



SHARE Program Updates and Fund Reappropriation

11/08/2023

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Objectives and Program Goal

- Request Board approval to:
 1. Update The SHARE Program Guidelines to Remove the Emergency Rider for COVID-19 Outbreak and
 2. to Reappropriate COVID-19 Program Funds to The SHARE Program

- The SHARE Program is meant to help BPUB customers who are in financial distress, are elderly, have extreme medical expenses, are disabled, have funeral expenses or experience recent unemployment.

Timeline

- ❖ On March 26, 2020 BPUB enacted COVID-19 Pandemic Response Plan
- ❖ On April 13, 2020 the Brownsville Public Utilities Board voted to:
 1. Allocate surplus Improvement Funds in the amount of \$2M to an Expanded SHARE fund for COVID-19 Customer Relief
 2. Amend the criteria of the SHARE program
 - The COVID -19 Emergency Rider extended assistance to customers who are either underemployed or unemployed due to the COVID – 19 outbreak.
- ❖ On March 10, 2023, BPUB announced deactivation of the COVID-19 Pandemic Response Plan
- ❖ May 11, 2023 marked the end of the Federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) Declaration

Program Funding

SHARE assistance is funded through BPUB employee and customer donations and BPUB sponsored events.


Here are the donation amounts from 2020 until 2023.

Year	Amount
2020 Total	\$ 25,107.02
2021 Total	\$ 10,176.33
2022 Total	\$ 28.79
2023 Total	\$ 39.52
Grand Total	\$ 35,351.66

Proposed Changes

1. Remove the COVID -19 Emergency Rider and
2. Reappropriate COVID-19 program funds, currently 1.3M to the SHARE program.

Proposed Change


BROWNSVILLE
PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

SHARE Program (SHARE)
Emergency Rider for COVID-19 Outbreak
Guidelines as Amended on May 22, 2020

The SHARE Program is meant to help BPUB Customers who are in financial distress due to low income or recent extreme expenses, and need aid with their BPUB utility bill due to the COVID-19 virus. Subject to funding allocations by BPUB, the Share program would be available to a BPUB residential customer who demonstrates that (s)he satisfies at least one of the following program requirements:

- Low Income
- Elderly – 62 years or older
- Medical Expenses
 - Must be able to document unusually high medical expenses.
- Disabled
 - Provide documents of disability
- Funeral Expenses
 - Recent paid receipts totaling \$250.00 or more within a six-month period
- Recent Unemployment
 - Documents of unemployment
- ~~• Customers who are either underemployed or unemployed due to the COVID-19 outbreak~~


Limitations

- Arrears
 - Customer cannot be past due more than 2 months on their account
- Bill Due Date
 - Customers can only be assisted on bill that is past due
- \$200.00 limit per client per month, may cover multiple bills.
- BPUB customer may be assisted in 2 month increments.

~~Emergency Rider~~

~~In times of emergency, such as a state-wide or local emergency declaration, BPUB may augment or amend the above terms of the program for a period of time. Instructions would be set forth in a letter (may be electronic) from BPUB.~~




BROWNSVILLE
PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

SHARE Program (SHARE)
Guidelines as Amended on October 30, 2023

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Next Step

We will be attending next Board meeting on 11/13/2023 and request to remove the COVID -19 Emergency Rider and reappropriate COVID-19 program funds, currently 1.3M to the SHARE program.

Questions

