



Financial Services Audit Committee Communication

Date: February 17, 2025

To: Great Lakes Water Authority Audit Committee

From: Haran Stanley, Affordability & Assistance Management Professional

Re: Affordability & Assistance Update

Service Delivery Partner Engagement

As we move into 2025, the Affordability & Assistance team will actively engage with our service delivery partners to evaluate the projected needs in their respective areas. It is imperative that we effectively address the evolving needs of households across our region, especially as the challenges of water affordability continue to shift.

The Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency is once again hosting quarterly water program meetings on Tuesdays for the municipalities in Water Residential Assistance Program (WRAP) Area 3, which encompasses Wayne County, Monroe County, and Washtenaw County. The Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) also participates in those meetings.

Affordability Update

In 2023, Michigan State Senator Stephanie Chang organized a Water Affordability Work Group made up of various lawmakers, utilities, non-profit groups, and other stakeholders. The group has been meeting weekly since its inception and is focused on refining legislation that would provide the framework for a sustainable statewide water affordability plan. This legislation was introduced in the fall of 2024 but was not voted on during the lame-duck session. The group plans to continue its efforts to advance water affordability initiatives across the state. One way we support the effort is by providing WRAP-related knowledge and information sharing.

Proposed Action: Receive and file this report.