



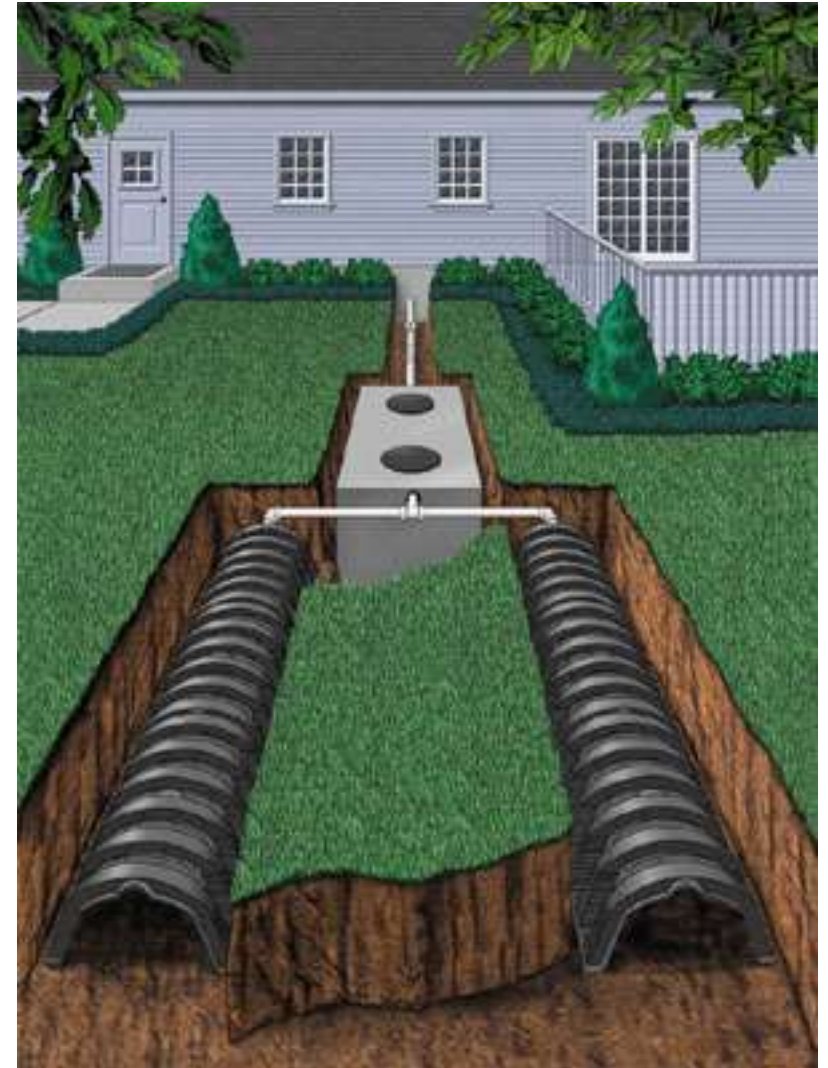
Ohio EPA's ***In Your Community*** webinar series focuses on environmental issues at the local level – covering a wide range of topics from how Ohio EPA regulates pollution sources to ways on improving the environment in your local area.

https://epa.ohio.gov/community_webinar



IN YOUR COMMUNITY: REGULATION AND FUNDING OF HOUSEHOLD SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEMS (HSTS)

Jon Bernstein, Erin Sherer, and Rachel Townsend



Let's Take a Quick Poll



Poll Question 1

Are household sewage treatment systems being used by residents in your community?

