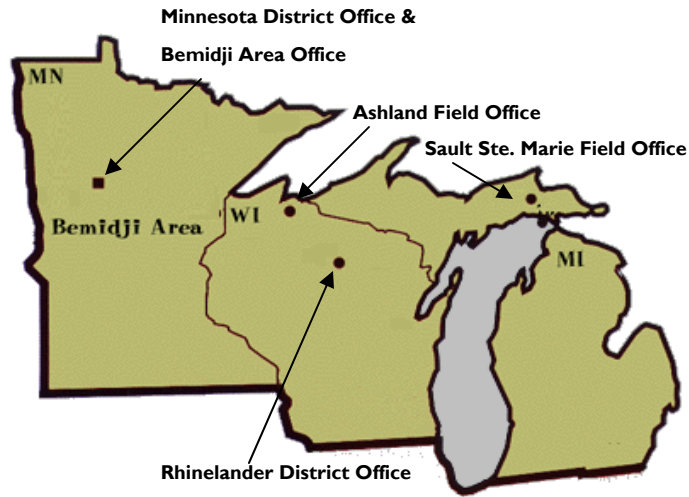
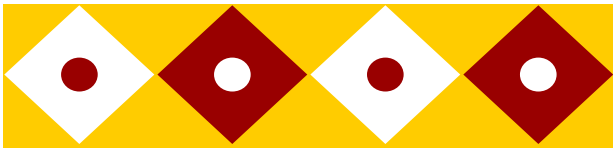


The mission of the Indian Health Service (IHS) is to raise the health status of the American Indian and Alaska Native people to the highest possible level. To carry out this mission, the IHS provides comprehensive primary health care and disease prevention services. The Sanitation Facilities Construction (SFC) Program is the environmental engineering component of the IHS health delivery system. The SFC Program provides technical and financial assistance to Indian tribes and Alaska Native communities (tribes) for the cooperative development and continuing operation of safe water, wastewater, and solid waste systems, and related support facilities.



Bemidji Area IHS
Division of Sanitation Facilities Construction

Bemidji Area Office
Phone: 218-444-0500

Minnesota District Office
Phone: 218-444-0518
Fax: 218-444-0510

Rhinelander District Office
Phone: 715-365-5145
Fax: 715-365-5113

Ashland Field Office
Phone: 715-682-5531
Fax: 715-682-6657

Sault Ste. Marie Field Office
Phone: 906-632-3151
Fax: 906-635-0310

Sanitation Facilities Construction

Individual Water and Sewer Services

Eligibility Requirements



Services Available:

IHS provides sanitation facilities to American Indian and Alaska Native homes and communities. IHS funds sanitation facilities to serve homes only. The status of the land, either trust or non-trust, does not affect eligibility.

IHS provides adequate facilities to help protect and improve the health of Native American people. IHS will also provide you with training to operate and maintain your system.

IHS does not provide funds to serve commercial, industrial, or other types of establishments including office buildings, nursing homes, health clinics, schools, hospitals, and hospital quarters (they can be included in a IHS project if the funding to serve these establishments comes from an alternate source). IHS can serve homes for the elderly if they are tribally owned, non-profit, and not a health care facility.

Individual Eligibility:

A person is considered to be eligible for IHS sanitation facilities if they are an enrolled member of any federally recognized Tribe and they are the head of household or his/her spouse. Service to individuals is limited to one time, except under three circumstances:

- Applicant receives new home under tribally sponsored program
- Improved sanitation facilities become available (i.e. new community water system is installed and a service line can serve the home rather than an individual well)
- Applicant changes principle dwelling place due to a change in the family unit (i.e. death, divorce).



Applications for second service are reviewed carefully to ensure that the participant does not take unfair advantage of the SFC program.

Home Eligibility:

A home is considered to be eligible if it is a 24-hour year-round family dwelling and meets the home condition requirements. Mobile homes, rental homes, and homes of medical referral patients have specific limitations and are reviewed on a case by case basis. Ineligible homes are:

- Second homes or vacation homes
- Travel or camp trailers
- Homes funded under HUD housing programs or existing homes managed with HUD funds.

To be served, your home/site must:

- Be located in an IHS Contract Health Service Delivery Area (CHSDA).
- Be in sound condition and meet acceptable construction standards for size, health and safety.
- Have an adequate foundation or for mobile homes wheels removed, blocked, anchored, and skirted.
- Have a safe and fully functional electrical system in the home and have permanent electric service to the site.



- Have protection from the elements and vectors by having adequate exterior doors, windows, screens, roof and insulation.
- Have adequate leak-free plumbing including kitchen sink, water heater, a complete bathroom with toilet, bathtub, and sink.
- Meet the home site requirements of IHS including lot size and access.
- Be reviewed and cleared for environmental and archeological impacts.

To serve your home IHS needs:

- Approval from Tribal council or tribally designated authority (IHS Application and order of tribal priority)
- Legal verification you can occupy the land. (Land Assignment Lease or Deed)
- Property corners and home location staked by the homeowner
- A signed individual agreement
- Home site to be accessible for construction
- Verification that electrical power is installed to the site
- Environmental clearance for your site.



Your responsibilities:

- Provide needed documentation to IHS (as listed above).
- Obtain required well and/or septic permits from local health department, if applicable.
- Ensure that home location and property corners are staked accurately.
- Ensure the site/ lot is cleared of vegetation and/or debris and accessible for construction.
- Keep IHS/ Tribal representative informed on any changes to your site or application status.
- Upkeep or operation and maintenance of the system upon completion.