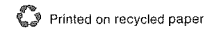




Post Office Box 375  
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environmental.svs@co.polk.mn.us



### Septic System Fix-up Grant Program

Polk County Environmental Services is pleased to announce the availability of a cost-share grant program that is available to property owners in Polk County that have an existing noncompliant septic system. Funds are intended to fix septic systems that are currently failing codes or functionality. These dollars are made possible through a grant received from the Minnesota Clean Water Legacy Act.

There is a limited amount of funding available and preference for funding will be determined based on household income status, condition of existing system, and proximity to priority surface waters. Income restrictions do apply. A major goal within the fix-up program aims to fix “imminent public health threats”. Polk County uses HUD low-income guidelines to group funding grant contributions.

Households must not exceed these income guidelines, must be the landowners homestead not a second dwelling or rental, and applicants will be required to pay any match requirement upfront if approved. No holding tank septic systems can be installed and SSTS for new construction of a dwelling does not qualify for the program. The County will provide a cost share grant contributing 60% and up to 80% of installation cost up to a maximum of \$12,000 grant dollars.

To learn more about this program, please call Polk County Planning and Zoning at (218) 281-5700. Program applications can also be found on our website at [www.co.polk.mn.us](http://www.co.polk.mn.us) under the Environmental Services and Planning and Zoning Department page. The deadline to apply for the Septic System Fix-Up Grant Program is June 1, 2022. After this date, remaining funding will be available on a first come first serve basis. -----

Jacob Snyder, Polk County Assistant Environmental Services Administrator

# Polk County Area Septic System Professionals

LICENSE #	BUSINESS NAME	MAILING ADDRESS/CITY	PHONE #	DESIGNER	INSTALLER
1459	Kruse Backhoe Service-Larry Kruse	P.O. Box 251 St. Hiliare, MN 56754	964-5260	X	X
1620	Olson & Sons Excavation-Tim Olson	43666 102nd Ave. SW Fertile, MN 56540	945-3116	X	X
1713	Bertils' Gravel & Excavating-Dan Bertils	23241 273rd St SW Crookston, MN 56716	280-3381	X	X
1725	Roley Backhoe Service-Allyn Roley	26799 380th Ave. NW Warren, MN 56762	745-5717	X	X
2029	A-1 Septic-Patricia Stock	2043 200th St Mahnomen MN 56557-9110	935-5981	X	X
2970	Hedlund Backhoe Service - Shawn Hedlund	235 Riverside Ave NE McIntosh, MN 56556	218-791-4613	X	X
3908	Brault Construction - Jeremy Brault	24751 330th St SW Crookston, MN 56716	218-289-4393	X	X
3371	Ryan's Backhoe Service - Ryan Sherman	30219 270th Ave SE McIntosh, MN 56556	280-0138	X	X
2495	Dick's Backhoe Service - Wade Delage	102 1st St PO Box 35 Brooks, MN 56715	218-431-0623	X	X
3668	Thompson Gravel & Rock - Darren Lindgren	21849 State 92 Bagley, MN 56621	218-657-2827	X	X
2344	Darco's Excavating - John Darco	2785 Brother's Point Road Waubun, MN 56589	218-473-2776	X	X
2388	Reierson Excavating - Paul Reierson	619 N Dewey Ave Thief River Falls, MN 56701	218-681-3729	X	X
4100	Great Northern Septic-Brandon Maygra	28544 160th Ave SW Crookston, MN 56716	218-289-6524	X	X
3684	Viking Services - Arnold Weleski	406 N Main St. Viking, MN 56760	218-686-6745	x	x
4024	Essig Excavating - Wayne Essig	27695 US 2 Shevlin, MN 56676	218-766-9483	x	x

\*\*All individuals listed are area septic professionals licensed by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Polk County in no way endorses or recommends one individual over another, but merely provides this list for the convenience of the landowner. For a complete list visit <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/water/water-types-and-programs/wastewater/subsurface-sewage-treatment-system-sstis/sstis-search.html>

Updated 1/27/2022

# Polk County SSTS Cost Share/Grant Program

## Program Overview

This cost-share grant is available to property owners in Polk County that have a noncompliant septic system. Cost-Share funding is only for existing Single-Family dwellings that have ex. failing septic systems not new construction. Preference for funding will be determined based on income status, condition of existing system, and proximity to priority surface waters. Grant funds are made possible through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Clean Water Legacy Act and the Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources Block Grants. A major goal in the grant program is to fix septic systems deemed “imminent public health threats” with State allocated funds. Polk County staff aims to fix as many failing septic systems as possible in a calendar year.

➤ To Qualify Maximum adjusted annual household income cannot exceed:

80%	Household Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8*
Grant	Maximum Income	\$30,050	\$34,350	\$38,650	\$42,900	\$46,350	\$49,800	\$53,200	\$56,650

60%	Household Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8*
Grant	Maximum Income	\$40,770	\$54,950	\$61,800	\$68,650	\$74,150	\$79,650	\$85,150	\$90,650

**\*Add 8% of 4-person limit for each person in excess of 8 persons.**

## Eligibility Requirements

- The applicant(s) must be the property owner defined as the deed holder(s), life estate holder(s) or contract for deed holder(s).
- If contract for deed or life estate applicant, all deed holders must sign the application and any recording agreement.
- Grants are available only for SSTS that serve existing, single family, owner-occupied dwellings and include installation or replacement.
- SSTS for construction of a new or replacement dwelling, or for renovation or reuse of an unused or abandoned dwelling or building, are not eligible for this program.
- There can be no delinquent taxes on the property and the property taxes must be current.
- In order to qualify the assessed value of the dwelling must be worth at least three times the value of the septic system replacement according to the Polk County Market Value Assessment, and the dwelling cannot be assessed as personal property. The Assessors value must be based upon an all-access viewing of all property within the last two years.
- If we receive more requests than funding available, applications will be ranked and selected based on household income, condition of existing system, and proximity to priority surface waters.
- Polk County reserves the right to rank and prioritize applications as they see fit. The County is responsible to adhere to all MPCA and BWSR guidelines to administer the grant program at the County level.

