

Quarterly Report

**To the Rate Board as Required by the
FY2024-2025 Rate Determination**

Philadelphia Water Department

April 30, 2024



City of

Philadelphia



April 30, 2024

Philadelphia Water, Sewer and Storm Water Rate Board
1515 Arch Street, 17th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102-1595

Chairman Popowsky and Members of the Rate Board:

Attached please find the second quarterly report provided pursuant to the Philadelphia Water, Sewer and Storm Water Rate Board's Rate Determination, dated June 21, 2023, covering the period January 1 to March 31, 2024. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

Susan Crosby, Esq.
Deputy Revenue Commissioner for Water
Department of Revenue

Lawrence Yangalay
Deputy Water Commissioner
Philadelphia Water Department

Enclosure

CC: Service List (2023 General Rate Case)

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following report provides a quarterly update for January-March 2024 regarding key metrics of interest to the Philadelphia Water, Sewer and Storm Water Rate Board (“Rate Board”), including information related to Tiered Assistance Program (“TAP”) administration, enrollment, retention, and outreach as well as enforcement policies, stormwater rate design and credit policy, and external funding opportunities being pursued by the Philadelphia Water Department (“PWD” or “Department”).

Regarding TAP enrollment and administration, in January, February, and March

- 35,514 applicants were enrolled in TAP, 26,173 of them for the first time.¹
- 214 customers received a total of \$103,572.52 in Penalty Forgiveness.²
- 14,799 customers received a total of \$2,030,800.60 in Principal Forgiveness.³
- 929 applications were not enrolled in TAP.⁴ Reasons for and outcomes of denied applications vary by circumstance and are discussed in detail in section 3.
- There were 21,500 total TAP participants⁵ in December.
- There were 49,658 total TAP participants in March.

The number of TAP participants more than doubled in this quarter. This is due almost entirely to the second phase of pre-qualification, a data-sharing partnership with the City’s Office of Integrated Data for Evidence and Action (“IDEA”). IDEA provided a list of customers who have participated in programs with eligibility requirements similar to TAP’s, and an unprecedented 33,853 new enrollees were added in February and March through this effort.

An additional 511 customers were pre-qualified and enrolled in TAP through a data-sharing partnership between PWD and the Pennsylvania Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), which administered the state’s Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (“LIHWAP”) program.⁶

Section 4 provides information and reporting around application of the arrearage forgiveness policy as documented in PWD Regulation 206.7.

Regarding enforcement, PWD and the Water Revenue Bureau (“WRB”) are engaged in continuing discussions with the Law Department regarding the extent that liening TAP eligible accounts is lawful.

In financial updates, as of March 31, 2024, PWD has submitted 19 grant applications totaling \$206M including some \$156M for stormwater and wastewater projects and received notice of awards for over \$50M (\$45 for 4 water, stormwater and wastewater projects and \$5 for water projects). There

¹ See Section 3.2.

² See Table 3.

³ See Table 4.

⁴ See Table 1.

⁵ Participants are defined as customers who received a TAP bill in a given month.

⁶ See Table 2.

were \$3M in water treatment, stormwater and wastewater applications that were rejected. The Department also has begun discussions for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)- Disaster Recovery (DR) funding for 4 projects totaling some \$53M being requested of the \$163M awarded by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

In March 2024, PWD submitted a \$3.4M request for project funding directly to the US Congress.

As of March 31, 2024, PWD submitted 13 loan applications to PennVest and WIFIA totaling \$919.4M, 12 of which were approved and \$125M received to date. One new PennVest loan application was submitted in this period for \$60M.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1. Required Reporting

This Quarterly Report is provided pursuant to the 2023 Rate Determination of the Rate Board. Based on the aforesaid Rate Determination, the Department will provide, on a quarterly basis, information related to the following:

TAP Enrollment/Retention and Arrearage Forgiveness:

- TAP metrics and data (including enrollment, program turnover, TAP recertification, denials, and TAP arrearage forgiveness).⁷
- Steps taken to ensure that eligible TAP customers are receiving the arrearage forgiveness benefits to which they are entitled.⁸
- Updates regarding the cost effectiveness of data sharing with Philadelphia Gas Works' ("PGW") Customer Responsibility Program to facilitate TAP enrollment.⁹
- Updates regarding cost effectiveness of implementing a text-based system for notification of need to recertify for TAP and/or as a vehicle for recertification.¹⁰

TAP Outreach/Participation and Language Access

- Updates to Rate Board regarding customer outreach and language access.

Customer Assistance and Other Updates

Enforcement Policies and Municipal Liens:

- Discussions with Law Department as to the extent that liening TAP or TAP-eligible accounts is lawful.¹¹
- Updates to the Rate Board after examining whether or not it would be more cost effective not to lien certain categories of delinquencies.¹²
- Updates to the Rate Board on considerations of the extent to which the use of lien-blockers would be appropriate.¹³

Stormwater Funding, Rate Design and Credit Policy:

- Updates to the Rate Board as to discussions regarding stormwater rate design options, allocation of SMIP/GARP credits and rain barrel credits.¹⁴
- Update Rate Board regarding activities undertaken to seek external funding for stormwater and combined sewer overflow remediation projects.¹⁵

⁷ See related references, 2023 Rate Determination at 48 (enrollment, denials), 51 (arrearage forgiveness).

⁸ Rate Determination at 51.

⁹ Rate Determination at 48.

¹⁰ Rate Determination at 48.

¹¹ Rate Determination at 53.

¹² Rate Determination at 53.

¹³ Rate Determination at 53.

¹⁴ Rate Determination at 42.

¹⁵ Rate Determination at 43.

Sections 5, 7, and 9 provide updates on areas that extend beyond TAP, but also impact the program, including TAP outreach, community meetings, and language access (section 5), customer assistance (section 7) and financial updates (section 9).

3. EFFORTS TO INCREASE TAP ENROLLMENT AND RETENTION

3.1. Definitions

In this section, the definitions for important terms that have not been previously defined are as follows:

TAP Denials: TAP application outcomes where applicants are not enrolled in the program.

Applicants can be denied for TAP for one of six reasons:

- Failure to meet income and residency guidelines;
- Failure to meet income guidelines (without a Special Hardship);
- Failure to meet residency guidelines;
- Installation type is not eligible for TAP;
- Missing or invalid income or residency documentation; or
- Missing information on the application form.

Applications for accounts that are discontinued are also denied.

Program Turnover: Reduction in TAP participation due to failure to meet income or residency guidelines, missing or invalid documentation, failure to recertify or other reasons including a determination that the customer will have a more affordable alternative.

