

# Memo

To: Hancock County Municipalities and County Commissioners

From: Thomas E. Martin, AICP, Executive Director

Date: August 25, 2011

Re: Information on well and septic replacement grants

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The Hancock County Planning Commission (HCPC) and Washington Hancock Community Agency (WHCA) are seeking another round of Community Development Block Grant funding to continue the county-wide well and septic system replacement program. This program serves income-qualifying residents by providing them with safe drinking water and waste water disposal. It operates at no financial cost to the town. We are soliciting interest from towns in applying again this year.

## **What is Involved in Applying?**

Towns would apply as a group for a Community Development Block Grant Housing Assistance Grant. One town would serve as the lead applicant and the others as co-applicants. The HCPC and WHCA would draft the application. If the grant were awarded it would include funds to hire a state-certified grant administrator. *The administrator would handle all the grant paperwork rather than the town.*

## **Can Towns With High Household Incomes Qualify?**

The income limits in this grant apply to individual households rather than the town as a whole. If you have some households in town that meet the income guidelines, your town can apply. These guidelines are on a sliding scale according to family size. For example, a family of four must earn no more than \$48,550.

## What Help Is Needed From Towns To Make This Application Competitive?

We will need information from each participating town on specific well and septic problems. In most towns, your code enforcement officer and local plumbing inspector know where there are problems. The general public may also have suggestions. To help get word out to residents, you may want to include a notice in your town newsletter or post it at the town office. We have enclosed a sample notice. If you would like an electronic copy, please contact Tom Martin.

We must show evidence of ample citizen participation. It would be helpful if you were to appoint someone to serve on a grant advisory committee. For information on what is involved in serving on the committee, please contact Tom Martin. *We are planning to hold some county-wide meetings and urge each town to send representatives to these meetings.*

## How Do We Learn More?

By contacting Tom Martin at the HCPC (667-7131 or [tmartin@hcpcme.org](mailto:tmartin@hcpcme.org)). Please let him know if you are interested in participating. He can provide you with a survey that can help identify well and septic problems in your community.

enclosure



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