1. Yes
2. No
3. I don't know

State and Local Roles for HSTS

1. Ohio EPA Regulatory Role

Erin Sherer, Ohio EPA – Division of Surface Water

2. ODH/Local Health Department Regulatory Roles

Rachel Townsend, ODH – Residential Sewer and Water Program

3. Ohio EPA Funding Role

Jon Bernstein, Ohio EPA – Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water

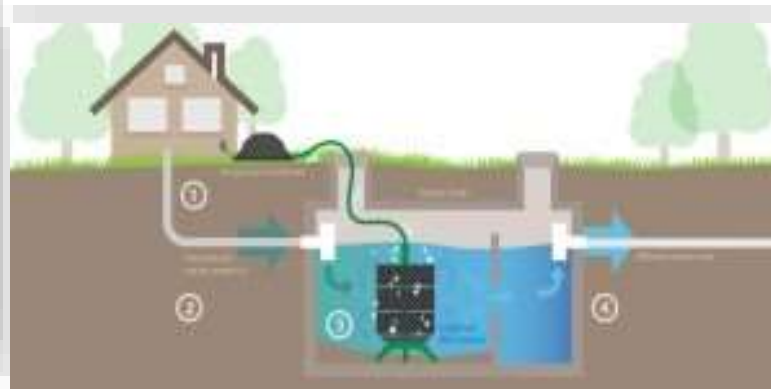
Things that we will cover today:

- [HSTS \(Household Sewage Treatment System\) Discharge Permit](#)
 - What is a Household Sewage Treatment System?
 - Purpose of the General Permit
 - Permit Overview
 - Eligibility and the Application Process
 - Notice of Intent (NOI)
 - Health Department and Ohio EPA Roles
- [House Bill 110 \(HB110\) Program](#)
- [Small Flow On Site Treatment Systems \(SFOSTS\)](#)

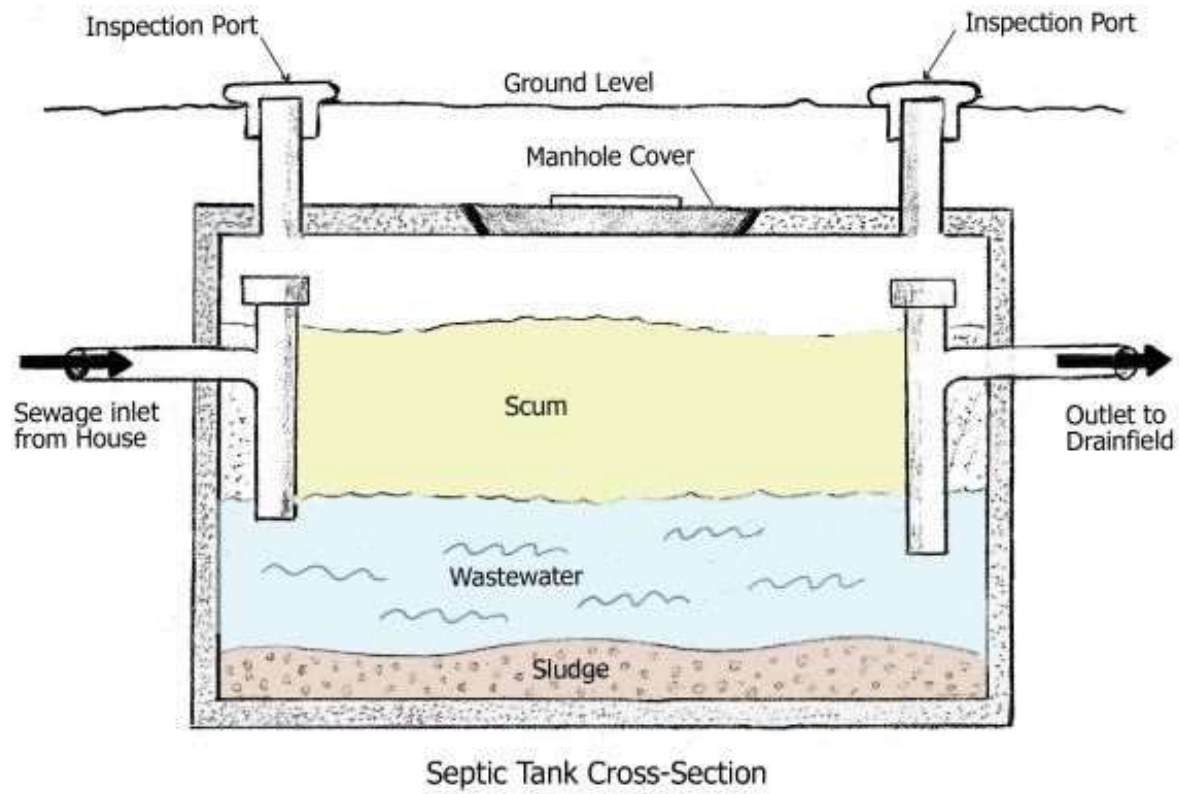
What is a Household Sewage Treatment System?



