



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
 PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
 COMMONWEALTH KEYSTONE BUILDING  
 400 NORTH STREET  
 HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120

December 21, 2023

TO: Members of the Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation  
 FROM: The Commissioners of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission

**Re: Action is needed to continue to help our most vulnerable citizens. The members of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission urge you to support funding for a permanent Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program**

As members of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, we encourage you to continue funding the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) for Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) and to create a mechanism to permanently fund a low-income program like LIHWAP for water customers. The Labor, Health and Human Services Committee’s FY24 appropriations bill does not include any funding for low-income water assistance.

Water is an essential utility service for which there is no substitute. Communities across Pennsylvania rely on water systems to provide safe drinking water, nourish our families, run our homes and businesses, and protect public health.

As the first federal program to exclusively assist low-income families with their water and wastewater bills, LIHWAP assisted over 430,000 households since it was created. In Pennsylvania, 52,520 LIHWAP grants were issued totaling \$43,879,008, with an average grant amount of \$552. Pennsylvania’s Department of Human Services received 153,831 applications for LIHWAP grants and 912 water and wastewater vendors participated in the program.

Access to clean and safe drinking water is essential for every person’s health, daily living, sanitation, and ability to function in society. The lack of running water makes a dwelling uninhabitable.

If the LIHWAP program lapses, there is no question that many will suffer. LIHWAP has proven to be a successful program in getting assistance to those who need it the most.

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission encourages you to support continued funding for LIHWAP in FY24 including appropriations requests to assure continued critical federal water assistance to the most vulnerable to help them to pay for water service.

Sincerely,

**Stephen M. DeFrank**  
 Chairman

**Kimberly M. Barrow**  
 Vice Chair

**Ralph V. Yanora**  
 Commissioner

**Kathryn L. Zeffuss**  
 Commissioner

**John F. Coleman, Jr.**  
 Commissioner