



## TOWN OF CASCO

### SEPTIC SYSTEM GRANT PROGRAM POLICY

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**Section 1. Purpose:** The purpose of this policy is to establish a grant program ~~or a sub~~ grant process for the purpose of assisting Casco residents to replace or upgrade older, faulty septic systems that have potential to do harm to drinking water resources.

This program is funded as a result of a Natural Resources Damages Compensation Agreement through the Maine Department of Environmental Protection from the Waste Motor Oil Disposal Site Remediation Program, commonly referred to as the Tenney Hill Waste Oil Fund. The intent of this policy is to fairly and transparently support projects that protect, restore, enhance, or preserve the quality of drinking water supplies. The program will end when all the resources from the fund are dispersed.

### Section 2. Eligibility

The Town of Casco has the authority to determine the eligibility or ineligibility of all proposed projects. This program is available to Casco residents only. Assistance is one-time only and must be for the applicant's primary residence. All applicants must agree to all provisions of the program policy and meet conditions prior to receiving funding.

To be considered eligible, the location shall be the applicant's primary residence, applicants must submit demonstrated evidence of system failure or stress with useful life of less than three years as certified by a licensed soil scientist, professional engineer, or site evaluator and their family income be below 90% of Maine's medium family income

Applicants may be eligible for up to a maximum of \$~~12~~5,000 in funding

~~This policy shall be applied retroactively to cover septic systems for which the applicant first applied for a permit from the Town to replace their septic as of March 1, 2023~~

### Section 3. Repayment

The purpose of the Program is NOT to improve properties with the intent of resale at a higher price, but to provide incentive to improve Casco properties for the protection of water resources. Therefore, if the subject property is sold within five years of project completion, the owner shall pay back to the Town the following amount:

- Within 1 year -+ Owner pays back to Town 100% of grant award
- Within 2 years -+ Owner pays back to Town 80% of grant award
- Within 3 years-+ Owner pays back to Town 60% of grant award
- Within 4 years-+ Owner pays back to Town 40% of grant award
- Within 5 years-+ Owner pays back to Town 20% of grant award
- After 5 years -+ there is no repayment.

The owner, upon award of funds as a result of this policy, is required to record a notarized document with the Registry of Deeds concerning repayment with applicable dates for the grant within five business days. The owner shall provide proof of recording of this document to the Casco Town Manager.

#### **Section 4. Process**

The Town of Casco Town Manager or designee will receive and review each application. The application must include an HHE-200 (Subsurface Wastewater Disposal) completed by a license site advisor, previous year's tax returns or other proof of income, and estimate of removal of old septic system along with estimated costs new system that has the same design flow as the current system. Upon determination that an application is complete and meets the criteria established by the Selectboard, The Town Manager can approve the project for funding. The Town Manager will report to the Selectboard all applications that have been approved for funding. The applicant may be required to provide more information

Once approved, applicants will have one year from the date of approval to commence work. The certified installer must coordinate the removal and installation of the system with both the Code Enforcement Officer and Town Manager. Upon completion of work and certification from the Town Manager or designee that the work has been completed consistent with the application, ~~the recipient shall submit a request for reimbursement along with bills paid/invoices for the approved work to the Town Manager or designee. In some cases, the Town Manager may make an exception and~~ the Town shall pay the contractor directly, ~~but this must be provided for~~ as part of the approval of the grant funding.

#### **Section 5. Permit Requirements**

The grantee/recipient shall be responsible for securing all required construction, electrical, and other permits from the Town, and from State or Federal agencies. Failure to do so will result in disqualification from funding.

#### **Section 6. Other Provisions**

This Section is not a prohibition on a member of the Selectboard or Town Employee from applying for and receiving a grant for that applicant's primary residence, as long as the Selectboard member or employee meets all standards and requirements of this Policy.

Adopted this 19th day of September 2023.

**Approved by Casco Selectboard:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Scott Avery, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_ Eugene Connolly, Vice-Chair

\_\_\_\_\_ Mary-Vienessa Fernandes

\_\_\_\_\_ Robert MacDonald

\_\_\_\_\_ Grant Plummer