



SAVVY SEPTIC PROGRAM STANDARDS

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Purpose: The purpose of this document is to provide standard guidance on grant and rebate processes, regarding applicant eligibility, property eligibility, project eligibility, and related project and program standards for the Snohomish County Savvy Septic program. These standards may be updated at any time to further align program standards with program goals.

The Savvy Septic Program includes:

- **Rebates:** These rebates are designed to provide Snohomish County homeowners with financial assistance for regular septic maintenance activities. This includes system inspection, system pumping, minor repairs, and installation of risers that provide increased access to system components for future maintenance and inspection.
- **Repair and Replacement Grants:** These grants are designed to help low-income Snohomish County homeowners repair or replace their failing septic system.

Disclaimers:

- All project implementation must be consistent with Department of Ecology (DOE), Department of Health (DOH), and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant standards, federal grant standards, Snohomish County Health Department regulations for OSS, and Snohomish County Board of Health Code (SCBHC), when applicable.
- All programs are subject to funding availability. Funding is available on a first-come, first-served basis.
- All program standards are subject to change.
- The County reserves the right to determine final eligibility.

Environmental Health Division

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SAVVY SEPTIC REBATES

AVAILABLE REBATES

Property owners are eligible for up to \$500 of rebates per property.

	Riser Installation	Inspection*	Pumping	Minor Repair**
Individual Rebate Amount	\$50 per riser, maximum of two risers (\$100)	\$100	\$100	Up to \$200

**Must be a full inspection with an inspection report uploaded to OnlineRME database by the service provider. Drainfield evaluations & service calls are not eligible for an inspection rebate or any other rebate type.*

***Minor Repairs include but are not limited to:*

- Baffle replacement or repair
- Pump replacement or repair
- D-box replacement or repair
- Fixing or replacing a cracked transport line
- Effluent filter installation
- Switching to a different lateral in a step down system
- Repair or replacement of alarm system, control panel, or other electrical equipment
- Gallon meter installation or repair
- Charcoal filter installation or replacement
- Headworks replacement or repair
- Correction of settled transport line

Minor Repairs do not include: Mainline/drainfield jetting, stress tests, cleaning processes (like cleaning a filter) or riser installation (separate rebates are available for riser installation).

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR REBATES

Ownership: The applicant must be the owner of the property. If someone owns more than one property, they cannot get the same rebate for multiple properties within a 12-month period. If there are multiple septic systems on one property, the rebates are available per property tax account number, so the homeowner cannot receive multiple of the same type of rebate within a 12 month period.

Rebates will not be issued to businesses, LLCs, or other organizations that own property/properties. In an instance where a primary residence is also the business location and the property is listed as being owned by the business, documentation must be provided indicating the resident is the owner or head of the company/business/organization and the rebate check will be issued to the resident as an individual.

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ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR REBATES (CONTINUED)

Location: Property must be located in Snohomish County, Washington. Rebates are available countywide.

Time Frame to Apply: Rebate applications must be submitted within 12 months of work completion.

Frequency: Each rebate can be redeemed once within a 12-month period. A 12-month period is reset from the date that a rebate application is approved by Savvy Septic program staff. If another rebate for the same maintenance activity is applied for before it has been 12 months, the application (if otherwise eligible) will not be approved until it has been 12 months since the last rebate for the same septic maintenance activity. For example, if the last rebate for an inspection was approved on 05/10/2023, and the homeowner applies for an inspection rebate the following year on 05/03/2024, it cannot be approved for payment until 5/10/2024.

Proof of Work Completed: Paid invoices or receipts showing proof of payment for the septic work completed must be submitted with rebate applications. Additionally, when applicable, reports must be entered into the Snohomish County Health Department's OnlineRME database by the contractor who performed the work for inspections and pumping.

Workshop: Rebate applicants are required to have taken the Septic Care Workshop in order to get any/all rebates. Once a homeowner takes the workshop they will forever be eligible for septic rebates (it does not need to be taken yearly).

Property Type: Only residential properties are eligible.

Contractors: The contractor performing the work must be certified by the Snohomish County Health Department to provide the system services.

