

On June 16, 2017, the New York City Water Board held a hearing on two rate credit proposals:

The expansion of the **Home Water Assistance Program** (HWAP) to assist low income seniors with their water bills and the creation of the **Multi-family Water Assistance Program** (MWAP) to assist affordable multi-family with long term affordability agreements with the City of New York.

UNHP submitted testimony along with copies of its recently released "[Addressing the Ongoing Need for Affordable Water for Affordable Housing](#)" report, which called for approval of the MWAP program. At the hearing, Water Board member Adam Freed thanked UNHP for its "thoughtful and collaborative engagement on this." He went on to say, "You very eloquently raised this issue two years ago to the point that made the Board and staff really look at this issue and you offer solutions as well as identifying the challenge and came back the next year to help us refine and support that."

The hearing was followed immediately with a Water Board meeting at which both proposals were unanimously approved by the Water Board effective July 1, 2017. Water Board Chair Alfonse Carney stated that the program is a pilot and that the board will be open to hearing suggestions.

You may recall that the program was stopped last year as part of a lawsuit against the overall water rate increase. It seems unlikely to happen again this year. We will post information here with details on applying for the new program.