

**WISCONSIN FUND**  
**PRIVATE SEWAGE SYSTEM GRANT PROGRAM**  
**FACT SHEET**

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Walworth County participates in the Wisconsin Fund Grant Program for the rehabilitation or replacement of failing septic systems.

Under the program, the maximum possible amount of reimbursement is based on a flat rate per system based on the size and type of the septic system. Competition for proposed limited funds make assurance of individual application for reimbursement uncertain at this time. It is possible that adequate state funds for all applicants may not be available after the current state budget is completed.

For those who wish to apply for the Wisconsin Fund Grant Program, the following criteria must be met according to State Law:

- 1) The annual family income based on the federal adjusted gross income for all owners as well as their spouses if they are not listed on the deed.

**FOR WALWORTH COUNTY PARTICIPANTS TO DETERMINE WISCONSIN FUND INCOME  
ELIGIBILITY (FEDERAL ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME):**

If the federal adjusted gross income of all owners of a principal residence that is served by a category 1 or 2 Failing Private Sewage System is greater than \$32,000 the amount of the grant is limited to the amount determined by less than 30% of the amount by which the persons income exceeds \$32,000.

To be eligible, the homeowner must provide a copy of the designated federal income tax return(s) for the taxable year prior to the year of, or for the year of the enforcement order, or verification of failure. If the owner is married and filing separately, a copy of the spouse's return must be provided as well. If there are multiple owners, the combined income of the owners and their spouse cannot exceed the income levels noted above.

For small commercial establishments, this limit is based upon adjusted gross revenue of the business for the taxable year prior to the year of, or for the year of the enforcement order or verification of failure.

Income limits for small commercial establishments are as follows:

MAXIMUM INCOME LIMITS:                      \$362,500.00 Annually

- 2) Small commercial establishments must have a maximum daily wastewater sewage flow of 5,000 gallons per day or less.
- 3) A verification of failure or an order issued by this Department against the failing system. The order must have been written for a category 1 or 2 failing private sewage system. Category 3 failing systems are not eligible for a grant.

Category 1            Discharge of Sewage into surface water or groundwater.  
                          Introduction of sewage into a zone of seasonal saturation.  
                          Discharge of sewage to a drain tile or into zones of bedrock.

Category 2            Discharge of sewage to the surface of the ground.

Category 3            Back-up of sewage into the building is not eligible.

Enforcement order or verification of failure must be prior to construction. Application may be submitted for reimbursement within the three (3) year period from the date of enforcement order, or from date of failure verification.

- 4) The failing system must have been constructed prior to July 1, 1978.
- 5) The residence must be owner-occupied. Owner must be a Wisconsin resident.
- 6) A residence must be occupied at least 51% of the year by the owner (must be principal residence).
- 7) Public sewer must not be available to the property.
- 8) The residence or commercial establishment must not have received a previous grant under this program.

Those persons wishing to make application for funding to rehabilitate their failing system must follow these application guidelines:

- 1) The failure must have been observed by a Walworth County Sanitation Department employee before replacement begins.
- 2) Soil tests must be conducted by a Certified Soil Tester (hired by you) to determine the type of replacement system necessary.
- 3) State plan approvals for mound systems, in-ground pressure systems, and holding tank systems, etc. must be obtained.

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- 4) An application cannot be forwarded to the Department of Commerce (COMM) until the Walworth County Sanitary permit has been issued.
- 5) A complete form must be submitted to the Walworth County Department of Sanitation. Part A of the enclosed application form must be completed in its entirety before processing of the application will begin.
- 6) A copy of federal tax return (include spouse's federal tax return if filing separately) and copy of the property deed needs to be submitted with the application.
- 7) If a grant is approved, a \$150.00 filing fee will be required to be paid to Walworth County at the time of check issuance. If you are found ineligible due to insufficient grant funds, income levels, etc.; you will not be required to pay the filing fee.

Walworth County must submit all of the above noted information to COMM by January 31, of every year for you to be eligible for that fiscal year funding. Do not delay application until the last two (2) weeks of January. We can only handle the final processing of applications during this period. The Department of Commerce does have the final say but the initial review is made by the county.

After February 1 COMM will review all individual projects submitted by each participating governmental unit. Actual issuance of checks will not take place until some months after review. COMM will allocate available funds for grants to each participating governmental unit according to the total amount of the State grant share for all eligible applications received by the unit. COMM shall pro-rate available funds as follows if funds are not sufficient to fully fund all applications. A pro-rated payment shall be deemed full payment of the grant.

- 1) If funds are sufficient to fully fund all category 1 but not all category 2 failing private sewage systems, COMM shall fully fund all category 1 systems and pro-rate the funds for category 2 systems on a proportional basis.
- 2) If funds are not sufficient to fully fund all category 1 failing private sewage systems, COMM shall fund the category 1 systems on a proportional basis and deny the grant applications for all category 2 systems. If your grant is denied because funds are not available in a particular year, you may not reapply in a later year. This is according to State law requirements.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact this office. Thank you for your consideration and patience with this program.

WALWORTH COUNTY LAND USE AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT  
SANITATION DIVISION

UPDATED: March 14, 2003