Department of Environmental Conservation

Agency of Natural Resources

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ARPA Healthy Homes Program FAQs:
Improving Drinking Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater Systems in Manufactured Home Communities (MHCs)

Who are eligible applicants?

Your community is eligible to apply for assistance if you are a [Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development registered MHC](#) that has needs or has suspected needs of drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, or drainage infrastructure improvements.

Types of Grants and Funding available:

1. Needs Assessment (preliminary engineering report/environmental review): up to $40,000 per MHCs paid directly to contractors
   a. No preliminary engineering or environmental review has occurred, and the community is not sure where to start or what to address first
   b. There is a belief that your community has drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, and/or drainage needs
   c. MHCs will be matched with a stated approved contractor to provide the needs assessment.

2. Technical Assistance/ Permitting: up to $75,000 maximum per MHC paid to MHC in the form of a grant
   a. MHC has a water infrastructure project in mind and needs financial assistance for design, permitting, or planning
   b. Some preliminary engineering or environmental review has been done but it is not to the point where MHC can move forward with construction

3. Construction: $25,000 minimum to $1,250,000 maximum per MHC paid to MHC in the form of a grant
   a. MHC knows what needs to be fixed and is ready to begin construction
   b. Final engineering and environmental review have been completed and permits are in process or already issued

4. 3-acre Permit Support Services: up to the cost associated with permit obtainment will be paid directly to engineers
   a. MHC has received notice from the VT DEC Stormwater Program that it is a 3-acre site

and must comply with General Permit 3-9050

  b. MHC is a 3-acre site and needs assistance in submitting a full Notice of Intent to comply with 3-acre requirements

  c. MHCs that are cooperatively owned or registered as a non-profit organization will be prioritized to receive 3-acre permit support services

  d. MHCs will be matched with a state-approved engineer to provide the needs assessment

  e. The amount of engineering support provided per project will depend on overall program subscription

What are the next steps if we are interested in submitting a grant application?
1. Read through the application: application | (https://bit.ly/MHCapplication)
2. Contact the park owner or owning entity (if applicable) to assist with gathering the necessary documents and information. You should also confirm that you are not submitting a duplicate application.
3. Gather the application materials and submit all documents electronically via email to Nicole Streeter (nicole.streeter@vermont.gov) by Wednesday July 27th, 2022 at 5:00 pm EDST using the subject line "HH-MHC RFP Proposal."

Do local ARPA funds have to be included in the project?
There is no requirement to use local ARPA funds on these projects.

Can you apply for multiple types of grants/funding?
Yes, you can apply for multiple funding types within the same application.

Can ARPA Healthy Homes funding be used to supplement other funding sources?
ARPA funds could cover 100% of needs assessment or project cost up to the maximum amount listed above, but it does not need to be 100% of total cost if you have already secured other funding. ARPA funds could be used to fill gaps in current funding with compatible funding sources.

Can this grant provide retroactive funding for already installed projects?
No, retroactive payments for already installed MHC projects are not available.

What criteria will be used to determine which MHCs receive funding?
The scoring rubric is included in the application for MHC applicants to review. Generally, the rubric considers community need, impacts to public health, quality of life of residents, vulnerable populations, and the environment.

Is DEC working with other housing funding agencies and organizations to gain input into how to underwrite these projects?

EAO is working with multiple stakeholders and nonprofit groups, including but not limited to Vermont Housing Finance Agency (VHFA), Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD), Vermont Housing & Conservation Board (VHCB), Champlin Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO), and USDA Rural Development (USDA RD) to gain insights and collaborate on shared goals.

Are for-profit parks eligible to apply for Healthy Homes Initiative funding? And will there be any prioritization of MHCs receiving funding based on ownership structure?

Our main goal is to help Vermonters in need, including residents that live in for-profit parks. Regardless of park ownership status, there are unmet needs in these communities and our priority is to help those most in need.

Would you accept one application for multiple parks owned by a single entity, or would you require separate applications?

The grants are awarded to individual communities based on their specific issues and needs. Separate applications for each MHC will be required because the water/wastewater needs would be different for each community and would need to be evaluated separately. If one owning entity wishes to apply for funding in multiple parks, they would need to submit multiple applications.

If an MHC secures ARPA funding does this mean that there is someone from the Agency who can help facilitate permit requirements to implement the project?

Yes, there is an ARPA dedicated staff member for this initiative as well as staff members in the Environmental Assistance Office that can address your permitting questions. There are also ANR Office of Planning staff who are available to support complex and interdepartmental permitting needs. Learn more about [permit coordination assistance for ARPA-funded projects](). For more information on environmental permit coordination for ARPA projects, contact Kevin Anderson in the Office of Planning at kevin.anderson@vermont.gov or (802) 798-2087.

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