

Centralized Low Income Assistance for Septic Repairs in NC
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Environmental Health Specialists from around the state are constantly seeking financial aid from inconsistent sources for families in their regions that need help with the costs of septic repairs. In many cases they find that funds are not available. Low-income grants, deferred loans, no interest loans and low interest loans can help the homeowner and the health departments avoid legal remedies that are often more costly than the financial aid would be. Court cases are also more time consuming and sometimes damaging to one or both parties. A pilot project in its third year in western NC is providing reliable financial assistance for low to moderate-income homeowners in need of septic repairs. The program has the added benefit of providing referrals of low-income families to housing rehab agencies that are able to offer other types of housing assistance the homeowners may need. The program also provides information to the homeowner about properly maintaining their septic systems and reducing environmental impacts and public health risks.

The Wastewater Discharge Elimination (WaDE) Program is officially a program under NC Department of Environment and Natural Resource's Div. of Environmental Health-On-site Wastewater Section. In reality, though, it is a three-way collaboration between WaDE, the county and district health departments and regional Councils of Governments in western North Carolina. Funding for financial assistance is provided by a three-year grant from the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund. Additional funding is also provided by CWMTF and EPA 319 Non-Point Source for support in identifying and correcting the wastewater violations.

With statewide support from health departments, the NC General Assembly, DENR, and the septic tank industry, a thoroughly tested program to provide financial aid to homeowners could be just a toll free call away. No matter where you live in NC.