

ONSITE INSTALLATION PROGRAM: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ALABAMA
PUBLIC
HEALTH

- 1. What is the Environmental Health Assessment and what is it being used for?** The Assessment is part of the Alabama Department of Public Health's (ADPH) new Onsite Installation Program. The Assessment asks for information about a home's sewage issues and the health of its residents to determine who's facing the most serious health risks and needs their septic systems installed/repared first.
- 2. What are the goals of ADPH's new Onsite Installation Program?** Residents who rely on straightpipes or septic systems that do not work properly are likely to come into contact with raw sewage and get sick. ADPH's goal is to eliminate this health risk by installing systems that properly dispose sewage, so residents don't come into contact with it.
- 3. Why is the Environmental Health Assessment so long?** The Assessment asks questions about both the home's sewage issues and the health of its residents. Both kinds of information are needed to figure out who faces the most serious health risks and needs their system installed/repared first.
- 4. Why do you need all of this information?** ADPH needs this information to figure out who faces the most serious health risks so their sewage issues can be addressed first.
- 5. I've already given this information to someone else; don't you already have it?** You may have answered a survey by a different organization. This is the first and only Assessment for ADPH's Onsite Installation Program.
- 6. Do septic tanks that need repair also qualify for ADPH's program?** Yes. Qualification for ADPH's program does not depend on if the home's system needs to be repaired or replaced. If ADPH selects a home where the septic system only needs to be repaired instead of replaced, ADPH will repair the system.
- 7. How will ADPH determine who gets their septic system repaired or replaced?** This is based on the response to the Assessment. This is why it's important to fill out the Assessment as completely as possible.
- 8. Will I have to pay for the septic system?** Under ADPH Onsite Installation Program there is no cost for the installation of the system.
- 9. Who is providing the funding for the systems?** This program is using funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), that were appropriated through the Alabama legislature for ADPH to use for septic system improvements.
- 10. How many systems is ADPH going to install?** There is no specific limit. It will depend on the type of systems that need to be installed/repared and available funding. Funds are limited but ADPH is continuing to apply for additional funding to install/repair as many as possible.
- 11. Has ADPH started installing systems?** No, but installations will begin as soon as the first homes are selected from the Environmental Health Assessment. The ADPH selection process is happening now and will continue as more people turn in their Assessments.
- 12. How soon will my system be installed?** Once an applicant is selected:
 - Within 2-4 weeks and weather permitting, under the ADPH program, a licensed soil professional, such as an engineer, will make an appointment with the resident to do a soil test at the home.
 - The Lowndes County Health Department will review the results of the soil test.
 - A licensed septic system installer will then use the soil test to install a septic system at the residence. The amount of time for the installation depends on any soil problems found during the testing.
- 13. What if I am already working with another group to get a septic system?** Residents can work with any group they like; ADPH does not require residents to use any particular group. However, ADPH strongly urges you to still fill out the Assessment so ADPH has information about wastewater issues throughout Lowndes County and can work on other solutions.
- 14. Can my land be taken if I participate in the ADPH program?** No. There are no liens associated with this program. ADPH contractors, or anyone the contractor hires, cannot place liens on properties participating in the ADPH program.
- 15. Does participation in the ADPH program require that I have clear title for my property?** No. Clear title will not be required to receive a system under the ADPH program.