

Low Income Household Water Assistance Program

HOOPA VALLEY TRIBE LIHWAP PROFILE SUMMARY



The Hoopa Valley Public Utilities District (HVPUD) Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is funded at \$131,666 in FY21. Since the influx of the COVID-19 pandemic, approximately 30% of accounts are in arrears. The Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation has a high level of poverty, unemployment, and a low median household income, which coupled with the health emergency has caused the water utility to incur hundreds of thousands of dollars of debt.

HVPUD reinstated shut-off procedures effective July 1, 2021, and hundreds of customers still face discontinued service.

Program Operation

Hoopa Valley Tribe's LIHWAP, which began in February 2022, is managed and operated by K'ima:w Medical Center. The Hoopa Valley Tribe 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

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

FY21 LIHWAP FUNDING ALLOCATION



AMOUNT

TOTAL: \$131,666

- ARP: \$52,339
- CAA: \$79,327



OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES

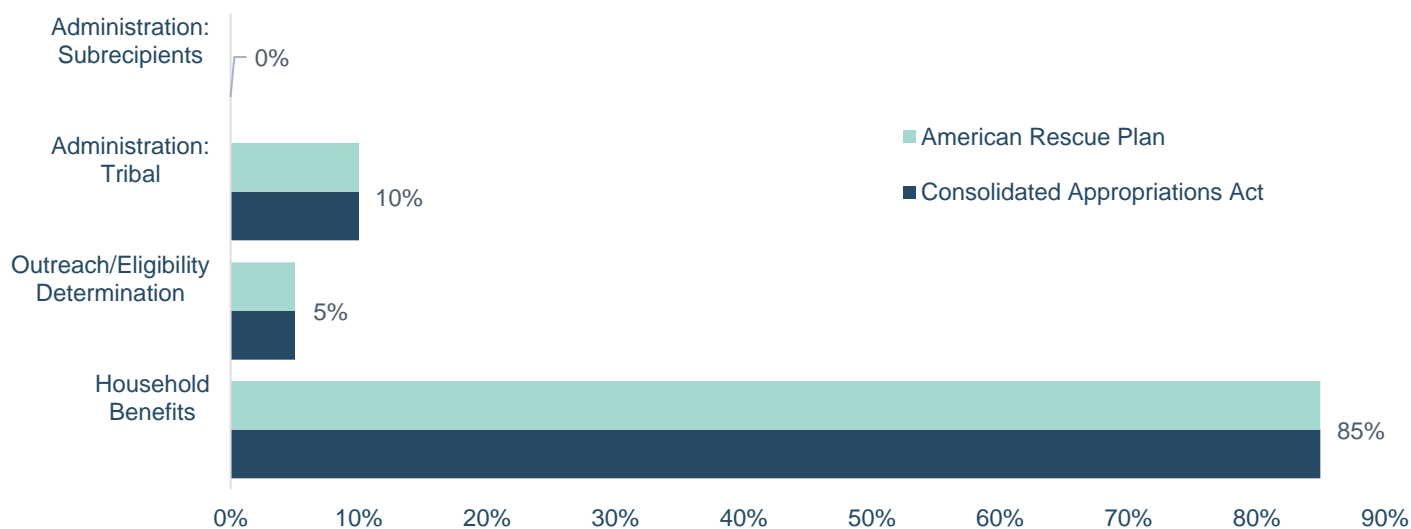
- Restoration of services
- Payment of arrearages



PROGRAM COORDINATION

- Intake referrals to/from other programs (e.g., Hoopa Valley Public Utilities District (HVPUD), TANF)

Use of Funding by Funding Source



Benefits on Behalf of Households

Under the Hoopa Valley Tribe's administration of the program, eligible households may receive up to \$1,200 in financial assistance to pay the account balance, past due arrears, or disconnection and reconnection fees. Program staff use applicants' income, household 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 and receive an increased benefit amount.

- ✓ 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.
- Inform low-income applicants of the availability of all types of LIHWAP assistance at application intake for other low-income programs.

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	
\$1	Minimum
\$1200	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 Hoopa Valley Tribe LIHWAP, contact:

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