



Wastewater Treatment Department
2101 Boyd Boulevard
La Porte, IN 46350
219-362-2354
fax: 219-362-1018

La Porte Municipal Wastewater Basement Protection Grant

A Great Place to Live, Work and Do Business!

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Contents

Program Introduction 3
Grant Information..... 3
Application Information..... 4
 Eligible Applicants 4
 Eligible Projects..... 4
 Project Funding..... 5
 Program Priorities 5
Preparing an Application 5
 Getting Started 5
 Grant Application Form..... 6
Application Review 6
 Review Process 6
 Scoring Criteria..... 6
Awards and Grant Administration 6
 Award Announcement 6
 Project Administration..... 7
 Schedule of Payments..... 7
 Reservation of Rights..... 7

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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 to the point where the water can backflow into basements.

While great steps have been made over the years to reduce the volume of water entering the sewer system and to increase the system's capacity, there are still some 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 home owners. The Basement Protection Grant was established to eliminate stormwater-related sewer backup events.

Grant Information

The City of La Porte Wastewater Department provides grants up to the amount of \$1,500.00 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. Grant applications for 2013 will be accepted until the available funds are depleted. Applications received after funds are depleted will be held over until the following year and then entered into the following years application group.

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Application Information

Applications for the 2013 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:

- Applicant must be a property owner within the City of La Porte
- 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 to be considered must be a single family residential dwelling.
- Property to be considered 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.

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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.

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Grant Application Form

All fields on the grant form must be completed in order 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 applicant's 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.

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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 grant awardees' project must complete a final inspection from personnel of the Wastewater Department. If the project is finished to the specifications that were established in the grant awardees' application, the Wastewater personnel will approve the work and 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.

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LaPorte Municipal Wastewater Basement Protection Grant Application

Date of Application: _____

Name: _____

Residence Address: _____

Mailing address: _____

(if different from address above) _____

Phone number: _____

email address: _____

Number of basement backups within the last two years: _____

Number of times the City has been notified of
backups within the last two years: _____

Number of fixtures located in the basement that are
connected to the sewer (toilets, sinks, showers, tubs, etc): _____

Number of basement floor drains connected to the sewer: _____

Name of contractor selected for grant work: _____

(A list of approved contractors may be acquired from the office of the City Engineer. If you already have a contractor in mind, you can verify their inclusion by calling the City Engineer's Office at 219-362-2327.)

Please attach to this grant application a copy of the quote for the work to be done by the contractor. The quote must include the specific work that is to be performed, the equipment that will be installed (if any) and the steps that will be taken to protect the basement from future backups.

I certify that the information in this application is correct and that I am authorized to allow the changes presented in this quote to be made to the residence at the above address. Further I acknowledge that any costs incurred by this project which are not covered by this grant are my sole responsibility and that to the extent allowable by law, I agree 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 this grant application.

signature of applicant

printed name

date signed

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