



LA PORTE
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La Porte Municipal Wastewater

Basement Protection Grant

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Program Introduction

The City of La Porte's Basement Protection Grant funds residential plumbing improvements to prevent sewer backups resulting from combined sewers. LaPorte has an extensive system of combined sewers, which carry both sanitary wastewater and stormwater. During storm events, the volume of water flowing through the system can increase by over 67 times its normal flowrate. This massive increase in volume can cause sewer lines to become filled with combined sewage (sanitary and stormwater) creating the potential to backflow into basements.

Improvements to the City's infrastructure are being made. Separate sewers are built to reduce the volume of storm water entering the sewer system, but there are still homes that require more immediate assistance. These homes experience frequent issues with basement back-ups due to storm events which cause stress and financial difficulties for the homeowners. The Basement Protection Grant was established to eliminate stormwater-related sewer backup events.

Grant Information

The City of La Porte Wastewater Department provides grants to correct plumbing for residential structures attached to a combined sewer that have a history of storm related sewer backup events. Successful applicants for this grant will receive a one-time payment issued to the contractor for the basement isolation work performed. The grant will pay 100% of the first \$1,000 of the cost and 75% of the next \$5,000 up to a total City payout \$4,750.

Application Information

Applications for the Basement Protection Grants are available from the City of La Porte Engineering Department, the Wastewater Treatment Facility and online via the City of La Porte's website (www.cityoflaporte.com). Applications must be filled out in their entirety in order to be considered. If there are questions regarding the application process or forms please contact:

Jerry Jackson, Superintendent
La Porte Wastewater Department
2101 Boyd Blvd
La Porte, IN 4650
(219) 362-2354

Eligible Applicants

Applicants eligible for the Basement Protection grant must meet the following criteria:

- Property must be within the municipal limits of the City of La Porte
- Property to be considered must be attached to the combined sewer within the municipal limits of La Porte
- Property must be a single-family residential dwelling
- Property cannot be a rental unit

Eligible Projects

Eligible projects for this grant are basement protection/isolation projects that remove the threat of basement backups during storm events. These projects may include but are not limited to installation of upflush systems, piping alterations, sump systems, each with the appropriate disconnection of the existing troubled systems, and other isolation measures as determined through the grant process. Utilization of check valve devices are NOT considered an appropriate isolation unit for purposes of this grant.

All projects will be estimated and documented by a pool of local contractors whose project plans will then be approved by the wastewater department. All projects wishing to be considered must have been reported to the Wastewater Department within thirty (30) days of a preceding event.

Project Funding

Project funding is expected to be a \$20,000 per year available for basement protection projects. As projects are approved, implemented and paid for, the available funds for that year will diminish until all available funds are utilized. Each year additional funding will be made available to the grant pool until such time as the grant project is terminated.

Program Priorities

Priorities of this grant are basements that have a history of backups or are in areas where the combined sewer system frequently experiences surcharge conditions. Additional priority will be determined based on how finished the basement is, occupancy of the basement, number of sewer connections in the basement and other information as presented in the grant application.

Preparing an Application

Getting Started

The application form is available at the City of La Porte Engineering Department (801 Michigan Avenue), at the Wastewater Treatment Facility (2101 Boyd Blvd) or online at the City of La Porte's website (www.cityoflaporte.com). A list of approved contractors will be made available for the applicant to request quotes. Quotes provided by the approved contractor are to be included with the grant application and must be turned in with the application. Quotes will not be accepted from non-approved contractors. Completed paper forms may be turned in or mailed to the Wastewater Treatment Facility or the Water Department Billing Office located in City Hall. Scans of the completed paper forms or the completed downloaded pdf form from the City's website may be emailed to jjackson@cityoflaporte.com.

Grant Application Form

All fields on the grant form must be completed for the application to be processed. Applications that are incomplete will not be considered for the grant. If the grant application form does not contain enough space to complete your answer, additional sheets may be attached in order to complete your answer.

Application Review

Review Process

Applications will be reviewed by the staff of the Wastewater Department with assistance from the City's Engineering Department. Questions or clarifications regarding information on the application will be discussed with the applicant and/or their selected contractor. If the applicants project does not fulfill the requirements of this grant, changes to the project may be suggested or the application may be turned down.

Scoring Criteria

Projects are scored on the degree of protection to the applicant's basement afforded by the improvements. Projects involving complete separation/disconnection of the basement from the combined sewer system will be scored higher than projects involving alterations to existing systems that reduces or minimizes the potential of backups. When possible, ground floor drains should flow by gravity to the sewer system.

Awards and Grant Administration

Award Announcement

Applicants and their selected contractor will be notified via mail and/or email that their grant has been approved and what the value of the grant will be by the wastewater department. Once the grant is approved then the applicant and contractor must begin work on the project within 60 days of the grant acceptance. Projects whose start date is delayed beyond this time may be subject to having their grant rescinded to allocate the funds to alternative applicants.

Project Administration

This project will be administered through the personnel of the City of La Porte Wastewater Department. Questions regarding the grant may be directed to the Wastewater Department at (219) 362-2354 or you can call to schedule a meeting at 2101 Boyd Blvd, La Porte, IN 46350.

Schedule of Payments

Prior to payment, each successful grant project must receive a final inspection from personnel of the Wastewater Department. Upon approval of the work, the Wastewater personnel inspecting the project will release the project for payment. Payment for completed projects will be issued via check to the applicant's contractor in the amount determined by the grant.

Reservation of Rights

The City of La Porte and the La Porte Wastewater Treatment Department reserve the right to:

1. Reject any or all applications in response to this grant.
2. Waive or modify minor irregularities in applications received after prior notification to the applicant.
3. Adjust or correct cost figures with the concurrence of the applicant if errors exist and can be documented to the satisfaction of both parties.
4. Rescind the approval of any grant based upon delays in execution of the grant upon the part of the applicant.

To the extent allowable by law, the grant Applicant agrees to indemnify, defend and hold harmless the City of La Porte, its agents, officials and employees from all claims and suits including court costs, attorney's fees and other expenses caused by any act or omission associated with the submission of the grant application. The City of La Porte shall **not** provide such indemnification to the applicant.