



2025-2026 State Legislative Priorities

Issue: Palm Bay Septic-to-Sewer Conversions

Legislative Action Requested:

Funding Request: \$5,000,000

Match Amount: \$2,353,050

Funding support to provide monetary assistance to Palm Bay residents for septic-to-sewer conversions.

Background:

The City is requesting State appropriations in the amount of \$5,000,000 to provide financial assistance to approximately 415 households currently on septic where the City's centralized sewer is available. Connection to City sewer averages \$12,000 per connection. If State appropriations are received, the City will waive approximately \$5,670 in utilities-related connection fees, as authorized by City Council on October 5, 2023, to ensure that State funding is maximized to assist as many households as possible

The City continues to identify alternative sources to fund all septic-to-sewer conversion phases, to include Brevard County's Save Our Indian River Lagoon (SOIRL) grant program and Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (FDEP) Water Quality Grant Program. The City submitted a grant application to FDEP's Water Quality Grant Program following Council authorization in July 2024.

This funding will support the City's efforts to comply with the Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal System (OSTDS) Remediation Plan under the Clean Waterways Act (Senate Bill 712). Whereas, the FDEP has determined the need to further limit nutrients from the discharges of OSTDS sources within the city to achieve the nutrient reduction requirements outlined within the Indian River Lagoon Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP). Section 373.469, Florida Statutes requires any commercial or residential property with an existing OSTDS located within the Indian River Lagoon BMAP to connect to central sewer, if available, or upgrade to nutrient reduction OSTDS by July 1, 2030.