



Office of Community Services

Low Income Household Water Assistance Program | LIHWAP

How Federal Aid for High Water Costs Helps Struggling Families

Stats for FY2022

NATIONAL SNAPSHOT

Based on grant recipient submitted and approved FY22 Annual Reports by March 1, 2023

Total funding awarded: **\$1,081,100,000**

LIHWAP Grant Recipients: **50 States***
5 Territories
97 Tribal Areas

*Includes 49 states and the District of Columbia. North Dakota declined LIHWAP funding.



How has LIHWAP impacted households in need nationally?

Individuals Served:⁶

890,656

Disconnections prevented:

295,677

Water services restored:

35,499

Water bill reductions:

157,511

Average LIHWAP benefit:

\$411.62

(Weighted average)

THE COST OF WATER IN THE UNITED STATES

Nationally, water is the fastest growing household utility service. Water and wastewater bills have risen 43.2% between 2012–2021¹. As a result, many Americans are struggling to pay their water and wastewater bills.

Median overall water and wastewater rate in 2022

\$125.90

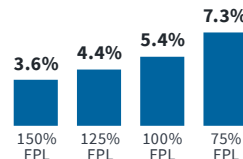
Rate includes water + sewer per month²

Income-eligible individuals

10,254,370

Total individuals under 150% FPL³

Median percent of income spent on water/wastewater by poverty rate⁴



FPL: Federal Poverty Level⁵

What is the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program?

LIHWAP is the first-ever federal water assistance program to help meet unmet water needs across the country by helping low-income households pay for their water and wastewater bills.

Who benefits from the program?

LIHWAP benefits households with the lowest incomes, and who pay a high proportion of income for drinking water or are facing water disconnection. This includes:

Households benefited

428,950

Households with an older adult

109,125

Households with a disabled person

110,222

Households with a child under five

75,055



www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/programs/lihwap | waterhelp.info

¹U.S. Municipal Water and Wastewater Utility Rate Index, 2021, Bluefield Research

²Water and sewer data from Duke University Nicholas Institute for Energy, Environment and Sustainability (2022). Represents large and very large utilities at usage rate of 10,000 gallons/month for inside customers. Rates estimated for states and DC only.

³Calculated from ACS 2021 1-year estimates, individuals with income below 150% poverty level

⁴Poverty rate: US Census Bureau American Community Survey

⁵FPL: US Dept of Health and Human Services. For states and DC only.

⁶Individuals served was an optional indicator for FY22. This value reflects the 63.2% of approved reports that included household member data and reflects household applicant data for the remaining 36.8%.