




ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

November 7, 2022

To: Jerome D. Schad, Chair
Peggy A. LaGree, Vice Chair
Michele M. Iannello, Treasurer

From: Joyce Tomaka, Chief Financial Officer 

Subject: COVID-19 Update

Attached please find a summary of credits and refunds received by the Authority relating to costs that had been incurred during COVID-19.

The LIHWAP Program has been extended through September 30, 2023.

COVID-19 Update

FEMA Claims

- Three claims filed:
 - Costs incurred March 17, 2020 – September 14, 2020; claim approved and check received in the amount of \$84, 608.46 on October 6, 2022
 - Costs incurred September 15, 2020 – January 20, 2021; claim approved and check received in the amount of \$47,210.77 on October 18, 2022
 - Costs incurred January 21, 2021 – March 31, 2022; claim approved and check received in the amount of \$69,169.78 on October 6, 2022
- This was an offset of expenses incurred for eligible expenses that related directly to COVID-19

New York State Insurance Fund

- Workers Compensation Insurance credit – the audit of the July 2019 to June 2020 coverage period took into account the rotation of employees and those working from home during 2020
 - \$59,441.27 was credited to the policy period

Credits for Qualified Sick and Family Leave Wages

- This was an employment tax credit granted during the second and third quarters of 2021. This was for time granted to employees who had taken sick leave due to COVID-19:
 - Second Quarter (April/May/June 2021) resulted in \$55,486.12
 - Third Quarter (July/August/September 2021) resulted in \$25,573.28

Total Credit received = \$81,059.40

COBRA Premium Assistance Credit

- This was an offset for COBRA premiums to qualifying employees
 - There was 1 employee who was eligible for this credit during the second and third quarters of 2021:
 - \$2,418 per quarter for a total of \$4,836
 - It should be noted that the Authority did not benefit from this credit, the eligible employee was not required to make any payments for this six month period

LIHWAP Program – Low Income Household Water Assistance Program

- This program began in November 2021 and we began seeing payments for eligible customers in January 2022

- From January 2022 to November 2, 2022 – 918 payments have been received in the amount of \$355,933.40
 - This amount does include multiple payments for the same household
 - The program was scheduled to end September 30, 2022 however it was extended for another Fiscal Year from October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023
 - This means that any prior household that had been granted and/or reached the maximum benefit prior to October 1 may be eligible to receive up to that maximum amount again during the new fiscal period
 - Income eligibility guidelines were updated for the new fiscal year so some people may now qualify if they did not qualify last year