



SUFFOLK COUNTY PILOT PROGRAM

SMALL BUSINESS SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (SIFA)



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. WHAT IS SIFA?

SIFA is the Pilot Program for Small Business Sewer Infrastructure Financial Assistance (SIFA Program or Program) authorized by Suffolk County Resolution No. 346-2023, as amended by Resolution Nos. 196-2024 and 637-2024, that provides financial assistance to small business owners whose businesses are located within an existing Suffolk County Sewer District ("District" or "County District") to offset the design, purchase and installation costs incurred to connect to Sewer District facilities. The Program is reimbursement-based, and reimbursement will only be given for certain allowable costs that can be sufficiently documented.

2. WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Small businesses located in Suffolk County having 25 employees or fewer, that are authorized to do business in accordance with the laws of New York and are operating in compliance with all State, County and/or Local code requirements are eligible to participate in the Program. The small business must own the property on which the small business is operating or be the Qualifying Tenant¹. The small business must be operating at a site that is located within a County Sewer District, which includes any County District extensions, for which there is Sewer Availability (as defined in Resolution No. 346-2023, as amended) and must not be already connected to the District's facilities or have connected to the facilities on or after May 9, 2023.

3. HOW MUCH MONEY CAN A BUSINESS RECEIVE?

Approved applicants may receive a grant of up to \$15,000 for approved costs for the design, purchase and installation of Private Sewage Works necessary to connect the property to the County Sewer District facilities. All grant awards are additionally subject to a completed grant agreement and are subject to federal and state taxes.

4. HOW DO I KNOW IF A PROPERTY IS IN A COUNTY SEWER DISTRICT?

Please review the Property Tax Bill to identify the Sewer District or contact the Department of Public Works² (DPW).

5. WHAT IF THE BUSINESS OWNER DOES NOT OWN THE PROPERTY UPON WHICH THE SMALL BUSINESS IS OPERATING?

SIFA grants are limited to small business owners that own the property on which the business is operating or qualifying tenants who can show that they are legally responsible for the provision, cost and maintenance of wastewater disposal for the property.

6. WHAT OTHER REQUIREMENTS MUST BE MET TO QUALIFY FOR GRANT ASSISTANCE?

¹ Resolution No. 346-2023 as amended, defines Qualifying Tenant as: "A person, firm, partnership, corporation, trust, trustee, association, company or other legal entity capable of owning an interest in real property that is entitled to nonrevocable legal possession of the Qualifying Parcel for which a grant application is made by virtue of a written lease, judicial decree or equivalent legal instrument and where such person, firm, partnership, corporation, trust, trustee, association, company or other legal entity is solely responsible for the provision, cost, and maintenance of wastewater disposal for the Qualifying Parcel for which a grant application is made."

² DPW contact information - Email: scdpwsewerpermitoffice@suffolkcountyny.gov; phone: 631-854-4185; hours: 7:00 am – 3:30 pm

Any property upon which a small business is operating will be disqualified from participating in the Program if there are any outstanding real property liens. Please review the Program Rules and Regulations, which can be found on the website: <https://ecodev.suffolkcountyny.gov/sifa/> for all Program requirements and processes.

7. WHERE MAY I OBTAIN AN APPLICATION OR FURTHER INFORMATION?

To fill out an application online or download a paper application, visit the Program's application portal: <https://ecodev.suffolkcountyny.gov/sifa/>. Paper applications can be printed, and mailed to:

Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning
Attention: SIFA Program
100 Veterans Memorial Highway, 2nd Floor
Hauppauge, NY 11788-0099

You can also send an email to SIFA@SuffolkCountyNY.gov or call 631-853-4800 Ext 2 to request an application be mailed to you or to obtain further information.