

**CHARLES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
BAY RESTORATION FUND GRANT INFORMATION
FY27**

Charles County has a grant to locally administer the Bay Restoration Fund (BRF) program. The BRF is a State-supported program that provides funding to replace conventional septic tanks with nitrogen-reducing units or funding for sewer connections of existing dwellings where public sewer is available. For low-income households BRF funding can be used to replace a failing septic system. The program's purpose is to reduce the amount of harmful nutrients, such as nitrogen, that septic systems discharge into the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

BRF Funding Projects

- **Septic Tank Replacement with a nitrogen-reducing BAT tank**

The grant can be used to replace a failing septic tank (leaking, metal, home-made, and/or cinderblock) with a nitrogen-reducing BAT tank from the list of BRF eligible BAT tanks. Before a permit can be issued a review of the property file along with additional work to determine if the existing system is in working condition, depth installed, and water table determination may be required.

- **Sewer Connections**

The grant can be used for sewer connections of existing dwellings and businesses where public sewer is available, and the property is currently served by a failing septic system. Grants will be limited to \$25,000 per household if the household income is under \$300,000. Homeowners with incomes greater than \$300,000 and properties owned by large business entities are eligible for up to 50 percent funding (\$12,500 max). Business entities that meet the definition of "Small Business" in COMAR 21.01.02.01 may qualify for 75 percent funding (\$18,750 max). The grant would be applied toward the capital facility, user connection, and/or master plumber's charges. The property owner is responsible for any costs in excess of the grant amount. Please refer to the PFA and non-PFA BRF Sewer Connection Checklist and Applications. Maryland Department of the Environment and additional agencies will provide the Health Department with approval to proceed. PFA Map- <https://planning.maryland.gov/pages/OurWork/GDA/pfamap.aspx>

- **Holding Tanks**

If the Property Owner has been issued a Holding Tank permit and they would like assistance with funding them, they can apply for BRF funds to fund the installation of the holding tanks. Please refer to the BRF Holding Tank Checklist and Application to proceed. Maximum funding up to \$20,000 depending on income eligibility.

- **Drain-field assistance for Low-income and Moderate-income Households**

Families that meet the Income Eligibility Limits can apply for assistance with drain field repair costs. A BAT will be required to be installed with the new drain field. **The repair and percolation test fees are not covered by the grant.**

Moderate-Income Drainfield Assistance	Low-Income Drainfield Assistance
\$45,716-\$73,145 (moderate income range)	<\$45,716 (low income)
Moderate Income up to \$5,000 for drainfield assistance	Low Income 100% funding for drainfield assistance

- **Operation and Maintenance (O&M)- Only for Low-income Households**

Regarding O&M, a low-income property owner is eligible for a 50% grant to cover the annual O&M cost, beyond the initial O&M period as provided for at time of BAT installation. Please contact the Charles County Department of Health for more information.