

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

New York State Septic System Replacement Grant – Essex County

Does my residence qualify for funding through the NYS Septic System Replacement Grant in Essex County?

Your residence **may qualify** if **both** of the following apply:

- Your home is located **within 250 feet of an approved targeted waterbody**, and
- Your existing septic system is **failing or reasonably likely to fail**

Approved targeted waterbodies in Essex County include:

- Lake Champlain
- Lake George
- Willsboro Bay

Properties located **outside the 250-foot buffer** **may still be considered** if Essex County determines the system has the potential to negatively impact a priority waterbody.

My residence is in an approved location — what do I do next?

You must submit a **completed application** to **Essex County Community Resources**, including:

- Property address
- Documentation showing the septic system is **failing or reasonably likely to fail**
 - This may come from a contractor, licensed engineer, or other authorized town code enforcement officer.

Important:

Any work completed before you receive an official grant award letter is NOT eligible for reimbursement.

What types of septic projects are eligible for funding?

Eligible projects may include:

- Replacement of a cesspool with a septic system
- Repair, upgrade, or replacement of an existing septic system
- Installation of enhanced septic systems designed to reduce environmental impacts

New construction and sewer connections are not eligible.

How much funding can I receive?

Funding is provided on a **reimbursement basis** and is capped as follows:

- **Standard septic system projects:** Up to **50% of eligible costs**, maximum **\$10,000**
- **Enhanced septic system projects:** Up to **75% of eligible costs**, maximum **\$25,000**

The exact award amount is determined by Essex County based on eligibility and available funds.

I received my award letter and hired a contractor — how do I receive the grant funds?

Once your project is complete:

1. Submit the **reimbursement request forms** included in your award packet
2. Include:
 - ✓ Paid invoices and proof of costs
 - ✓ Description of completed work
 - ✓ Required approvals and permits
3. Choose how funds are paid:
 - Directly to you (the property owner), or
 - Assigned to your contractor with written authorization

Essex County will review and approve eligible costs before issuing payment.

Why am I required to submit a W-9 form?

All grant reimbursements are considered **taxable income** under federal and state regulations. A completed **W-9** is required so proper tax reporting can be completed.

Are there costs that are NOT eligible for reimbursement?

Yes. Ineligible costs include, but are not limited to:

- Routine septic pump-outs
- Permit or inspection fees
- Sales tax
- Interest, late fees, fines, or penalties
- Non-essential landscaping or interior plumbing
- Sewer connection costs

Only reasonable and documented costs directly related to the approved septic project are eligible.

Where can I get more information or apply?

For applications, eligibility questions, or assistance:

Essex County Community Resources
Charline Lawrence, Administrative Assistant
charline.lawrence@essexcountyny.gov
518-873-3687

Application materials and guidance provided upon request

You may also view the full State program details on the **NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation website**.