

# Frequently Asked Questions

## About Florida's Septic Upgrade Incentive Program

### How much funding is available for the program?

As of August 2019, there was more than \$7 million available for incentive payments. The money won't run out any time soon. However, contractors are encouraged to take advantage now. New applications are coming in every day and the incentive program will not be available indefinitely.

### What communities are eligible for the Septic Upgrade Incentive Program (SUIP)?

The incentive program is available in areas where septic systems are a significant source of nitrogen pollution in nearby freshwater springs. The state plans to mandate upgraded technology in these areas, and is providing the incentive program to help homeowners make the switch.

Homes in the following counties may be eligible: Citrus, Hernando, Leon, Marion, Orange, Pasco, Seminole, Volusia and Wakulla. You can check to see if a home address is eligible by entering it here: <https://fddep.maps.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html?appid=ef7e081d50c34fc3b20a0bf92d637cd0>

### When will denitrifying septic systems be mandated in these areas?

Requirements for upgraded septic will begin no later than January 2024 in designated areas. The mandate will cover new installations and major repairs.

### What kind of work is covered?

The SUIP provides up to \$10,000 for replacing existing conventional septic systems with denitrification technologies. Visit [OurFutureIsClear.org/contractors](http://OurFutureIsClear.org/contractors) to see a list of approved technologies.

### Do drain fields qualify?

Yes. If a homeowner replaces or enhances an existing drain field with upgrades that reduce nitrogen pollution, the contractor can apply for incentive payments to offset the costs.

### Can homeowners apply for a rebate?

No. Contractors must apply for cost offsets on behalf of the homeowner.

### Can a homeowner get incentives for multiple residential properties?

Yes. There currently is no limit on the number of residential properties that are eligible for the incentive program, as long as all requirements are met.

### Do businesses qualify?

No. The incentive program is only for residential properties.

### Does new construction qualify?

No. This incentive program is only for replacing or upgrading an existing conventional system. That said, both new features and complete replacements of existing conventional systems are covered.

### Are Department of Health permit fees covered in the incentive?

This is at the discretion of the contractor. Because the installation permit must be obtained before the contractor submits a rebate application to DEP, there is the slight possibility that the application could be rejected, and you would not get the money back for the permit. As long as the contractor follows the application steps, however, this is very unlikely.

If the contractor pays for the permit, the cost can be included in the rebate application. If the homeowner pays for the permit, the cost would not be reimbursed.