



STATE OF MICHIGAN

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

ROBERT GORDON
DIRECTOR

July 8, 2020

Dear Community Water Supplier,

On July 1, 2020, Governor Whitmer signed the State COVID-19 Relief [Senate Bill 690](#) (SB 690) which provides direct relief across Michigan to help families, keep workers safe, and support small businesses. Within SB 690, a Residential Emergency Water Assistance Relief Program totaling \$25 million was established to be coordinated and implemented by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), Water Utility Providers, and the Community Action Agency (CAA) Network.

The MDHHS will provide up to \$25 million in payment assistance for water and wastewater utilities designed to help eligible households retain water service as an essential public health method to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. To be eligible, a residential water service customer must be eligible for the food assistance program and must have accumulated new arrearages or fees after March 1, 2020 and during the COVID-19 state of emergency order.

The MDHHS - Bureau of Community Action and Economic Opportunity (BCAEO), will implement the water assistance program through grant agreements with local Community Action Agencies (CAAs). CAAs will work locally with participating water utility providers to make arrearage reimbursement payments to providers for eligible residential water customers. Water utility providers can identify their local CAA by using the locator map on <https://mcac.memberclicks.net/agency-map>.

Data sharing agreements with all partners will be needed to successfully administer this opportunity. As we prepare to develop a streamlined approach to administer the water assistance program, we need your assistance in completing a survey to:

- Identify your participation
- Ensure residential customer data can be transferred in a common format to be evaluated with State Records
- Estimate a reasonable timeframe to accomplish goals in SB 690
- Coordinate and enhance relationships with your local Community Action Agency
- Share comments, concerns, and reservations on participating in the program (include local regulations, time constraints, and barriers in program participation)

Please complete [this survey](#) by **July 17, 2020**.

A webinar will be scheduled on July 30, 2020 for participating water suppliers and CAAs to discuss the of this program, data agreement templates, data collection methods, and program timeline.

If you have any questions, please contact MDHHS-BCAEO@michigan.gov.

Sincerely,

Kris Schoenow, Executive Director
Bureau of Community Action and Economic Opportunity
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services