

Low Income Household Water Assistance Program

MA-CHIS LOWER CREEK TRIBE OF ALABAMA LIHWAP PROFILE SUMMARY



The Ma-Chis Lower Creek Tribe's Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is funded at \$39,915 in FY21. The Ma-Chis Lower Creek Tribe utilizes LIHWAP grant funds to ensure that its citizens have access to drinking water and wastewater services.

Program Operation

The Ma-Chis Lower Creek Tribe's LIHWAP, which began in October 2021, is administered in coordination with other programs available to low-income households. The Ma-Chis Lower Creek Tribe's LIHWAP provides relief assistance to **three priority groups**:

- Households that have been disconnected or have arrearages
- Households facing disconnection from drinking water or wastewater
- Households that do not have any arrearages

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

FY21 LIHWAP FUNDING ALLOCATION



AMOUNT

TOTAL: \$39,915

- ARP: \$15,870
- CAA: \$24,045



OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES

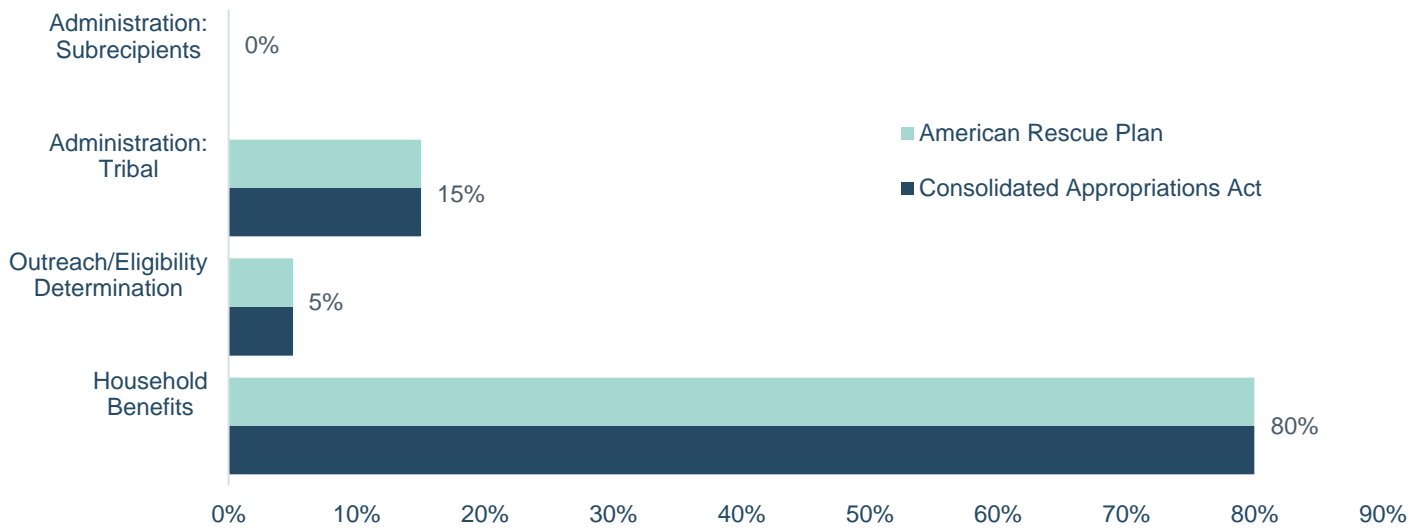
- Restoration of services
- Payment of arrearages
- Rate reductions



PROGRAM COORDINATION

- Joint application with LIHEAP and other programs

Use of Funding by Funding Source



Benefits on Behalf of Households

Under the Ma-Chis Lower Creek Tribe's administration of the program, eligible households may receive up to \$600. Benefits are distributed on a quarterly basis. For eligible households that have been disconnected or have arrearages, the program will pay the amount owed and the reconnection fee.

Priority Populations

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

- ✓ People with disabilities
- ✓ Families with young children (<5)
- ✓ Older Adult/Seniors (60+)
- ✓ Households with high water burden
- ✓ Household with chronic health issues

Program Outreach Activities

- Publication of articles or public service announcements in local newspapers or broadcast media announcements.
- Work directly with water utilities to identify potential recipients.
- Mass mailing(s) to prior-year LIHEAP recipients or recipients of other government benefits.
- 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.
- Outreach to faith-based institutions, including those serving low-income people and people of color.
- Send program flyers to households through local schools and via email.
- Share program information via social media.

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	
\$320	Minimum
\$600	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 Ma-Chis Lower Creek Tribe of Alabama LIHWAP, contact:

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