

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 2, 2025

Town of Orleans Announces Sewer Connection Grant Program

ORLEANS, MA – The Town of Orleans continues to make significant strides in its comprehensive sewer project, aimed at protecting the community’s water quality and supporting long-term sustainability. As part of this ongoing effort, the Town is pleased to announce the Sewer Connection Grant Program, providing financial assistance to eligible residents required to connect to the Town sewer system.

Grants of up to \$7,500 are now available for qualifying property owners. These grants may be used for engineering services, construction costs, or the abandonment of existing septic systems. To qualify, applicants must:

- Be under order to connect to the Town sewer system (those in Phase I of the project)
- Own and occupy the property as a single-family, year-round, primary residence.
- Secure pre-approval for a 0% interest loan from the [Cape Cod AQUIFund](#) program.

Applications, [available online](#) or at the Orleans Health and Human Services Department, will be accepted starting Monday, January 6, 2025. Grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are depleted.

“This program represents an important step in supporting Orleans residents as we continue the rollout of our critical sewer project,” said Alexandra Fitch, Director of Health and Human Services. “We are committed to easing the financial burden on property owners and ensuring a successful transition to the Town sewer system.”

The Town’s sewer project represents a critical investment in Orleans’ environmental and economic future. Construction in key areas is ongoing, with the goal of expanding access to sewer infrastructure and addressing nutrient management challenges. Property owners in designated areas have already been notified of their obligation to connect to the system, marking a major milestone in this multi-phase initiative.

Additional Resources for Financing Sewer Connections

Beyond the grant program, the Town encourages residents to explore additional options for financing sewer connections:

1. **Cape Cod Aquifund 0% Loans** – The Aquifund offers interest-free loans to help homeowners finance sewer connections and related costs. This program provides an accessible and straightforward solution for residents.
2. **State and Federal Tax Credits** – Homeowners may be eligible for tax incentives related to sewer upgrades, such as the Massachusetts Title 5 Tax Credit. Contact a tax professional to learn more.
3. **Local Financial Institutions:** Several local banks and credit unions offer financing options to help cover the costs of sewer connections. We recommend contacting your preferred financial institution to inquire about available loan programs tailored for this purpose.

Community Engagement and Information

Residents can learn more about the sewer project, including the grant program and other updates, by visiting the [Town's website](#) or listening to the most recent episode of *Orleans: Behind the Scenes*. For questions about the Sewer Connection Grant Program or other resources, please contact John Nelson at the Orleans Health Department at (508) 240-3700 ext. 2319.