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JEFFERSON COUNTY SECURES $550,000 STATE GRANT TO HELP SHORELINE HOMEOWNERS UPGRADE AGING SEPTIC SYSTEMS

Jefferson County officials recently announced a major environmental win for local shoreline residents, confirming the county's acceptance of a $550,000 grant award to participate in Round 5 of the State Septic System Replacement Fund Program.

The program directly targets Jefferson County residents living along priority waterbodies, including Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River, who lack access to municipal sewer lines and currently rely on aging private septic systems or cesspools. Outdated, inadequate, or failing septic systems close to local waterways are leading contributors to nutrient pollution, which threatens public drinking water supplies and harms the local tourism and fishing industries.

The newly enacted state legislation eases the financial burden of upgrading infrastructure. Under the guidelines, eligible property owners can be reimbursed for up

to 50% of eligible costs (up to $10,000) for the installation of a conventional septic system.

Funding is distributed on a reimbursement basis to single-family, two-family, seasonal home, or small business property owners with inadequate or failing septic systems located within 250 feet of an eligible waterbody without access to public sewers.

Jefferson County designated Round 5 priority waterbodies include:

- Chaumont Bay, Guffin Bay, and Eastern Lake Ontario Shoreline
- Hyde Lake, Moon Lake, and Pleasant Lake (including Tribs to Pleasant Lake)
- Saint Lawrence River (Main Stem and Minor Tribs), Oswegatchie River (Middle Main Stem), and Indian River (Middle and minor tribs)
- Hart Brook (and tribs), Little Sandy Creek (Upper and tribs), Skinner Creek (Middle and tribs), West Creek (Upper and tribs), and Minor Tributaries to the Black River

Property owners are encouraged to review geographic eligibility and initiate the application process online: Jefferson County Septic Grants Portal

Local Program Contact:
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JEFFERSON COUNTY

Department of Planning & Community Development

NYS SEPTIC REPLACEMENT FUND PROGRAM

Round 5 funding of the State Septic System Replacement Fund Program is **open!**

- Funding helps replace cesspools and septic systems that are failing or likely to fail.
- Eligible projects must reduce significant environmental and public health impacts to drinking water or nearby waterbodies.
- Homeowners may receive **50% reimbursement of eligible costs, up to $10,000** per system. Additional funding may be available for Enhanced Septic Systems.

You may qualify if:

- Your property is **within 250 feet of a NYS priority waterbody** in Jefferson County.
- You are a homeowner, seasonal resident, rental property owner, or small business with septic flows under 1,000 gallons/day.
- Your septic system is failing or likely to fail, as determined by inspection, and you are not in a sewer district.

Jefferson County Priority Waterbodies (Round 5)

- St. Lawrence River
- Lake Ontario Shoreline (including Chaumont Bay & Guffin Bay)
- Hart Brook and Tributaries
- Skinner Creek (Middle) and Tributaries
- Tributaries to Black River
- Pleasant Lake and Tributaries
- Moon Lake
- Oswegatchie River (Middle & Main Stem)
- Indian River (Middle & Minor Tributaries)
- West Creek (Upper & Tributaries)
- Hyde Lake

How to Apply:

1. **Check eligibility:** Use the QR Code for the map viewer to see if your parcel is within 250 feet of a priority waterbody.
2. **Complete the application** found at the QR Code.
3. **Hire a licensed contractor and engineer** to replace or upgrade your system.
4. **Submit receipts** for reimbursement of up to 50% of costs (max $10,000).

QUESTIONS? CONTACT

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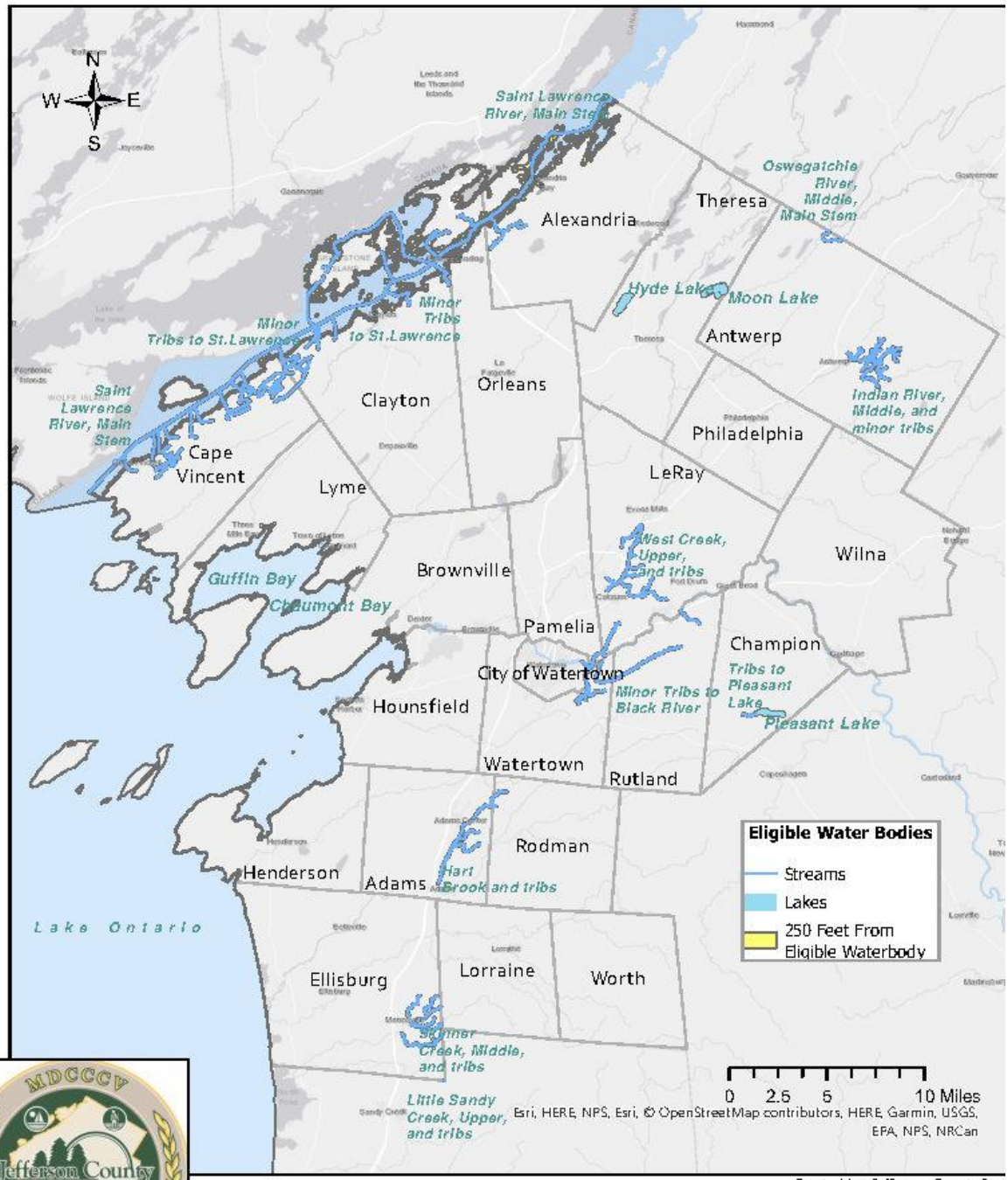
NYS Septic System Replacement Program Round 5
Jefferson County, NY



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