- A HSTS is a treatment system that receives sanitary sewage from a residential home.
- These systems are split into two main types:
 - **Onsite systems** use soils to filter and disperse the wastewater. There is no discharge from this type of system. *Only regulated by health departments.*
 - **Off-lot or discharging systems** have a treatment system that discharges directly to a waterway or storm sewer. *These need a discharge permit from Ohio EPA.*

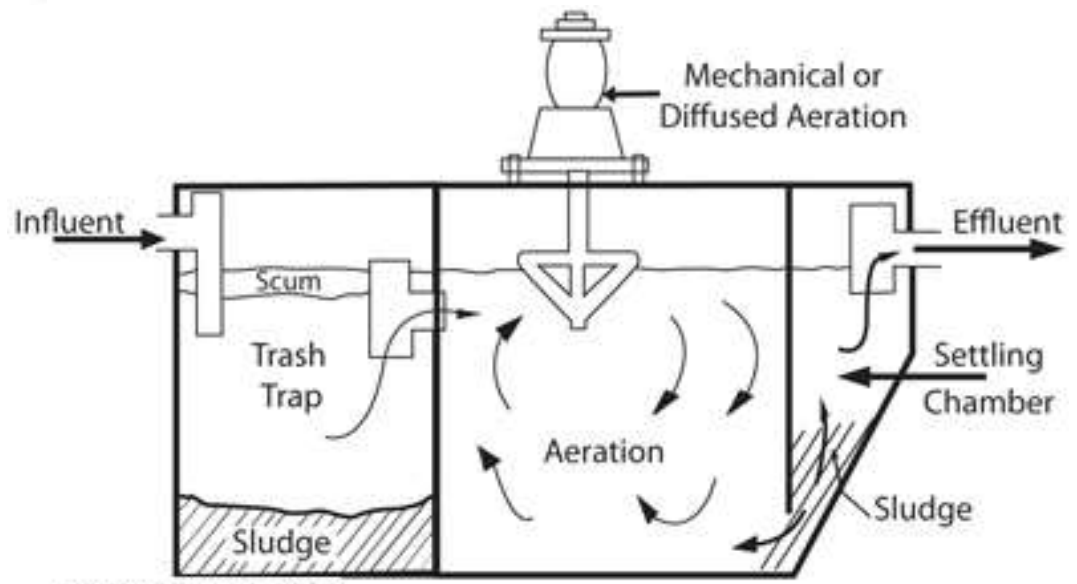


Basic HSTS Treatment



Basic septic tank design

Example of a septic tank with an aerator – typically used for off-site, discharging systems



US EPA Manual, 1980

Why do discharging HSTS need a permit?



- It's the law – the federal Clean Water Act and Ohio Revised Code 6111 require all discharges of wastewater to receiving waters be permitted.
- It sets conditions that protect public health and the environment.
- Ohio's and the Nation's water quality has greatly improved since the laws were enacted.

