



WATER ACTION PLAN

1. End water shut-offs & connect families to help.

It doesn't make sense to shut off people's water during a pandemic, especially when there are so many resources the federal government has provided to help families pay their water bills. By connecting people to these resources, Wilmington can both get its water bills paid and keep the water on:

- **Delaware Housing Assistance Program (DEHAP)**
We're asking Mayor Purzycki and DSHA to work together to connect Wilmington renters with DEHAP- the state's rental assistance program. The federal government has given DEHAP more than \$300 million to help renters impacted by the pandemic pay back rent and utility bills.
- **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)**
We're asking Mayor Purzycki to use some of its ARPA money to fund the city's Utility Assistance Program to help low-income homeowners keep the water on. The federal government has given the City \$54 million in ARPA funds for pandemic relief, which can include help with water bills.
- **Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)**
We're asking Mayor Purzycki to work with Delaware's Division of Public Health to connect city residents with the state's LIHWAP program. The federal government has given Delaware's LIHWAP program over \$2 million to help low-income families pay for water.

2. Use available federal resources to fund water infrastructure improvements now to keep water bills affordable in the future.

Using federal dollars for water and sewer capital projects is the best way to lower costs for rate-payers.

- **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act**
We're asking Mayor Purzycki to take immediate steps to maximize the city's use of federal subsidies in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to pay for expensive water and sewer infrastructure projects in order to keep residents' water bills affordable over the long-term. The federal government just passed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which gives Delaware more than \$335 million for water system upgrades.

IMPACT

Wilmington will keep the water on for families during the pandemic AND creates a sustainable water utility system for the future that provides water at rates everyone can afford.