



City of Tarpon Springs, Florida

Irene S. Jacobs, CMC
City Clerk & Collector

K. Michele Manousos, CMC
City Clerk & Collector

DATE: MARCH 28, 2023
TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FROM: IRENE S. JACOBS, CMC, CITY CLERK & COLLECTOR *[ISJ]*
RE: LOW-INCOME WATER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIWAP)

RECOMMENDATION:

To approve Mayor to sign agreement with the Pinellas County Urban League for the low-income household water assistance program (LIWAP).

BACKGROUND:

I was contacted by the Pinellas County Urban League regarding the (LIWAP) program that was established in December 2020, under the consolidated appropriations Act of 2021. This is a federally funded program that helps ensure low-income households have access to safe and clean drinking water and wastewater services. I am recommending approval of this program in which would be another option of social services and would benefit our customers for those who qualify. Additionally, this agreement was reviewed by City Attorney Kardash.



PINELLAS COUNTY URBAN LEAGUE, INC.
LOW INCOME HOME WATER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
VENDOR PAYMENT AGREEMENT
WITH
CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS
P.O. Box 5004
TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA 34688
(727) 942-5614

The undersigned home water supplier hereby agrees to the following conditions in order to receive vendor payments from the Low- Income Home Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP):

1. This agreement will begin on (April 2023) and will end on (September 30, 2023). The agreement will be reviewed/renewed no later than (September 1, 2023).
2. The Recipient agrees to provide the Vendor with a list of names and contact information for all agency personnel authorized to commit LIHWAP funds. The Vendor will only accept payment commitment from authorized Recipient personnel. Changes (additions/deletions) to the authorized personnel list must be approved in writing by an authorized Recipient representative.
3. The Vendor agrees to provide Pinellas County Urban League (LIHWAP) department with the name and contact information of the primary representative that is authorized to resolve a crisis and/ or apply benefit commitments on the client's behalf.
4. The Recipient agrees to provide utility payments directly to the Vendor on behalf of the LIHWAP eligible customer.
5. The Vendor assures that no household receiving LIHWAP assistance will be treated adversely because of such assistance under applicable provisions of state law or public regulatory requirements.
6. The Vendor assures that eligible households on whose behalf a LIHWAP vendor payment is received, either in the cost of goods supplied or the services provided, will not be discriminated against.
7. The Vendor understand that the funds will be used to cover and/or reduce arrearages, rates and fees associated with reconnection or preventions of disconnection of service, and rate reduction to eligible households for such services. This Agreement is a contract between the [Pinellas County Urban League LIHWAP], and the City of Tarpon Springs

for the provision of water bill payments to assist low-income households with water and wastewater reconnection and ongoing services.

8. The Vendor understands that only direct costs with water and wastewater related elements of a utility bill are allowed. No changes that result from illegal activities such as bad checks or meter tampering will be paid with LIHWAP funds. The Vendor is aware that such charges are the responsibility of the customer. Pinellas County Urban League is responsible, through their fact-finding and due diligence, to make sure that this paragraph is complied with before their guarantee is placed.
9. The Vendor understands that when the LIHWAP benefit amount does not pay for the complete charges owed by the customer, that the customer is responsible for the remaining balance owed.
10. The Vendor agrees to assist the Recipient in verifying the LIHWAP customer's account information and to make timely commitments to resolve any crisis. Subject to the Vendor's privacy requirements, the Vendor agrees to provide the Recipient with the following detailed customer account information: (1) current amount owed, (2) due date/disconnect dates and (3) amount necessary to resolve the crisis.
11. The Recipient agrees to provide payment to the Vendor within 30 days from the date of the Recipient's promise to pay.
12. This Vendor agreement will be signed by Recipient and Vendor management with authority to enter such commitments.
13. If a LIHWAP payment to the Vendor cannot be applied to a customer's account, Pinellas County Urban League can request, in writing, to have such payment returned or applied to another eligible customer's account. Upon such request, the vendor will return the funds to Pinellas County Urban League or apply them to another eligible customer's account.

RECIPIENT

Pinellas County Urban League, INC.
333 31st St. No.
St. Petersburg, FL. 33713

VENDOR

City of Tarpon Springs
P.O. Box 5004
Tarpon Springs, FL. 34688

BY: _____
(Signature)

(Name and Title)

(Date)

BY: _____
(Signature)

(Name and Title)

(Date)