



## Water Pollution Control Loan Fund Program Success Story Helping Communities Address Failing Home Sewage Treatment Systems

During 2016 and 2017 through the home sewage treatment system (HSTS) program, Ohio EPA offered communities financial assistance through the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) to help low- to moderate-income homeowners repair and replace failing home sewage treatment systems (HSTS). Funding to individual homeowners is provided in the form of principal forgiveness loans provided by local health departments.

### Challenge

It is estimated that about 31 percent of all household sewage treatment systems throughout Ohio are experiencing some degree of failure due to poor maintenance or age. When failing systems discharge untreated sewage, potential exposure to harmful bacteria and pathogens can cause public health concerns and threaten the environment.

### Solution

In 2016, the WPCLF program awarded more than \$13 million to 57 counties. Each county was eligible to receive up to \$300,000 to distribute to homeowners. Ohio EPA will make an additional \$13.1 million available to 51 county health districts in 2017.

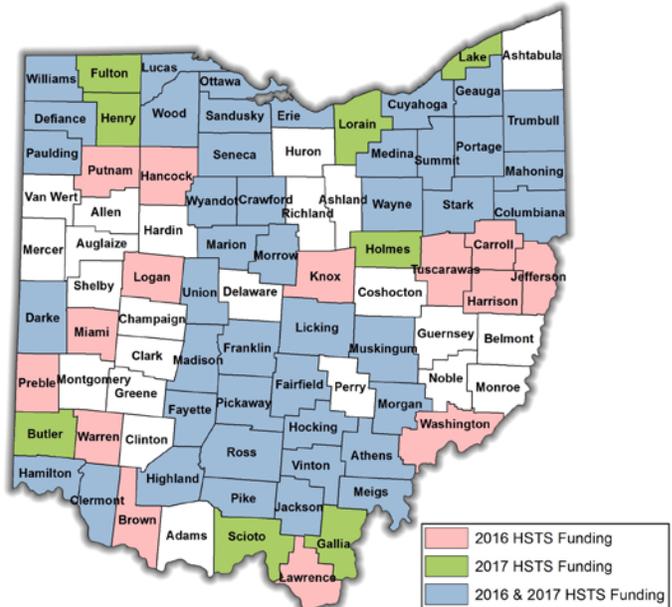
Depending on the household income and the number of residents, homeowners may qualify for 50 to 100 percent of the total costs for HSTS repair or replacement. In addition to providing much-needed financial assistance, the HSTS program will reduce the impact of inadequately treated wastewater on public health and the environment.

### Resources

The HSTS program is one example of how the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund program helps Ohio communities meet a significant wastewater challenge. Since 2009, Ohio EPA has provided more than \$41 million dollars toward the repair and replacement of failing septic systems, including an emphasis on failing systems in Ohio's Lake Erie area.

For more information about Ohio EPA's WPCLF HSTS Program, visit [epa.ohio.gov/defa/ofa.aspx](http://epa.ohio.gov/defa/ofa.aspx) or contact Adam Pierce at (614) 644-2798 or [adam.pierce@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:adam.pierce@epa.ohio.gov).

Counties Receiving WPCLF HSTS Principal Forgiveness Funding (2016 - 2017)



### HSTS Program Specifics

#### Program Goal

Provide financial assistance in the form of principal forgiveness subsidies to assist low- to moderate-income families with repair or replacement of failing septic systems.

#### Financial Assistance Provided

\$13.2 million provided to 57 counties for 2016 funding - up to \$300,000 available for each county. In 2017, an estimated \$13.1 million will be available for 51 counties.

#### Environmental Impacts

The overall improvement of water quality throughout the state.

#### Economic Impacts

Assistance provided for families in need.