# Low Income Household Water Assistance Program

## PASCUA YAQUI TRIBE LIHWAP PROFILE SUMMARY

The Pascua Yaqui Tribe's Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is funded at $139,418 in FY21. The program addresses the need among a large number of low-income Tribal Members who are unable to pay, in part or in total, their water bills which may result in water shut offs or other long term damage that decreases the overall health and wellbeing of the community. The Tribe utilizes LIHWAP grant funds to provide emergency assistance to enable low-income households to access water and wastewater services.

## Program Operation

The Pascua Yaqui Tribe's LIHWAP, which began in April 2022, is managed and operated by the Tribe's Housing Department in coordination with other programs available to low-income households. The Pascua Yaqui Tribe's LIHWAP provides relief assistance to **three priority groups** through the immediate restoration of shut-off water service or by eliminating the threat of service shut-offs through the payment of past due water bill balances.

▪ Households with elderly and/or disabled members

▪ Families impacted by COVID or other health impacts that reduce the ability to make water bill payments.

▪ Other Tribal families with past due water bill balances

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

### FY21 LIHWAP FUNDING ALLOCATION

#### AMOUNT

**TOTAL: $139,418**
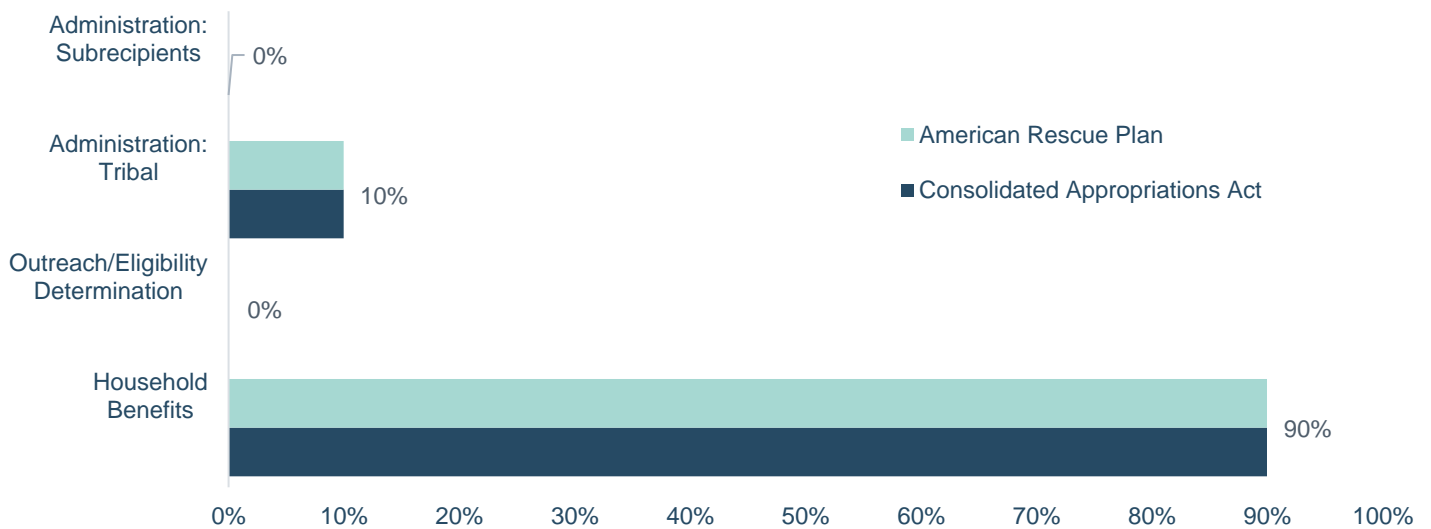▪ ARP: $55,398
▪ CAA: $84,020

#### OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES

▪ Restoration of services
▪ Payment of arrearages

#### PROGRAM COORDINATION

▪ The Housing Department will accept and provide referrals to other programs that may be of assistance to low-income persons.

## Use of Funding by Funding Source

Administration:
Subrecipients — 0%

Administration:
Tribal — 10%

Outreach/Eligibility
Determination — 0%

Household
Benefits — 90%

■ American Rescue Plan
■ Consolidated Appropriations Act

0%  10%  20%  30%  40%  50%  60%  70%  80%  90%  100%

## Benefits on Behalf of Households

Under the Housing agency's administration of the program, eligible households may apply for assistance on a quarterly basis and receive up to $1,000 in benefits.

## Priority Populations

Households that meet program eligibility criteria **and** fall in one of the following categories receive prioritiziation of service through faster processing and skipping of the waiting list.

✓ People with disabilities

✓ Older Adult/Seniors (60+)

**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.

▪ Multi-lingual announcements in languages spoken by low-income households within utility service area 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.

## Eligibility and Benefit Determination Criteria

| Title | | Item |
|---|---|---|
| **Income Threshold** | | |
| | ✓ | 80% 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** | | |
| **$25** | | Minimum |
| **$1000** | | 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 Pascua Yaqui LIHWAP, contact:**

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