Public Health – Dayton & Montgomery County (PHDMC) has been awarded funding from the Ohio EPA to help homeowners pay for the cost of correcting failing septic systems. Correction will be achieved by altering or replacing existing systems, or connecting to public sewer where available. Assistance is earmarked for homeowners with low or moderate income. Public Health is pleased to have this opportunity to assist those in need and to reduce health risks to the community.

To be eligible for financial assistance, applicants must meet the following conditions:
1. Own and occupy a home with a household sewage treatment system that is failing;
2. Have a household income no greater than 300% of the 2017 federal poverty guidelines.*

Additional details of the program:
- Assistance will be in the form of grants with a sliding scale depending on income level;
  - A household with income less than 100% of the federal poverty guidelines will be eligible for a grant of 100% of upgrade costs;
  - A household with income between 100% and 200% of federal poverty guidelines will be eligible for a grant of 85% of upgrade costs;**
  - A household with income between 200% and 300% of federal poverty guidelines will be eligible for a grant of 50% of upgrade costs;**
  - A household with 300% or more of federal poverty guidelines will not be eligible.
- Household income will be verified by funding specialists with County Corp, Montgomery County’s economic development agency;
- System upgrade design will be prepared by professional soil and design consultants;
- Upgrade construction will be performed by contractors who are registered, bonded, and insured, working under required permits;
- Contractors for system design and construction work will be selected and hired by PHDMC according to competitive contracting rules in Ohio law;
- The Program will conclude in the fall of 2019, or earlier if the funding is expended.

*More details on federal poverty guidelines can be found at https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines or on the Program Income Eligibility Information hand-out.

**Homeowners with income between 100% and 300% of federal poverty guidelines will need to pay a share of upgrade costs (either 15% or 50% depending on income level.)

(See reverse for Frequently Asked Questions)
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- Can I get reimbursed for a previous upgrade to my system? No, the Program can only fund work done after an approved Program contract is awarded.

- Can I get assistance to put in a sewage treatment system for a new home or for an existing home that never had a system? No, funding is only for upgrading existing, failing systems.

- Can the funding go toward costs to correct indoor plumbing issues? Yes, but only in cases where the plumbing corrections are needed to get the sewage system upgrade approved.

- Can funding be used for Installation Permit fees? Yes. For Operation Permit fees? No.

- If I am connecting to sewer, can funding be used to abandon the old septic system? Yes.

- Can I choose my own contractor to do the work? No, the Ohio EPA specifies that contractors must be selected and hired by the agency administering the Program (in this case, PHDMC.)

- How will I know if I am eligible for funding or what level of funding I may receive? After making application, PHDMC will refer you to County Corp who will review your household income records. (There is a non-refundable $25 review fee that you pay directly to County Corp.) County Corp will report to PHDMC regarding the confirmed income and Public Health will advise you of your level of eligibility (100%, 85%, 50% or not eligible.)

- If I am responsible for a cost-share portion, how and when do I pay it? The cost-share portion must be paid to PHDMC by cashier’s check, and is due before the construction contract can get a green-light. The cost-share portion will not be released to the contractor until the work is completed and approved.

- How is it determined what type upgrade is needed? PHDMC staff will conduct a preliminary site visit to confirm that the system is failing, and that alteration or replacement of the system is the appropriate correction. If it is, a soil scientist under contract with PHDMC will then evaluate the site and prepare a system design plan matched to the site characteristics. If sanitary sewer is accessible, connection to sewer and abandonment of the septic system will be the required upgrade.

- Is there a fee to apply for the Program? No, but there is a non-refundable $25 fee for income verification payable directly to County Corp when you submit your income documents.

- How long does the Program run? All work must be completed and all contract bills paid by November 30, 2019. We expect a project to take several months from start to finish, not including weather delays.

- How do I apply for the Program? You can get an application form on our website, by calling 225-4428, or by coming into the Environmental Health offices on the 1st floor of the Reibold Building at 117 S. Main Street, Dayton, 45422.

- How can I get more information? You may call 225-5909 or go to our website: