



# Southwest Michigan Community Action Agency

SERVING BERRIEN, CASS, AND VAN BUREN COUNTIES

*Helping People. Changing Lives.*



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## **SMCAA's Statement on Water Distribution**

In partnership with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), SMCAA began providing bottled water to the residents of the City of Benton Harbor following reports of elevated levels of lead in the city-supplied water. The State of Michigan is providing free bottled water as City residents are being encouraged to use bottled water for cooking, drinking, brushing teeth, rinsing foods, and mixing powdered infant formula.

It is SMCAA's belief that clean water is vital to the health of communities and that everyone has the right to safe, clean water. We were the first agency to distribute bottled water on September 30, 2021, when 257 households of 642 individuals were provided 1,824 cases of bottled water in a two-hour timeframe. Since then, SMCAA has partnered with a number of community human services and faith-based organizations to distribute cases across the City to those residents in-need of clean water. We have expanded our warehouse space in order to accommodate daily truckloads of incoming water and working with state and local officials to continue serving the City residents with this vital need.

We appreciate the dedicated, hardworking SMCAA staff members and all of the Southwest Michigan community (and beyond) for their willingness to volunteer during these distributions. Community Action remains ready to help people and change lives in the City of Benton Harbor. For daily updates, distribution locations, and volunteer opportunities, please visit [www.smcaa.com/bentonharborwater](http://www.smcaa.com/bentonharborwater).

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The Southwest Michigan Community Action Agency (SMCAA) is a private, non-profit Community Action Agency - part of a state and national network. SMCAA brings together federal and state grants funds and donated dollars from local, private, and public sources. These resources are then directed into a number of core and special programs and service which aid the low income, vulnerable, and otherwise disadvantaged individuals and households residing in Southwest Michigan.

SMCAA is dedicated to empowering diverse people in need and supporting their journey towards economic security. Our Vision is to be a beacon of support in a strong, thriving community by helping people and changing lives.

Learn more about SMCAA at [www.smcaa.com](http://www.smcaa.com).



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