

## Staff Report

**Subject:** Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program Agreement  
**Author:** Mark W. Barnes, Finance Director  
**Department:** Finance Department  
**Meeting Date:** 11/1/22  
**Item Description:** Consideration to renew an agreement between the Georgia Department of Human Services, Division of Family and Children Services (DHS-DFCS) and the Effingham County Board of Commissioners.

### **Summary Recommendation:**

Staff recommends approval of the agreement renewal.

### **Executive Summary:**

Staff received the original agreement from the Director at Action-Pact, an organization which provides, in part, utility assistance to low income households. This initiative is being administered by Georgia DHS-DFCS to provide funds to cover and/or reduce arrearages, rates and fees associated with reconnection or preventions of disconnection of service and rate reduction to assist low-income holds with water and wastewater reconnection and ongoing services.

### **Background:**

1. The County originally entered into this agreement at the February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 public meeting.
2. The initial term of the original agreement was from February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 until September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
3. This renewal's term will be from October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 until September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

### **Alternatives for Commission to Consider:**

1. Approve the agreement between the Georgia Department of Human Services, Division of Family and Children Services.
2. Do not approve the agreement.

### **Recommended Alternative:**

Staff recommends Alternative number 1 – Approve to renew the LIHWAP agreement with Georgia DHS-DFCS.

### **Other Alternatives:**

N/A

**Department Review:** *(list departments)*

Finance

**Funding Source:**

No funding required

**Attachments:**

1. LIHWAP agreement