More Affordable Alternatives: Some customers qualify for assistance programs outside of TAP, and based on their individual circumstances, these programs may be a more affordable option than TAP.

Text-Based Recertification: Using customer-provided cell phone numbers to communicate via text message (SMS) with customers about their specific recertification deadlines or other TAP-related actions.

Data Sharing: Sharing customer-level information between PWD/WRB and other agencies to enroll eligible customers in TAP.

3.2. Efforts to Reduce Turnover

*TAP metrics and data including enrollment, program turnover, TAP recertification, and denials.*¹⁶

In January, February, and March, 35,514 applications were approved for enrollment in TAP, and 929 applications were not. The vast majority of application activity was related to pre-qualified accounts as part of a data-sharing partnership with IDEA, but there were still customer initiated applications in this period as well. Of those customer initiated applications that were not approved, 13 applications were for accounts already enrolled in TAP at the time of the application

¹⁶ Rate Determination at 48

submittal. 10 remained in TAP while 3 were removed for not meeting residency guidelines or not being the customer of record.

For reporting purposes, once a pre-qualified candidate was approved for TAP, an application was created for the account. If a pre-qualified account was not approved for TAP enrollment—because the account was already participating in TAP or had been discontinued since enrolling in the other program, for example—no application was created. The pre-qualification process ensured that potential enrollees met residency guidelines, and customers were added to the pre-qualification list because they participated in other programs with eligibility guidelines that are similar to TAP's. As a result, enrollments were much larger this quarter, while denials were relatively low.

These data are set forth in Table 1 below. The numbers below reflect the number of applications, rather than the number of customers, as customers can make multiple applications.

Table 1. Denials: Applications Not Enrolled in TAP ¹⁷ during January, February, and March 2024

Outcome	Total Count of Applications	Applications for Customers Already Participating in TAP
<u>Denied</u>		
Failed to meet Income and Residency Guidelines	0	0
Failed to meet Income Guidelines (no Special Hardship)	37	0
Failed to meet Residency Guidelines	67	3
Installation Type Not Eligible for TAP	4	0
Missing or Invalid Income or Residency Documentation	411	8
Missing information on application form	19	2
Not the Customer applying	128	0
Total Denials	666	13
<i>Denied for Incomplete, remained in TAP ¹⁸</i>		10
<i>Denied for Cause, removed from TAP</i>		3
<i>New Applicant Denials</i>	653	
<u>Enrolled in More Affordable Alternative</u>		
Senior Citizen Discounted Bill ¹⁹	105	2
Senior Citizen Discounted Bill + Extended Payment Agreement	24	0
Regular Bill ¹⁸	24	2
Regular Bill + Extended Payment Agreement	96	0
WRBCC Agreement	0	0
Total More Affordable Alternative Placements	249	4
<u>Other Outcomes</u>		
Customer Withdrew Application	0	0
Data Transfer ²⁰	14	8
Total Other Outcomes	14	8

¹⁷ An annualized version of this report is included in the Annual Report to the Mayor On The Tiered Assistance Program (TAP), "Table 4. Applicants Not Enrolled." This quarterly data was reported on April 1, 2024.

¹⁸ Apart from recertification, customers in TAP who reapply and have their application denied for being incomplete are not removed from TAP. Only those who are denied for cause or are approved for a more affordable alternative are removed from TAP.

¹⁹ Senior Citizen Discounted Bill or Regular Bill may also include a standard payment agreement.

²⁰ When customers had more than one application in progress at the same time, information was transferred to the newest application for processing, older applications were categorized as "Data Transfer," and were no longer processed. Similarly, previously denied applications were transferred for re-evaluation when WRB identified available OOPA information or the customer submitted additional required documentation after denial. The subsequent approvals or denials are also captured in these figures.

3.3.Data Sharing

Updates regarding the cost effectiveness of data sharing to facilitate TAP enrollment.²¹

This section discusses progress made towards data sharing with other agencies or affordability programs to facilitate TAP enrollment. PWD/WRB have begun working with partner programs to pre-qualify eligible TAP customers. Eligible TAP customers who have participated in these programs receive a letter stating they have been enrolled in TAP and can opt out if they wish.

In February, PWD finished its first round of pre-qualifications as part of a data-sharing partnership with the Pennsylvania HHS, which administered the state's LIHWAP program. Over the course of the entire effort, 3,281 customers who had participated in LIHWAP and were not already participating in TAP were enrolled in TAP.

As a second phase, PWD worked with IDEA to begin prequalifying customers who have participated in several similarly eligible programs for TAP enrollment. As stated in section 3.2, all IDEA enrollees were considered eligible on the basis of income and no additional residency verification is needed for these enrollees. Pre-qualification of IDEA candidates began on February 13, 2024, and between then and March 31st, **33,853 prequalified PWD customers were enrolled in TAP**, helping to more than double January's total number of TAP participants. It should be noted that enrollees do not become TAP participants until they receive a TAP bill and so there can be a time lag between the number of enrollees in a given period and the number of participants.

For now, no additional pre-qualification data sharing efforts are planned. WRB and members of other City Departments, including the Health Department and Managing Director's Office, are actively participating in the Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission's (PUC) working groups on universal service programs pursuant to Secretarial Letter dated August 22, 2023. In this quarter, the PUC working groups have been working on proposing a universal assistance application, data warehouse, and cross-enrollment for participants in perennial federal and statewide utility assistance programs like the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). As has been discussed in the past two Quarterly Reports, PUC staff made a clear statement that PWD and other participants who participated in LIHWAP but not LIHEAP would not be eligible to participate in data sharing with the PUC or other LIHEAP participants. Staff opined that if and when LIHWAP were to become a permanent program, there may be data sharing available. On April 16, 2024, U.S. House Resolution 8032 (H.R. 8032) was introduced, which would authorize LIHWAP as an ongoing program. More details on the resolution's progress are forthcoming. It is possible for customers who are eligible for partner programs, such as LIHWAP, to not be enrolled in TAP if they do not meet TAP eligibility requirements. Likewise, WRB and PWD are taking steps to audit the income-eligibility of customers who were enrolled in TAP via IDEA pre-qualification.

²¹ Rate Determination at 48.

