

**NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION**

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Albany, New York 12233-1010  
www.dec.ny.gov

**NEW YORK STATE ENVIRONMENTAL FACILITIES CORPORATION**

625 Broadway  
Albany, New York 12207-2997  
www.efc.ny.gov



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RECEIVED  
DEC 11 2017  
TOMPKINS

Paula Younger  
Interim County Administrator  
Tompkins County  
Old Jail  
East Court Street – Third Floor  
Ithaca, NY 14850

Dear Interim County Administrator Younger:

The Clean Water Infrastructure Act of 2017 established the "State Septic System Replacement Fund" (Fund) and allocated \$75 million to support a multi-year program. This grant program provides funding for the replacement of cesspools and septic systems that are having significant and quantifiable environmental and/or public health impacts to groundwater used for drinking water, or a threatened or impaired waterbody.

Your county has the opportunity to participate in this program by providing grants from the Fund to reimburse selected property owners for a portion of the cost of replacing failing septic systems and installing more environmentally effective systems. Those property owners can be reimbursed for up to 50% of the eligible costs incurred for septic system projects up to \$10,000. Your county may set graduated incentive reimbursement rates for septic system projects to maximize program participation and pollution reduction outcomes.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Department of Health (DOH) identified initial priority geographic areas based on statutory criteria, including the presence of a sole source aquifer, known water quality impairment, and the ability for septic system projects to mitigate water quality impairments. In a letter dated September 26, 2017 the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) distributed draft details on the septic system replacement program. NYSAC's letter provided counties with an opportunity to request the inclusion of additional priority geographic areas. DEC received a number of requests and justifications for additional priority waterbodies, and a final priority geographic list for the first year of the septic system replacement program has been established (Attachment A).

Initial available funding for each county will be based on the number of septic systems located on sole source or primary groundwater aquifers, or within a limiting distance of an identified priority surface waterbody, and population density. An overall funding commitment will be identified on a pro-rata basis for the first year of the program, with \$15 million available in the first year of a 5-year program. It is expected that for this



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round of funding your county will be eligible for approximately \$150,000 in reimbursement, depending on overall participation by counties.

\* **If your county is interested in participating in the Septic system replacement program, please complete Attachment B and return it to DEC by January 31, 2018.**

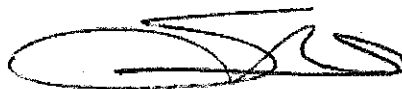
If your county chooses to participate in the program, the county will be required to enter into a program participation agreement with the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC), which will reflect the actual amount allocated to your county from the Fund for grants. The agreement will establish the terms and conditions under which the county may seek a disbursement from the Fund to provide grants to property owners for their septic system projects. Once the agreement is executed, EFC will provide additional program information and documents concerning the disbursement process, templates and forms for the program.

DEC and EFC look forward to working with you on implementing this important program. If you have any questions about priority geographic areas, please feel free to contact Thomas R. Snow, Jr. at [thomas.snow@dec.ny.gov](mailto:thomas.snow@dec.ny.gov) or (518) 402-9395 or Kenneth Kosinski at [kenneth.kosinski@dec.ny.gov](mailto:kenneth.kosinski@dec.ny.gov) or (518) 402-8110 from DEC's Division of Water. For general program questions, please contact Eric Eichenlaub at [eric.eichenlaub@efc.ny.gov](mailto:eric.eichenlaub@efc.ny.gov) from EFC at (518) 402-6968.

Sincerely,



Basil Seggos  
Commissioner



Sabrina M. Ty  
President and CEO

Enclosures

**Attachment A –  
State Septic System Replacement Fund  
Priority Geographic Areas**

<b>County</b>	<b>Priority Waterbody</b>
Allegany	Almond Lake
Broome	Park Creek and tributaries, Whitney Point Lake/Reservoir, Fly Pond, Deer and Sky Lakes
Cattaraugus	Allegany River/Reservoir
Cayuga	Cayuga, Owasco and Skaneateles Lakes
Chautauqua	Findley Lake
Chenango	Chenango and Guilford Lakes
Clinton	Upper Chateaugay Lake
Dutchess	Hillside and Sylvan Lakes
Essex	Lake Champlain/Willsboro Point
Genesee	Bigelow Creek and tributaries, Tonawanda Creek - Middle, Main Stem, Black Creek - Middle, and minor tributaries
Herkimer	North Winfield Creek and tributaries
Jefferson	Moon and Red Lakes and Indian River
Livingston	Conesus Lake
Monroe	Irondequoit Bay and minor tributaries to Irondequoit Bay, Mill Creek and tributaries, Shipbuilders Creek and tributaries
Nassau	Sole Source Aquifer
Onondaga	Otisco and Skaneateles Lakes
Ontario	Canadice, Canandaigua, Hemlock, Honeoye and Seneca Lakes
Oswego	Lake Ontario
Otsego	Goodyear Lake
Putnam	Oscawana Lake
Saratoga	Dwass Kill and tributaries
St. Lawrence	Black Lake, St. Lawrence Main Stem, Little River and tributaries, Lower portion of Raquette River and Indian River
Schoharie	Summit Lake
Schuyler	Lamoka and Waneta Lakes, Mill Pond

Seneca	Seneca and Cayuga Lakes
Steuben	Smith Pond
Suffolk	Sole Source Aquifer
Tompkins	Cayuga Lake
Wayne	Lake Ontario, Blind Sodus Bay
Wyoming	Silver and Java Lakes
Yates	Canandaigua, Keuka and Seneca Lakes