



Financial Services

Audit Committee Communication

Affordability & Assistance Update

April 29, 2024

Contacts: June White, Affordability & Assistance Manager
Haran Stanley, Affordability & Assistance Management Professional

WRAP Update

Meeting with Community Action Agencies across the region and Water Residential Assistance Program (WRAP) Service Delivery Partners to ensure that vital funding opportunities are recognized. The team is also updating procedures to collect and review the WRAP Statement of Expenses (SOEs) and the Lifeline Program Funding Requests (PFRs).

Affordability Update

The Michigan House of Representatives Health and Human Services Committee and the Michigan Senate Health and Human Services Committee held hearings this month related to the SB 690 Supplemental Appropriation for Water Assistance of \$60 million dollars. This proposed appropriation mirrors a similar appropriation passed in the Spring of 2023 for \$60 million dollars, which was awarded as a \$25 million dollar allocation in October 2023 and named the *Water Affordability Grant*. The remaining \$35 million was allocated to the *Local Water Utility Affordability Plan (LWUA)*.

The Affordability & Assistance Team has been working with Service Delivery Partners and others to apply for the [MDHHS Lead Education and Faucet Replacement Program](#). The program is part of the State of Michigan's 'Get Ahead of Lead' strategy and seeks to prevent lead exposure from drinking water for certain high-risk populations. Funding of \$3 million is available with maximum awards of \$700 thousand and the possibility of noncompetitive annual renewals. The application due date is April 26, 2024.

Key Initiatives

1. Discovery Phase – Establish an electronic data extraction process directly from Service Delivery Partner systems to create a comprehensive database
2. Discovery Phase – Develop a grant-seeking proposal package to identify additional sources of funding
3. In-process – On-ramping of new Affordability & Assistance Manager and updating work plan for the next 12 months.
4. In-Process – Convert legacy monthly program funding requests from a myriad of formats to a “WRAP Database” that better supports program management
5. In-Process – Create a WRAP commitment forecasting model for Service Delivery Partners
6. In-Process – Engage in statewide conversations with stakeholders and leaders related to water affordability matters in Michigan
7. Final Stage – Update WRAP program manual and Frequently Asked Questions documents