Table 2. Applications Enrolled in TAP during January, February, and March 2024

Source	Customers Enrolled This Quarter	Customers In Partner Program Not Enrolled This Quarter for Eligibility Requirements	Customers Enrolled All Time
LIHWAP Prequalification	511	662	3,281
IDEA Prequalification	33,853	4,841	33,853
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>34,364</u>	<u>5,503</u>	<u>37,134</u>

3.4. Text-Based Recertification

Updates to the Rate Board regarding the possibility and cost effectiveness of implementing a text-based system for notification of need to recertify for TAP and/or as a vehicle for recertification.²²

PWD/WRB have regular discussions about the most effective way to communicate with customers and get them to reapply. In this quarter, discussions have been ongoing on several challenges that must be resolved for a text-based notification or recertification system to become feasible:

- Customers did not opt into a text-based service when they joined TAP. Text messaging requires customers to opt-in and may be associated with fees and charges customers are not anticipating and do not desire.
- A similar email-based campaign had a very low success rate. Aside from switching email for text messages, PWD must determine what changes need to be made in the reminder strategy.
- PWD must determine the quality of phone number data. There are several reasons why a customer may not receive text messages: customers' numbers have changed since they joined TAP, their numbers have been disconnected, or the numbers provided are landlines that cannot receive text messages, and the Department must determine the cost and efficiency of sending text messages.
- Implementing a text-based system will require programming, testing, ongoing support, training for PWD/WRB representatives to provide support to customers, auditing, and communication with customers.
- The recertification timeline has been extended to four years, and recertification will not start until March of 2025 at the earliest. Adjusting the process of recertification reminders one of many technology challenges the Departments face and must be balanced with high priority needs.

²² Rate Determination at 48.

4. ARREARAGE FORGIVENESS

4.1. Definitions

In this section, the definitions for important terms that have not been previously defined are as follows:

Penalty Arrearage Forgiveness: The process by which TAP participants are able to have penalty charges forgiven after 24 full payments of their TAP bills. The penalty forgiveness program began in July of 2017.

Principal Arrearage Forgiveness: For the period of September 2020 through June 2022, the process by which TAP participants are able to have their unpaid water bills forgiven after 24 full payments of their TAP bills. Effective July 1, 2022, Principal Arrearage Forgiveness occurs on a monthly basis whereby a credit of 1/24th of the customer's Pre-TAP Arrears amount is added to the account after each full TAP Bill payment. In June 2022, customers received a one-time retroactive lump sum principal forgiveness proportional to the number of TAP payments made on their account.

Enrollments (total): All customers who were enrolled in TAP this quarter. Includes customers who have never participated in TAP before (see below), as well as customers who had previously left TAP and now returned or re-certified their enrollment in TAP.

First-Time Enrollees: Customers who have never participated in TAP before, and enrolled in TAP for the first time this quarter. These new TAP enrollments are a subset of total enrollments.

4.2. Forgiveness by Amount and Type

TAP metrics and data including arrearage forgiveness.²³

Since July 2021, a total of \$1,218,364.65 of Penalty Arrearage and \$27,149,579.52 of Principal Arrearage have been forgiven.

The information provided in the tables below is for the months of January through March 2024 (the reporting period). Table 3 documents the total penalty arrearages forgiven during the reporting period, Fiscal Year 2024 to date, and all time broken down by amount of the participant's penalty debt forgiven. Table 4 documents the total principal arrearage forgiven during the reporting period, Fiscal Year 2024 to date, and all time broken down by amount of the participant's principal debt forgiven.

Tables 3 and 4 report on the arrearage forgiveness received by all customers this quarter, and the application of the arrearage forgiveness policy is discussed further in section 4.3. Like all TAP participants, customers who are enrolled in TAP through pre-qualification are eligible to start receiving principal forgiveness when they pay TAP bills. Customers who were enrolled in TAP after

²³ Rate Determination at 51

they received their regular March bill will receive their first TAP bills in April and will begin receiving forgiveness when they pay those bills.

Table 3. Total Penalty Arrearage Forgiven Through March 2024

Debt Range	Participants Receiving Penalty Forgiveness this Quarter	Amount Forgiven this Quarter	Amount Forgiven, July '21-March '24	Total Amount Forgiven, Fiscal Year 2024	Total Amount Forgiven, All Time
< \$0	-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
\$0-\$200	148	\$6,715.16	\$89,736.59	\$18,927.62	\$96,451.75
\$200-\$500	25	\$8,260.88	\$116,511.33	\$30,388.09	\$124,772.21
\$500-\$1,000	11	\$8,129.37	\$164,771.86	\$36,237.90	\$172,901.23
\$1,000-\$2,000	18	\$25,391.47	\$220,593.45	\$58,111.43	\$245,984.92
\$2,000-\$5,000	10	\$27,857.07	\$332,693.54	\$93,226.72	\$360,550.61
\$5,000-\$10,000	1	\$5,848.51	\$119,841.04	\$30,525.61	\$125,689.55
\$10,000-\$20,000	-	\$-	\$70,644.32	\$16,687.09	\$70,644.32
\$20,000-\$50,000	1	\$21,370.06	\$-	\$21,370.06	\$21,370.06
\$50,000+	-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
Total	214	\$103,572.52	\$1,114,792.13	\$305,474.52	\$1,218,364.65

Table 4. Total Principal Arrearage Forgiven Through March 2024

Debt Range	Participants Receiving Penalty Forgiveness this Quarter	Amount Forgiven this Quarter	Amount Forgiven July '21-March '24	Total Amount Forgiven, Fiscal Year 2024	Total Amount Forgiven All Time
< \$0	-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
\$0-\$200	12,469	\$508,446.51	\$2,629,993.76	\$1,373,851.59	\$3,138,440.27
\$200-\$500	1,511	\$467,218.34	\$3,369,358.29	\$1,332,534.15	\$3,836,576.63
\$500-\$1,000	518	\$352,775.85	\$3,054,199.84	\$1,084,077.15	\$3,406,975.69
\$1,000-\$2,000	194	\$262,107.15	\$2,989,992.08	\$743,913.58	\$3,252,099.23
\$2,000-\$5,000	79	\$231,452.82	\$5,823,322.61	\$591,964.67	\$6,054,775.43
\$5,000-\$10,000	26	\$179,083.93	\$4,786,294.41	\$425,404.24	\$4,965,378.34
\$10,000-\$20,000	2	\$29,716.00	\$2,050,993.66	\$89,574.91	\$2,080,709.66
\$20,000-\$50,000	-	\$-	\$358,071.27	\$0.00	\$358,071.27
\$50,000+	-	\$-	\$56,553.00	\$0.00	\$56,553.00
Total	14,799	\$2,030,800.60	\$25,118,778.92	\$5,641,320.29	\$27,149,579.52

4.3. Tracking Arrearage Forgiveness Outcomes

Steps taken to ensure that eligible TAP customers are receiving the arrearage forgiveness benefits to which they are entitled.²⁴

PWD is committed to reporting on steps taken to ensure that TAP customers are receiving arrearage forgiveness benefits appropriately. Extensive testing and preparation was done to ensure that the process would be effective before monthly forgiveness went into effect, and the following documents efforts to continually monitor the implementation of the program.