## How to Apply

- Complete the attached application form.
- Get two written estimates from any licensed septic contractor; must be completed on the bid forms provided. Includes work for electrical or plumbing needed to connect to system. (Interior Plumbing is typically not eligible)
- Interior plumbing directly related to the septic system function can be eligible but typically will require a separate bid from a plumbing contractor. (interior lift stations are eligible only if they are required to meet 7080 requirements to remedy septic tank max burial depth)
- Return the application and two written estimates to Polk County Environmental Services by June 1, 2022.
- After June 1, 2022, any application received will be awarded on a first come first serve basis to eligible applicants. Applicants may be eligible or asked about their interest in the county septic loan program.

## **Once Application is Approved**

- Sign a Contractor-Homeowner document to be filed with Planning & Zoning. (Document is drafted by P&Z)
  - A septic design from contractor must be submitted to P & Z and a septic permit obtained prior to the start of construction.
  - Complete all grant paperwork. Applicant will be required to make a cost share payment of 20% or 40% of the total grant amount applied for, based on the income guideline chart above. (\$150.00 Permit fee will be added to total cost of grant as a normal permit application fee. Planning & Zoning staff will meet onsite with the contractor to verify that system is failing compliance criteria\* and the planned septic system design is adequate for the site).
  - Have the septic system installed and inspected by P&Z staff (system must be installed before November 1, 2022)
  - Contractor must submit the final invoice to P&Z staff (Payments are sent directly to the SSTS Contractor.)
- \*Note: All work must be performed by an appropriately licensed contractor named in the homeowner contract.*

## **Terms of Cost Share Grant**

### **Amount**

- The County will cover 80%, 60%, or a lesser percentage of total costs of the system based on income guidelines and available funding.
- The property owner may request a grant of less than the total cost of the project. No changes can be made to the approved grant amount after the grant is executed. The property owner is responsible for unplanned or unexpected cost addendums.
- The maximum grant amount cannot exceed \$12,000 and is limited to not more than the cost of designing and installing a compliant septic system for a single-family dwelling.
- There can be no more than one SSTS grant/loan per parcel.
- Applicant will be limited to one SSTS grant/loan in their lifetime.

### **Fees**

- There is a non-refundable septic application fee of \$150 that will be added to the total project cost.
- Applicant will pay the 20%, 40%, or remaining portion of total project cost before the grant is executed.
- If applicable all recording fees will be added to the cost of the grant.

## **Eligible Costs**

Costs identified as eligible costs are ineligible if the related project activities are started before the grant is approved by the Environmental Services Department and recorded by Taxpayer Services.

- Complete construction of an SSTS for an existing residential structure.
- Electrical and Plumbing directly related and necessary for the septic system.
- County SSTS permit fee.
- Replacement of tanks and/or drainfield repairs that will bring an existing system into compliance.
- Seeding the SSTS installation area to the extent required by Minnesota Rules, Chapter 7080.
- All Recording fees if applicable.

## **Ineligible Costs**

Ineligible costs include any costs that are not directly related to SSTS installation activities. In addition, the following are ineligible for financial assistance:

- Installation of SSTS before grant is approved.
- Holding Tanks
- Non-Residential properties or Land acquisition and easement costs for construction of a SSTS.
- Landscaping, seeding, sod and other landscape restoration costs not required by MN Rules, Ch. 7080.
- Interior plumbing not directly related to installation of a compliant septic system per MN Rules, Ch. 7080.
- In-Kind Labor, expenses, or unexpected and unplanned cost addendums



I hereby apply for a SSTS Fix-Up Fund Grant, and I acknowledge that all info provided for application review, including required estimates and tax information, is complete and accurate; that if application is approved the work will be in conformance with all applicable Polk County Zoning Ordinances; that I understand this is not a guarantee for grant approval, but only an application for a grant, and work is not to start without an approved permit; and the work will be in accordance with the approved design plan. I also understand that by submitting this application, I am consenting to allow the Administrator (or Zoning employees) to inspect and verify that all information in the application is complete; and to conduct septic inspections before, during and after construction for compliance with the grant, permit, and the Zoning Ordinance.

**I further acknowledge that any work done prior to grant approval will not be eligible for reimbursement and may be subject to increased permit fees and penalties.**

**APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR POLK COUNTY USE ONLY**

Property located in:

Floodplain - yes \_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_ Note: \_\_\_\_\_

Wetland - yes \_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_ Note: \_\_\_\_\_

Shoreland - yes \_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_ Note: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Application Sent: \_\_\_\_\_ By \_\_\_\_\_ Date Application Recv'd: \_\_\_\_\_

Income Guidelines met and verified – Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ Market Value Requirement met – Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Completed all Required Paperwork – Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Grant Approved – Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Reason: \_\_\_\_\_

Winning bid Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ Bid awarded to: \_\_\_\_\_

**P & Z Administrator Approval:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Polk County Zoning NOTES:**



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