

Low Income Household Water Assistance Program

LOWER ELWHA KLALLAM TRIBE LIHWAP PROFILE SUMMARY



The Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe's (LEKT) Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is funded at \$37,225 in FY21. The Tribe utilizes LIHWAP grant funds to provide emergency assistance to enable low-income households to access water and wastewater services.

Program Operation

The Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe's (LEKT) LIHWAP, which began in April 2022, is managed and operated by the Department of Social Services in coordination with other programs available to low-income households. The Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe's LIHWAP provides relief assistance to **three priority groups**:

- Households whose water and wastewater services have been disconnected
- Households with existing arrearages to prevent service disconnection
- Households that may require assistance with their current water bills

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

FY21 LIHWAP FUNDING ALLOCATION



AMOUNT

TOTAL: \$37,225

- ARP: \$14,792
- CAA: \$22,433



OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES

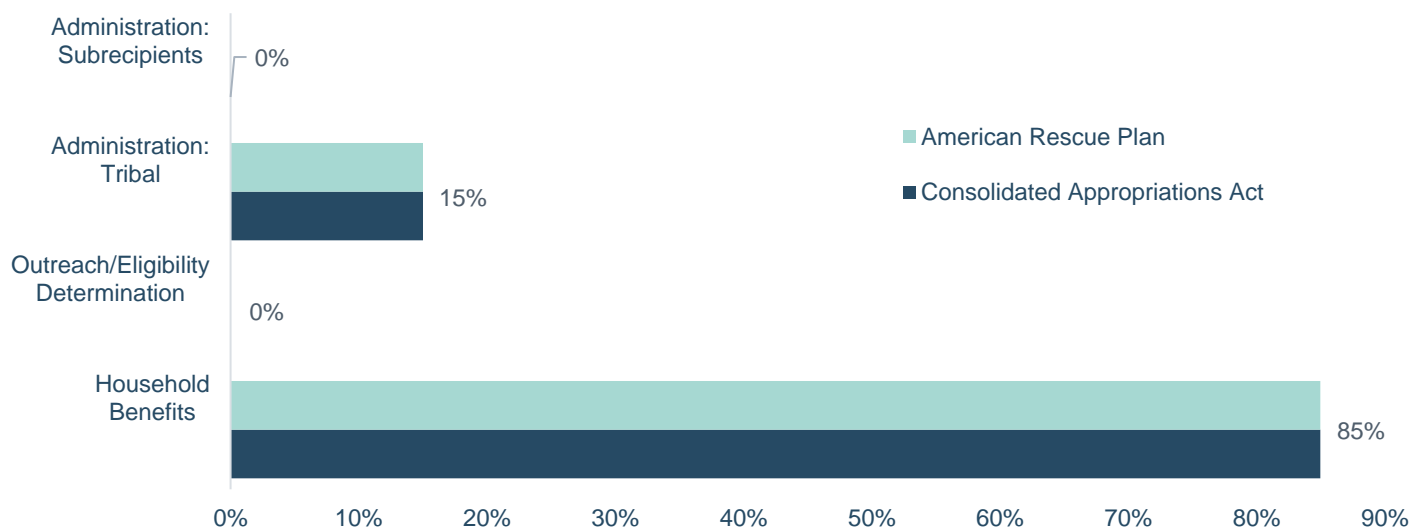
- Restoration of services
- Payment of arrearages
- Rate reductions



PROGRAM COORDINATION

- One application for LIHEAP and LIHWAP
- Information about funding availability with a request to refer anyone who may be eligible, will be provided to other Tribal Programs, Health Department, TANF, WIC, GA, ICW, TVR, LEHA, and the Food Bank.
- Coordination with TANF, WIC, General Assistance, Indian Child Welfare, TVR, and Family Advocacy housed in the same building where LIHWAP will be processed.
- Verbal notice and newsletter notification of available services, notice on Tribal LED signs, and applications will be available at other Tribal buildings and websites.

Use of Funding by Funding Source



Benefits on Behalf of Households

Under the Social Services Department's administration of the program, eligible households (households located in the LEKT Service Area and with one member enrolled in LEKT) may apply for benefits on a quarterly basis and may receive up to \$500 in benefit assistance. The Department will pay the benefit level calculated unless there is a balance on the account that will result in a disconnection of services, up to \$500.

To be eligible for Crisis Assistance, households must be without water and/or wastewater, services, have a disconnect notice for water and/or wastewater services, or have an outstanding balance for water and/or wastewater services at the time of application.

Priority Populations

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

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

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.
- Mass mailing(s) to prior-year LIHEAP recipients or recipients of other government benefits.
- 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
\$500	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 Lower Elwha Klallam LIHWAP, contact:

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