

Low Income Household Water Assistance Program

LUMBEE TRIBE OF NORTH CAROLINA LIHWAP PROFILE SUMMARY



The Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina (LTNC) Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is funded at \$4.3 million in FY21. The LTNC utilizes LIHWAP grant funds to provide emergency assistance to enable low-income households to access water and wastewater services.

Program Operation

The Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina began disbursing LIHWAP payments in October 2021. Emergency and non-emergency applications are processed with priority given to emergency household water services. Lumbee Tribal operations disburses benefit payment on a bi-monthly basis. To ensure timely reconnection for households currently disconnected and help them to avoid disconnection of services, vendor agreements have been established with county and municipal water agencies to ensure services are rendered prior to payment being received by the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina.

FY21 LIHWAP FUNDING ALLOCATION



AMOUNT

TOTAL: \$4,315,678

- ARP: \$1,716,621
- CAA: \$2,599,057



OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES

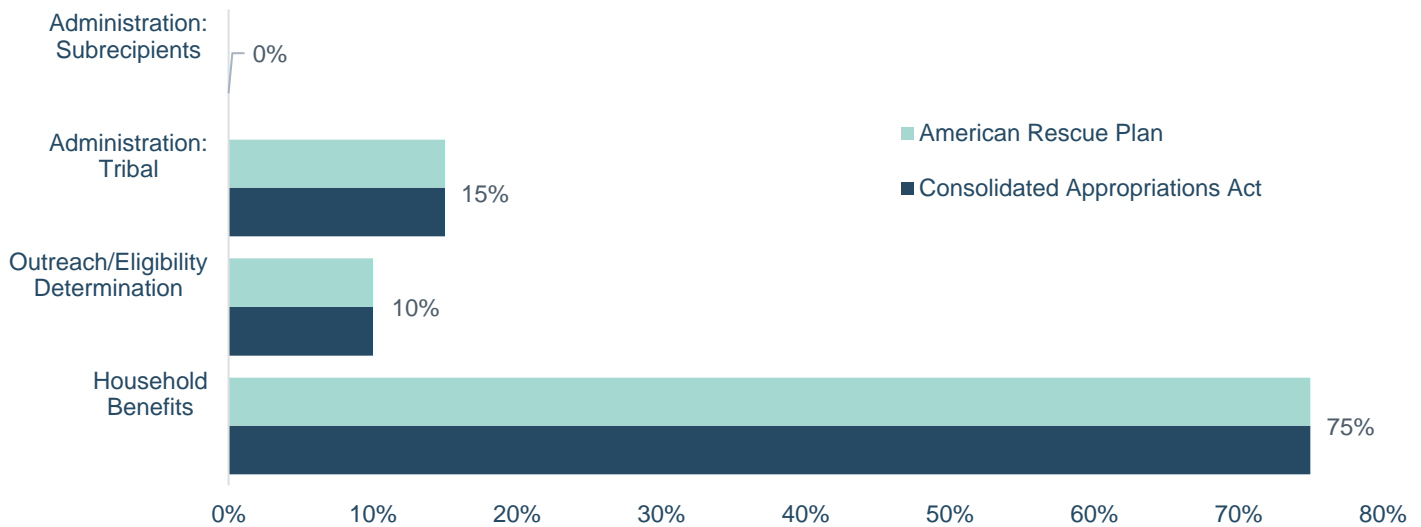
- Restoration of services
- Prevention of disconnection
- Establishing water services



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 Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina's administration of the program, households may receive financial assistance to establish household water services, restore household water services, reduce arrearages, reduce rates charged, and offset monthly water usage costs. Priority households received benefits first. Once the priority period ended, all income eligible households were eligible to apply. Program staff use applicants' income and household size to determine the benefit amount.

Priority Populations

Households that meet program eligibility criteria **and** fall in one of the following categories are prioritized to receive benefits first.

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

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.
- Interagency agreements executed with other low-income program offices and/or public health pathways created for Covid-19 outreach to perform outreach to target groups.
- 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	
\$18	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 and size.

For more information about the Lumbee Tribe LIHWAP, contact:

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