

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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AGENCY DIVISIONS

Administration & Finance
Behavioral Health
Community Services
Protective Services
Public Health
Self-Sufficiency

DATE: May 2, 2022

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors
Cc: Don Ashton, Chief Administrative Officer

FROM: Daniel Del Monte, Interim Director of Health & Human Services Agency *DDM*

SUBJECT: Retroactive Funding Agreement Notification – Item 22-0718, 5/24/22
Low Income Household Water Assistance Program

This memo is to notify you that a retroactive funding agreement request has been created and upon approval will be on the Board of Supervisor's Agenda for May 24, 2022 (File ID: 22-0718). HHS staff work to minimize these requests where we can control. Specific to this situation, a retroactive funding agreement was unavoidable and I wanted to provide you with the background context.

On May 28, 2021, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released funding to implement the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) under the Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA) and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), which were signed into law on December 27, 2020, and March 11, 2021, respectively.

The Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) received one time LIHWAP CAA and ARPA grant awards totaling \$116,496,312 to provide financial assistance to low-income households who have struggled to make water, wastewater, and/or stormwater payments prior to, and during, the COVID-19 pandemic.

On January 25, 2022, CSD released their LIHWAP final program design overview. The implementation timeline for the LIHWAP program indicated that agreements would be released in early March 2022, with a term effective April 1, 2022 through August 31, 2023. On April 12, 2022, HHS received Agreement 21Z-9554 (FENIX 6540) from CSD, totaling \$107,960, and immediately began processing for Board approval. The retroactive term will allow HHS to bill for administrative start-up costs of the new program, with the LIHWAP services becoming available to households in June 2022. The funds reimburse HHS for enrolling and administering the program, however, the expenses incurred by the water agencies will be reimbursed directly to them via an intermediary contractor hired by CSD. In addition, the Agreement covers El Dorado and Alpine Counties.

As always, please let me know if you have any questions or would like to discuss anything further.