



Basement Flooding Prevention Grant Program Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Basement Flooding Grant Program?

The Basement Flooding Prevention Grant program will provide financial assistance to homeowners living in Brantford to undertake eligible works that reduce the risk of basement flooding.

2. When does the grant program become available to me?

The program will take effect on September 4th, 2024, for homeowners in the City of Brantford affected by the heavy rainfall on July 16, 2024.

3. How many grant programs are currently available for homeowners in the City of Brantford who have been impacted by the heavy rainfall event on July 16, 2024?

The City of Brantford has approved two grants: a [Basement Flooding Prevention Grant Program](#) and a [Residential Compassionate Flood Relief Grant](#) to assist residents.

4. Am I eligible to apply for the Basement Flooding Prevention Grant Program?

You are eligible to apply for a grant if the following criteria are met:

- You are a homeowner in the City of Brantford impacted by the heavy rainfall event on July 16, 2024, and want to complete remedial works to lower your risk of basement flooding,
- Are the owner(s) of a residential property and live in the home,
- Have current and paid property taxes at the time of application,
- Have not received a subsidy through the previous basement flooding programs (2010, 2018); and
- Your house cannot be under a new construction warranty.

5. What if I was not impacted by the heavy rainfall on July 16, 2024, but would still like to get basement flood prevention work completed?

The Basement Flooding Prevention Grant Program is expected to be extended to all homeowners in the City by 2025. Additional details will be available by March 2025.

6. What kind of preventative flooding works are considered eligible under this program and how much am I entitled to receive?

The maximum allowable grant per household is \$5,000 covering 80 percent of the cost of eligible remedial works to a maximum amount as follows:

a) Basement Flooding Risk Assessment - \$300

You can receive up to \$300 to help pay for a professional evaluation regarding potential water entry points into your home and how to reduce risks. Make sure to include a copy of the report and any video evidence. Only one quote is required for this item. You can apply with or before applying for other eligible works.

- b) Disconnection of downspouts with capping of sewer access - \$500**
Where downspouts are found connected to the sewer, disconnection is a mandatory requirement to be eligible for any further grant amounts under this program.

You can receive up to \$500 towards the disconnection of downspouts from the sewer system. Disconnection is a requirement to be eligible for any grants from the program. Please see the [Property Standards By-law](#) (465.22.4) for more information about sump pumps on your property.

Make sure to include pictures showing the downspout's condition before starting any work with your application and include a sketch of the proposed work. After disconnecting, you must send us pictures of the completed work and a copy of the paid invoice.

- c) Installation of an Internal Backwater Valve - \$3,000**

You can receive up to \$3,000 towards installing a backwater valve inside the home that meets the [Ontario Building Code](#). You can install it on the storm sewer and/or sanitary sewer.

A [plumbing permit](#) is required for the remedial works.

- d) Installation of an External Backwater Valve - \$5,000**

You can receive up to \$5,000 towards installing a backwater valve outside the home within the private property that meets the [Ontario Building Code](#). You can install it on the storm sewer and/or sanitary sewer.

A [plumbing permit](#) is required for the remedial works.

- e) Installation of New Sump pit and pump with Battery Back-up - \$4,000**

You can receive up to \$4,000 to help offset the cost of installing a new sump pit pump with battery back-up. A sump pit and sump pump must be installed in the basement to collect water from the weeping tiles and discharge to a permeable outside surface.

A [building permit](#) is required for the installation of a sump pump.

These works are not eligible for existing sump pits and pumps.

The grant program does not cover maintenance, repair, or replacement of existing sump pits and pumps. Only new installations are eligible for consideration under the program.

- f) Storm Lateral Repairs – Up to \$2,000**

You can receive up to \$2,000 to help offset the cost of repairing storm lateral on private property from an existing storm private drain connection stub at the property line to the dwelling unit.

- g) Other remedial works, describe – Up to \$2,000**

You can receive up to \$2,000 in other recommended remedial works that address flooding issues. The City will consider them for grant eligibility on a case-by-case basis.

- 7. Can I apply for costs to replace or repair any of my current preventative flooding equipment or for costs towards maintenance work to prevent flooding, e.g. cracked foundation, leaking window wells or plugged foundation drains?**

Direct replacements or repairs to your existing system or devices are not eligible under this program as these are considered to be issues of upkeep or maintenance on your property. However, storm lateral repairs can be covered up to \$2,000.

8. How can I learn more about this grant program?

Please visit [Brantford.ca/FloodingGrants](https://brantford.ca/FloodingGrants) for program information and details or reach out to Customer service at 519-759-4150 ext. 5429.

9. Can I still apply for a grant to cover my flood damage cleanup costs?

There is currently a [Residential Compassionate Flood Relief Grant Program](https://brantford.ca/FloodingGrants) for the flooding that occurred on July 16, 2024. More information can be found at [Brantford.ca/FloodingGrants](https://brantford.ca/FloodingGrants).

10. Who can I contact for advice on preventing future flooding in my basement and to get quotes?

You can call a plumbing contractor or sewer drain layer who is licensed by the City of Brantford. Homeowners are strongly encouraged to obtain three or more quotes and conduct due diligence before hiring a City of Brantford licensed contractor by obtaining references and asking questions throughout the quotation process.

You may also wish to have a flooding risk assessment performed. This is an expense that is eligible under the current grant program for reimbursement. Applicants can pay for a professional evaluation of potential sources of water entry into the home and causes of flooding. This can be done by a third-party consultant with residential flooding expertise or a contractor who conducts an in-depth investigation of plumbing connections using CCTV, dye testing and/or smoke testing techniques or other means to support their analysis. Depending upon the information you already have, it should be noted that only professionals with comprehensive knowledge of flooding mechanisms may be able to identify flooding causes so it may be prudent to start with a flooding expert.

11. Is there any concern about the grant program expiring before I am able to take advantage of it?

Grant approvals are dependent on funding availability, so it's possible that funding may run out as applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Additionally, funding agreements will only be valid for six months from the date of approval and will expire if:

- Work is not completed within the 6-month timeframe
- We do not receive confirmation of payment for work completed
- Inspection or verification of eligible works is not satisfactory
- Any other forms are incomplete (i.e. completed Commitment Letter)

12. I have already installed a backwater valve and/or sump pump to prevent future flooding. Can I submit these expenses under this grant program?

If the remediation work was completed as a result of the flooding that occurred on July 16, 2024, you may be eligible under the basement flood grant program. Work completed prior to the July 16th flooding will not be covered by this program.

13. I applied for the Residential Compassionate Flood Relief Grant Program but was denied for costs to install preventative flooding devices (e.g. backwater valve and/or sump pump). Will I be eligible to apply to the Basement Flooding Prevention Grant Program?

Yes. You can call a plumbing contractor or sewer drain layer who is licensed by the City of Brantford. Homeowners are strongly encouraged to obtain three or more quotes and conduct due diligence before hiring a City of Brantford licensed contractor by obtaining references and asking questions throughout the quotation process.

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14. If I applied for the Residential Compassionate Flood Relief Grant Program do I still need to apply for the Basement Flooding Prevention Grant Program?

Yes, you must still apply for the Basement Flooding Prevention Grant Program if you want to install flood prevention devices mentioned to reduce your risk of flooding. The Basement Flooding Prevention Grant Program is expected to be extended to all homeowners in the City by 2025. Additional details will be available by March 2025.