

SSTS Low-Income Grants



Water is Crow Wing County's lifeblood. Crow Wing County has over 400 lakes and 82 of those are classified as impaired by the DNR. A contributor to the decline in their quality can be traced back to failing septic systems. Septics that are failing have the potential to discharge sewage to our lakes and surface waters. This leads to a decline in our surface water quality and is a threat to public health.

Description

Crow Wing County has \$54,000 available for low-income grants to upgrade non-compliant subsurface sewage treatment systems (SSTS). This funding is provided by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) through the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment. The goal of this funding is to protect groundwater and surface water from impacts resulting from Non-compliant Septic Systems. More information on the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment is available here: <https://www.legacy.mn.gov/about-funds>

How Funds are Allocated

Funding is allocated on a first-come, first-served, basis. Households that meet the low-income standards may be funded up to 50% of the SSTS replacement cost. Households that meet the very low-income standards may be funded up to 75% of the SSTS replacement cost. Funding will not be allocated for replacement SSTS that are intended to serve recreational vehicles, SSTS that consist of only a holding tank, or SSTS that are not being installed by a MPCA-licensed SSTS business.

If approved, the award amount will be based on the lowest bid. Approval notice will be sent to the landowner and contractor who will be installing the system. Upon receipt of the approval notice the applicant will be required to submit the necessary permits, including application fees. Once the necessary permits have been approved, the work may begin. Work that begins before grant approval or permit issuance will not be funded. Upon completion of the system, a certificate of installation and an itemized receipt must be submitted to the county prior to the release of funds. Should the project end up costing more than the initial bid, additional funding may be awarded if available and at the discretion of Crow Wing County. The awarded funds will then be released directly to the contractor in the form of a check. The applicant will then be responsible for the remaining cost of the septic system.

Eligibility

This program is limited to low-income (according to HUD Low Income Guidelines) households that have an SSTS that has been issued a Notice of Noncompliance. Additional eligibility requirements include:

- The SSTS will serve an existing homesteaded single-family dwellings.
- The SSTS flow value is equal to or less than 750 gallons per day (GPD).
- There are no open violations, excluding violations related to noncompliant SSTS.
- Property taxes are current.

How to Apply

Applicants must complete and submit the SSTS Low-Income Grant Application including all required attachments:

- SSTS Notice of Noncompliance (if not already on-file).
- A copy of the 2021 and 2022 tax return documents (e.g., IRS Form 1040) for the household.
- Two (2) itemized bids from MPCA-licensed SSTS businesses.
- A copy of a photo ID for the applicant and co-applicant, if applicable.