

**Village of Elmwood Park  
Home Flood Proofing Assistance Program**



***Program Outline &  
Grant Application***

**GRANT PROGRAM**

**ELMWOOD PARK HOME-FLOOD ASSISTANCE**

## INTRODUCTION

The Village of Elmwood Park is served by combined sewers which carry sewage and storm water in the same pipes. During intense rains, the capacity of the combined sewer system is not adequate to carry the peak flow, resulting in pressurized sewers. When pressurized, the combined sewage can backflow through house sewers into basements if there is no backflow prevention.

The Village has now decided to help single family homeowners defray a portion of the costs of providing protection from the backup of sewage in the basement. This approach will offer more immediate results for basement protection.

This grant program is designed to work through the administrative process of how the Village can best serve its residents. The grant program intent is to offset a portion of the expense that a homeowner will incur to revise the house plumbing such that sewage cannot backflow into the house when the combined sewer is pressurized. There are three basic options available to the homeowner as listed below:

- 1) Modification of the soil stack to direct the flow out of the house in a new **OVERHEAD SEWER** and elimination of all gravity drainage below the basement floor slab.
- 2) Installation of an interior or exterior **BACKFLOW PREVENTION VALVE** and bypass pump on the house lateral in an underground vault.
- 3) **LIFT STATION** system within an inside or outside underground vault.
- 4) Installation of new **drain tile** installed inside the home adjacent to the existing house Foundation. The drain tile would drain to a new sump pump which would discharge The water into the rear yard. The sump pump discharge shall be located in a way where there are no adverse drainage impacts to adjacent properties.

Each approach has different costs and degrees of homeowner disruption, as well as different implications on the homeowner's use of the revised plumbing.

**It should be noted, however, that option one (1) above, the installation of a new overhead sewer, is strongly recommended to provide the greatest protection available under all weather conditions and storm events to prevent sewage from entering the home.**

This program does not include updating or enhancements to current systems, however, our plumbing inspectors will inspect your current system for free. If you have an old system and choose to replace the entire system then this program will help cover these costs.

## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

This program has several goals. The primary goals are to provide protection from the back up of sewage into basements increase property values by eliminating detrimental basement back up, eliminate unsafe sanitary conditions, and to save substantial taxpayer dollars in the long term.

### **Homeowner Protection**

Modification of the plumbing in a building can prevent the backflow of sewage into the basement during times the combined sewer system is overloaded. Installation of pump(s) to lift the building's sewage above the elevation of the sewer in the street will provide this positive protection and can be accomplished before relief sewers can be constructed to reduce the risk of basement backup.

### **Quotes are Required**

Homeowners are encouraged to obtain multiple quotes (minimum of two required) from contractors to complete the overhead sewer, the backflow prevention valve, or lift station.

### **Application Process**

Village Inspectors will review and inspect each application. No work can begin until the Village approves and signs off on the application. This program will be limited to the amount appropriated by the Village of Elmwood Park President and Board of Trustees. The grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis.

## **ELIGIBLE REIMBURSEMENTS**

The success of the reimbursement program depends on establishing a clear set of guidance documents which set forth the Village's policy on which costs are and are not eligible for reimbursement by the Village. The following guidelines are set for eligibility.

### **Eligible Costs**

- É Cost of location, excavation and exposure of the house lateral, including the support of existing structures, for re-connection of a new overhead sewer to the existing lateral.
- É Cost of a new sump pit, sump pump, and associated electrical and plumbing work needed to lift drainage from basement plumbing fixtures to an overhead sewer.
- É Cost of trenching and concrete floor replacement.
- É Cost of installing a backflow prevention valve with a bypass (new sump and sump pump in an underground vault) and associated electrical and plumbing work.
- É Applicable permit fees.

### **Maximum Reimbursements**

1. Overhead sewers limited to 50% of cost to a maximum grant of \$1,500.00.
2. Backflow prevention valve limited to 50% of cost to a maximum grant of \$1,500.00.
3. Lift station limited to 50% of cost to a maximum grant of \$1,500.00.

### **Non-eligible Costs**

- É Removal and replacement of interior basement walls and finishes.
- É Use of materials not meeting the requirements of the Village's Guide Specifications.
- É Planting of new landscaping (brushes and trees) other than grass.
- É New electrical panels and/or upgrading the house electrical supply.

**VILLAGE OF ELMWOOD PARK  
HOME FLOOD-PROOFING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

**GUIDE SPECIFICATIONS**

All work performed under this program shall meet all applicable requirements of the Building Codes of the Village of Elmwood Park including but not limited to the Illinois Plumbing Code, National Electric Code and International Building Codes.

The Contractor shall provide the homeowner with at least three (3) year warranties on all workmanship and provide the homeowner with manufacturer's warranties on all equipment.

The Contractor shall provide the homeowner and Village with as-built drawings depicting final installation conditions. Drawings may be sketches that are not to scale but which show actual dimensions of the installation relative to the house. Drawings shall also be accompanied with applicable specifications and manufacturer catalog information on all valve and pump units.

Nothing in these Guide Specifications shall prevent the homeowner and contractor from including further specifications or more strict specifications for the work or from including additional work items in their contract.

**Sump and Pump**

The sump basin shall be minimum 18" x 30."

The ejector pump shall be a minimum 2" submersible pump which is capable of pumping from 25 to 90 gallons per minute at 5 feet total dynamic head. The pump shall have a minimum horsepower of ½. Manufacturer's pump specifications and catalog sheets must be provided.

**Wiring/Electric**

All work shall conform to the minimum requirements of the *2011 National Electric Code*.

All pumps shall be provided separate dedicated circuits and pumps shall operate on normal 110 volt household electric service. The electrical lead-in to the pump shall be long enough to enable easy removal of the pump from the basis for maintenance purposes.

**Outdoor Backflow Prevention Valve**

Backflow prevention valves for the sanitary sewer house lateral shall be the same diameter as the house lateral. Access for maintenance and repair of the backflow prevention valve shall be provided by installing the unit in a minimum 48" precast vault in the front yard of the residence.

### **Line Locating**

The Contractor shall locate all sewer lines to establish existing drainage conditions prior to starting work. Location shall be accomplished using an appropriate sonic radio or electric field emitting device intended for sewer line locating purposes.

### **Restoration**

All interior and exterior surfaces disturbed due to excavation shall be restored in-kind by the Contractor. Interior restoration, however shall be limited to replacement of the Portland cement concrete floor slabs and not finished surfaces such as tile or carpeting.

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