Ohio EPA General Permit for HSTS

- The permit was created in 2007 and is renewed every 5 years
- Existing systems as of 2007 were grandfathered in
- A survey must be completed by the local health department declaring that an on-site system is not feasible before applying for a discharging system
 - Soils may not be able to disperse the wastewater
 - A lot may be too small to have a leach field
 - The water table may be too high so that there isn't enough soil to provide treatment

NPDES General Permit for HSTS

- The National Permit Discharge Elimination System General Permit for HSTS base requirements:

Part I. HOME OWNER RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Obtain Local Health Department Authorization to Install an Approved Household Sewage Treatment System (HSTS). *Approved systems must be able to meet design standards in the permit.*
- B. Obtain and operate the HSTS under an appropriate Operations and Maintenance Service contract from an Ohio Department of Health registered service provider.
- C. Perform annual diagnostic sampling to evaluate performance of the HSTS, under either the service contract identified in Part I, B above or with working with the local health district having jurisdiction.

Not All Systems Can Get the General Permit

Reasons a discharging system may not be installed:

- Any discharge from a new lot created after January 1, 2007
- When centralized sewers are within 400' of the property are accessible
- Any discharge from a new system to certain high-quality waters
- Any discharge from a new system must have a discharge point of 5 square drainage miles or more

How a Homeowner Gets Permit Coverage

- The homeowner works with a HSTS installer and the local health department to complete the application to Ohio EPA (*Referred to as a Notice of Intent or NOI*).
- Available online at https://epa.ohio.gov/dsw/permits/GP_HouseholdSewageTreatmentPlants
- New permits have a one-time fee of \$200.

Roles of Health Departments and Ohio EPA

Health Departments:

- Evaluate property to decide what type of system is feasible
- Approve the system design
- Inspect and regulate issues with system maintenance
- May assist with system sampling and maintains sampling data database

Ohio EPA:

- Writes and renews the general permit
- Issues coverage to homeowners
- Provides technical assistance to LHDs, installers, and homeowners
- Analyzes the sampling data database

House Bill 110: Semipublic Disposal Inspection Program

- Health Departments may request authority over the inspection of small commercial sanitary wastewater treatment systems (discharging systems).
- Local Health Departments may charge fees to the facility to help offset costs of the program.



<https://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/110#185515296-general-information>

Small Flow On-Site Sewage Treatment Systems (SFOSTS) Program

This program allows Health Departments to request authority to regulate small commercial on-site treatment systems (that don't discharge).

"Small flow on-site sewage treatment system" means a system, other than a household sewage treatment system, that treats not more than one thousand gallons of sewage per day and that does not require a national pollutant discharge elimination system permit issued under section 6111.03 of the Revised Code or an injection well drilling or operating permit issued under section 6111.043 of the Revised Code."

Summary

System Type	Health Departments	Ohio EPA
On-Site Systems:		
Residential (HSTS)	Regulates	Does not regulate
Small Commercial	Regulates if SFOSTS authority	Regulates all others
Large Commercial	Does not regulate	Regulates
Discharging Systems:		
Residential (HSTS)	Regulates design and maintenance	Regulates discharge permit
Small Commercial	Inspects if HB 110 program authority	Regulates permits and any not in HB 110
All Other	Does not regulate	Regulates

Let's Take a Quick Poll



Poll Question 2

Did you know that there are multiple state and local agencies responsible for the regulation of household sewage treatment systems?

1. Yes
2. No

Ohio Administrative Code 3701-29

Local Health Districts (LHD) implement Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 3701-29 Sewage Treatment Systems Rules in their local jurisdiction.

Site & System Design Approval

1. Soil evaluation
2. Design
3. Site Approval Application (soil evaluation + design)**
4. LHD reviews site approval application, all criteria are met = approval, valid for 5-years

A lot that cannot support a soil-based system must meet the criteria **and be granted approval from Ohio EPA under the NPDES General Permit for Household Sewage Treatment Systems.

Permit to Perform Work

5. Apply for a permit from the LHD to install the specific system in the specific location of that specific lot as identified in the site approval
6. Work performed to install the system and then inspected by the LHD for final permit approval

After the Permit Work is Approved

7. Upon final approval of the permitted work the system must be enrolled in the local Operation & Maintenance Tracking Program.
 - Operation Permits issued by the LHD can be for one year to 10 years in length.
8. Within 12 months of the permit work receiving final approval, the system is inspected by the LHD to ensure that it is not creating a nuisance.

