**How will you decide who gets these systems?**

To be eligible to have a water treatment system installed at no cost, your water must have a nitrate level greater than the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) drinking water standard of 10 milligrams per liter (mg/l), and your home must have an individual at high public health risk from nitrate. If the number of households eligible for financial assistance exceeds the funds available, then the following criteria will be used in the order presented to prioritize and select the households that will receive financial assistance. Eligible households that do not receive financial assistance will be offered the option of purchasing a system at a reduced cost.

1. Household income level. All other things being equal, a higher priority will be given to low income households.

2. Nitrate levels based on test results from a certified lab. All other things being equal, a higher priority will be given to those households having the highest nitrate levels. Nitrate levels will be classed into groups for prioritization. The lower the group number, the higher the priority.

   **Nitrate Level**
   a. Group 1 = greater than 40 mg/l
   b. Group 2 = greater than 30 mg/l to 40 mg/l
   c. Group 3 = greater than 20 mg/l to 30 mg/l
   d. Group 4 = 10 mg/l to 20 mg/l

3. First come, first served. All other things being equal, a higher priority will be given to households based on the order in which requests for financial assistance are received by the Department.