Financial Services
Audit Committee Communication

Date: January 6, 2025

To: Great Lakes Water Authority Audit Committee

From: Haran Stanley, Affordability & Assistance Management Professional

Re: Affordability & Assistance Update

Service Delivery Partner Engagement

The Affordability & Assistance team regularly collaborates with our three Water Residential Assistance Program (WRAP) Service Delivery Partners: the Macomb County Community Action Agency, United Way for Southeastern Michigan, and Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency. Each agency has reported a steady increase in WRAP program enrollments and a need for water utility assistance for the second quarter of the fiscal year.

- Wayne Metro recently received an additional $1.5 million in Local Water Utility Assistance (LWUA) grant funds from the State of Michigan.
- United Way for Southeastern Michigan continues to enroll residents in both WRAP and the Hardship Assistance Program, managed by the Oakland County Water Resource Commissioner.
- Macomb Community Action is also witnessing a steady rise in demand and is effectively utilizing both WRAP and LWUA funds.

Affordability Update

On Monday, December 3, 2024, the Michigan League of Conservation Voters coordinated a press conference featuring lawmakers, social organizations, and other stakeholders from across the state. The conference focused on the importance of water affordability and the potential impact of the Water Affordability bill package on the state.

Despite intensive efforts by the water affordability work group – and many others across the state of Michigan, the bill package did not move forward. This effort brought together a workgroup with many perspectives that collaborated well. We look forward to ongoing engagement related to this important matter.

Proposed Action: Receive and file this report.