Operation and Maintenance Tracking Program

- Statute and rule require that each LHD develop an Operation and Maintenance Tracking Program for their local jurisdiction.
- In addition to newly permitted systems, they must develop & implement a local plan to enroll all existing systems into the program.

Let's Take a Quick Poll



Poll Question 3

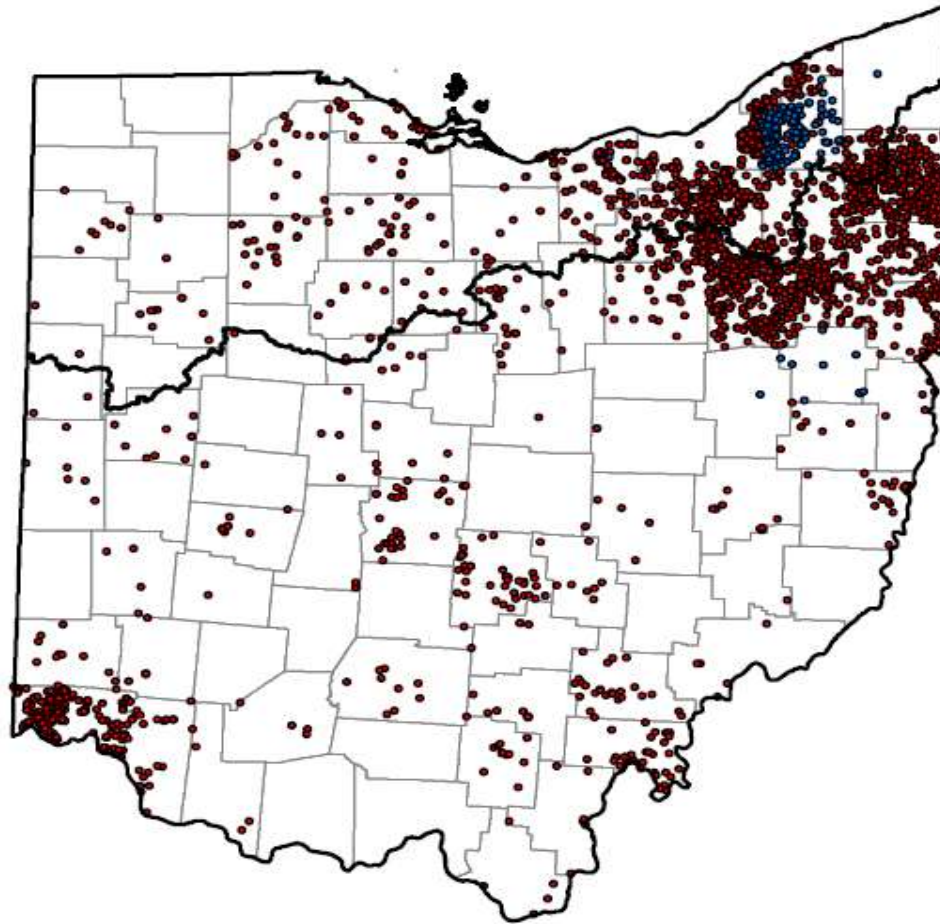
Were you aware that there is funding available for low-income homeowners for repair and replacement of failing HSTS?

