

Low Income Household Water Assistance Program

NEVADA LIHWAP PROFILE SUMMARY



The Nevada Employment and Support Services' Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is funded at nearly \$10 million in FY21. The program addresses the increase in the number of households who have been unable to pay their water and wastewater bills which has led to an increase in accounts that have arrearage amounts. The state utilizes LIHWAP grant funds to aid low-income households whose water and/or wastewater services have been disconnected, households with arrearages at risk of disconnection, and households in need assistance paying their current water bill.

Program Operation

Nevada's LIHWAP, which will begin in March 2022, is managed and operated at state level through the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS) in coordination with other programs available to low-income households. Nevada's LIHWAP provides relief assistance to **three priority groups**:

- Households with disconnected water services and/or wastewater services
- Households with pending disconnections of water services and/or wastewater services
- Households needing assistance paying their current water and/or wastewater bills

DWSS agency staff conduct outreach activities to ensure that eligible households are aware of all LIHWAP assistance available, determine client eligibility, and process benefit payments to water service providers.

FY21 LIHWAP FUNDING ALLOCATION



AMOUNT

TOTAL: \$10,159,966

- ARP: \$4,463,957
- CAA: \$5,696,009



OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES

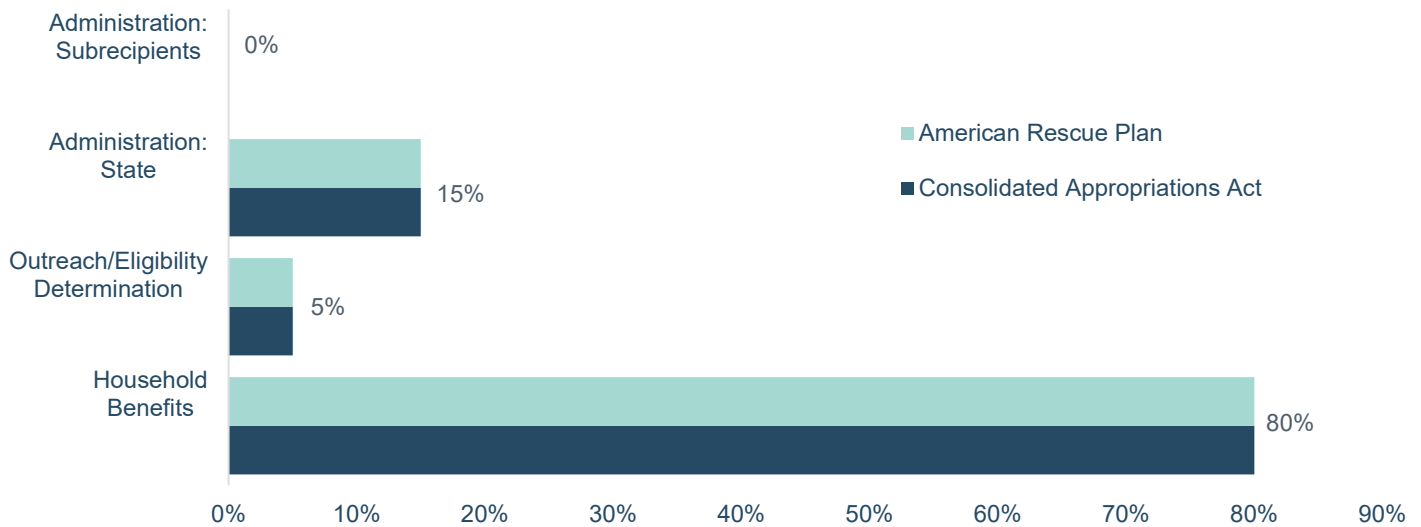
- Restoration of services
- Payment of arrearages



PROGRAM COORDINATION

- Intake sites throughout the state provide outreach, share information about the LIHWAP, conduct intake, assist clients in completing the application, and make provisions for clients who are homebound.
- The DWSS provides program brochures, posters and/or applications for dissemination to their clients.
- Conduct meetings with regulatory authorities that govern water suppliers to share updates and coordinate for the benefit of the program.

Use of Funding by Funding Source



Benefits on Behalf of Households

Under the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services' administration of the program, a Fixed Annual Credit (FAC) benefit is calculated for each eligible household. Households with lower income and higher usage, considering family size, receive a greater benefit amount. Although the state has established a minimum benefit cap standard of \$464 per eligible household, the benefit cap can be adjusted above or below this standard to optimize the assistance provided to eligible households based on the projected caseload and available program funding. A 30-day notice is posted prior to decreasing or eliminating the benefit cap adjustment. Households receiving wastewater assistance have an established benefit cap separate and distinct from water assistance.

Eligible households with disconnected water services and/or wastewater services and households with pending disconnection of services receive assistance in the amount owed (including reconnection fees, late fees, interests, lien removal fees, fines, etc.), and households needing assistance with their current water and/or wastewater bills receive assistance based on income, household size, and energy burden.

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 utilities to identify potential recipients.
- Inform low-income applicants of the availability of all types of LIHWAP assistance at application intake for other low-income programs.

Priority Populations

Households that meet program eligibility criteria **and** fall in one of the following categories receive eligibility priority. After households with disconnected water services and households pending disconnections of water services have been processed, households seeking help with current water bills consisting of elderly or disabled members, with a child under 6 years of age, or that have a high energy burden, will have a \$100 benefit cap increase and should be processed within 30 days (rather than 60 days).

- ✓ People with disabilities
- ✓ Families with young children
- ✓ Older Adult/Seniors (60+)
- ✓ Households whose water services have been disconnected or are pending 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*	
✓	Income
✓	Household size
✓	Household drinking water burden
✓	Household wastewater burden
Benefit Amount	
\$464	Minimum
\$1,604	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 Nevada LIHWAP, contact:**Maria Wortman-Meshberger**

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