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Clean Water Coalition Helps 64 Vero Beach Homeowners Connect to Sewer System

VERO BEACH, FL – The Clean Water Coalition of Indian River County is celebrating helping local homeowners meet the City of Vero Beach's mandatory sewer connection requirements. Through an innovative financing program, 64 homeowners have already been approved for grants that make connecting to the city's Septic Tank Effluent Pumping (STEP) system affordable and accessible.

The upfront cost of \$14,000 to \$16,000 is a barrier for many households, particularly those in the ALICE population (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) of families who earn too much to qualify for traditional assistance programs but struggle to afford large, unexpected expenses.

"We're thrilled to have already helped 64 families connect to the sewer system, thereby protecting the Lagoon from septic pollution" said Judy Orcutt, President of Clean Water Coalition of Indian River County. "This program ensures that meeting environmental requirements doesn't always create financial hardship for working families. We encourage homeowners in the City of Vero Beach water and sewer service area to apply while funding is still available."

The program is funded through a public-private partnership led by the Clean Water Coalition of Indian River County, with support from five additional partners: Indian River Land Trust, Indian River Community Foundation, One Lagoon/IRLNEP, Economic Opportunities Council, and the City of Vero Beach. This partnership has raised enough funding for approximately 150 installations.

How to Apply

Interested homeowners must meet the following qualifications:

- Own and occupy a homesteaded property
- Reside within the City of Vero Beach Water and Sewer Utility Service Area (you must receive a City of Vero Beach water bill)
- Meet income guidelines
- STEP mainlines available or soon to be available

Funding is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

To determine if you qualify, contact the Economic Opportunities Council at (772) 226-3900.

For general information call Keith at 410-533-4566.

About STEP Systems

STEP stands for Septic Tank Effluent Pumping. These systems include a septic tank and pump that convey liquid waste under pressure to the public sewer system, while solid waste remains in the tank where it naturally degrades. The City of Vero Beach Water and Sewer Department maintains the systems, inspects tanks, and pumps out the solid waste.

About Clean Water Coalition of Indian River County

The Clean Water Coalition of Indian River County is dedicated to protecting and restoring water quality in Indian River County through collaborative partnerships and community-focused programs.

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