1. Yes
2. No


HSTS Universe in Ohio

- Estimated 1,000,000 systems in Ohio
- Estimated 31% of those systems failing
- Many systems in areas without access to centralized sewers
- Many systems utilized by low-income residents in rural areas

HSTS General Permits



HSTS General Permits

- OHK000001
- OHL000001
-  Lake Erie/Ohio River Basin Boundary

 Environmental
Protection Agency
March 4, 2011

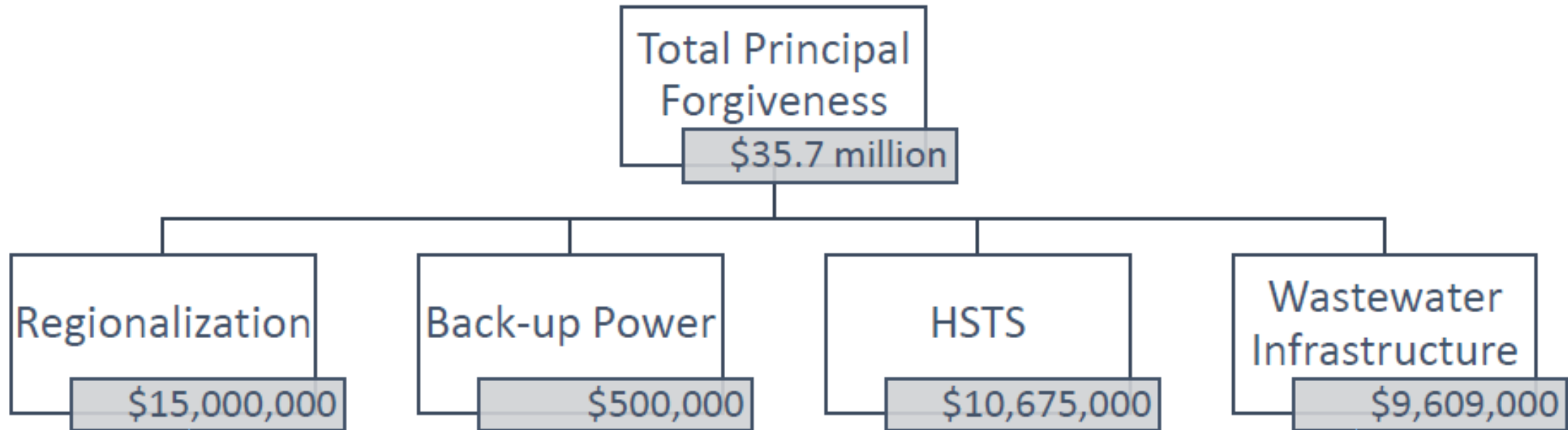
Water Pollution Control Loan Fund

PY 2021 Program Management Plan



HSTS Funding from the WPCLF

