

Low Income Household Water Assistance Program

KENTUCKY LIHWAP PROFILE SUMMARY



The Kentucky Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is funded at nearly \$18.7 million in FY21. The program addresses the needs of many low-income households that are struggling with paying their water bills. Data from Louisville Metro water company indicates that close to 12,000 customers are at risk of disconnection of water and/or wastewater services, about 1,700 are currently on a default payment plan, with another anticipated 4,600 customers to be added if payment arrangements are not made. The state utilizes LIHWAP grant funds to restore services to provide relief to assist low-income households with water and wastewater bills.

Program Operation

Kentucky's LIHWAP, which began in December 2021, is managed at the state level in coordination with Community Action Kentucky, Inc. (CAK) who subcontracts with 22 Community Action Agencies across the state and one local government to administer the program. Kentucky's LIHWAP provides relief assistance to **three priority groups**:

- Households facing disconnections or reconnections
- Households with arrearages
- Households with current amount due

FY21 LIHWAP FUNDING ALLOCATION



AMOUNT

TOTAL: \$18,684,749

- ARP: \$8,209,468
- CAA: \$10,475,281



OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES

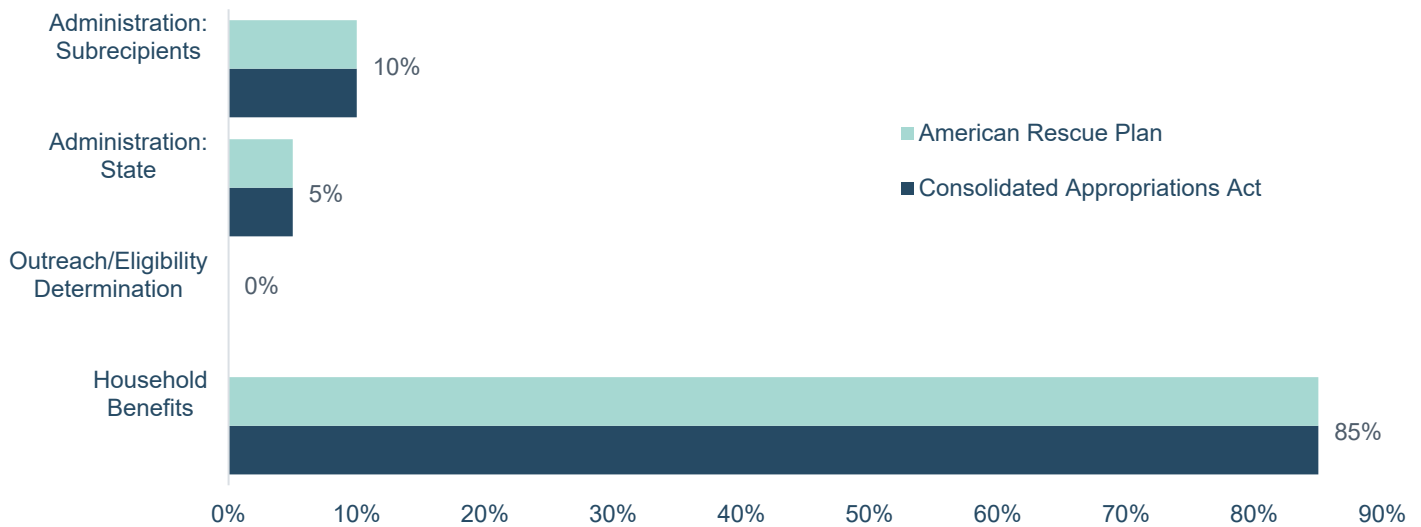
- Restoration of services
- Payment of arrearages
- Payment reductions



PROGRAM COORDINATION

- Referral from Community Action Agencies (CAA)

Use of Funding by Funding Source



Benefits on Behalf of Households

Under Kentucky's LIHWAP, eligible households may receive up to \$1,200 in benefit assistance. Administering agencies prioritize households facing disconnections or reconnections followed by households with arrearages and then households with current amount due. Eligible households may receive both subsidy and crisis benefits up to the allowable maximum amount during the program year.

Priority Populations

Households that meet program eligibility criteria and fall into one of the following categories are given eligibility priority. In addition, household applicants who are 60 and above or have disabilities and who receive a fixed income were able to pre-register before the start of the program.

- ✓ Families with young children
- ✓ Older Adult/Seniors (60+)
- ✓ Disabled individuals
- ✓ 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.
- 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.

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	
\$50	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 Kentucky LIHWAP, contact:

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