

Low Income Household Water Assistance Program

LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS (LRBOI) LIHWAP PROFILE SUMMARY



The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians (LRBOI) Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is funded at \$10,000 in FY21. The LRBOI utilizes LIHWAP grant funds to assist LRBOI low-income citizens residing in Manistee, Lake, Wexford, Oceana, Muskegon, Ottawa, Kent, Mason and Lake Counties in Michigan maintain access to water and wastewater services.

Program Operation

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians LIHWAP, which began in January 2022, is managed and operated by Members Assistance Department in coordination with other programs available to low-income households. The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians' LIHWAP provides relief assistance to **three priority groups**:

- Households with disconnected services
- Households with pending disconnection or arrearages
- Households with no arrearages needing assistance with their current water bills

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

FY21 LIHWAP FUNDING ALLOCATION



AMOUNT

TOTAL: \$10,000

- ARP: \$5,000
- CAA: \$5,000



OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES

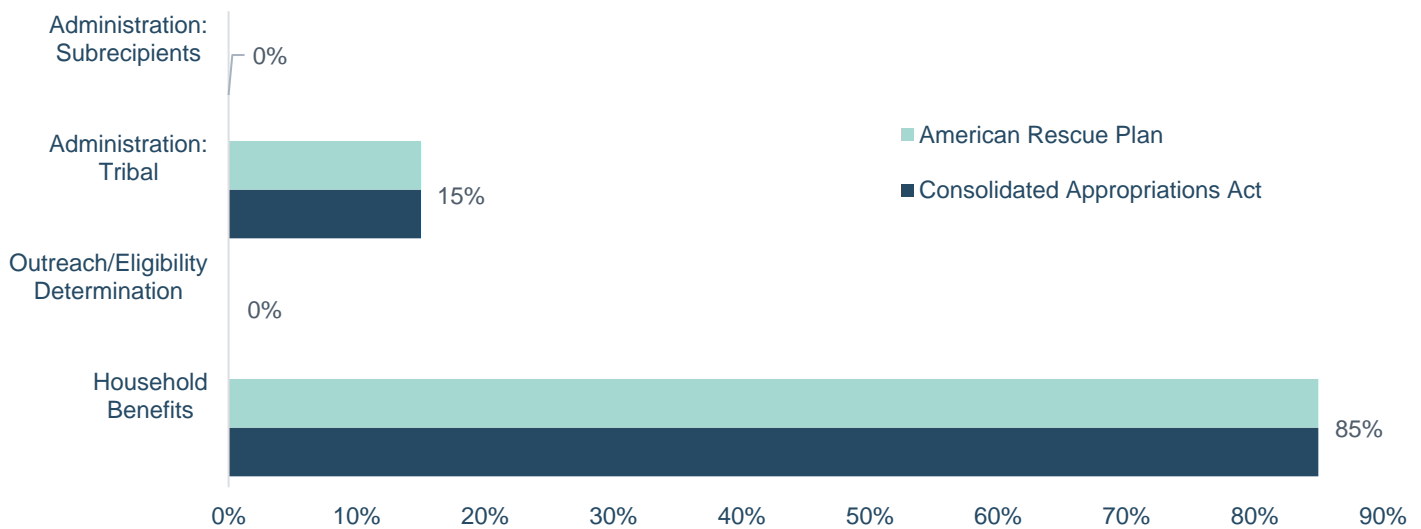
- Restoration of services
- Payment of arrearages
- Rate reductions



PROGRAM COORDINATION

- Coordination with LIHEAP

Use of Funding by Funding Source



Benefits on Behalf of Households

Under the Members Assistance Departments' administration of the program, eligible households may receive up to \$1,000 in benefits assistance. Households with disconnected water services receive prioritized assistance which includes processing completed applications in twenty-four (24) hours or on the next business day in order to determine eligibility while prioritized services for households pending disconnection of water services include processing completed applications within forty-eight (48) hours or two business days in order to determine eligibility.

Priority Populations

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

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

Program Outreach Activities

- Place flyers in LRBOI Manistee and Msukegon Clinics.
- Publish program information in the LRBOI Currents monthly newsletter.
- Publish program information on the LRBOI website.
- Include flyer with Elder meals.
- Include flyer with distribution of food commodities.
- Post flyer in Family Services office.

Priority is given to single parents with young children age six (6) or younger and elders age 55 and older with medical conditions. Although applications are processed in the order in which they are received, the initial application review will identify applicants in crisis situations and prioritize applications in the following order: applicants with disconnected services, applicants with a pending disconnection, applicants with arrearages, and applicants seeking assistance with current bills.

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	
\$325	Minimum
\$1000	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 Little River Band of Ottawa Indians LIHWAP, contact:

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