2021 Principal Forgiveness Funding



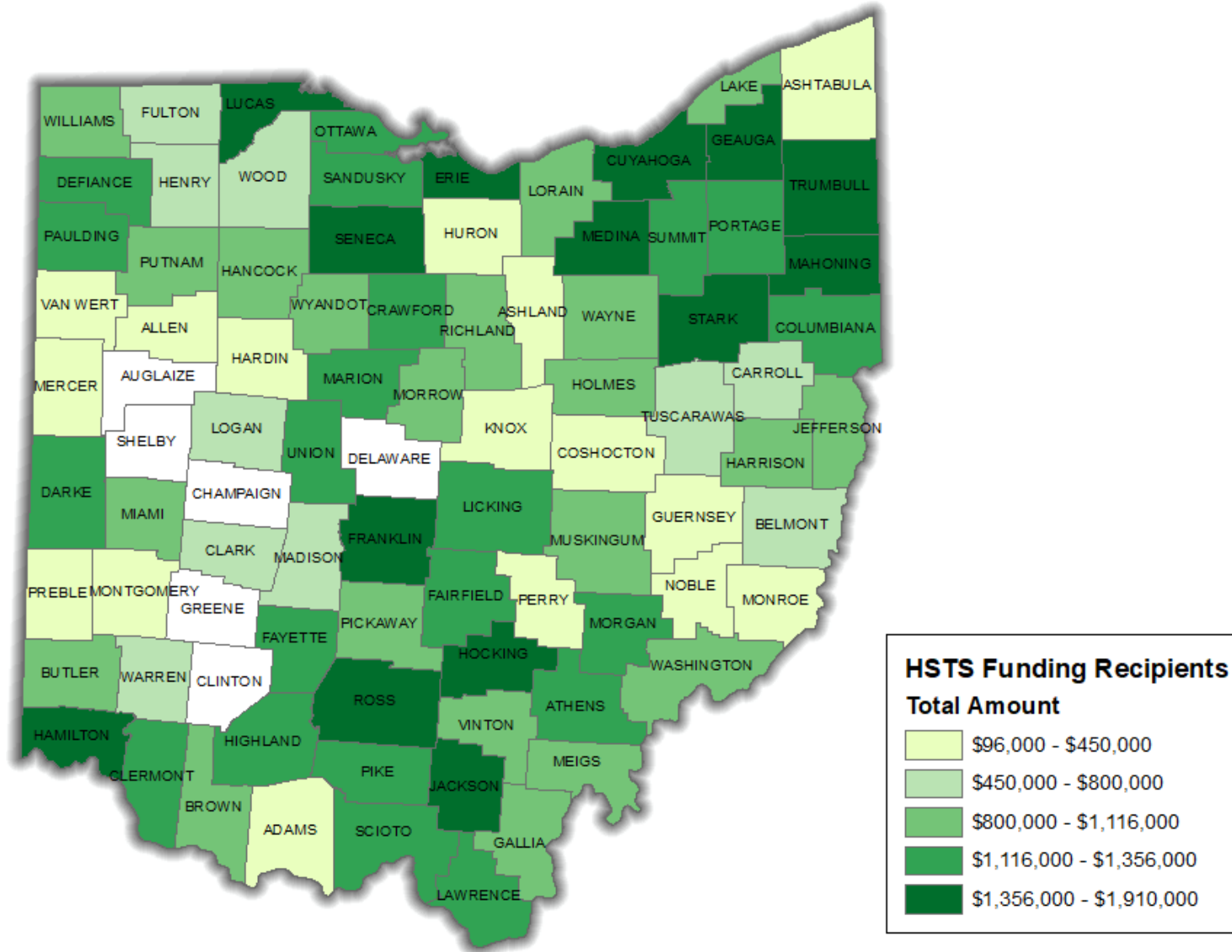
Homeowner Income Eligibility

Table H-2. 2020 U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services Poverty Guidelines for Households

Persons in Family/Household	100% Poverty Guideline (100% PF)	100%-200% Poverty Guideline (85% PF)	200%-300% Poverty Guideline (50% PF)
1-4	\$26,200	\$52,400	\$78,600
5	\$30,680	\$61,360	\$92,040
6	\$35,160	\$70,320	\$105,480
7	\$39,640	\$79,280	\$118,920
8	\$44,120	\$88,240	\$132,360

For families with more than 8 persons, add \$4,480 for each person.

