

*Responses to PA-VII-24 Questions Regarding City Budgeting Process*

**1. How do requested projects reduce racial disparities and promote social equity in current service levels or past investments?**

*Listed below are the type of PWD projects that help reduce racial disparities and promote social equity:*

- *Lead Service Line Replacement: PWD is prioritizing the replacement of lead service lines in historically underserved communities. This project ensures that all residents have access to safe, lead-free drinking water, addressing past inequities in infrastructure investments.*
- *Neighborhood Green Infrastructure Projects: PWD invests in green infrastructure projects such as rain gardens, green roofs, and permeable pavements in underserved neighborhoods. These projects help manage stormwater, reduce flooding, and create green spaces, improving the quality of life in these areas.*
- *Stormwater Management Enhancements: Implementing advanced stormwater management systems in areas prone to flooding, which often disproportionately affect lower-income and minority communities. These enhancements help protect homes and businesses from flood damage.*
- *Community Park Renovations: Partnering with local organizations to renovate and create community parks with green stormwater infrastructure. This not only provides recreational spaces but also educates the community about sustainable practices.*
- *Drinking Water Infrastructure Improvements: Investing in the maintenance and upgrade of drinking water infrastructure ensure reliable and high-quality water service for all residents.*
- *Energy Efficiency Projects: Implementing energy efficiency upgrades at PWD facilities, focusing on reducing operational costs and environmental impacts. These projects also create jobs and training opportunities for City residents.*

**2. Who will benefit most from this investment? Are there specific communities, such as marginalized or underserved groups, who will directly benefit?**

*Services Provided by PWD are not racially or economically determined. PWD provides equal access to safe drinking water and wastewater services to all Philadelphia residents. There are however program initiatives that PWD implements such as Expanded Student Employment Opportunities, Powercorps, Apprenticeship Programs and Minority Business Opportunities that targets minority communities and institutions to improve diversity in the workforce and in contracting for goods and services. There are also income-based customer assistance programs that, although not specifically designed for racial equity, helps to ensure affordable water services to low-income customers.*

**3. What community needs or disparities does this budget request address? How were these needs identified, and what data supports this approach?**

*PWD provides water, sewer, and stormwater services equally amount throughout the city. A large portion of PWD's capital program is renewal and replacement, which is meant to maintain existing services. PWD provides programs such as TAP to help reduce water bills to customer, and the HELP Loans to address issues with customer owned plumbing.*

**4. To what extent is the Water Department addressing geographic and demographic disparities in drinking water quality and infrastructure maintenance?**

*PWD provides water, sewer, and stormwater services equally amount throughout the city. A large portion of PWD's capital program is renewal and replacement, which is meant to maintain existing services. PWD provides programs such as TAP to help reduce water bills to customer, and the HELP Loans to address issues with customer owned plumbing.*