

About the program

The Emergency Sanitary Sewer Lateral Repair Program provides assistance for the repair of the sanitary sewer lateral that connects residential homes to the public sewer. This program is for emergency repairs only (see Eligible Repairs section in this brochure).

What constitutes an emergency?

A sewer lateral issue is considered an emergency when a defect to the lateral structure is so severe that it does not allow the flow of sewage from the residence and the problem cannot be relieved temporarily by sewer cleaning procedures. An emergency repair is granted in order to restore service or prevent sewage backup in the home, or to avert excessive storm water infiltration into the public sanitary sewer system.

Who is eligible for the program?

This program is for residential properties within unincorporated St. Charles County that are connected to the City of St. Charles sanitary sewer system. It includes single family homes, duplexes, villas and condominiums up to six units. Properties that are not connected to the City of St. Charles sanitary sewer system are not eligible for this program.

For information on the program:

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ST. CHARLES
COUNTY



Emergency Sanitary Sewer Lateral Repair

A cooperative program between
St. Charles County and the
City of St. Charles

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www.sccmo.org

How the program works...

How to participate:

Step 1: A property owner who is experiencing sewer lateral blockage and qualifies for repairs under the emergency sewer lateral repair program first must have the lateral cleaned at their own expense. This is not reimbursable under the program.

Step 2: After the lateral is cleaned, the owner submits the following to the City:

- An application
- A receipt verifying the previous year's Real Estate tax has been paid
- A work order verifying that the lateral cleaning has been completed

Step 3: The City contractor then performs a video inspection of the sewer lateral. This inspection verifies the nature and location of the defect. The homeowner will be notified if a defect is not eligible for the program.

Step 4: If a repair is deemed eligible, the homeowner obtains and reviews at least three bids. The City then accepts the lowest bid and submits to Public Works for review.

Step 5: The homeowner hires the contractor. The contractor must apply for and be issued a permit by St. Charles County. The County also inspects the repair work. Once the work is complete, the homeowner supplies an itemized bill and lien waiver from the contractor to the city. The City reimburses the homeowner 80 percent of the repair cost, up to a maximum of \$2,000.

How is the program funded and how are the funds distributed?

In 2016, the residents of unincorporated St. Charles County approved an annual fee that is paid with real estate taxes. The fee is \$20 per year for unincorporated residents with sanitary

sewer service provided by the City of St. Charles. The funding year begins February 1. Funds are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis until all the funds for the calendar year have been depleted. If funds are not available, residents can reapply the following year. If funds remain at the end of a year, they will be applied to funding for the next year.

What is the maximum amount of repair costs that will be covered per household?

The program provides a maximum of \$2,000 of the expenses specifically related to the approved emergency repair. Any charges in excess of \$2,000 is the homeowner's responsibility.

Eligible repairs:

- The sanitary sewer lateral from the exterior building foundation wall to the public sewer main. **This does not include a sewer line located under any part of the building.**
- Required street, sidewalk, or driveway pavement replacement

- Seed and straw for yard repair
- Permits and administrative costs

Ineligible repairs:

- Repair, relocation or damage to structures, retaining walls, swimming pools, sprinkler systems, electronic dog fences, and landscaping
- Grinder pumps, septic tanks or private manifold systems
- Damage caused by sewer lateral backup
- Damage caused by contractor's performance
- Repairs or videos performed prior to applying into the program
- Residences in the process of being sold, unless the owner of record makes an application due to an actual blockage and submits a paid receipt for a recent attempt to correct the same blockage
- Cabling of a blocked sewer lateral due to roots, minor cracks, and/or minor joint separations.