The first step taken was to start a reporting process. An internal monthly report has been developed for review and analysis of forgiveness outcomes.

The table below shows PWD/WRB tracking of arrearage forgiveness benefits.²⁵ Customers are eligible to receive principal forgiveness in a given month when they make a full TAP bill payment—total payments equal to (or greater than) their monthly TAP bill for that month. Customers are eligible to receive penalty forgiveness anytime before the end of a given month because they made more than 24 TAP bill payments. Customers who did not pay a TAP bill in a given month would not have received principal forgiveness that month.

Table 5. Counts of Arrearage Forgiveness by Type

Month	Customers Making a Full TAP Bill Payment	Customers Issued Principal Forgiveness Credits Equal to TAP Bills Paid, or Have \$0 Left to Forgive	Customers Eligible for Penalty Forgiveness (24+ TAP Bill Payments)	Customers Who Have Received 100% Of Their Penalty Forgiveness Credits or Have \$0 Left to Forgive
January	13,183	13,183	13,176	13,171
February	13,512	13,503	13,254	13,249
March	23,397	23,390	13,361	13,356

In nearly every case, there are two possible outcomes for customers who earned principal forgiveness in a given month, or penalty forgiveness anytime before the end of that month: they could have received as many forgiveness credits as TAP bills paid, or they could have had \$0 left to forgive, and so did not receive more forgiveness. **All but 14 TAP customers who paid a full TAP bill payment in January, February, and March received the appropriate arrearage forgiveness, and the remaining 14 are the results of unique and explainable billing situations.**

Customers can have \$0 to forgive if they never had arrearages to begin with, if they have already had their arrearages forgiven, if they had outstanding arrearages paid, including those paid by a LIHWAP or a similar grant, or if their only remaining pre-TAP arrears are in dispute or bankruptcy.

²⁴ Rate Determination at 51.

²⁵ As reported on the first day of the following month

5.TAP OUTREACH/PARTICIPATION AND LANGUAGE ACCESS

Updates to Rate Board regarding customer outreach and language access.

Outreach/Participation and Language Access efforts extend beyond TAP, but they also serve to increase TAP enrollment and retention, and are therefore reported below.

1. TAP Outreach/Participation:

In this quarter, WRB and PWD engaged in the following activities in support of achieving greater TAP participation, attaining more affordable bills for vulnerable households, and evaluating various approaches to inform more customers of TAP and other assistance programs:

PWD and WRB continued their partnership with the Community Resource Corps (“CRC”) and Philly Counts, programs operated out of the Office of Community Empowerment and Opportunity. CRC and Philly Counts operated a phone calling, texting, emailing, and door knocking campaign for households at risk of water shut off due to delinquency. The goals were to avoid water shutoff to certain households (those with children, elderly, or disabled individuals) through the “Raise Your Hand” initiative and provide access to and support in applying for customer assistance, including TAP. The following engagement occurred during January, February, and March.

- Total Attempts 9,520
- Total Conversations 1,803
- Requested CAP Support 1,125
- Raise Your Hand Eligible 1

PWD engaged in planning paid media with Spanish-language radio stations La Mega and Rumba. Advertising with La Mega, launched in January, focused on the Senior Citizen Discount. The radio spots pivoted to promote the return of the Pennsylvania Homeowners Assistance Fund (PAHAF) Grants for homeowner expenses, including water utilities.

CAP Advertising and Outreach in January, February, and March included:

January: Senior Citizen Discount

Paid Advertising

- La Mega – radio and digital in Spanish

February: Senior Citizen Discount

Paid Advertising

- La Mega – radio and digital in Spanish

PWD & WRB Owned Media

- PWD social media re: assistance
- Revenue blog: Senior and Income based discounts.
 - English: <https://www.phila.gov/2024-02-27-philly-offers-water-bill-discounts-to-seniors-and-low-income-households>
 - Spanish: <https://www.phila.gov/2024-02-27-filadelfia-ofrece-descuentos-en-facturas-de-agua-a-personas-mayores-y-hogares-de-bajos-ingresos>

March: PAHAF and End of Moratorium

*PAHAF reopened after pausing applications on February 1, 2023.

Paid Advertising

- La Mega - Radio and digital in Spanish

PWD & WRB Owned Media

- Updated CAP social media toolkit for partners
 - <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Nr5RcgWE-PjOpukkBLm8qBkn2znNFk7aS1mxuW6WpoQ/edit?usp=sharing>
- Email about PAHAF to ebilling customers and PWD subscribers
 - <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/PAPHILAWATER/bulletins/3920980>
- Email about End of Moratorium to ebilling customers and PWD subscribers
 - <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/PAPHILAWATER/bulletins/3920960>
- PWD social media
 - Promote PAHAF and
 - Promote April Assistance Clinics

Events

- March 12, Utility Assistance Panel
- March 14: Philadelphia Senior Center
- March 15: St. Monica Senior Center
- March 23: House of Prayer Resource Fair and Food Giveaway
- March 28: Senator Jimmy Dillion's Senior Expo

2. Language Access:

PWD's updated 2022 Language Access Plan has been signed by the Commissioner and submitted to the Office of Immigrant Affairs and is located online at: [LANGUAGE-ACCESS-PLAN-MARCH-2022_FINAL-Signed.pdf \(phila.gov\)](#)

PWD's 2023 Annual Report was recently completed and submitted to the Office of Immigrant Affairs, which reviews each submitting Department's Language Access Plan implementation for improvement."

PWD has a designated Language Access Coordinator, Laura Copeland, and alternate coordinators, Sandra Scott and Rene Johnson, to increase document translations and employee language access trainings. Employee language access trainings help PWD employees to assist limited English proficient customers with access to PWD programs and services.

PWD's language access tip cards and language lists were provided to our outreach partner, Community Resource Corps, to use when conducting phone and canvassing CAP outreach to communicate with limited English proficient customers.

PWD includes language access taglines on all CAP outreach materials where PWD Public Affairs staff participate in over 200 tabling events annually and CAP materials and flyers are routinely distributed.

