



**WISCONSIN FUND GRANT  
FOR REPLACING FAILED SEPTIC SYSTEMS  
SERVING RESIDENTIAL AND SMALL COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS.**

If you own your home or small business and have a failed private sewage system, you may be eligible for partial reimbursement of the replacement or rehabilitation cost. The amount reimbursed is based on the statewide average replacement costs for each system type.

If you can answer yes to ALL of the following questions, call the Marathon County Conservation, Planning, and Zoning (CPZ) Department at (715) 261-6000 for further application information.

1. Has the CPZ Department determined that your existing septic system is failing? This is typically done during verification of the soil test report. If you are uncertain whether this has been completed, please call (715) 261-6000.
2. Was the failing private sewage system installed prior to July 1, 1978?
3. Is the home your principal residence? Cottages and rental properties are not eligible.
4. Was the owner's Federal adjusted gross income less than \$45,000 for the year of or prior to the year the CPZ Department determined you have a failing septic system? Owners with income over \$32,000 will have their grants reduced by 30% of the difference between their income and \$32,000. Grants will not be awarded for less than \$100.
5. For small commercial establishments including farms, is the maximum daily wastewater flow less than 5,000 gallons and the annual gross revenue of the business less than \$362,500 for the year of or prior to the year the CPZ Department determined you have a failing septic system?
6. Are you a resident of Wisconsin?
7. Did or will you incur the replacement cost of the failed system?

If these conditions are met the property owner should proceed as follows:

1. Have a Certified Soil Tester conduct a soil evaluation to determine the type of system needed.
2. Select a Licensed Plumber to design your system and obtain all necessary state and county permits.
3. Visit the CPZ Department to complete and sign a Wisconsin Fund application after the Sanitary Permit is issued.
4. Have the system installed by your plumber and inspected by the CPZ Department.

**Conservation, Planning & Zoning Department**

5. Proof of income is required. A signed copy of your **FEDERAL income tax form** for the year of or the year before CPZ determination of system failure must be submitted at the time of application.
6. Submit a **copy of your invoice(s) marked “paid” by the plumber and soil tester** showing system replacement cost. Exclude from the invoice any charge for additional work.
7. **Copies of canceled checks** for plumber and soil tester payment(s).
8. If the system was replaced as part of a real estate transaction or change of ownership, submit documentation showing proof of your ownership, date of transfer, and any contract or escrow for system costs (such as a closing statement and deed).
9. Applications must be submitted no more than three years from the date of the order.

After review by CPZ staff of all required documentation, your application will be submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Safety & Professional Services (DPS) for consideration. DPS will determine each individual's grant amount and funds will be distributed once a year for all eligible applications submitted to CPZ on or **BEFORE** December 31. Applications submitted after December 31 will be considered the following year (if state funding is available).

**A fee of \$85.00 will be charged to all successful applicants. The fee must be paid before receiving the grant.** The Department of Safety & Professional Services has established specific grants for each type and size of system installed. Grant amounts are based on statewide average installation cost for each type of system, but may not exceed 60% of the actual cost of replacement. Actual grant amounts are dependent upon the level of State funding for this grant program.

Applications are placed into categories based on the severity of the pollution problem the system is causing. Those discharging to any waters of the State (groundwater or surface waters) receive first priority. Those discharging to the ground surface receive second priority. Systems that back up into the home but cause no other pollution problem are not eligible. If there is not enough money to fund every system, only those receiving the highest priority may be funded.

**THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT APPLICANTS WILL RECEIVE A GRANT\*.**

Availability of funds for this program requires biennial state legislative action.

Please call (715) 261-6000, Marathon County CPZ Department, for details.

**\* Continued funding of the Wisconsin Fund Grant program is uncertain at this time. It is possible that funds for this program will become available. If you believe that you meet eligibility requirements, we encourage you to apply, but cannot guarantee that you will receive financial assistance.**