

**Funding Available for the Replacement of Failing Septic Systems near Specific Waterbodies in Jefferson County**

New York State's Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) has opened Round 4 of the State Septic Replacement Fund Program, which provides funds to repair or replace failing or substandard septic systems located near targeted waterbodies.

The purpose of this fund is to replace existing 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.

Jefferson County is participating in the State's program. Priority Waterbodies identified for Round 4 include:

St. Lawrence River and some of its Minor Tributaries,  
Lake Ontario Shoreline, including Chaumont Bay and Guffin Bay,  
Hart Brook and Tributaries,  
Skinner Creek, Middle, and Tributaries,  
Specific minor Tributaries to Black River,  
Pleasant Lake and some of its Tributaries,  
Moon Lake,  
Oswegatchie River, Middle, Main Stem,  
Indian River, Middle, and minor Tributaries, and  
West Creek, Upper, and some of its Tributaries.

Property owners with substandard septic systems located within 250 feet of these waterbodies are encouraged to apply to help improve water quality. Year round residences, seasonal homes, rental properties and some small businesses may be eligible for the Program.

The State's Program allows for 50% reimbursement of eligible costs up to a maximum of \$10,000 per system.

Completed applications should be submitted to the County Planning Department. Staff will review applications and award qualified grants monthly. If awarded a grant, you will be required to enter into an agreement with the County. The grant recipients will have one year to complete the work and seek reimbursement. Any work completed prior to a signed award agreement is not eligible for reimbursement.

An application and additional information can be found on the Planning Department's webpage at <https://jeffersoncountyny.gov/departments/Planning/septic-system-replacement-program>, or by calling Sara Freda at (315) 785-3144.