In addition, Customer Assistance Program flyers that can be used by community members to raise awareness for water assistance programs have been translated into French Creole, Haitian Creole, Spanish, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese and Vietnamese.

Requests for translations of specific documents and in-person interpreters are available upon request.

Finally, PWD Language Access Coordinators will work with the Office of Immigrant Affairs going forward to identify limited English proficient community organizations that would like to connect with PWD to obtain program and services information.

3. TAP-R Public Hearing Promotion

PWD and WRB have made the following efforts in order to promote the Public Hearing for the 2024 TAP-R Rate Proceeding.

1. PWD press release
2. PWD homepage announcement
3. Ebilling portal marketing tile
4. Social Media
 - Facebook
 - Paid/boosted posts
 - X (formerly Twitter)
 - Instagram
 - Nextdoor
 - Social toolkit for City Council
5. Email bulletins
 - PWD Contacts
 - Registered Community Organizations (RCOs)
 - Ebilling Contacts
6. Newspaper Advertisements
 - Philadelphia Inquirer
 - Metro
 - Al Dia
7. Physical flyers:

- distributed at tabling events from 4/20/24 – 5/8/24
- available at Municipal Services Building concourse
- Free Library
- Neighborhood Energy Centers (NEC) via Energy Coordinating Agency (ECA)

6. ENFORCEMENT POLICIES AND MUNICIPAL LIENS

6.1. Definitions

In this section, the definitions for important terms that have not been previously defined are as follows:

Municipal Lien: A charge upon real property for the satisfaction of debt arising by operation of law, filed by a municipality. For purposes of this report, these properties are homes owned by individuals in the TAP program.

Shut-off Moratorium:

Annual stoppage of all residential shut offs for non-payment between December 1st and March 31st. Residential customers eligible for shut-off begin receiving notices in late-February, giving them 35 days' notice before the scheduled shut-off date. TAP customers and those enrolled in the Senior Citizen Discount are protected from shut-off's year-round. The latest moratorium went into effect on December 1, 2023, and ended on March 31st, 2024, with customers eligible for shut-off receiving notices starting on February 23rd, 2024.

6.2. Law Department Discussions Regarding Liens

Discussions with Law Department as to the extent that liening TAP or TAP-eligible accounts is lawful.²⁶

The Law Department has determined that securing the outstanding debt of TAP customers through the use of liens that attach to their property is lawful.

The City has committed to abstaining from the use of enforcement measures to collect on water liens of TAP customers. Per PWD Regulations, 206.8(a), if a customer maintains enrollment in TAP, a Hold will be placed on their account, which means that the City will not file a Sheriff Sale action or a lawsuit against that TAP customer personally to seek to collect the water debt.²⁷ The filing of liens does not fall into either of these legal action categories, and therefore there is no prohibition against the City using the lien process to secure debt incurred by a TAP customer. WRB believes liens on Pre-TAP Arrears and TAP debt are an appropriate and necessary measure to protect the City's interests. When a TAP customer makes a full monthly payment and earns Principal Arrearage Forgiveness or completes 24 full payments and earns Penalty Arrearage Forgiveness, any liens associated with the TAP Forgiveness are removed if there is no remaining debt securing the outstanding lien balance.

²⁶ Rate Determination at 53.

²⁷ PWD Regulations 206.1 define a "Hold" as "A non-permanent suspension of Litigation." PWD Regulations 206.1 define "Litigation" as a "Sheriff Sale or Civil Action." Further, PWD Regulations define "Civil Action" as "An in personam lawsuit filed to collect water and sewer rents. A Civil Action shall be deemed commenced when a Complaint is filed with the Court of appropriate jurisdiction."

In the event a TAP enrolled water customer sells or transfers a property prior to earning forgiveness or has other debt that is not eligible for forgiveness, liens enable the City to maintain its legal right to recoup the outstanding liabilities at the time of transfer. If a TAP enrolled customer wishes to refinance their property under a program that requires clear title, it is WRB policy to remove water liens without demanding payment.

6.3. Cost Effectiveness of Liens for Certain Delinquencies

Updates to the Rate Board after examining whether or not it would be more cost effective not to lien certain categories of delinquencies.²⁸

PWD/WRB have determined that it would not be more cost effective *not* to lien certain categories of delinquencies. The City's use of quarterly lien filing through Basis2's interaction with the court's e-filing system is automated, keeping both the fees and labor costs of this continuous process extremely low.

6.4. Use of Lien-blockers

Updates to the Rate Board on considerations of the extent to which the use of lien-blockers would be appropriate.²⁹

PWD/WRB have determined that lien-blockers would not be appropriate since liens are not enforced against TAP customers unless the property is transferred or sold. Additionally, blocking the filing of automatic liens or removing those liens after they are filed as part of the bulk quarterly lien filing, would require a manual review process, adding additional costs to this program.

6.5. Shut-offs

In January, February, and March, a total of 1,897 residential and 2,918 commercial shut-off notices went out, and 0 residential and 370 commercial shut-offs were completed.

²⁸ Rate Determination at 53.

²⁹ Rate Determination at 53.

7. CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE AND OTHER UPDATES

This section details customer assistance dollars that PWD is working with outside entities to process for its customers. These programs are:

- PHDC: Philadelphia Housing Development Corporation. Provides emergency rental assistance for renters and landlords. As of this quarter, PHDC is currently administering federal COVID relief dollars.
- UESF: Utilities Emergency Services Fund. Provides financial assistance/grants to utility customers with low-income facing or experiencing shut-offs. Water grants are matched by PWD. UESF has introduced Rapid Assistance Development, which provides added flexibility. UESF funding is included here as part of the assistance provided to customers, however, unlike PHDC funds, UESF dollars do not come from the federal government and should not be considered in the reconciliation/adjustment process.
- LIHWAP: Low Income Household Water Assistance Program. Federal program introduced in 2021 to provide low-income households with financial assistance on water and wastewater bills. LIHWAP was a time-limited program, and provided funding through September 2023. The application process has closed.
- Debt Collective tenant assistance program: Nonprofit group that includes a focus on tenant issues. In 2022, the Debt Collective partnered with Community Legal Services (“CLS”) and UESF to identify tenants facing eviction due to unpaid water bills, and issue payment to WRB.
- PAHAF: Pennsylvania Housing Assistance Fund. Provides funds for homeowners to resolve delinquent payments for utility services.

7.1.Rental Assistance and Emergency Services Funding

During January, February, and March 2024, a total of \$664,512.14 in rental assistance from PHDC, emergency grant funding from UESF, and grant funding from LIHWAP, Debt Collective, and PAHAF was applied to customer accounts.

