

Improving drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater systems in manufactured housing communities (MHCs)

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Agenda

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Healthy Homes Initiative – MHC

- Many manufactured housing communities (MHCs) in VT struggle to provide clean and adequate drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, and drainage systems
- Provide technical and financial assistance to remedy those challenges and support safe, affordable housing
- Grants to improve living conditions for people in MHCs and help residents follow Vermont's environmental regulations through needs assessments, professional technical assistance, and construction costs to implement water infrastructure solutions

EAO and Healthy Homes

- Proactive assistance program in the Environmental Compliance Division of DEC
- Three Sections – Accessible Assistance, Outreach Assistance, and Community & Municipal Assistance
- Hiring an ARPA position to administer the Healthy Homes Initiative (On-Site and MHCs)

Criteria to Qualify

- Manufactured housing community – cooperative/resident owned, non-profit, or privately owned MHCs
- Infrastructure projects related to drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, and/or drainage issues

Funding Bucket Overview

- \$15 million in total ARPA funding proposed by Governor Scott for FY22-24 for the Healthy Homes Initiative – MHC
- \$3.25 million appropriated by the VT General Assembly for the first year (FY22)
- Grant Types
 - Needs Assessments / Technical Assistance & Permitting
 - Construction

Needs Assessment / Technical Assistance & Permitting Grants

- Purpose
 - To provide funding and services for MHCs looking to understand what their water infrastructure needs are
 - To provide funding to allow for technical assistance and permitting to scope, cost, and develop a water infrastructure project
- Allowable amount (\$10k min, \$75k max per MHC)
- Anticipate approximately 15-20 needs assessment / technical assistance & permitting contracts / grants for FY22.

Needs Assessment / Technical Assistance & Permitting Grants

- Approach
 - Separate needs assessment / technical assistance & permitting grant application from construction grant application
 - Needs assessment services
 - Individually contracted by the MHC
 - State of Vermont pre-established vendor contract
 - Technical Assistance / Permitting
 - Individually contracted by the MHC

Construction Grants

- Purpose
 - To provide funding to allow for construction of water infrastructure projects for MHCs
- Allowable amount (\$25k min, \$1.25M max per MHC)
- Anticipate approximately 3-7 construction grants for FY22.

Eligible Projects

- MHC needs assessments for future water / wastewater projects
- Technical assistance / engineering for supported water / wastewater construction projects
- Water source redevelopment / installations
- Connections to municipal water / sewer projects
- Installation / repair of on-site wastewater systems
- Stormwater retrofits, installations, and developments
- Improvements to site drainage including moving sites out of floodplains / river corridors.
- Water supply distribution system installations / repairs
- Wastewater collection system installations / repairs

Environmental Review

- Federal SAM.gov registration for ARPA MHC projects required
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) / Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs) do not apply to MHC projects utilizing ONLY ARPA funds.
- MHC projects utilizing ARPA funds AND other federal financial assistance programs may still be subject to NEPA / Phase 1 ESAs if required by the other financial assistance programs

Complementary Funding

- USDA RD – <https://www.rd.usda.gov/>
- ACCD – <https://accd.vermont.gov/community-development/funding-incentives/vcdp>
- VHFA – <https://www.vhfa.org/>
- VHCB – <https://vhcb.org/>

Current Timeline

- Recruit/Hire ARPA MHC administrator (December)
- Establish grant application packages / criteria (December / January)
- Interest solicitation, public outreach (December – February)
- Needs assessment contract & technical assistance grants made available (February)
- Construction grant application period (February)
- Grant application review period, awarding, obligation (March)
- Subsequent rolling annual grant application deadline (End of State FY)

Question and Answer Session

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