

# RIVERSIDE PUBLIC UTILITIES

## Board Memorandum

**BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**

**DATE: JUNE 14, 2021**

**GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

### **SHARE and ERAP Program Participation July 2020 through April 2021**

#### **SHARE Program**

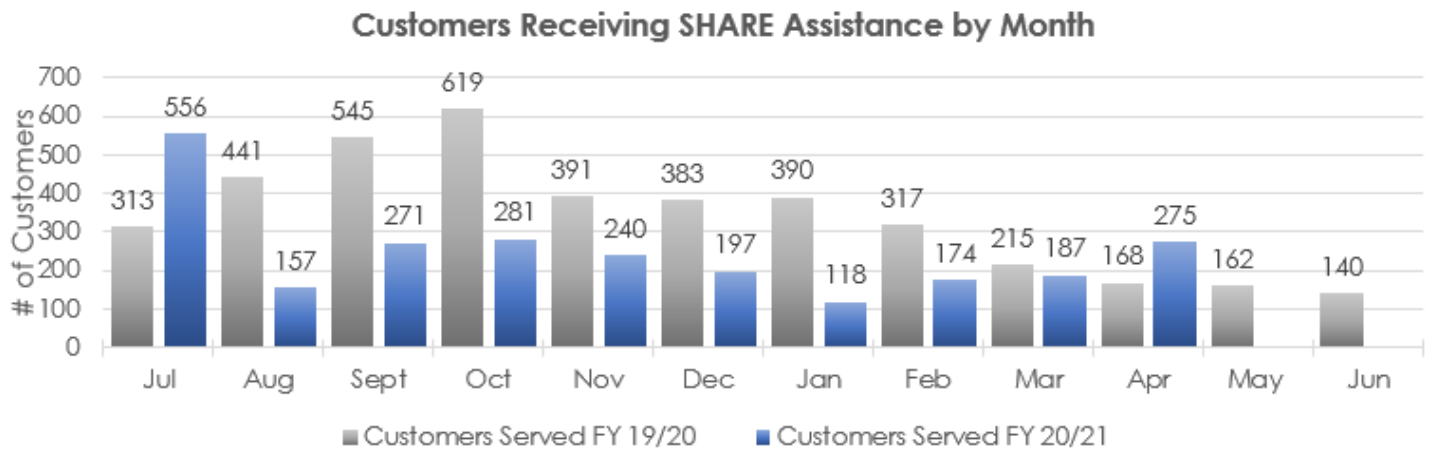
The SHARE program provided assistance to over 4,000 electric customers and over 1,300 water customers for fiscal-year 2019/20.

Effective July 22, 2020, qualified customers can receive \$15.00 per month for their electric bill and \$2.75 for their water bill. The SHARE program maintained the once-annual \$150 assistance to customers but has limited it to either deposit assistance or emergency assistance for customers that receive a disconnection notice but are unable to pay.

