

Low Income Household Water Assistance Program

QUARTZ VALLEY INDIAN RESERVATION LIHWAP PROFILE SUMMARY



The Quartz Valley Indian Reservation (QVIR) Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is funded at \$10,052 in FY21. The program addresses the need for water and wastewater services among Tribal members living off the Reservation boundaries within the state of California who have been impacted by high rates caused by droughts issues in the state. QVIR utilizes LIHWAP grant funds to provide emergency assistance to enable low-income households to access water and wastewater services.

Program Operation

The Quartz Valley Indian Reservation LIHWAP, which began in January 2022, is centrally managed at the Tribal level in coordination with other programs available to low-income households. Quartz Valley Indian Reservation's LIHWAP provides relief assistance to **two priority groups**:

- Households without water and wastewater services
- Housholds with existing arrearages to prevent disconnection of services

In addition, QVIR provides relief assistance to a subset of households – based on household composition – that need help with their current water and wastewater bill.

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

FY21 LIHWAP FUNDING ALLOCATION



AMOUNT

TOTAL: \$10,052

- ARP: \$5,000
- CAA: \$5,052



OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES

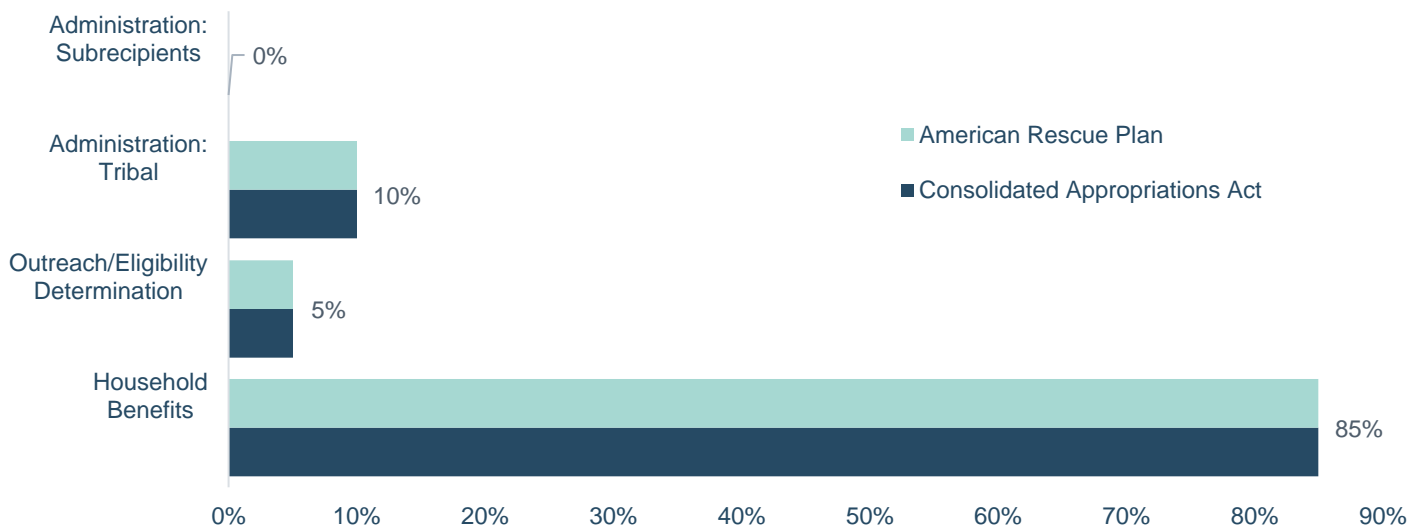
- Restoration of services
- Payment of arrearages
- Rate reductions



PROGRAM COORDINATION

- Joint application for multiple programs, i.e., LIHEAP, Emergency Rental Assistance, and LIHWAP

Use of Funding by Funding Source



Benefits on Behalf of Households

Under QVIR's administration of the program, eligible households can apply and reapply for benefits on a quarterly basis. Households may receive up to \$900 in benefit assistance. Program staff use a benefit matrix to determine a household's benefit amount.

Priority Populations

Households that meet program eligibility criteria **and** fall in one of the following categories receive additional points in the benefit matrix.

- ✓ People with disabilities
- ✓ Families with young children (>6)
- ✓ Older Adult/Seniors (55+)

QVIR deems any Tribal member of 55 years of age as an honored Elder. Elder and disabled members also receive priority assistance and processing of their application.

Program Outreach Activities

- Place posters/flyers in local and county social service offices, offices of aging, Social Security offices, Veterans Affairs, etc.
- Mass mailing(s) to prior-year LIHEAP recipients or recipients of other government benefits.
- 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	
	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	
\$150	Minimum
\$900	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 Quartz Valley Indian Reservation LIHWAP, contact:

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