

Achieving water equity is not something NAWC can accomplish alone. Creating long-term solutions and ensuring affordability for all customers will take the combined initiatives of utilities, regulators, policy leaders, and communities. As part of this initiative, NAWC actively conducts outreach and seeks to collaborate with outside groups to make meaningful progress in achieving water equity. Examples of past outreach are described below:

NAWC's State of Water: Workshop on Affordability (May 2021)

NAWC, together with the Chair of the NARUC Committee on Water, Commissioner Maria Bocanegra of the Illinois Commerce Commission, hosted a two-day virtual event to examine affordability issues and discuss pathways to achieving water equity. The event featured a diverse roster of affordability experts, consumer advocates, state public utility commissioners, and water industry executives, including:

- Dr. Manuel "Manny" Teodoro, of the Robert M La Follette School of Public Affairs at the University of Wisconsin
- Scott Berry, Director of Policy and Government Affairs, US Water Alliance
- David Springe, Executive Director, NASUCA
- Hon. Lea Márquez Peterson, Chair, Arizona Corporation Commission; Co-Vice Chair, NARUC Committee on Water Chair

The Office of Community Services' World Water Week 2021 (August 2021)

NAWC participated in the World Water Week, hosted by Office of Community Services, the division of US Health and Human Services that administers the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP). The week of events entitled, *Building Resilience Faster: Partnering to Increase Availability, Affordability, and Access to Quality Water and Wastewater Services*, included a series of virtual discussions on the economic, racial, and geographic disparities that impact access to water and wastewater resources by low-income individuals and communities. Panelists discussed efforts on the local and federal level to address these disparities and how, collectively, we can support increasing access to water and wastewater resources for all.

April Ballou, NAWC's General Counsel and VP of State Regulatory Affairs, participated in the closing panel for World Water Week entitled, *Voices from the Field: A Virtual Roundtable with Water Stakeholders and Advocates*. Ms. Ballou shared NAWC's work on affordability issues, including NAWC's 5 Principles for Water Equity. Other panelists included:

- Scott Barringer, Deputy Assistant Administrator, USDA
- Christina Clark, LIHWAP Program Manager, OCS
- Captain David Harvey, Commissioned Officer, US Public Health Service
- Oluwole McFoy, Chairman, Buffalo, NY Water Board
- Sara Aminzadeh, Vice President of Partnerships, US Water Alliance

For more information about this event, and for a recordings of the sessions please visit: [LIHWAP World Water Week FY2021 | The Administration for Children and Families \(hhs.gov\)](#)

National Governors' Association: Experts Roundtable on Utility Disconnection Moratoriums (December 2020)

The NGA Center for Best Practices hosted this roundtable to explore solutions for utility affordability and stability during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly for those customers and utilities in the more than 30 states with moratoriums on utility disconnections and late bill collection. This conversation convened state policymakers and regulators with advocates, researchers, and energy and water utilities from around the country to identify policy and regulatory actions Governors can consider to preserve utility affordability for consumers and to ensure the solvency of critical public and private energy and water utilities during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. NAWC participated in this roundtable and shared the work that regulated water utilities are doing to help customers during the pandemic.