

Low Income Household Water Assistance Program

NEW HAMPSHIRE LIHWAP PROFILE SUMMARY



The New Hampshire Department of Energy Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is funded at nearly \$3.2 million in FY21. The state utilizes LIHWAP grant funds to provide relief assistance to ensure that low-income households have access to safe and affordable drinking water and wastewater services.

Program Operation

New Hampshire's LIHWAP, which began in January 2022, is managed and operated at the state level in coordination with other programs available to low-income households and in partnership with five Community Action Agencies (CAA) responsible for administering the program at the local level.

New Hampshire's LIHWAP provides relief assistance to **two priority groups**:

- Households with disconnected water services and/or wastewater services
- Households with arrears pending disconnections of water services and/or wastewater services

Administrative agency staff conduct outreach activities, determine eligibility and process benefit payments to vendors.

FY21 LIHWAP FUNDING ALLOCATION



AMOUNT

TOTAL: \$3,165,286

- ARP: \$1,390,723
- CAA: \$1,774,563



OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES

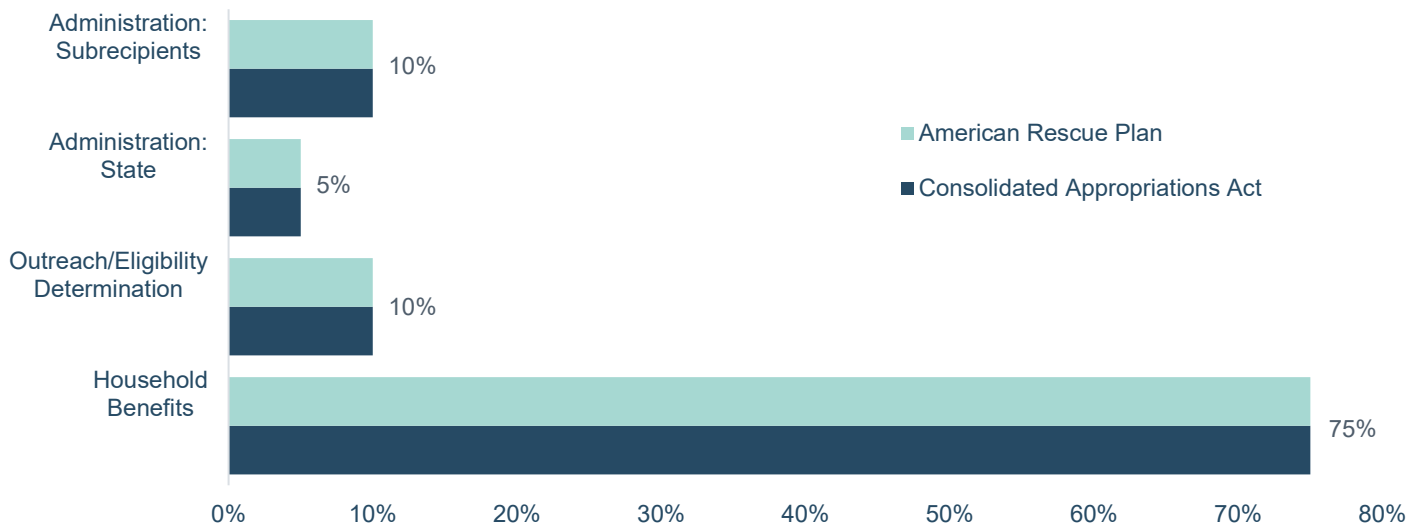
- Restoration of services
- Payment of arrears



PROGRAM COORDINATION

- Joint applications with LIHEAP and the state's Electric Assistance Programs (EAP)
- Intake and referral from LIHEAP, EAP, and other social programs
- One stop intake centers in select localities

Use of Funding by Funding Source



Benefits on Behalf of Households

Under New Hampshire's LIHWAP, eligible households may receive a one-time benefit of up to \$1,500 towards the payment of existing arrearages. Subgrantees can request a waiver from the Department of Energy to increase the benefit amount for those households with arrearages surpassing the maximum benefit level.

Program Outreach Activities

- Mass mailing(s) to prior-year LIHEAP recipients or recipients of other government benefits
- Administering agencies partner with local agencies that work with or provide resources for the elderly and/or those under 6 years of age and/or disabled households to promote the program.

Priority Populations

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

- ✓ People with disabilities
- ✓ Families with young children
- ✓ Older Adult/Seniors (60+)
- ✓ Households with high water burden
- ✓ Households who have been disconnected or who are in imminent threat of disconnection

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*	
N/A**	Income
N/A**	Household size
N/A**	Household drinking water burden
N/A**	Household wastewater burden
Benefit Amount	
\$0	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, size, and drinking water and wastewater burden.

**Because New Hampshire is not currently using its LIHWAP funds to assist households with their current water bills, the Department of Energy has not established a benefit level.

For more information about the New Hampshire LIHWAP, contact:

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