A summary of the 2024 fiscal year PHDC, UESF, LIHWAP, Debt Collective, and PAHAF grants is shown in Table 6. All data presented in Table 6 are based on data reported on March 31, 2024. In addition to these funds, PWD matches some UESF grants.

In this quarter, supplemental grants were provided to LIHWAP recipients. This is reflected in an increased dollar total of the grants compared to the previous quarter, but no change in the number of grants.

Table 6. Summary of UESF, PHDC, and LIHWAP Grants, Fiscal Year 2024 (to date)

<i>Month</i>	<i>UESF</i>	<i>PHDC</i>	<i>LIHWAP</i>	<i>Debt Collective</i>	<i>PAHAF</i>	<i>Total Amount</i>
July 2023	\$22,660.56	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$82,241.34	\$104,901.90
August 2023	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$743,387.88	\$6.10	\$66,203.73	\$809,597.71
September 2023	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$756,378.06	\$26.05	\$108,176.53	\$865,080.64
October 2023	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$26,675.46	\$732.23	\$193,739.10	\$221,146.79
November 2023	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$21,319.24	\$1,581.01	\$96,940.32	\$119,840.57
December 2023	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,223.00	\$0.00	\$132,347.83	\$139,570.83
January 2024	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$391,371.00	\$0.00	\$145,469.27	\$536,840.27
February 2024	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$700.00	\$398.53	\$60,602.75	\$61,701.28
March 2024	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$65,970.59	\$65,970.59
TOTAL	\$23,160.56	\$0.00	\$1,947,054.64	\$2,743.92	\$951,691.46	\$2,924,650.58
Count	31	0	1,024	14	512	1,581

7.2. Additional Updates

There are no additional customer assistance updates for this quarter.

8. STORMWATER RATE DESIGN AND CREDIT POLICY

8.1. Definitions

SMIP/GARP Grants: The combined Stormwater Management Incentive Program (SMIP) and Greened Acre Retrofit Program (GARP) provides grants for building and maintaining green stormwater management practices that transform large non-residential properties with impervious surfaces that generate a high volume of stormwater runoff and burden the City's sewer system and waterways. Funding for SMIP/GARP grants comes from PWD and the Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation and is a major piece of PWD's Green City Clean Waters Plan. SMIP/GARP recipients receive billing credits on their stormwater charges.

Rain barrel credits: Potential credit program providing a rate discount to residential customers that have installed a rain barrel by PWD.

Stormwater remediation projects: Projects designed to reduce the volume of water running across hard surfaces and entering the City's sewer system and waterways during wet weather events, such as rainstorms or snowmelts.

Combined sewer overflow remediation projects: Projects designed to decrease the frequency and volume of sewer overflow events.

For information on external funding for stormwater and combined sewer overflow remediation, see Section 9.

8.2. Stormwater Rate Design Options

Updates to the Rate Board as to discussions regarding stormwater rate design.³⁰

The Water Department is continuing to evaluate restructured options for residential customers. As identified prior to the 2023 Rate Proceeding, the Department is evaluating tiered rates based upon the Impervious Area and Gross Area components of the stormwater management service charge as well as rates based upon residential building types (twin, single, etc.).

Required supporting data sets, ongoing data maintenance needs, along with billing system and business process upgrades are being further explored to more fully understand the resource requirements for potential rate structure options.

The Water Department is in the process of reviewing existing allocation approaches, policies, and rate structure methodology to see if broader changes (beyond updates to the residential rate structure) should be further explored.

The Department plans to engage stakeholders in future discussions.

³⁰ Rate Determination at 42.

8.3. Stormwater Credit Allocations

Updates to the Rate Board as to discussions regarding allocation of SMIP/GARP credits and rain barrel credits.³¹

See previous item. The Water Department is considering credit program updates in context of the overall rate structure. Credit program impacts, including potential rain barrel credits, will also be further analyzed and discussed within the context of overall changes to the stormwater rate structure.

The Department plans to engage stakeholders in discussions in the future.

³¹ Rate Determination at 42.

9. DEPARTMENT EFFORTS TO PURSUE FEDERAL ASSISTANCE AND OTHER FINANCIAL UPDATES

The Water Department has pursued and is continuing to pursue federal funding to support stormwater infrastructure and other capital improvements.

In terms of bond funding,

- On September 19, 2023, the Department priced and on September 28, 2023, the Department closed on its \$565 million of Water and Wastewater Revenue and Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2023B.
- In addition to providing \$466.5 million in funds (“new money”) for projects in the Capital Improvement Program, this issuance refunded \$107 million of existing Department revenue bonds (certain 2019A and 2020B bonds) to produce savings to the Department.
- Using unique market conditions and timely pricing, the Department was able to convert (or refund) taxable bonds into tax-exempt bonds and yield more than \$4.5 million in debt service or cash flow savings.

This section documents, among other things, PWD efforts to secure federal funding to date.

PWD stormwater system improvements are shown in yellow (■), and PWD combined stormwater and wastewater system improvements are shown in green (■)

Table 7. PWD Efforts to Pursue Federal Assistance

Assistance Program/ Requesting Organization	Date Submitted	Status	Project Cost	Grant or Loan Requested	Notes
PennVest	April 2020	Active Construction	\$80.8M	\$80.8M Loan	Rehabilitation of the Torresdale Filtered Water Pump Station. The award closed in February 2021.
PennVest	January 2021	Active Construction	\$106M	\$106M Loan	PennVest approved a loan for the construction of the new preliminary treatment building at the Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant. In January 2022 PennVest increased the award due to bids exceeding preliminary estimates. The award closed September 2022.
PennVest	January 2021	Active Construction	\$5.8M	\$5.8M Loan	PennVest loan to finance stormwater improvements. The award closed October 2021.
PennVest	August 2021	Active Construction	\$16.3M	\$16.3M Loan	PennVest loan to fund Improvements to the City-owned Flat Rock Dam and introduce flow into the Manayunk Canal. The award closed April 2022.
Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA)	Letter of Interest – July 2021; Application – May 2022	1st loan closed for \$19M (total project \$40M)	\$697M of capital projects with 49% funded via WIFIA	\$341M Loan	Under WIFIA, federal aid can cover up to 49% of project eligible costs. 1st loan closed January 2023.