\$79 Million in Ohio EPA HSTS Funding



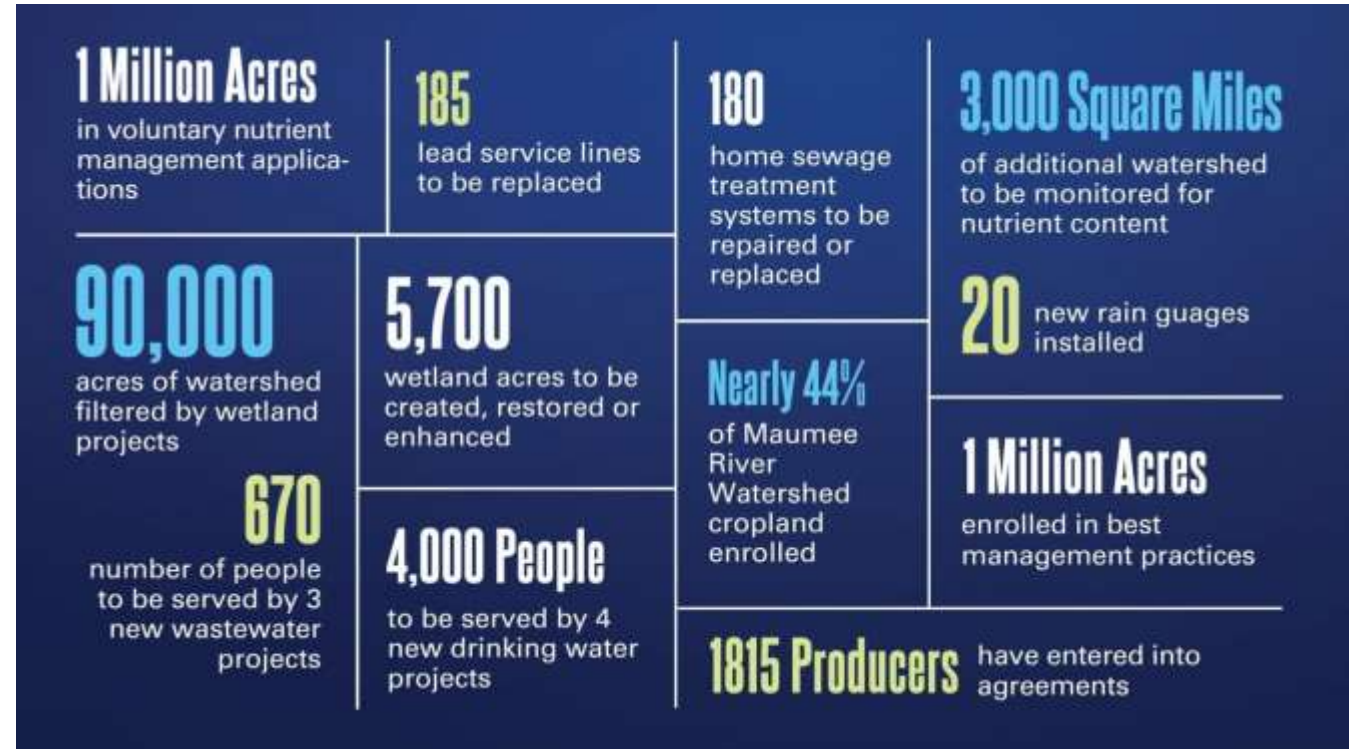
HSTS FUNDING THROUGH THE WPCLF

Year	Funding Available	Funds Awarded	Funds Disbursed	Number of Health Districts
2016	\$13.2 million	\$13,298,500	\$10,105,987	57
2017	\$13.2 million	\$13,169,600	\$9,655,473	51
2018	\$13.2 million	\$13,431,600	\$10,941,307	72
2019	\$10.3 million	\$10,194,000	\$8,409,486	71
2020	\$10.8 million	\$10,825,000	\$2,604,380	75
Totals (to date)	\$60.7 million	\$60,918,700	\$41,716,633	

SUMMARY OF HSTS RESULTS

Funding Year	Soil Evaluations	Repairs Completed	Replacements Installed	Lateral Connections
2016	802	261	763	
2017	724	158	643	94
2018	842	87	743	114
2019	519	108	563	50
2020	161	29	181	35
Totals	3,048	643	2,893	293

Other Grant Funding for HSTS



Contacts

Rachel Townsend, Ohio Department of Health
614-644-7551 | Rachel.Townsend@odh.ohio.gov

Erin Sherer, Ohio EPA
614-644-2018 | Erin.Sherer@epa.ohio.gov

Jon Bernstein, Ohio EPA
614-644-3715 | Jonathan.Bernstein@epa.ohio.gov



Thank You For Attending!

Up Next

- June 17, 10 – 11 a.m. → Managing Contaminated Sites in Your Community
- July 20, 2 - 3 p.m. → What's New for '22 in Ohio's Water Pollution Control Loan Fund Program
- July 29, 10 – 11 a.m. → Air Pollution Risk Management Program for Drinking Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendents/Operators

Register for Upcoming Sessions!

- Visit our website at epa.ohio.gov/default and click on the Training tab to view recordings of sessions you may have missed