

# SSTS FIX UP FUND 2026 APPLICATION GUIDANCE



Becker County was awarded a grant from the Clean Water Fund (MN Stat. Ch. 114D) which can be used to replace eligible subsurface sewage treatment systems (SSTS).



## How much money is available?

- \$67,000 is available in 2026.
- Grants will be awarded based on income limits and ranking process by SWCD.
- Leftover funding will be allocated to qualifying individuals as determined by SWCD staff and availability of funds.

## Who is eligible?

- Landowners that have septic systems which have been deemed non-compliant in Becker County and have been issued a "Notice of Noncompliance" from the County or a Licensed SSTS Inspector. (i.e. Imminent Threat to Public Health or Failing to Protect Groundwater)
- Homesteaded single-family homes or duplexes.
- Systems connected to a house with a deed as ownership.
- Taxes must be current. The property may not be currently or imminently subject to repossession, forfeiture, or foreclosure.
- Household gross annual income including Social Security, wages and all regular sources (found on your most recent income tax return on line 11 of form 1040 and 1040-SR), must be equal to or less than the following limits (*based on source: USDA Guaranteed Housing Program, 6/18/2025*).

Household Size	1 Person	2 Persons	3 Persons	4 Persons	5 Persons	6 Persons	7 Persons	8 Persons
Very Low Income	\$37,050	\$40,950	\$44,850	\$48,750	\$52,650	\$56,550	\$60,450	\$64,350
Low Income	\$59,250	\$65,500	\$71,750	\$78,000	\$84,250	\$90,500	\$96,750	\$103,000

## How does the process work?

- Interested homeowners must submit a SSTS Financial Assistance Application to the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). The application is available at [www.co.becker.mn.us/dept/soil\\_water/](http://www.co.becker.mn.us/dept/soil_water/) or by contacting the SWCD at (218) 846-7360.
- There is no application fee.
- After the SWCD ranks and reviews all required materials for eligibility staff will contact a licensed SSTS Designer to design the new system. *\*See Page 3 for more information.*
- Applicants, not SWCD staff, will use that design to seek two bids from licensed SSTS Installers for the installation of the new SSTS. *\*See page 3 for more information.*
- The cost share grant amount will be 50% of the lowest bid. Grant award shall not exceed \$7,500. Households that meet the very low-income guidelines are potentially eligible for 100% of final invoice costs, up to \$15,000.
- Becker SWCD releases the funds jointly to the applicant and the contractor once the work is complete and a Certificate of Compliance has been issued.
- The homeowner must sign the check and turn it over the contractor.
- The homeowner must also submit a lien waiver to Becker Soil and Water Conservation District, verifying that payment has been made to the contractor.

### **Other Helpful Information**

Becker County and SWCD staff will help applicants during the application process, but applicants are responsible for making the choices and doing all the listed items including, but not limited to, the following:

- Applicants must submit the application and all necessary materials to Becker SWCD by April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026.
- \*A minimum of two bids from a licensed septic system Installer for the installation of the designed system.
- The term “contractor” refers to Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) licensed septic system designers, installers, and other entities providing services to the replacement of the septic system.
- Applicants - not SWCD Staff - are to notify contractors of their participation in the grant program, as it affects the payment process.
- SWCD will select the low bid, but applicants are responsible for selecting and entering a contract with the contractor to do the work. An applicant may use another contractor but will need to make up the difference between the low bid and approved cost share amount.
- Applicants and/or contractors must complete all the necessary permitting.
- Applicants are responsible for working with the contractors to settle all disagreements that may arise before, during, or after the job. If the applicant fails to abide by the program requirements or if the grantor withdraws or ceases funding for the program, the applicant shall be responsible to the contractor for all contractually agreed upon terms, including payment, without any further remedy for damages or recovery against Becker County.
- A pre-construction meeting with SWCD staff, licensed Installer and the landowner(s) is required prior to installation of the new system. This meeting will discuss the duration of construction, property access, SSTS location and size, coordination with other contractors such as electricians, proposed outcome of landscaping and any other issues that may need attention.

\*Not required for initial application.

\*Once the applicant is notified of the cost share grant award Becker SWCD will have a licensed SSTS Designer create a design for the new SSTS. The applicant will then use that design to seek the required number of bids from licensed SSTS Installers. A list of licensed contractors will be provided by Becker SWCD and found at: <https://webapp.pca.state.mn.us/ssts/business-search>

### **Application Checklist:**

The following items need to be submitted with your application:

- Completed Application signed by property owner(s).
- Copy of photo IDs for all applicants.
- Documentation of the most recent Becker County Property Tax Statement.
- Documentation of the most recent Income Tax Return information for all applicants.
- Notice of Non-Compliance from Becker County or Licensed SSTS Inspector.
- Map denoting the location of the SSTS.

Your application will not be processed until all necessary and requested documentation is received by Becker Soil and Water Conservation District.

### **Application and supporting forms are to be mailed, or submitted to:**

Becker Soil and Water Conservation District  
809 8<sup>th</sup> St SE  
Detroit Lakes MN 56501

Contact Becker SWCD with application questions: (218) 846-7360

Contact Becker County Planning and Zoning with SSTS questions: (218) 846-7314