Assistance Program/ Requesting Organization	Date Submitted	Status	Project Cost	Grant or Loan Requested	Notes
PennVest	August 2021	Active Construction	\$35.8M	\$35.8M Loan	PennVest loan to fund water main replacements in the City of Philadelphia. Closed July 2022.
PennVest	November 2021	Active Construction	\$8.2M	\$8.2M Loan	PennVest application to fund stormwater improvements in the City. The award closed October 2022.
PennVest	November 2021	Active Construction	\$7.5M	\$7.5M Loan	PennVest application to fund stormwater improvements in the City. The award closed October 2022.
PEMA/FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)	December 2021	PWD Signed Grant Agreement - awaiting receipt of fully-executed agreement from PEMA	\$35.7M	\$25M Grant Awarded	The Cohocksink Flood Mitigation Project, the final phase of a six-phase flood mitigation project, proposes to double conveyance capacity of the combined sewer system through the construction of new sewer infrastructure and seven green stormwater infrastructure systems. The project will have a large area of impact that includes portions of the Northern Liberties, South Kensington, and Ludlow neighborhoods. PWD is still in discussion with FEMA to finalize the grant agreement.
PEMA/FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)	December 2021	Not Approved	\$204K	\$75K Grant Request	Through the City of Philadelphia Climate Change Adaptation – Facility Flood Risk and Resiliency Assessment BRIC Project Scoping, the Philadelphia Water Department will work over 24 months in partnership with procured contractors to conduct a facility-based, asset-level risk and resiliency assessment of the Baxter WTP. This assessment will result in identification of a mitigation strategy to protect the Baxter WTP from coastal flooding and proactively build resiliency to climate change. PWD’s risk and resiliency assessment framework includes a comprehensive, asset-level flood risk assessment; a resiliency assessment to explore flood mitigation strategies; stakeholder engagement and partnership building; and development of a future FEMA BRIC application, including a Benefit-Cost Analysis.

Assistance Program/ Requesting Organization	Date Submitted	Status	Project Cost	Grant or Loan Requested	Notes
PEMA/FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)	December 2021	Budget changes approved by FEMA - Awaiting receipt of new grant agreement	\$660K in proposal; RFI came in at \$5M	\$103K Grant Awarded	The Philadelphia Water Department is seeking BRIC project scoping funding to advance comprehensive planning, technical analyses, and stakeholder engagement for storm flood risk reduction and combined sewer overflow (CSO) mitigation within the Wingohocking and the Tookany/Tacony-Frankford (TTF) Watersheds. The Germantown Wingohocking Creek Flood Risk Reduction Project Scoping will advance the planning elements of the Tacony Tunnel alternative identified in the Germantown Flood Risk Reduction Study by evaluating hydraulic optimization, operation and maintenance considerations, climate resiliency, stakeholder engagement and partnership building, residual risk mitigation, and cost estimation and benefit cost analysis. Total cost of the project scoping received through RFP increased to around \$5M.
PEMA/FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)	January 2022	Rejected due to funding limitation	\$204K	\$50K Grant Request	Throughout the City of Philadelphia Climate Change Adaptation – Facility Flood Risk and Resiliency Assessment HMGP Project Scoping, PWD will work over 24 months in partnership with procured contractors to conduct a facility-based, asset-level risk and resiliency assessment of the Baxter WTP. This assessment will result in identification of a mitigation strategy to protect the Baxter WTP from coastal flooding and proactively build resilience to climate change. PWD’s risk and resiliency assessment framework includes a comprehensive, asset-level flood risk assessment; a resiliency assessment to explore flood mitigation strategies; stakeholder engagement and partnership building; and development of a future FEMA BRIC application, including a Benefit-Cost Analysis.
PEMA/FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)	January 2022	Rejected	\$660K in proposal; RFI came in at \$5M	\$173K Grant Request	PWD is seeking HMGP project scoping funding to advance comprehensive planning, technical analyses, and stakeholder engagement for storm flood risk reduction and combined sewer overflow (CSO) mitigation within the Wingohocking and the Tookany/Tacony-Frankford (TTF)

Assistance Program/ Requesting Organization	Date Submitted	Status	Project Cost	Grant or Loan Requested	Notes
					Watersheds. The Germantown Wingohocking Creek Flood Risk Reduction Project Scoping will advance the planning elements of the Tacony Tunnel alternative identified in the Germantown Flood Risk Reduction Study by evaluating hydraulic optimization, operation and maintenance considerations, climate resiliency, stakeholder engagement and partnership building, residual risk mitigation, and cost estimation and benefit cost analysis.
PennVest	February 2022	Active Construction	\$110M	\$110M loan	PWD submitted an application to PennVest totaling \$125M for the replacement of an existing clear well basin ("CWB"), constructed in 1904, which is showing signs of deterioration to the structure risking possible contamination and water quality deterioration. The building of the new CWB's will allow for additional storage capacity to replace the existing CWB. The original CWB was one tank which could not be taken offline for inspection, cleaning, or maintenance. With the addition of new CWB's, the clear well basin storage system provides redundancy and resiliency by providing multiple units that can individually be taken offline for maintenance. Furthermore, the new CWB's will improve quality of life by providing a new watertight storage tank to provide protection of the finished water supplied to PWD customers. The award closed on 6/1/23.
PennVest	February 2023	Application Approved	\$109M	\$109M loan	PennVest application to fund water main and sewer replacements in the City. Application has been approved and closing is scheduled for 7/30/24.

Assistance Program/ Requesting Organization	Date Submitted	Status	Project Cost	Grant or Loan Requested	Notes
BRIC/COVID-19 ARPA H2O	November 2022/ December 2022	Awaiting BRIC award announcements & responded to FEMA RFI's/ARPA award agreement signed by PWD, awaiting receipt of fully-executed agreement from PA DCED	\$7.7M	\$5.4M Grant Request/\$4.2M Grant Award	PWD is seeking BRIC Project funding to complete the 21st Street Flood Hazard Mitigation Project for storm flood risk reduction within the Wingohocking Watershed. The Germantown neighborhood, located along the former Wingohocking Creek, has a long history of wet weather-related basement backups and surface flooding. Through sewer enlargement and inlet upgrades, this project will reduce sewer surcharging and increase sewer capacity. Increased capacity will better convey stormwater runoff and thereby reduce surface flooding events.
BRIC/COVID-19 ARPA H2O	November 2022/ December 2022	Awaiting BRIC award announcements & responding to FEMA RFI's/ARPA award agreement signed by PWD, awaiting receipt of fully-executed agreement from PA DCED	\$105M	\$50M Grant Request/\$15M Grant Award	PWD is seeking BRIC Phased Project funding to construct a new effluent pumping station (EPS) at the Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant (NEWPCP). This pumping station will reduce the risk of flooding at the NEWPCP by pumping treated flows to the Delaware River during peak wet weather events and high tidal conditions. River elevations are expected to rise significantly over the next 50 to 100 years, further reducing the NEWPCP treatment performance and increasing the risk of flooding. In addition, the ongoing headworks upgrades project will allow 650 MGD to be delivered to the head of the plant. This proposed EPS project is needed to convey the flow out to the Delaware River after treatment. The new project will ensure that the process tanks do not overtop during future Delaware River elevations
BRIC/COVID-19 ARPA H2O	November 2022/ December 2022	Awaiting BRIC award announcements/ARPA award agreement signed by PWD, awaiting receipt of fully-executed agreement from PA DCED	\$8.5M	\$5.9M Grant Request/\$5.5M Grant Award	PWD is seeking BRIC Project funding to install new electrical infrastructure at the Queen Lane Raw Water Pump Station (QLRWPS). The existing QLRWPS has a maximum capacity of 140 million gallons per day (MGD) and is the sole source of raw water to the Queen Lane Water Treatment Plant (WTP) that provides potable water distribution to the City of Philadelphia

