

CHISAGO COUNTY SEPTIC GRANT PROGRAM POLICY

SUBSURFACE SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEM (SSTS) GRANT FUND

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of the grant program is to improve water quality throughout Chisago County by providing grant funds to real property owners in order to upgrade SSTS which have been determined to be an imminent health threat to public safety.

II. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. All real property owners that are under the jurisdiction of Chisago County Zoning and Sewage and Wastewater Treatment Ordinance 98-1.
2. The SSTS has been determined to be an imminent threat to public health as defined in State Rule Chapter 7080 and the Chisago County Sewage and Wastewater Treatment Ordinance 98-1.
3. The real property owner must be a low income family, as defined in the charts by U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Housing Improvement Loans & Grants program.
4. The Chisago County Septic Grant program cannot be used in conjunction with any other grant programs.
5. If the subsurface sewage treatment system is located on land which is being purchased on a Contract for Deed, the seller's signature is required on the grant application prior to grant approval.
6. Warranted systems are only allowed funding if prior approval in received from MPCA SSTS staff.

III. PROCEEDS

All grant funds are to be used for site evaluation, tank pumping, design, installation, repair and replacement or tank abandonment of SSTS on private property. **Grants may not be used for SSTS installed on any new building construction.** On repairs, the grant will pay up to ½ the cost of repair or partial replacement but cannot exceed \$2,500 and full system replacement may receive up to \$5,000 unless prior approval has been received by the Chisago County Department of Environmental Services/Zoning Director.

IV. APPLICATION FOR GRANTS

Application for the SSTS Grant Funds shall be made to the Department of Environmental Services/Zoning on a form provided.

Documents that must accompany the grant application:

- Proof of ownership of real property;
- Income statement signed;
- Tennessee document signed; and
- A minimum of two bids by a licensed septic installer. The lowest responsible bid will be chosen.

Applications are treated on a first come – first served basis. Chisago County reserves the right to limit grant fund availability. No grant fund applications will be accepted after installation of the SSTS has started.

V. GRANT FUND DISBURSEMENT

Grant funds will be disbursed, upon receipt of:

- SSTS as-built form;
- Passage of final inspection by Chisago County Environmental Services & Zoning; and
- Final statement of billing from the SSTS contractor performing the work.

All grant funds will be issued directly to the SSTS licensed contractor.

INCOME LEVELS

**Adjusted income limits as set by
USDA Rural Housing Home Improvement Loan & Grant Program
(based on Chisago County data*)**

| Family Size | Yearly Income |
|-------------|--|
| 1 | \$26,950 |
| 2 | \$30,800 |
| 3 | \$34,650 |
| 4 | \$38,500 |
| 5 | \$41,600 |
| | Increase by \$3,850 for each family member |

(Please note this data may be adjusted on an annual basis by the USDA and any such changes shall be adopted herein).*