

Low Income Household Water Assistance Program

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA INDIAN DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL LIHWAP PROFILE SUMMARY



The Northern California Indian Development Council (NCIDC) Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is funded at \$272,585 in FY21. The program addresses the need among a large proportion of California's American Indian people who struggle to pay their water and wastewater bills. At the same time, available data indicates that less than 20% of Native and non-Native low-income households in California receive any assistance and water disconnections plagued Californians long before coronavirus. NCIDC utilizes LIHWAP grant funds to enable American Indian people to maintain their access to water and wastewater services.

Program Operation

The Northern California Indian Development Council's (NCIDC) LIHWAP, which will begin in July 2022, is managed and operated by NCIDC in coordination with other programs available to low-income households and in partnership with 48 Tribes with responsibility for administering the program.

The Northern California Indian Development Council's LIHWAP provides relief assistance to **three priority groups**:

- Customers without current water services
- Customers with arrearages payments to avoid water/wastewater disconnection
- Customers who are unable to pay their current bill so that they are able to avoid accumulating arrearages

However, the program prioritizes customers without water services above all other groups.

Tribal staff conduct outreach activities, determine their priority populations, complete the intake process to determine client eligibility, and work closely with their communities to make changes in their programs as needed. The NCIDC

FY21 LIHWAP FUNDING ALLOCATION



AMOUNT

TOTAL: \$272,585

- ARP: \$108,320
- CAA: \$164,265



OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES

- Restoration of services
- Payment of arrearages
- Rate reductions

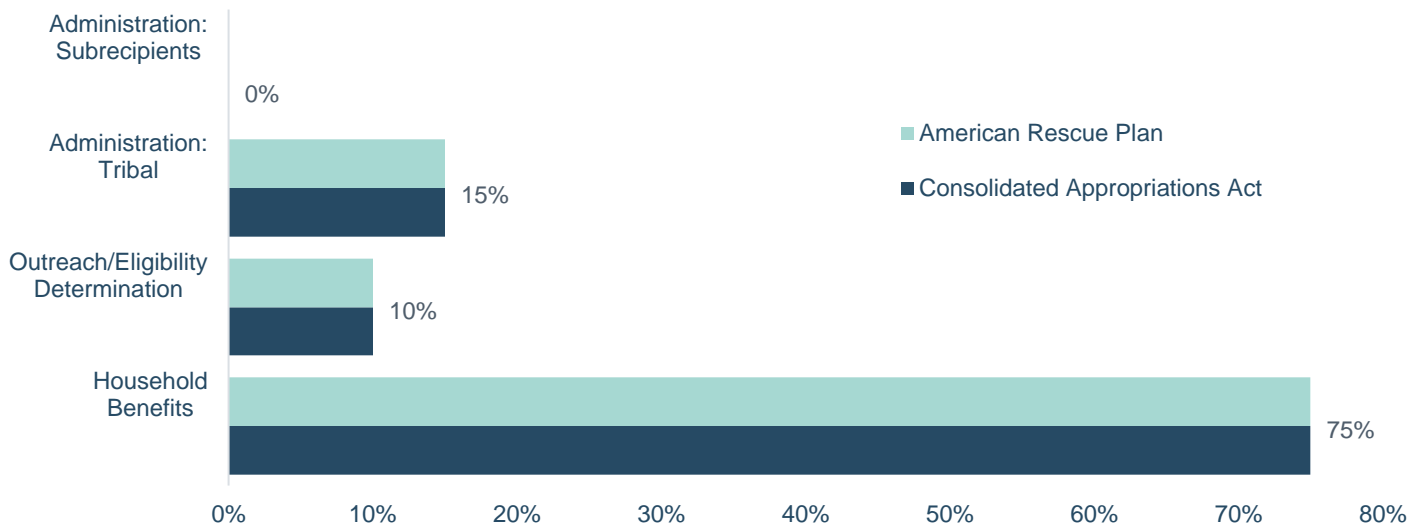


PROGRAM COORDINATION

- Coordination with LIHEAP, the statewide Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) program, TANF, and similar and related programs operated by the Tribes.
- Coordination with the California Community Services Department (CSD), responsible for implementing LIHWAP statewide.

assesses and gives final approval on each client's application, and issues payments to water vendor service providers.

Use of Funding by Funding Source



Benefits on Behalf of Households

Under each Tribe's administration of the program, eligible households may receive a maximum of \$1,300 in benefit assistance per year. Households with the lowest income, elders or disabled, and those households with the highest energy costs or needs receive the highest benefits.

On the other hand, households with the highest income that meet program eligibility may receive up to \$800. Clients may apply and receive assistance multiple times throughout the year but must wait 30 days before applying for services. Tribes can decrease the benefit limits at their own discretion but are limited to a one-time payment of \$50 at the lowest level.

Priority Populations

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

- ✓ People with disabilities
- ✓ Families with young children
- ✓ Older Adult/Seniors (60+)
- ✓ Households with high water burden

Program Outreach Activities

- Inform low-income applicants of the availability of all types of LIHWAP assistance at application intake for other low-income programs.
- Provide Tribal members information about the availability of LIHWAP assistance.
- Display LIHWAP program information and Tribal Allocation in each Tribal office and include in other Tribal communications and publications.

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
\$1300	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.

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