

# Low Income Household Water Assistance Program

## LUMMI NATION LIHWAP PROFILE SUMMARY



The Lummi Nation Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is funded at \$123,563 in FY21. The program addresses the current need for assistance among Lummi Nation members who, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, have faced new economic pressures. The Lummi Nation LIHWAP aims to provide Tribal members assistance to reduce their water and wastewater bills and ensure Tribal members have reliable sources of drinking water and waste disposal.

### Program Operation

Bishop Paiute Tribe's LIHWAP, which began in January 2022, is managed and operated by the Community Services Program in coordination with other programs available to low-income households. The Lummi Nation's LIHWAP provides relief assistance to **three priority groups**:

- Customers whose water and wastewater services have been disconnected
- Customers with arrearages who are at risk of disconnection
- Customers that need assistance paying their current water and/or wastewater bill

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

### FY21 LIHWAP FUNDING ALLOCATION



#### AMOUNT

**TOTAL: \$123,563**

- ARP: \$49,176
- CAA: \$74,387



#### OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES

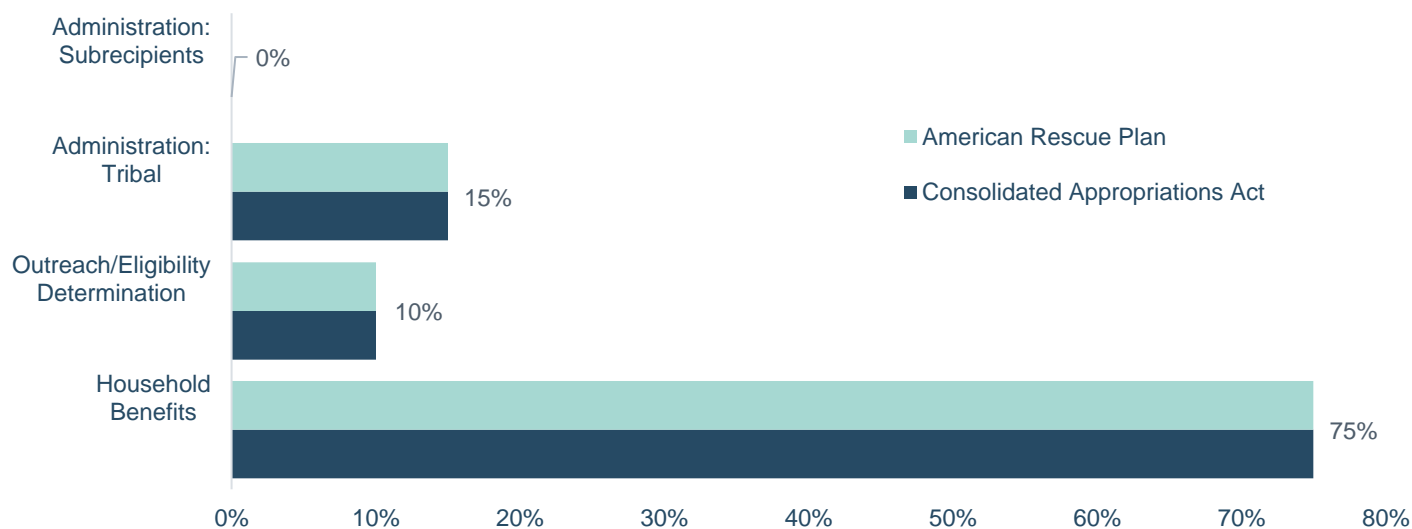
- Restoration of services
- Payment of arrearages
- Rate reduction



#### PROGRAM COORDINATION

- Intake referrals to/from other assistance programs
- Joint application for multiple programs

### Use of Funding by Funding Source



### Benefits on Behalf of Households

Under the Community Services Program's administration of the program, eligible households may receive up to \$500 in benefits. Eligible households can apply for benefits each month. Program staff use a benefits matrix to determine benefit assistance.

### Priority Populations

Households that meet program eligibility criteria **and** fall in one of the following categories will be able to apply through early designated application periods. All those who are categorically eligible for the program will be automatically enrolled.

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

### Program Outreach Activities

- Place posters/flyers in local and county social service offices, offices of aging, Social Security offices, Veterans Affairs, etc.
- Work directly with water utility to identify potential recipients.
- Include inserts in water vendor billings to inform individuals of the availability of all types of LIHWAP assistance.
- 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 program.
- Execute interagency agreements with other low-income program offices and/or public health pathways created for Covid-19 outreach to perform outreach to target groups.

## 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 Lummi Nation LIHWAP, contact:

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