



## Monroe Metropolitan Wastewater System

# Footing Drain Disconnection & Backwater Valve Installation Subsidy Program

The Monroe Metropolitan Wastewater System is offering a financial subsidy to customers to:

- Disconnect footing drains that are connected to the sanitary sewer system; and optionally
- Install a backwater valve on the plumbing system of existing homes.

For further information about this program and how to apply, refer to the enclosed information.

Currently, many customers in the Monroe Metropolitan Wastewater System have underground footing drains used to collect excess groundwater and rainwater (known as inflow / infiltration or I&I). These footing drains are not visible from the surface, but they are very important in the prevention of basement and crawl space flooding.

Many residences have footing drains that connect into the structures sanitary sewer lead which then connects to the sanitary sewer system. During heavy rain storms additional I&I captured by the footing drains may overwhelm the sanitary sewer system and the treatment plant; causing sewage to back up into residents' basements and potentially overflow into the River Raisin and Lake Erie. In affected homes, the installation of a sump pump and/or a new discharge pipe may properly move the excess I&I captured by footing drain to the stormwater system or other appropriate areas.

The Monroe Metropolitan Wastewater System makes annual improvements to reduce or remove I&I from the system underground sanitary sewer pipes and manholes. However, these improvements alone cannot completely reduce I&I that gets into the sanitary sewer system. With increasingly frequent and severe weather events related to climate change, it is essential that customers take appropriate actions to reduce I&I from getting into the sanitary sewer system on their own property.

### **WHAT IS THE SUBSIDY?**

#### **Footing Drain Disconnection Program**

The Monroe Metropolitan Wastewater System has approved a Footing Drain Disconnection (FDD) Subsidy. The system is offering a financial subsidy to customers within the Monroe Metropolitan Wastewater System to disconnect footing drains from the sanitary sewer, up to 50 % of the cost, \$1,600 maximum. FDD Subsidies for eligible work are subject to available funding (eligible locations may be put on a waiting list), provided on a first-come, first served basis, and available retroactively from September 11, 2015.

#### **Backwater Valve Installation (Optional)**

The Monroe Metropolitan Wastewater System approved a Backwater Valve Installation Subsidy as an option along with FDD Subsidy. The system is offering a financial subsidy to customers within the Monroe Metropolitan Wastewater System to install a backwater valve device(s) on the internal\* or external\* plumbing system of existing homes along with FDD, up to 50 % of cost, \$900 maximum. The FDD subsidy is available retroactively from September 11, 2015 and the combined maximum subsidy is \$2,500.00. Backwater Valve Installation only (FDD must be already completed) subsidy requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis depending on budget.

\*Note internal or external backwater valve devices are subject to approval of the Building Department. A Plumbing Code waiver may be required for this work.

***The maximum subsidy received by a customer (\$2,500.00) shall not exceed 50% the expenditure by the customer for the approved work.***

**The Subsidy Program does NOT cover the following:**

- Installation / replacement of a sump pump and or backwater valve when footing drains have already been separated from the sanitary sewer system.
- Work performed prior to September 11, 2015 or for which a permit cannot be obtained.

Disputes with respect to qualifying work will be resolved by the Director of Wastewater or their designate.

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THIS PROGRAM?**

This program is available to all customers / homeowners within the Monroe Metropolitan Wastewater System. Customers with delinquent accounts may not be eligible for the program.

**WHAT IS THE APPLICATION PROCESS?**

1. APPLICATION

Complete sections 'A' & 'B' on the Application Form (appended to this document).

Forward the completed Application Form to:

Monroe Metropolitan Wastewater Treatment Plant  
2205 East Front Street  
Monroe, MI 48161

2. APPLICATION REVIEW

Your application will be screened initially to determine if:

- a. The location requesting a subsidy is a customer of the Monroe Metropolitan Wastewater System.
- b. There are any delinquent account balances with the Monroe Metropolitan Wastewater System.

3. CONTACT / SITE VISIT

Provided the aforementioned conditions 1 & 2 are met, a Wastewater System representative will contact you to schedule a site visit. The site visit will:

- Survey the storm / clear water routing to determine if your footing drains are connected to the sanitary sewer system for subsidy eligibility under this program.
- Suggest other storm / clear water routing mitigation opportunities.

If your site is approved for eligible work under the program, all owners of the property will be required to sign the Acknowledgement Responsibility and Liability Waiver. Refer to Section C of the Application.

***Please Note:***

- Subsidies for eligible work are subject to available funding and provided on a first-come, first served basis. Waiting lists will be maintained.
- Subsidies are provided on a one-time only for each eligible installation, per property, and on a no-fault basis.
- The subsidy is available only to existing homes that have footing drains connected to the sanitary sewer, not homes in the planning stages or currently under construction.
- The property must be in compliance with the Sewer Use Ordinance (or the owner is in the process of correcting sewer use violations as part of this subsidy program), in order to qualify for a FDD or Backwater Valve Subsidy.

4. HAVE THE WORK PERFORMED

It is recommended that you do not pay the contractor in full until the footing drain disconnection has been inspected / verified and all permits have been finalized.

