

Overboard Discharge Grant Program

Licensed overboard discharges are treated discharges, to surface bodies of water, of domestic pollutants not conveyed to a municipal or quasi-municipal treatment facility. The Maine Overboard Discharge Program was initiated by Legislature (38 M.R.S.A, Section 41 I-A) to help fund replacement systems that would eliminate these overboard discharges in certain areas. High priority is given to shellfish areas that could be opened for harvesting if the licensed overboard discharges were eliminated. High priority is also given to great ponds and small rivers and streams with drainage areas of less than 10 square miles where the licensed overboard discharge creates a public nuisance condition.

The State share of funding for projects in this grant program comes from bond issues approved by the voters of the State of Maine. The Program Administrator develops a priority list based on information from the Department of Marine Resources, DEP staff, local officials, shellfish committees and other interest groups.

Municipalities, quasi-municipal corporations, county commissioners and individual persons may be eligible to receive grant funds to eliminate overboard discharges. Municipal officials may act as the Applicant for the grant funds for all the licensed discharges scheduled to be eliminated within their jurisdiction. Individual owners of licensed overboard discharges scheduled to be removed can also act as the Applicant for grant funds.

Owners of existing licensed overboard discharges in high priority areas will be notified by the DEP that they are eligible for grant funds to replace their existing system with a subsurface system in compliance with the Maine Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules or to connect to a public sewer system. A year-round residential overboard discharge will receive a grant of 90% of the project costs, a commercial overboard discharge will receive a grant of 50%, and a seasonal residential overboard discharge will receive a grant of 25% of the project costs. Project costs include engineering and construction costs.

Additional information: Richard A. Green, P.A., Administrator, Overboard Discharge Grant Program. 207-287-7765

Small Community Grant Program

The Department of Environmental Protection's Small Community Grant Program ran provide State grants for pollution control projects costing \$100,000 or less. The program is suitable for pollution control projects constructed in rural areas of the State. Grants awarded to towns can be used to fund the cost of replacing privately owned sewerage systems in pollution to water bodies or shell fishing areas is abated or if public health problems are being solved. The intent of the program is to eliminate the pollution sources. Only projects which remove a wastewater discharge are eligible for a grant.

This program was created by the legislature under Title 38, Maine Revised Statutes Annotated (M.R.S.A.) Section 411. It is administered by the Land and Water Bureau's Division of Engineering and Technical Assistance. The State share of funding for projects in this grant program comes from bond issues approved by voters of the State of Maine.

Individual families may qualify for the grant program if their federal taxable income for the previous year was \$40,000 or less. Commercial establishments may qualify if their gross profit for the previous year was \$40,000 or less. Potential applicants are not eligible for grant assistance if their income exceeds these figures. Applicants are required to show proof that they meet the income limit. A sliding-scale grant percentage applies depending on the amount of income or profit. Participants in the program are also required to grant an easement to the town allowing construction and inspection of the system.

Grants may be used to pay up to 100% of the costs of systems constructed for year round homes if taxable income is less than \$5,000), 50% of this cost for commercial establishments or nonprofit organizations, and 25% of the cost for seasonal residences. The grant will not pay for excessive site work or work not required to eliminate the pollution source.

Grants are available to municipalities, quasi- municipalities, corporations such as sanitary districts, or to county commissioners representing unorganized I townships. Grants cannot be awarded directly to individual property owners.

Additional information: Richard A. Green, P.A., Administrator, Small Community Grant Program. 207-287-7765