



# GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

---

**AGENDA DATE:** July 27, 2022

**AGENDA ITEM:** Draft Guidelines for the Grand Rapids Public Utilities Community Caring Fund at the Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation

**PREPARED BY:** Julie Kennedy, General Manager

---

## **BACKGROUND:**

At the June work session, we heard from Susan Lynch from the Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation about how to best utilize funds in the Grand Rapids Public Utilities Community Caring Fund account at GRACF. The memo from Susan for that meeting is attached. Again, the funds in the Caring Fund account are provided by GRPU customers who have enrolled in a program to round up their bill allowing the overpayment to be contributed to the Caring Fund account at GRACF. For some reason however, there have been no distributions from the account since 2012.

At the Commission meeting, staff was asked to draft some guidelines for which the Caring Fund account funds could be distributed. Below is the first draft of guidelines for your review and discussion at the meeting.

### Grand Rapids Public Utilities Community Caring Fund Program Guidelines

- Maximum total spending per year = \$1,000 (current funding is at ~\$800/year so if we allow total spending of \$1,000, the account will be going backwards until contributions from GRPU customers = \$1,000/year)
- Maximum individual recipient gift per year = \$100 (this means we could gift to 10 recipients each year, more if any gifts are less than \$100)
- The (up to) \$100 gift to recipient can be used to pay for utility deposit and/or outstanding utility bills (including any fees) for electric, water, wastewater, and storm water. (money is transferred from GRACF to GRPU on behalf of the recipient)
- The Program is tracked and analyzed on a calendar year basis

- GRACF reports to GRPU annually on the Caring Fund account

Grand Rapids Public Utilities Community Caring Fund Recipient Eligibility Guidelines

- Recipient lives in the GRPU service territory
- Recipient is currently or will be a GRPU RESIDENTIAL customer
- Recipient has been screened through a nonprofit organization or government social service establishing a need for utility payment assistance (someone else determines the financial need to pay for utility services)

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Review and Discussion Only.