

# Low Income Household Water Assistance Program

## MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS LIHWAP PROFILE SUMMARY



The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is funded at \$257,586 in FY21. MBCI LIHWAP's priority is the restoration of water services which includes payment for the previous month's bill, the restoration fee, and may also include the current bill. The MBCI Public Works shared that past due bills are their biggest issue because this often leads to disconnection and the added restoration fee in order to reconnect service. This then increases when the current bill becomes due. Leaks are the leading contributor to high water bills.

### Program Operation

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' LIHWAP began in January 2022.

### FY21 LIHWAP FUNDING ALLOCATION



#### AMOUNT

**TOTAL: \$257,586**

- ARP: \$102,403
- CAA: \$155,183



#### OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES

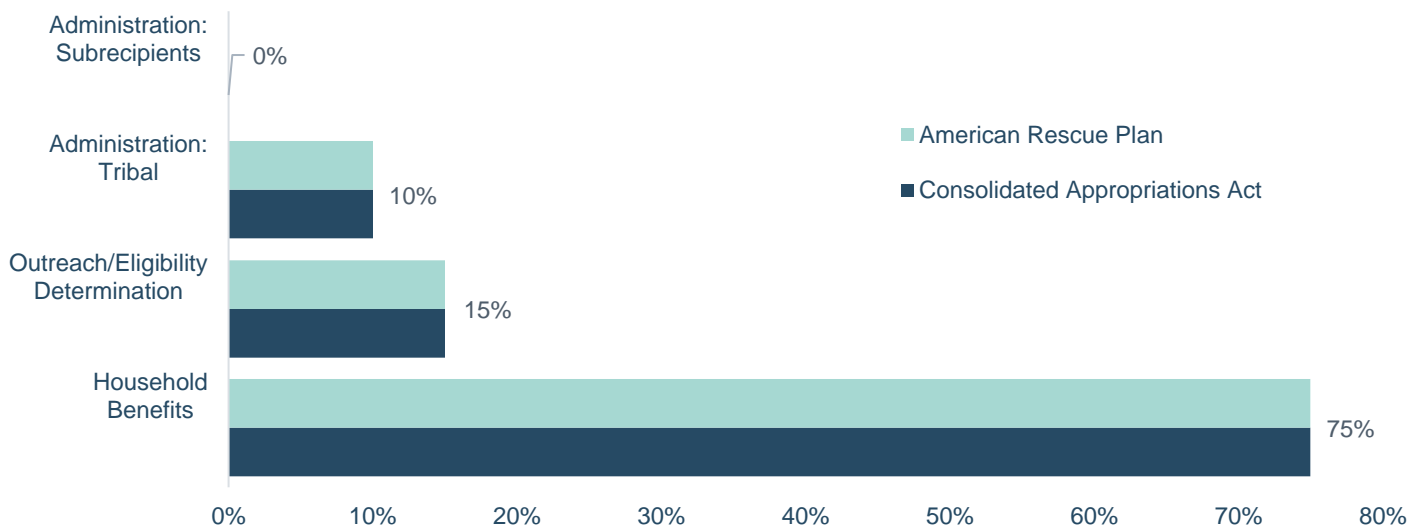
- Restoration of services
- Prevention of disconnection



#### 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 Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' administration of the program, households may receive up to \$1,200 in financial assistance to establish household water services, restore household water services, reduce arrearages, reduce rates charged, and offset monthly water usage cost through a direct benefit. Priority households received benefits first. Once the priority period ended, all income eligible households were eligible to apply. Program staff use applicants' income, household size, and water and wastewater burdens 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 (57+)
- ✓ Households with high water burden

### 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.
- 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	
<b>\$50</b>	Minimum
<b>\$1200</b>	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 Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians LIHWAP, contact:

#### Sally Allen

Program Manager of Assistance Services  
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians  
PO Box 6010, Choctaw, MS 39350  
TEL: 601-650-7334 / FAX: 601-650-1659  
E-Mail: Sally.Allen@Choctaw.org

**Website:** [www.choctaw.org](http://www.choctaw.org)