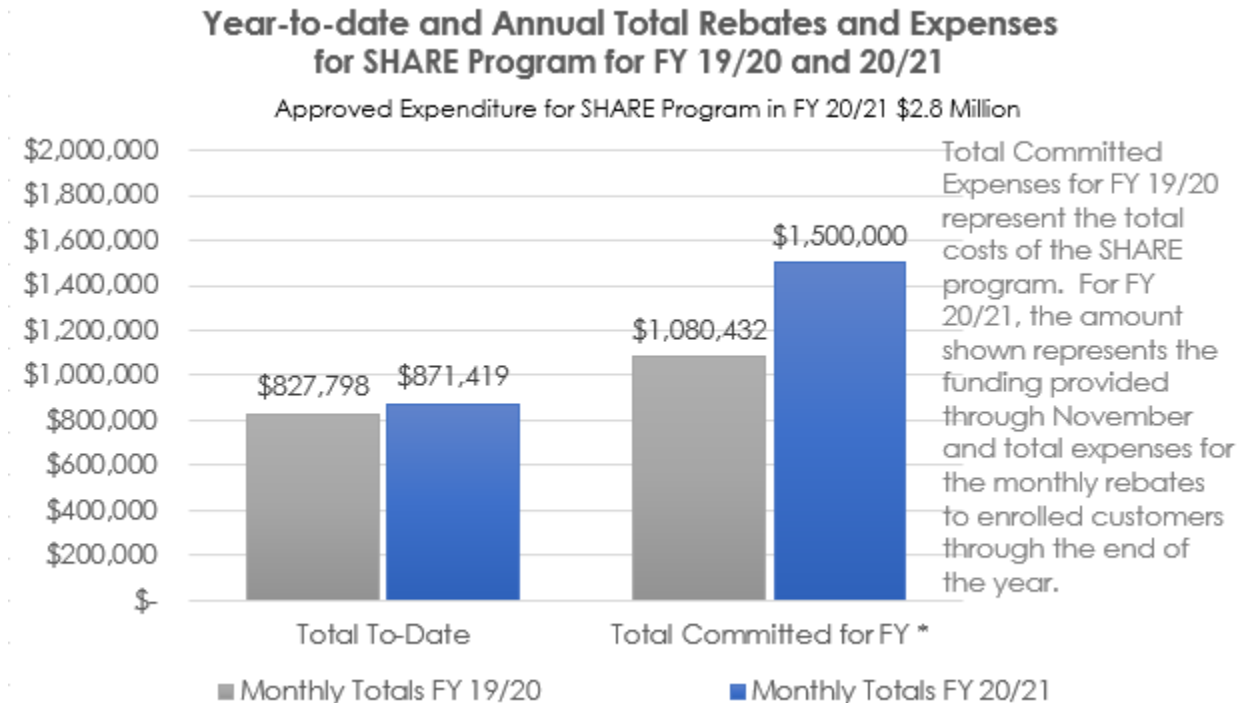
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the delinquency process was put on hold until further notice. Effective, July 16, 2020 the SHARE program guidelines were updated to allow an urgent notice to qualify customers for the \$150 emergency assistance. Once the COVID-19 state emergency ceases to exist, we will revert back to our current program guidelines upon management approval.

On March 23, 2021, the City Council approved an increase to the emergency/deposit assistance from \$150 to \$250. Approximately, 1,548 customers that received the \$150 from March 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021 retroactively received the additional \$100 credit.

Over the second year of the enhanced program, the total number of customers approved for SHARE assistance was 4,084. This represented a year-over-year decrease of 2% when compared to 4,175 customers served between July 2018 and June 2019. Participation continues to trend similar to prior years despite increasing outreach. The number of customers served July 2020 through April 2021 is 2,456, a 35% decrease from the previous year. Staff understands that this is due to the current economic conditions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the halt of the delinquency process.

