# Water and Wastewater Assistance Programs

Best Practices and Biggest Challenges



### Introduction

- Dollar Energy Fund has administered water and wastewater programs since 1991
- Partnered with Pennsylvania America Water Company on the first comprehensive water utility assistance program of its kind
- Administer water or wastewater programs for 6 states
- Investor owned utilities and municipals
- 40+ utility partners (natural gas, electric, water, wastewater, and telephone) in 12 states

# Pennsylvania American Water Program

- 3 main components of program
  - Reduced rate 85% discount on the service charge for the customer (meter charge)
  - Conservation kits & repairs
  - Hardship Program provided nearly \$5MM to 200,000 households

# Pennsylvania American Water Program

#### Funding

- Hardship component: Shareholder funds used to match customer contributions. Dollar Energy Fund provides additional funds through our fundraising efforts
- Repair component: Rates
- Discount component: Rates
- Administration
  - Hardship grants through CBOs
  - Discount administered through DEF call center
  - Repairs completed by licensed plumbers and paid for by DEF

# Allegheny County Sanitation Authority

- Alcosan description
- EPA Mandate/Consent Decree caused increasing rates
- 68 customers that service 300,000 households
- Multiple billers
- Assistance paid quarterly in form of grant sent directly to biller
- 33% of Alcosan fee

# Clairton Municipal Authority Program

- Background
  - How DEF got involved
  - City of Clairton
  - Authority
  - State Senator
- Funding sources
- Outcome
- Issues with the program

# Pittsburgh Water & Sewer Authority

- Residential Homeowner Assistance Program (RHAP)
- Designed to assist residence in City of Pittsburgh where customer had the ability to have separate storm water system and were not connected properly
- Point of Sale restriction on sale of home
- Provided grants and low interest loans to residents to complete the repairs
- DEF began administration and opted out of the program
- Lessons learned