

Low Income Household Water Assistance Program

COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES LIHWAP PROFILE SUMMARY



The Colorado River Indian Tribes' Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is funded at \$178,152 in FY21. The program addresses the need for financial assistance in the community due to the rural area in which the reservation resides and increasingly high rates of low-income households. The Tribes utilize LIHWAP grant funds to provide emergency assistance to enable low-income households to access water and wastewater services.

Program Operation

The Colorado River Indian Tribes' LIHWAP, which began in March 2022, is managed and operated by the Tribal government in coordination with other programs available to low-income households. The Colorado River Indian Tribes' LIHWAP provides relief assistance to **three priority groups** on a case-by-case basis:

- Households whose water and wastewater services have been disconnected
- Households facing disconnection of water and wastewater services
- Households needing financial assistance with their current water bill

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

FY21 LIHWAP FUNDING ALLOCATION



AMOUNT

TOTAL: \$178,152

- ARP: \$70,757
- CAA: \$107,395



OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES

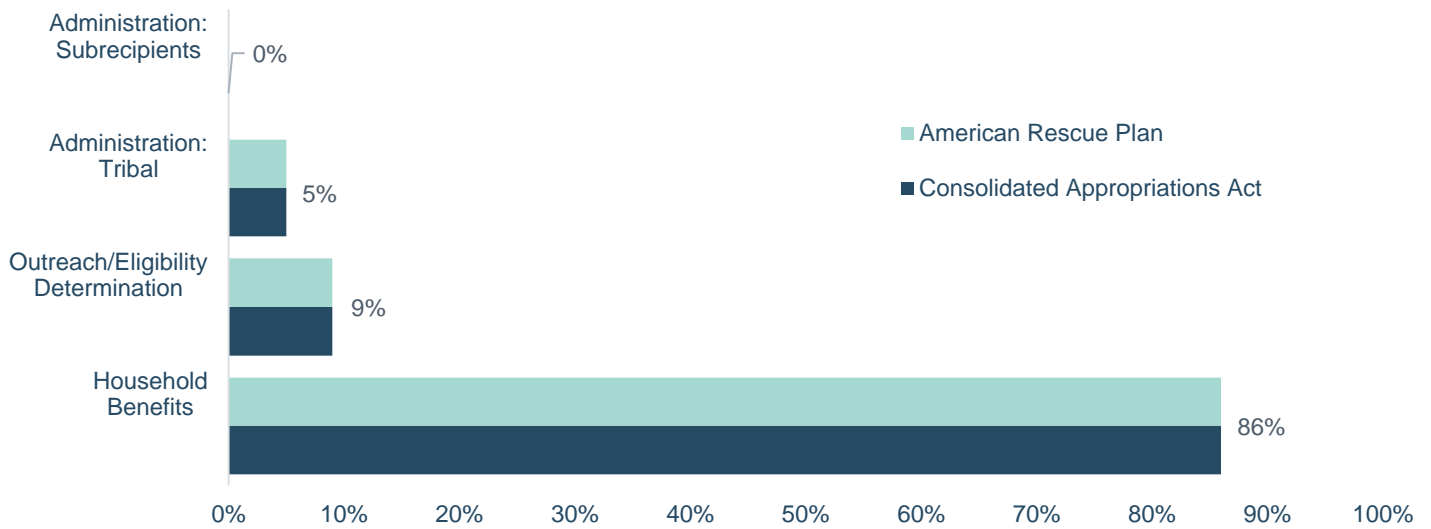
- Restoration of services
- Payment of arrearages
- Rate reductions



PROGRAM COORDINATION

- Intake referrals to/from other program programs through inter-departmental referral process

Use of Funding by Funding Source



Benefits on Behalf of Households

Under the Tribes' administration of the program, eligible households may receive up to \$550 in benefits. LIHWAP funds are distributed on a first-come first-serve basis. An applicant is eligible for two bi-annual regular benefits and one crisis benefit that is determined on a case-by-case basis.

Priority Populations

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

- ✓ 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.
- Inclusion of inserts in water vendor billings to inform individuals of the availability of LIHWAP assistance.
- Inform low-income applicants of the availability of all types of LIHWAP assistance at application intake for other low-income programs.
- Post LIHWAP information on Tribal social media and newspaper.

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)
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	
\$0	Minimum
\$550	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 Colorado Indian River Tribes LIHWAP, contact:

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