5. RECEIVING THE SUBSIDY

Following the completion of the work, remit the information detailed below in order that the paperwork can be processed and a check can be issued for the eligible subsidy amount:

- Invoices that show a cost breakdown of all charges, with the total amount paid clearly marked as **“Paid in Full.”**
- All documentation must be originals. No photocopies will be accepted.
- Proof from all respective agencies that all permits required for the work have been finalized.
- Supporting documentation must be received by the Monroe Metropolitan Wastewater System within one year of the date of completion of the work as listed on the original invoice, unless there were insufficient funds to subsidize the work completed in the year applied for.

REMIT REQUIRED PAPERWORK TO:

Monroe Metropolitan Wastewater Treatment Plant

2205 East Front Street

Monroe, MI 48161

RE: Footing Drain Disconnection & Backwater Valve Installation Subsidy Program

**APPLICANT INFORMATION**

**SECTION A. PRE-QUALIFICATION**

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

OWNER'S NAME (Last, First): \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

INSPECTION DATE / TIME AVAILABLE (7AM-3PM): \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION B. PROPOSED ELIGIBLE WORK**

**MAXIMUM ELIGIBLE SUBSIDY LIMIT IS \$2,500 PER HOME / UNIT**

Footing Drain Disconnection from Sanitary Sewer – up to 50 % of cost (\$1,600 maximum)

\*Backwater Valve Installation – up to 50 % of cost (\$900 maximum)

NOTE: The maximum subsidy received by a owner shall not exceed 50% of the expenditure by the customer for the approved work. \*Backwater Valve Installation is optional; a Plumbing Code Waiver may be required. Owners with delinquent water / sewer accounts will be required to be paid and or make payment arrangements.

**OFFICE USE ONLY:**

LOCATION ELIGIBLE FOR SUBSIDY: YES  NO

Status of Water/Sewer Account Balance: Paid Up to Date  Delinquent

Investigator's Name / Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## APPLICANT INFORMATION

### SECTION C. RELEASE / WAIVER – ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY WAIVER

To be completed by all owners of the property.

**ATTENTION:**

**Signing this document is a pre-condition to participation in the Footing Drain Disconnection and Backwater Valve Installation Subsidy Program. By signing this legal document you give up certain rights, please read carefully.**

**You are entitled to obtain independent legal advice before signing.**

PROPERTY ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

In consideration for participation in the Footing Drain Disconnection and Backwater Valve Installation Subsidy Program (“Program”), I/we, an Applicant(s), understand, acknowledge, and agree that:

- a. I/we am/are the owner(s) of the property stated herein;
- b. **The Applicant(s) are fully and solely responsible for any and all work and maintenance of the work** as carried out through the Program, including but not limited to, the choice of contractors, the selection and/or installation of materials, the work, improvements, and/or modifications conducted, and any and all other work procedures (collectively the “Work”), regardless of whether said Work was carried out as part of, or in association with, the Program;
- c. The Monroe Metropolitan Wastewater System (“System”) **assumes no responsibility for the methods, workmanship, or any action or inaction, by the contractor**, which the Applicant(s) may find to be unacceptable;
- d. Any issues the Applicant(s) may have arising from the Work will be addressed by the Applicant(s) directly with the contractor, and **the System is not responsible for doing so**;
- e. Should any of the Work be removed within 5 years of the completion date, the **total amount** of the subsidy provided through the Program shall be **repaid by the Applicant(s)** to the System;
- f. **The System assumes no responsibility or liability for any loss, damage, injury, expense, or any other matter** that may arise, or that may be incurred, as a result of the Applicant(s)’s participation in the Program, as a consequence of any cause, including the negligence of the contractor, the System, an/or their employees and/or agents;
- g. Participation in the Program is **not a guarantee** by the System that future flooding/backups will not occur. The System recommends the installation of a backwater valve to reduce the probability of basement flooding/backups, the work shall be maintained by the owner, their heirs, future owners, etc;
- h. The Applicant(s) hereby release and hold harmless the System, it employees and/or agents, from any and all Claims associated with participating in the Program, including losses from future sewer backups resulting from the failure of any of the Work carried out under this Program, howsoever arising;
- i. The Applicant(s) are responsible to ensure that all permits required for the Work are obtained within 60 days of receiving Approval of eligibility in the Program to proceed with the eligible work under the program.

I/we understand and agree that I/we have been given the opportunity to seek independent legal advice prior to signing this document, and hereby accept full responsibility for complying with all of the terms set forth therein.

I/we agree that this document will be binding upon myself/ourselves, my/our heirs, next of kin, executors, administrators, and successors.

I/we hereby direct payment of the Program grant to be made to \_\_\_\_\_

**APPLICANT INFORMATION**

**SECTION C. RELEASE / WAIVER - ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY WAIVER**

**I HAVE READ THIS DOCUMENT CAREFULLY AND I ACKNOWLEDGE MY RESPONSIBILITIES AND THE EFFECT OF THIS LIABILITY WAIVER ON MY LEGAL RIGHT AND RESPONSIBILITIES.**

SIGNED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Co-Applicant's Name (if applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Co-Applicant's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

**COSTS:**

Invoice/Receipt Total.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Eligible Subsidy.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Contractor Contact Information (If Applicable)

**KEY DATES:**

Application: \_\_\_\_\_

Initial Approval: \_\_\_\_\_

Permit(s) Finalized: \_\_\_\_\_

**APPROVALS:**

Wastewater: \_\_\_\_\_