



Financial Services Audit Committee Communication

Date: October 24, 2025

To: Great Lakes Water Authority Audit Committee

From: Haran Stanley, Affordability & Assistance Manager

Re: Affordability & Assistance Update

Water Residential Assistance Program (WRAP) Update

With the start of FY 2026, July 2025 saw the implementation of a few changes within WRAP:

- GLWA adjusted the WRAP service areas from five areas to six areas. Washtenaw County, a new and separate service area, is now served by United Way for Southeastern Michigan (United Way SEM) as WRAP Area 6.
- Genesee County Community Action Resource Department (GCCARD) is now the new service delivery partner for the City of Flint, WRAP Area 2.
- The Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency (Wayne Metro) continues to serve Area 3 but is focused only on Wayne County (excluding the City of Detroit) and Monroe County.

On October 1, 2025, all four WRAP service delivery partners - GCCARD, United Way SEM, Wayne Metro, and Macomb Community Action Agency (MCA) - were invited to take a tour of the GLWA Water Resource Recovery Facility. Sajit George, the Manager of Operations, and his team led the group on a two-hour tour, describing and showcasing the various processes involved in wastewater treatment.

Affordability Updates

There are several updates this month.

- The Water Affordability Workgroup continues meeting biweekly to discuss, review, and revise the Water Affordability bills planned for presentation to the Michigan Senate during the current term.
- The state budget now includes \$5 million for water affordability programs.
- On October 12, 2025, The Detroit News published an Op-ed written by Jeff Miles, vice president of Community Impact at United Way for Southeastern Michigan. That op-ed is attached.
- The Michigan Senate Committee on Housing & Human Services will have a hearing on Tuesday, October 28, 2025 to hear testimony in support of the water affordability bills, SB248 – SB253, from advocates, utilities, and other stakeholders from across Michigan.

- The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, in conjunction with the Bureau of Community Action and Economic Opportunity, has created a [Water Assistance Program dashboard](#). This interactive site enables viewers to access grant program information, including the number of households enrolled by county or city, grantee allocation, amount expended, amount remaining, and grantee contact details.

Conferences and Events

During the recent American Water Works Association (AWWA) Michigan Section Annual Conference & Exhibits (ACE) in September 2025, as chair of the Women On Water Committee, I led a group of nearly 30 women in an event that focused on Mindfulness and Gratitude. The group was joined by special guest GLWA Organizational Development – Benefits and Wellness Manager,

On September 29, 2025, I attended the Michigan Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy 2025 Environmental Justice Conference. This was the third conference, which is held every other year. This year's focus was on air quality and energy justice. The importance of water was highlighted through a panel discussion on community involvement in water advocacy.

Annual Fiscal Year Report

Included with this month's update is a review of WRAP's success for the fiscal year 2025, as highlighted in the attached report. This report provides an overview of the number of households that have received WRAP services and offers a comprehensive breakdown of the program's utilization by service area.

Proposed Action: Receive and file this update and report.