

# Low Income Household Water Assistance Program

## OGLALA SIOUX TRIBE LIHWAP PROFILE SUMMARY



The Oglala Sioux Tribe Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is funded at \$682,698 in FY21. The program addresses the current need for assistance among Oglala Sioux Tribe members who are without current water services or are at risk of disconnection due to arrearages. The most requested services for the tribe's program are the need for waste water removal (septic drainage) and help with water bills for work related reasons.

### Program Operation

Bishop Paiute Tribe's LIHWAP, which began in July 2022, is managed and operated at the tribal level by the Oglala Sioux Tribe Energy Office. Oglala Sioux Tribe's LIHWAP provides relief assistance to **two priority groups**:

- Customers whose water and wastewater services have been disconnected
- Customers with arrearages who are at risk of disconnection

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

### FY21 LIHWAP FUNDING ALLOCATION



#### AMOUNT

**TOTAL: \$682,698**

- ARP: \$271,293
- CAA: \$411,405



#### OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES

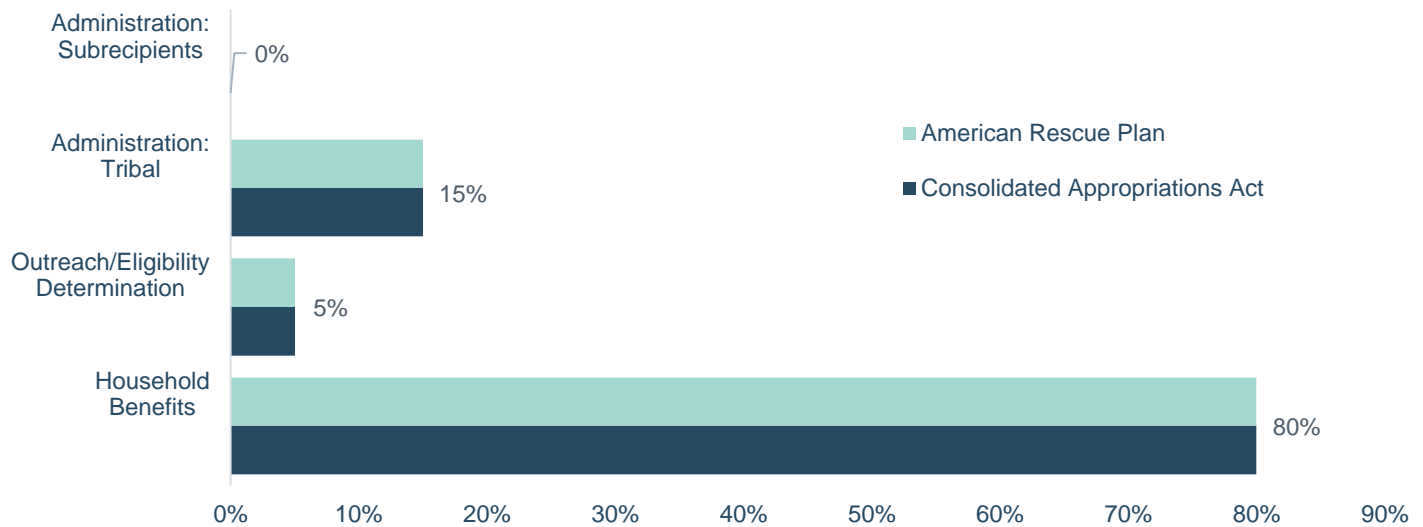
- Restoration of services
- Payment of arrearages



#### PROGRAM COORDINATION

- Joint application for multiple programs. Applicants are automatically enrolled in LIHWAP when a LIHEAP application is completed.
- Intake referrals to/from other assistance programs from local district governments, tribal government, and rental property managers such as Meals for the Elderly and Child Care Programs
- One-stop intake centers for LIHWAP and LIHEAP

### Use of Funding by Funding Source



### Benefits on Behalf of Households

Under the Energy Office's administration of the program, eligible households may receive up to \$600 in benefits once per year.

### 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 (55+)
- ✓ Households with high water burden
- ✓ Veterans

### 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.
- Include inserts in water vendor billings to inform individuals of all types of LIHWAP assistance.
- Mass mailing(s) to prior-year LIHEAP recipients or recipients of other government benefits.
- Automated phone campaigns and/or social media outreach.
- Multi-lingual announcements in languages spoken by low-income households within utility service areas and/or notification in ethnic language news and broadcast media outlets.
- Inform low-income applicants of the availability of all types of LIHWAP assistance at application intake for other low-income programs.
- 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.

## 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	
\$100	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 Oglala Sioux Tribe LIHWAP, contact:

**Ursula Buckman**  
 LIHEAP/CSBG Director  
 Oglala Sioux Tribe  
 PO Box 1051, Pine Ridge, SD 58880  
 TEL: 605-867-5169  
 E-Mail: buckman.ursula@gmail.com

**Website:** <https://oglalalakotanation.net/>

