FAQ: COK Residential Cesspool Conversion Grant Program

For the complete listing of the program's priorities and link to apply online, type in the web address: kauai.gov/housing
From the list of programs, click: Residential Cesspool Conversion Grant Program

If I have previously received funding from the State's Cesspool Pilot Grant Program (CPGP) or the prior Kauai County Residential Cesspool Conversion Grant Program 1 (RCCG1), can I still apply for Kauai County's Residential Cesspool Conversion Program 2?

Yes, you can apply for a grant as long as it is for a different home or property than the one you previously received funding for. Duplicate funding for the same property is not allowed. Please note that applicants applying for a second time will be given lower priority. The County will prioritize homeowners who have not received any grant funding before.

What is the income amount for 120% MHI?

The median household income (MHI) according to the U.S. Census Bureau 5-year 2019 American Community Survey data for the County of Kauai is $83,554. Therefore 120% MHI is calculated to be $100,265 AGI (Adjusted Gross Income).

Am I disqualified if my total income is over the above amount?

No. You would only not meet the Priority(iii) preference and can still submit an application for the program. You can meet all or none of the 7 priorities and still apply for the program.

Do I need to submit both Federal and State tax returns?

In order to receive credit for Priority (iii) we will need the most recent copy of your Federal Tax Return 1040 form and all schedules attached. The State tax return is **not** needed.

Are properties owned under a trust eligible for the grant?

Yes, the applicant should be one of the owners under the trust and the priority (iii) preference related to the AMI should be calculated based on the applicant's 1040 Federal Tax Return.

What is a failing cesspool? How can an applicant verify they meet Priority (vii)?

A failing cesspool is a cesspool that requires pumping at least once per month or has spilled more than once in a year. Furthermore, a "spill" would include not just an above-ground overflow of wastewater, but also the lateral movement of significant volumes of wastewater outside the bounds of the originally constructed cesspool as evidenced by collapsing walls and concrete lids, or the significant caving of the cesspools lid evidencing the erosion of the cesspool's structure.

In order to verify they meet Priority (vii), applicants can provide a certification Letter from a licensed Hawaii civil engineer that the existing cesspool is failing according to the above-noted definition. Or applicants can provide invoices with receipts confirming pumping was performed and required for two consecutive months.

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How long will it take for my initial application to be processed?

It will take approximately one (1) month from the application deadline, October 6, 2026, to process application forms due to limited departmental resources. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

How many grants will be given?

The total funding for this program is $1 million, which can accordingly support 50 homeowners on Kauaʻi.

How will the reimbursement be given? How long will this take?

The reimbursement will be sent by the County of Kauai in the form of a check addressed to the grant recipient. Please allow approximately 3 months for processing and delivery of the reimbursement check after the date you've submitted to the Housing Agency - your approval to use letter (ATU) from DOH and contractor/engineer payment receipts.

Would the reimbursement count towards my income for the purposes of my federal and state tax returns?

Yes, it would be considered income in the year received. The cesspool conversion grant reimbursement is taxable for federal and state income tax purposes. Grant recipients will be provided a 1099 for the year funds are received. Grant recipients should consult with their tax preparer/advisor.