# PROPERTY OWNERS: Need help repairing a leaky sewer pipe or disconnecting a foundation drain?

## MCES AND YOUR CITY ARE WORKING TO REDUCE I/I

Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) has measured excessive flow of clear water (also called inflow and infiltration, or I/I) into the regional sanitary sewer system from your city.

Clear water gets into sanitary sewers in several ways. Two common private sources are aging, leaky service laterals that run from houses and other buildings to the street sewer pipe, and foundation drains that are connected to the sewer system.

**It's an environmental problem.** I/I can cause sewage back-ups into homes or spills into the environment. And once the clear water gets into the sewer, it will be treated, discharged into a river, and lost to Minnesota instead of infiltrating into our groundwater aquifers for use by future generations.

**It's a costly problem, too.** Property owners, through their municipal utility bills, pay for the unnecessary treatment of this clear water, which takes up expensive capacity in sewer pipes and treatment plants.

Your city is working to reduce I/I in your local sewer system. Your property may have been inspected already, with the result that you need to make repairs. Or an inspection may be in your future.

## GRANTS ARE AVAILABLE TO DEFRAY THE COST

**The 2013 Minnesota Legislature appropriated $1,000,000 in Clean Water Fund monies to help property owners make certain repairs to reduce I/I. MCES is passing 100% of that funding on to cities, which are also passing it on to property owners. Cities are administering the grant program.**

CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT

# ELIGIBLE REPAIRS

**Repairs eligible for a grant include:**

- Rehabilitation or replacement of any sewer service lateral between the first cleanout inside the building to the connection to the municipally owned trunk or lateral sewer system.
- Disconnection of foundation drains.

In order to qualify for reimbursement, the service line or foundation drain must be active and serving an occupied building. All replacements and repairs must be made with materials and methods consistent with city and state codes.

# ELIGIBLE COSTS

MCES grants will cover **one-third of actual, reasonable and verifiable repair costs, with a maximum of $2,000 per site.** Eligible costs include:

Out-of-pocket repair costs. **No owner labor costs are eligible.**

- Inspection costs are eligible ONLY if the service line inspection results in eligible repairs.
- Expenses incurred for work inspected no earlier than July 1, 2013.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Each city's program may be a little different, so it is best to contact your city for more information about the application process.

Visit **www.metrocouncil.org** to learn more about inflow and infiltration, as well as the Council's award-winning regional wastewater system.

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# HOW THE GRANT PROCESS WORKS

1. Call your city or check their website for a grant application. At a minimum, you will be asked to supply this information:
   - Owner name and building address
   - Type of building (single family, multi-family, commercial)
   - Date and copy of contractor bid/estimate
   - Type of work proposed
2. Cities will compile applications and submit them to MCES monthly. MCES will review the technical details and approve grants by applicant. Grant applications may take several weeks to be reviewed and processed.
3. Your city will notify you of a grant decision and maximum award amount.
4. When the work is complete, you submit receipts to your city to get reimbursed.
5. Your city will submit information to MCES certifying that the work for each grant was done and that auditable records are in hand.
6. Talk to your city about how and when they will reimburse you.