

Low Income Household Water Assistance Program

KENAITZE INDIAN TRIBE LIHWAP PROFILE SUMMARY



The Kenaitze Indian Tribe Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is funded at \$243,934 in FY21. Both the City of Kenai and the City of Soldotna offered deferred payment agreements for water and wastewater bills during COVID-19. The deferments ended on June 30, 2021, and both cities are offering repayment agreements to their customers. The Kanaitze Indian Tribe utilizes LIHWAP grant funds to assist clients who have a need for water or wastewater services.

Program Operation

The Kenaitze Indian Tribe's LIHWAP, which began in November 2021, is managed and operated at the tribal level. The Kenaitze Indian Tribe's LIHWAP provides relief assistance to **three priority groups**:

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

FY21 LIHWAP FUNDING ALLOCATION



AMOUNT

TOTAL: \$243,934

- ARP: \$97,015
- CAA: \$146,919



OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES

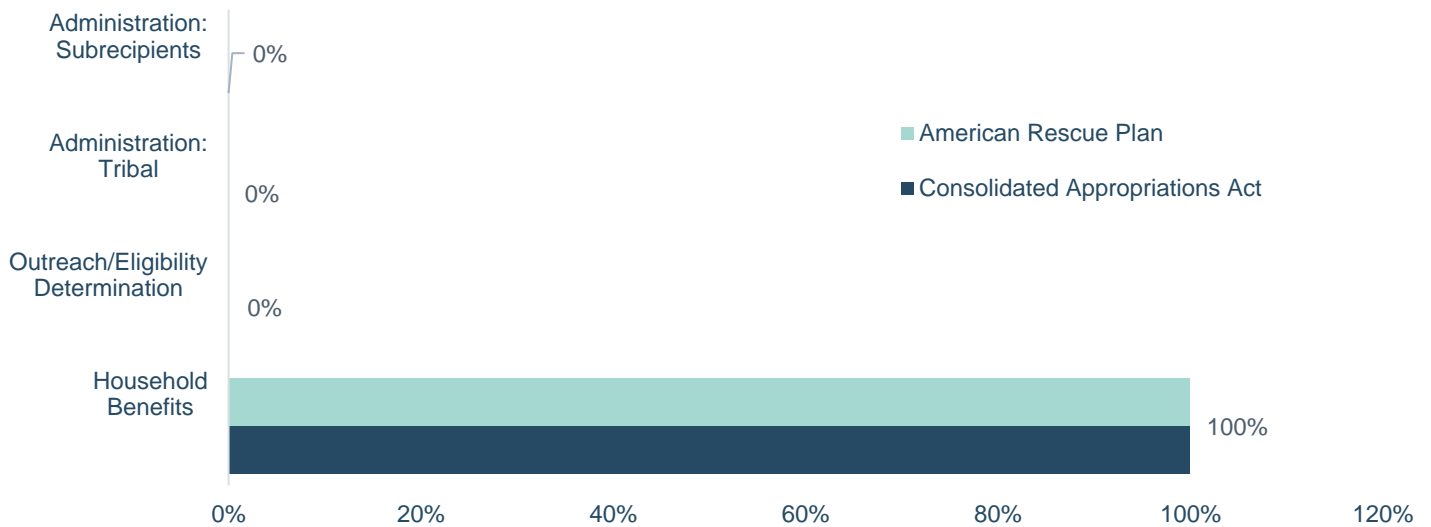
- Restoration of services
- Payment of arrearages
- Rate reductions



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 Kenaitze Indian Tribe's administration of the program, eligible households may receive up to \$1,500 in financial assistance. Program staff use applicants' income and household size to determine the benefit amount. A regular benefit amount is limited to one time per year. An additional benefit may be issued if it is medically necessary to prevent a shut off or the household is in a crisis situation based on a shut off notice, disconnection of water services, or inability to dump wastewater.

Priority Populations

Households that meet program eligibility criteria, reside in the service area (i.e., Cooper Landing, Sterling, Soldotna, Kasilof, Kenai or Nikiski), are Alaska Native/American Indian with a verifiable Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) issued by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, have tribal card or a letter from a federally recognized tribe, **and** fall in one of the following categories are prioritized and receive one additional point for the water cost points used to determine benefit value.

- ✓ People with disabilities
- ✓ Families with young children
- ✓ Older Adult/Seniors (55+)
- ✓ Households with high water burden

Program Outreach Activities

- Work directly with water utilities to identify potential recipients.
- Mass mailing(s) to prior-year LIHEAP recipients or recipients of other government benefits.
- Inform low-income applicants of the availability of all types of LIHWAP assistance at application intake for other low-income programs.
- Outreach to faith-based institutions, including those serving low-income people and people of color.

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	
\$96	Minimum
\$1500	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 Kenaitze Indian Tribe LIHWAP, contact:

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