



LE SUEUR COUNTY SUBSURFACE SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEM LOW-INCOME GRANT POLICY



Project Description

Le Sueur County was awarded low-income grant funds from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to help prevent, reduce, and eliminate pollutants in groundwater and surface water from subsurface sewage treatment systems (SSTS). The low-income grant program assists landowners with the financial costs that are required to design, install, repair, and replace a SSTS on residential property that has been deemed an imminent threat to public health or is failing to protect groundwater.

Eligible Projects

Property must be residential and must be the primary or homesteaded residence located in Le Sueur County with

- An existing SSTS deemed to be an Imminent Threat to Public Health; or
- An existing SSTS failing to protect groundwater.

Compliance inspections or waivers may be used to determine if the SSTS is eligible. Applicant must be the landowner. If it is a Contract For Deed, the Fee Owner shall also sign the application and cost-share paperwork. ***Funding availability is on a first come, first serve basis.***

Ineligible Projects

- Landowner(s) that do not meet the low-income requirements (as determined by Human Services)
- Property that does not serve as the primary or homesteaded residence
- To assist with new building construction and/or expansion of residential dwelling
- Commercial use
- Projects where construction starts before approval of application and completion of a cost-share contract with Le Sueur County

Income Requirement

In order to be eligible for the grant, you must be considered low-income. To determine whether or not you qualify as low-income, the landowner(s) must meet with the Le Sueur County Human Services Department. To receive more information about the requirements of the low-income eligibility or to set up an appointment for your screening please contact the Human Services Department. The Human Services Department can be reached by phone at (507) 357-8288 or its physical address is located at 88 South Park Ave, Le Center, MN 56057.

Terms of the Grant

Amount Eligible - Limited to 75% of the total cost not to exceed a \$10,000 maximum for the design and installation of a conforming SSTS. Applicant may request less if desired.

Grant Pre-Approval

Grant pre-approval by the Environmental Services Department is required. To qualify for the grant, the following requirements must be confirmed:

Low Income – Landowner(s) must meet the low-income requirements (as determined by Human Services Department).

Location - The residential dwelling and SSTS must be located within Le Sueur County.

Eligible Project-System is an Imminent Threat to Public Health or is Failing to Protect Groundwater.

Application

Must be accompanied by a SSTS contractor's itemized estimate and a low-income certification statement from the Human Services Department. The estimate is required to include all costs associated with labor and materials as well as specify any additional costs that will not be included. The permit must be purchased and issued prior to construction of the replacement SSTS. Grant funds will not be allocated for any SSTS project construction that has been done prior to grant application approval and prior to the required completion of a cost-share contract with Le Sueur County.

Final Grant Approval

Is subject to SSTS contractor's itemized invoice and Certificate of Compliance of the SSTS installed in accordance with Minnesota Administrative Rules, Chapters 7080 and/or 7081 and Le Sueur County Zoning Ordinance. In order to receive cost-share payment for the project, a voucher form will need to be completed by the landowner(s) and contractor(s) for 75% of the total cost or not to exceed a \$10,000 maximum. Payment will be sent to the contractor.

Installation Requirements

Site evaluation, design, and installation of the SSTS must be performed by a state licensed and certified SSTS contractor, with the applicable license for the type of work being performed. Selection of the SSTS contractor is the landowner's choice.

County SSTS permit, review, and approval of SSTS design required prior to any installation activities.

Final site inspections by a County SSTS Inspector required.

Funding Source, Disbursement and Longevity

Funding Source -

Low-Income Grant Funds are used to help assist with the financial costs that are required to design, install, repair, and replace a SSTS on residential property. The grant is not intended to cover all costs associated with the project. The landowner(s) may utilize other funding sources such as Agriculture Best Management Practice (Ag BMP) Loans, Home Improvement Loan, and Septic Upgrade Loan Program (SULP), in order to cover the remaining expenses that are not funded by the low-income grant. It will be the responsibility of the landowner to take care of any expenses that remain after the cost-share payment is processed.

Disbursement -

1. SSTS contractor submits Record Drawing to Environmental Services Department within 5 calendar days.
2. SSTS contractor and/or Landowner submits final bill to Environmental Services Department within 14 calendar days of completed construction of the SSTS.
3. Environmental Services Department prepares cost-share and payment voucher documents, has landowner and contractor(s) (and Fee Owner if Contract For Deed) sign cost-share and payment voucher documents, and forwards bill to Auditor's Department as authorization to pay SSTS contractor.
4. Environmental Services Department completes Certificate of Compliance for the SSTS, and sends notice to the landowner. The notice states the following information:
 - a. The total cost-share amount that is to be applied to the SSTS;
 - b. The responsibility of the property owner to pay the remaining balance that was not funded by the low-income grant.

Longevity-

The SSTS Low-Income Grant **deadline is December 31, 2020**. The SSTS must be designed and installed **prior to the deadline**. Any designs or installations completed on or after December 31, 2020 will no longer be eligible for grant funds. All invoices for projects must be received by the Environmental Services Department within 14 calendar days after the project is completed, and the invoice may not be billed **after December 31, 2020**. Delays in submitting invoices can affect eligibility for grant funds.

Contact Information for Other Septic Funding Sources:

Agriculture Best Management Practice (Ag BMP) Loans-
Le Sueur County Soil and Water Conservation District
Phone: 507-357-4879
Physical Address: 181 W Minnesota St., Le Center, MN 56057



Septic Upgrade Loan Program (SULP)-
Le Sueur County Environmental Services Department
Phone: 507-357-8538
Physical Address: 515 S Maple Ave., Le Center, MN 56057



Home Improvement Loan-
Minnesota Action Valley Council
Phone: 507-357-4246
Physical Address: 125 E Minnesota St., P.O. Box 34, Le Center, MN 56057