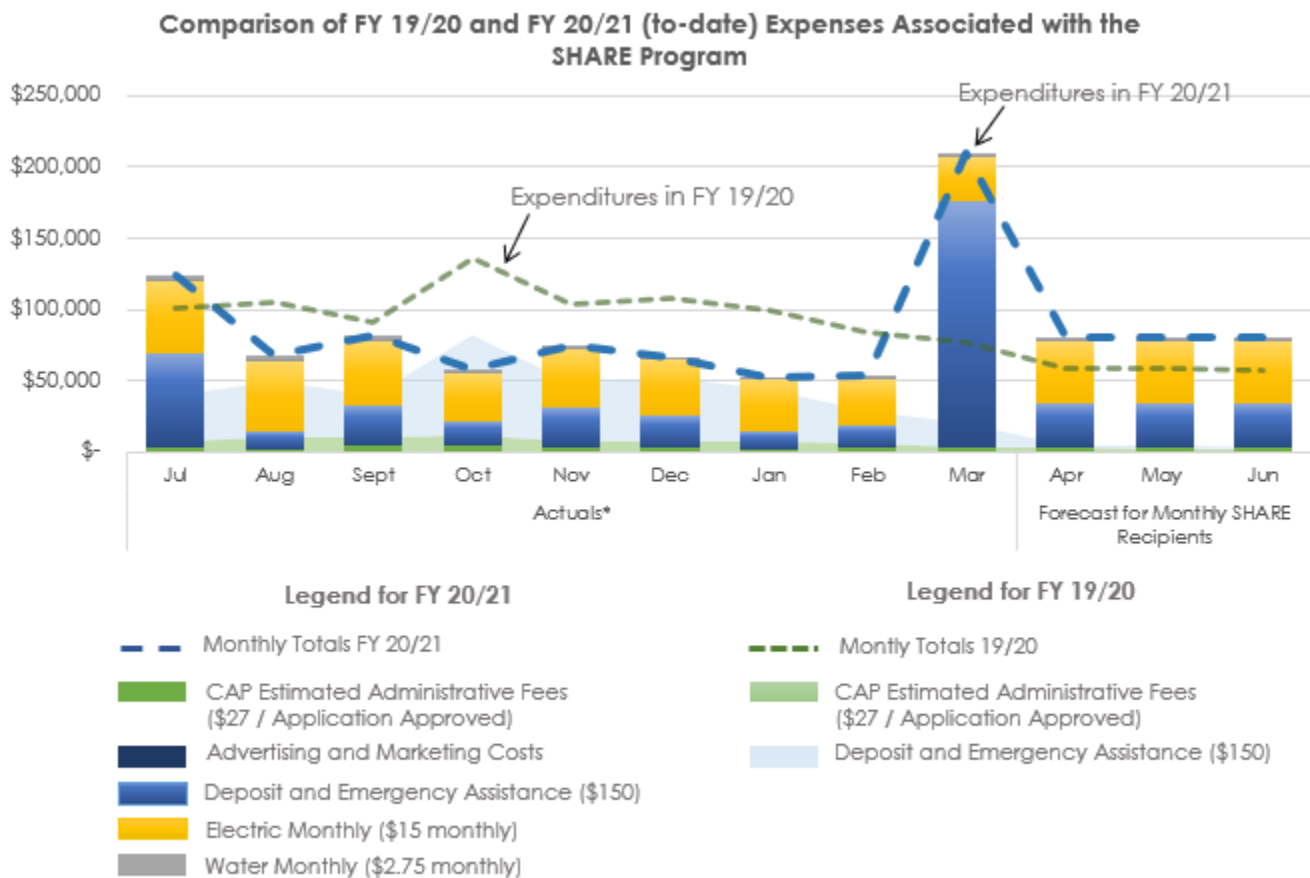


In FY 19/20, the SHARE program cost varied month to month, the monthly average per customer increased as more customers enrolled in the monthly rebate programs. Expenses associated with the rebates per customer are spread throughout the year as customer receive their monthly rebates. The amount expended per customer as of the end of FY 19/20 was \$264.55 (the amount includes monthly payments for enrolled customers through the end of the current fiscal year). Through April, the amount expended per customer is \$164.43.



The chart on the next page provides detail on the history and current progress of the SHARE program participants, expenditures, overhead costs and program goals. CAP administrative expenses are shown in green with the lighter color representing FY 19/20. In April 2021, there was a 25 percent difference in costs between the monthly electric rebate and the flat emergency/deposit assistance

(shown as light blue for FY 19/20 and darker blue for FY 20/21). This reflects the monthly payments (shown in yellow) increasing as participation increases throughout the year.



\* CAP Administrative Fee for FY 20/21 is Estimated based on Approved Applications.

### Casa Blanca Customer Resource Center

Re-opened to the public as of April 15, 2021. In April, approved SHARE applications increased by 102%.

### Community Outreach

All outreach has shifted to online and mail only. We are using social media, mailings, emails, back of bill and the website to reach customers.

### Energy Savings Assistance Program

The Energy Savings Assistance Program (ESAP) is administered in partnership with the Southern California Gas Company has continued operations and we are developing the program relaunch in accordance with CDC guidelines.

### Emergency Recovery Assistance Program

The Emergency Recovery Assistance Program (ERAP) was created to assist electric residential customers who have been unemployed, furloughed or experienced a reduction in work hours due to COVID-19. ERAP soft launched on May 20, 2020. Applications are processed and the \$250 bill credit is posted to the customer's account in less than 48 hours from the date the application was received. Effective October 7, 2020, the ERAP bill credit increase amount was approved by City Council and increased to \$400.

ERAP has been promoted monthly through social media and email to increase program awareness and participation.

May through April 4,706 applications have been approved over 1.8 million has been expended.