Assistance Program/ Requesting Organization	Date Submitted	Status	Project Cost	Grant or Loan Requested	Notes
US Department of Energy	April 2023	Submitted to US DOE; Not Selected	\$2.5M	\$2.5M grant	The goal of this project is to optimize the performance of autothermal pyrolysis for converting wastewater biosolids into biochar and gas. This technology will replace land application, landfilling, or incineration of biosolids, reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and alleviating the regulatory concerns associated with current industry standard processes.
US HUD Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Relief (CDBG-DR)	July 2023	City and HUD executed agreement - PWD submitting formal request for \$31M	\$285M	\$53M Total Grant Request (covering 5 projects submitted)	Lardner's Point Fresh Water Pumping Station pumps a third of the City's fresh potable water needs to its population. This is an existing facility that has run its useful life; since the station is by the Delaware River the building site will be moved back from the riverbank and all electrical installations will be flood proofed to ensure that should there be a catastrophic wet weather event the station will continue in service.
US HUD Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Relief (CDBG-DR)	July 2023	City and HUD executed agreement - PWD submitting formal request for \$13M	\$120M		This project is to upgrade the Queen Lane Raw Water Pump Station by expanding the pumping capacity and hardening the station to the effects of wet weather events. During Hurricane Ida, the Belmont Raw Water Pumping Station was overwhelmed by storm surge and it has become very clear that the Queen Lane Water Treatment Plant has similar vulnerabilities that must be addressed. The project is part of the overall retrofit and betterment plans of the Queen Lane Water Treatment Plant.
US HUD Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Relief (CDBG-DR)	July 2023	City and HUD executed agreement - PWD submitting formal request for \$3.6M	\$5M		This project covers the enlargement of the scope of the storm flood risk reduction and combined sewer overflow (CSO) mitigation study within the Wingohocking and the Tookany/Tacony-Frankford (TTF) Watersheds; the original study scope was recently awarded a BRIC grant as noted above
US HUD Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Relief (CDBG-DR)	July 2023	Application in Review	\$50M		The S. 42nd St. wastewater pumping station is located adjacent to St. Joseph's University's University City Campus. Currently this pumping station is permitted to pump only wastewater yet when a severe wet weather event happens the adjacent storm outfall (S-50) causes Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) to occur directly into the Schuylkill River. In

Assistance Program/ Requesting Organization	Date Submitted	Status	Project Cost	Grant or Loan Requested	Notes
					<p>addition, Hurricane Storm Ida caused the regulating chamber to back up into the pump station knocking out its electrical works and damaging the station pumps causing est. \$550K in damages and forcing it into manual mode for 10 weeks. It was determined after many alternatives were examined to expand the pumping capacity of the station from 8 MGD to 100 MGD to help with meeting PWD's Green City, Clean Waters plan by taking this water and sending all of it to the SW Pollution Control Water Plant for treatment before final release into the Delaware River</p>
US HUD Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Relief (CDBG-DR)	July 2023	City and HUD executed agreement - PWD submitting formal request for \$250K	\$2M	\$37M loan	The Eastwick Flood Study being conducted in conjunction with the US Army Corps of Engineers required more matching funds since the limit of the initial budget for the study had been reached - this request is to cover the PWD portion so that work can continue to proceed.
PennVest	November 2023	Application Approved	\$37M	\$37M loan	PennVest application to fund the replacement of rotary lobe blowers at the Southwest Water Plant. The current blowers are at the end of their useful life and are not equipped with variable frequency drives, are not energy efficient, operate at high sound levels, and are not adaptable to varying airflow demands
US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	November 2024	Application Rejected	\$3M	\$1M Grant Request	PWD will redesign and expand its apprenticeship program for the skilled trades including a new curriculum and on-the-job training process.

Assistance Program/ Requesting Organization	Date Submitted	Status	Project Cost	Grant or Loan Requested	Notes
PEMA/FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)	December 2023	PEMA forwarded to FEMA for review	\$11.8M	\$10.7M Grant Request	<p>PWD will complete the engineering design of the Belmont Raw Water Pump Station to mitigate flood risk, improve resiliency, increase capacity, and address future conditions by either: A) hardening the existing pump station with new flood mitigation infrastructure and increasing its capacity or B) constructing a new pump station to replace the existing station. The proposed project will provide drinking water service protection to more than 263,000 residents. Of the 66 census tracts that make up Belmont's service area, 67% are considered disadvantaged according to the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST), and several of the census tracts are designated FEMA Community Disaster Resilience Zones (CDRZ).</p>
PEMA/FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)	December 2023	PEMA forwarded to FEMA for review	\$66.8M	\$50M Grant Request	<p>The S.42nd St. wastewater pumping station is located adjacent to St. Joseph's University's University City Campus. Currently this pumping station is permitted to pump only wastewater yet when a severe wet weather event happens the adjacent storm outfall (S-50) causes Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) to occur directly into the Schuylkill River. In addition, Hurricane Storm Ida caused the regulating chamber to back up into the pump station knocking out its electrical works and damaging the station pumps causing est. \$550K in damages and forcing it into manual mode for 10 weeks. It was determined after many alternatives were examined to expand the pumping capacity of the station from 8 MGD to 100 MGD to help with meeting PWD's Green City, Clean Waters plan by taking this water and sending all of it to the SW Pollution Control Water Plant for treatment before final release into the Delaware River</p>