DPS | Montgomery County
Department of Permitting Services

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Bay Restoration Fund (BRF) Grant Program for Best Available Technology (BAT)

What is it?

Each fiscal year, the State of Maryland through the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), allocates monies from the Bay Restoration Fund to Montgomery County for upgrading failing septic systems. Scientists have shown that nitrogen and phosphorus pollution are the greatest threats facing the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. A conventional septic system is not designed to remove nitrogen, instead delivering about 23.2 pounds of nitrogen per year to the groundwater. An upgraded, nitrogen-removing Best Available Technology (BAT) unit reduces a system's nitrogen load in half.

Who is eligible?

Any property owner that has a failing septic system may apply for a BRF grant. DPS Well and Septic staff must confirm that a septic system failure has occurred. The BRF grant will provide 100% funding only for those property owners who earn less than $300,000 per year or non-profit entities. Property owners who earn more than $300,000 per year, and any business, will receive 50% funding.

What is covered?

- The cost of the approved BAT unit and installation. BAT units usually include electrical and mechanical components such as pumps, blowers, floats, alarms, diffusers and electronic control panels.
- A two-year operation and maintenance contract.
- BRF funds may also be used towards public sewer connections (if available) to mitigate a confirmed septic system failure.

What is not covered?

- County septic repair permit fee of $466.40
- Recordation fee of $65.25 for an Agreement and Easement to be recorded in Land Records.
- Any necessary system repair or replacement of failed drainfields, seepage pits, sand mounds, etc.

- Issues that arise during the installation process: tree removal, excessive landscaping, fence removal, sidewalk, deck, or patio removal.
- Repair of the system due to owner neglect or abuse.
- Perpetual operation and maintenance of the BAT system by a qualified service provider once the initial two-year contract has expired.
- Routine repair or replacement of electrical or mechanical components on existing BAT units or drainfield systems, including drip dispersal systems, sand mounds, at-grade mounds or any other wastewater disposal systems. These are not considered a failure of the BAT unit (or drainfield) and are not eligible for BRF funding. Examples include routine repair or replacement of pumps, blowers, floats, alarms, diffusers, electronic control panels, etc.

How do I apply?

In Montgomery County, the application process for BRF grants are handled by a third-party organization, **Canaan Valley Institute (CVI).** Currently, the Montgomery County contact for this program is:

Tina Bonner
Email: tina.bonner@canaanvi.org
Phone: 304-940-6096

CVI reviews the applications and issues the award letters to eligible applicants. CVI is also responsible for submitting payment to the vendor of the BAT unit after the system has been installed and inspected.

For more information on the Bay Restoration Fund, please visit MDE's website:
https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/water/bayrestorationfund/pages/index.aspx
You may also contact the DPS Well and Septic Staff by calling 240-777-0311.