



CRAWFORD COUNTY SANITATION & ZONING

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ATTN: Owners of **Undocumented** Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (POWTS) (“**Septics**”)
SUBJECT: **Financial Assistance** for Replacement of Failed POWTS

To Whom It May Concern,

The purpose of this letter is to **directly encourage you to take advantage of financial resources currently available for replacement of failed POWTS**. No sanitary permit (required since 1973) exists for your property; it is therefore unknown what happens to the domestic wastewater generated, which must be treated in a compliant POWTS. As highlighted in info included with all property tax bills the past 2 years, WI counties have been tasked with implementing programs to ensure regulations concerning maintenance of POWTS are being continually satisfied; we encourage our residents to act now as violations and complaints will be processed accordingly.

A POWTS can be an environmental health hazard even if it has never “backed up”; if not properly designed, installed, operated and maintained, a POWTS can fail by discharging sewage to surface water, groundwater, a drain tile, or a zone of bedrock or saturation. In any case of possible failure, our primary focus is on assisting residents’ efforts to take expedient corrective actions, not in processing violations.

There are 2 major **GRANT** programs (funds **do not** have to be repaid) and 3 **LOAN** programs that are available; residents are encouraged to seek combinations when eligible. For all, except as mentioned, it must be the owner’s primary residence and there are income eligibility requirements. Information on each is included with this letter but some specifics are highlighted below:

Grant – **WI Fund** – pre-July **1978** installs, last year of program, deadline **01/31/2020**, pays **after** owner pays service providers (other financial resources can be combined to assist), small commercial establishments also eligible (\$362,500 gross revenue limit), primary residence on farms ≥ 35 acres may apply as small commercial establishments if not directly eligible as primary residence

Grant – **USDA** – owner age **62 and older**, do not have to be repaid unless sold within 3 years of approval

Loan – **Couleecap** OR **Community Development Alternatives** (CDA) – 0% fixed interest, do not require repayment until sold, refinanced, or no longer primary residence; secured by mortgage against property

Loan – **USDA** – 1% fixed interest, require repayment terms (up to 20 years); mortgage security only if $> \$7,500$

The County (contact info in letterhead) administers the WI Fund while the other organizations should be contacted directly concerning their programs (see included sheets); the first step is to arrange a soil test and ensure the County is onsite during this in order to establish the failure. Please call with any questions.

Best Regards,

Jake Shedivy
Sanitation and Zoning Technician