

Low Income Household Water Assistance Program

FORT PECK ASSINIBOINE & SIOUX TRIBES LIHWAP PROFILE SUMMARY



The Fort Peck Assiniboiné & Sioux Tribes Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is funded at just over \$200K in FY21. Monthly water/sewer payments in the area range from \$80 to \$150 per month, and reconnection fees range from \$200 to \$3,000. It's estimated that over half (55%) of families are living on fixed income, no income, or government assistance.

Program Operation

The Fort Peck Assiniboiné & Sioux Tribes' LIHWAP, which began in January 2022, is managed and operated by the Tribe's LIHEAP program. The Fort Peck Assiniboiné & Sioux Tribes's LIHWAP provides relief assistance to **two priority groups**:

- Households whose water or wastewater services have been disconnected
- Households facing the threat of disconnection of their water and wastewater services

A household applying for LIHWAP assistance will complete the LIHEAP application which will be used to determine income eligibility (this applicant will receive regular program benefits).

FY21 LIHWAP FUNDING ALLOCATION



AMOUNT

TOTAL: \$226,304

- ARP: \$89,887
- CAA: \$136,417



OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES

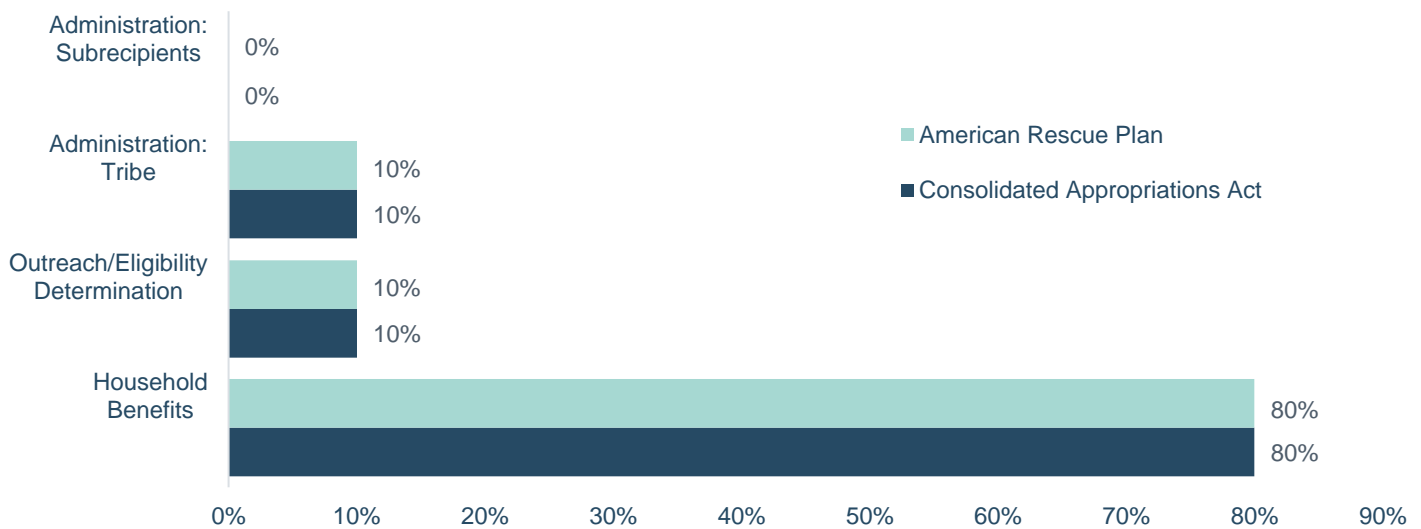
- Restoration of services
- Payment of arrearages



PROGRAM COORDINATION

- Coordination with other Community Services Programs

Use of Funding by Funding Source



Benefits on Behalf of Households

Under Fort Peck Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes' administration of the program, eligible households may receive up to \$1,250 in financial assistance to pay the account balance, past due arrears, or disconnection and reconnection fees. Agency staff use applicants' income, family size, and drinking water and wastewater burdens to determine the benefit amount.

Priority Populations

Households that meet program eligibility criteria **and** fall in one of the following categories are prioritized.

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

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.
- Automated phone campaigns and/or social media outreach.
- Inform low-income applicants of the availability of all types of LIHWAP assistance at application intake for other low-income programs.
- Interagency agreements executed with other low-income program offices and/or public health pathways created for Covid-19 outreach to perform outreach to target groups.

Eligibility and Benefit Determination Criteria

Title	Item
Income Threshold	
✓	60% State Median Income
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	
\$100	Minimum
\$1,250	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 Fort Peck Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes LIHWAP, contact:

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