems that fail as a result of back up of sewage into the structure served, are not grant eligible.

Note: Section 145.245 (5), Stats., defines Category 3, failing private sewage system as defined in s. 145.245 (4) (e), Stats., as ineligible for a grant award.