

Low Income Household Water Assistance Program

BLACKFEET TRIBE LIHWAP PROFILE SUMMARY



The Blackfeet Tribe Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is funded at \$407,394 in FY21. The Blackfeet Tribe utilizes LIHWAP grant funds to provide emergency assistance to enable low-income households to access water and wastewater services.

Program Operation

The Blackfeet Tribe's LIHWAP, which began in October 2021, is managed centrally by the Tribal government in coordination with other programs available to low-income households. The Blackfeet Tribe's LIHWAP provides relief assistance to **two priority groups**:

- Customers whose water and wastewater services have been disconnected
- Customers with arrearages to prevent disconnection of water and wastewater services

Program staff conduct outreach activities, determine client eligibility, and process benefit payments to water service providers.

FY21 LIHWAP FUNDING ALLOCATION



AMOUNT

TOTAL: \$407,394

- ARP: \$162,006
- CAA: \$245,388



OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES

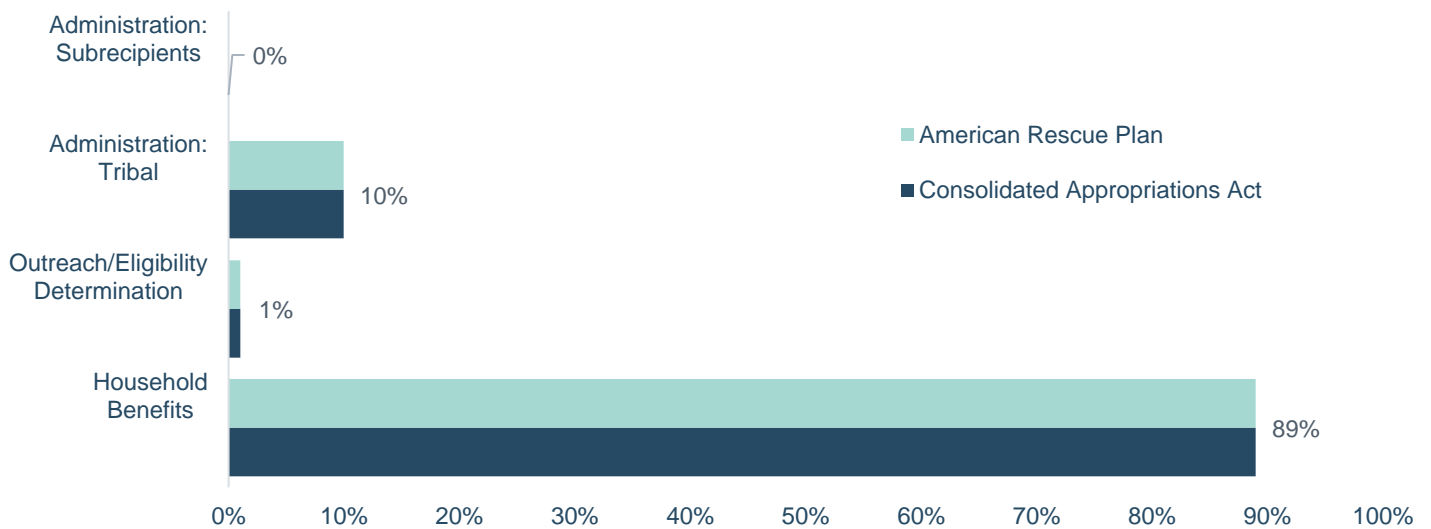
- Restoration of services
- Payment of arrearages



PROGRAM COORDINATION

- Joint application for multiple programs
- Intake referrals to/from other programs

Use of Funding by Funding Source



Benefits on Behalf of Households

Under the Tribe's administration of the program, eligible households may receive up to \$330 in benefits towards the payment of water and wastewater bills. Benefit amounts are determined by the LIHWAP benefit matrix.

Priority Populations

Households that meet program eligibility criteria **and** fall in one of the following categories receive priority assistance.

- ✓ People with disabilities
- ✓ Families with young children
- ✓ Older Adult/Seniors (60+)
- ✓ Households with high water burden

Program Outreach Activities

- Place posters/flyers in local and county social service offices, offices of aging, Social Security offices, Veterans Affairs, etc.
- Publication of articles or public service announcements in local newspapers or broadcast media announcements.
- Work directly with water utilities to identify potential recipients.
- Mass mailing(s) to prior-year LIHEAP recipients or recipients of other government benefits.
- Automated phone campaigns and/or social media outreach.

Eligibility and Benefit Determination Criteria

Title	Item
Income Threshold	
	150% Federal Poverty Guideline
	60% State Median Income
	Hybrid Federal and State (based on household size)
✓	Hybrid Household Size: The upper limit amounts are 60% of the state median income for household sizes one (1) through nine (9). The upper limit amounts for household sizes ten (10) and greater are 150% of the poverty threshold for the household size. For households at 150% of HHS poverty guidelines with more than ten (10) members, add \$6,810 for each additional member.
Categorical Eligibility	
✓	LIHEAP
	Means-tested Veterans Programs
	Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP)
	Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
Eligible Households	
✓	Homeowners
✓	Renters
Benefit Level Determination*	
✓	Income
✓	Household size
✓	Household drinking water burden
✓	Household wastewater burden
Benefit Amount	
\$54	Minimum
\$330	Maximum
Benefit Period	
✓	One Time
	Multiple

*Grant recipients are required to determine a benefit level for households seeking assistance with their current water and wastewater bills. Benefit level determination is based on household income, size, and drinking water and wastewater burden.

For more information about the Blackfeet Tribe LIHWAP, contact:

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