Minor Repair Rebates Additional Information: For Minor Repairs, a homeowner can redeem the \$200 rebate available between separate minor repair expenses. For instance, a minor repair costing \$75 can receive \$75 in rebates and will begin a 12-month period for minor repair rebates. A future minor repair rebate within that 12-month period costing \$300 can receive a rebate of \$125 (the amount remaining from the \$200 available after the first rebate).

New construction & replacement systems: Pumping performed for tank decommissioning as part of a new system install or replacement is ineligible for rebates. Risers installed as part of a new system install or replacement system are also ineligible for rebates.

Funding Availability: Rebates are available until funding is exhausted.

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SAVVY SEPTIC GRANTS

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANTS

Location: Project must be located in Snohomish County, Washington.

Ownership: Applicant must be the owner of the property.

Property Type: The property must be a single-family home.

System Failure: The septic system on applicant's property must be determined to be failing by a septic contractor certified to perform inspections or by the Snohomish County Health Department.

Income Eligibility: Homeowner must be at or below 50% area median income defined by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Eligibility will be determined by Savvy Septic program staff after reviewing forms and attachments submitted by applicant.

Eligible Project Costs: Grant funding may not exceed \$30,000 for an individual property. Homeowner is responsible for any costs that exceed \$30,000. Eligible project costs include design and construction costs, septic repair application fee, tank decommissioning, well decommissioning, connection to sewer, and other necessary project costs. Grants may not reimburse applicants for previously incurred expenses. Applicants are limited to one grant per lifetime, meaning if an applicant receives a Savvy Septic Grant they will be ineligible to receive another in the future for any property they own or any property for which they are a member of the household.

Project Contractor: Contractors performing work on the repair or replacement project must be certified by the Snohomish County Health Department to provide septic system services appropriate to the project scope (ex: septic system replacement projects require a certified septic system installer to install the system). Contractors must be in good standing with the County and have no violations against their certification with the Health Department within the last 12 months. If a contractor has had a violation within 12 months, they may not be eligible to work on Savvy Septic Projects. All septic system replacement projects and appropriate repair projects must be designed by a licensed Washington State Wastewater System Designer or Professional Engineer. Contractors performing work to connect to sewer must not be debarred and must be licensed, bonded, insured, and registered in Washington state. Savvy Septic staff selects the contractor with the lowest quote of the eligible bids. Participating contractors must pay Washington State Prevailing Wages and file Intents and Affidavits through WA L&I. The Health Department will use email contact lists to notify designers and installers about Savvy Septic projects and solicit bids for a system design and/or construction on behalf of the homeowner. The homeowner can also solicit bids from contractors. All valid bids, whether solicited by the Health Department or homeowner will be considered equally.

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ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANTS (CONTINUED)

Eligible Project Activities: The septic system must be determined to be failing by a licensed Wastewater System Designer, the Snohomish County Health Department, a certified Monitoring & Maintenance Specialist, a certified Installer, or a certified Pumper (for gravity systems only), in order to be eligible for grant funding. Septic system replacement and repair projects must be permitted as required by the Snohomish County Health Department. Side sewer connections must meet the requirements of the water/wastewater municipality in which the property is located. Eligible project activities, identified as necessary for system repair/replacement by a licensed Wastewater System Designer, include:

- Septic system replacement
- Connection to nearby sewer infrastructure
- Drainfield replacement
- Tank replacement
- Removal and demolition of existing system
- Other septic system repairs as approved by Snohomish County

Non-Eligible Project Activities: The following activities are not eligible for funding through the Savvy Septic Replacement Grant Program.

- Installation of a new septic system for new construction or home renovation.
- Septic system expansions are not allowed but will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and may be approved if it would prevent future public health risks. A system expansion would not be approved if the applicant is also performing a home renovation.

Funding Availability: Grants are available until funding is exhausted.

Funding: This project has been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under assistance agreement PC-01J89801 to the Washington State Department of Health and under an assistance agreement to the Washington State Department of Ecology. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Environmental Protection Agency, nor does mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.

Updated 1/30/25

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