

APPLICATION FEE

WOOD COUNTY CHARGES AN APPLICATION FEE OF \$150 OR 10% OF THE GRANT AWARD, WHICHEVER IS LESS.

THIS FEE IS DUE UPON RECEIPT OF THE GRANT AWARD.

The Wisconsin Fund Grant program provides grants to homeowners and owners of small businesses that need to replace a failing private onsite wastewater treatment system (POWTS) with a new system. A farm of 35 acres or more may also be considered a small business.

As part of this program, Wisconsin counties may apply to the Department of Commerce for financial assistance to help owners of principal residences or small businesses in replacing a failing POWTS. This brochure explains how this program works and who is eligible for financial assistance.

How do I apply?

Review the list of eligibility criteria to the right and if you feel you are eligible to apply, contact the Wood Co Planning & Zoning Office to obtain the Owner's Application. A Sanitary Permit must be issued prior to submitting an application for this grant.

If you are applying for a grant for your PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE, you may be eligible if ALL of the following are met:

- The County verifies that you have a failing system **BEFORE** installation of the replacement system begins.
- Your residence is not located in an area served by municipal sewer.
- The failing system serving your residence was constructed prior to July 1, 1978.
- The Federal Adjusted Gross Income of all owners and spouses is less than \$45,000 in the year of or prior to the year the County verifies the failure.
- Your residence is serviced by a Category 1 or 2 failing system. (Explained on the back of this brochure).
- The residence is occupied 51% of the year by one of the owners.
- Your application is submitted to the County within three years from the date of the verification of failure.

NOTE: Grant awards for a residence are reduced by \$.30 for each \$1.00 earned over \$32,000.

If you are applying for a grant for your BUSINESS, you may be eligible if ALL of the following are met:

- The County verifies that you have a failing system **BEFORE** installation of the replacement system begins.
- Your business is not located in an area served by municipal sewer.
- The failing system serving your small business was constructed prior to July 1, 1978.
- The gross income of the small business in the year of or prior to the year the County verifies the failure is less than \$362,500. (Schedule C or F – Profit or Loss)
- Your business is served by a Category 1 or 2 failing system. (Explained on the back of this brochure).
- The business occupying the structure is operated by the owner.
- Your application is submitted to the County within three years from the date of the verification of failure.

NOTE: Each year, businesses are limited to 10% of the funds available.

Grant money is not guaranteed.

If approved applications exceed available funding, the Department of Commerce is required to prioritize funds based on potential environmental harm associated with different types of system failures. System failures are divided into three categories:

Category 1: Systems that fail by discharging sewage to the 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 that fail by discharging sewage to the surface of the ground. This type of failing system is eligible for a grant only after all Category 1 applications have been funded.

Category 3: This is a system that failed by causing the backup of sewage into the structure served. This type of failing system is not eligible for assistance.

NOTE: If the system is causing a backup into the structure, you may still be eligible if the system meets the criteria under Category 1 or Category 2 listed above.

If I sell my home, am I still eligible?

Whether you are buying or selling the home, if you were the owner when the failure was verified or system installed, and you paid for the replacement system, you may be eligible if you meet all of the other eligibility criteria.

How much money can I receive?

The grant amount is based on the type of system installed and the size of your home or business. County staff can explain the maximum you are eligible to receive when you apply.

If the total request of all eligible applicants in the state is greater than the funds allocated for the program in the fiscal year you apply, all applications will be prorated.

If approved, when is the money received?

The County will forward your application on to the Department of Commerce by the February 1st deadline. In the Fall of that year, grant awards are sent to the County. You need to have your replacement system installed and provide proof of payment prior to receiving the money.

The guidelines used to determine an applicant's eligibility were established by the State Legislature and are very specific in nature. The following checklist will guide you through this process:

- Contact Wood Co Zoning Office for verification of failure.**
- Obtain Sanitary Permit.**
- Submit a completed Owner's Application form to the County.**
- Provide evidence of income.**
- Submit copies of paid invoices and cancelled checks showing the total cost of the replacement system.**
- Pay Application Fee to the County upon receipt of your grant award.**

County of Wood

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Monday through Friday

THE WISCONSIN FUND

*Financial Assistance
For
Homes & Small Businesses*

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