

Low Income Household Water Assistance Program

REDWOOD VALLEY LITTLE RIVER BAND OF POMO INDIANS LIHWAP PROFILE SUMMARY



The Redwood Valley Little River Band of Pomo Indians' (Redwood Valley Rancheria) Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is funded at \$12,416 in FY21. Tribal families residing in Redwood Valley were assessed new water rates beginning in 2021, and rates increased 30% in the first year. Similar rate increases are being implemented throughout the three county area where most Tribal members live. Although the increase does not affect the 34 homes on the Rancheria, it does impact the majority of Tribal members.

The area is in an extreme drought and water usage is restricted by the State Water Control Board. Members are served by several water services. People who are on wells in Redwood Valley have no means to receive drinking water hook-ups if the wells go dry, and many people have already reported their wells are dry.

Program Operation

The Redwood Valley Little River Band of Pomo Indians' LIHWAP, which began in February 2022, is managed and operated by the Tribal Administrator, Fiscal Officer, and Case Manager. The Redwood Valley Rancheria's LIHWAP provides relief assistance to **three priority groups** listed here in order of priority:

- Households whose water or wastewater services have been disconnected (first priority)
- Households facing the threat of disconnection of their water and wastewater services (second priority)
- Households affected by COVID in need of assistance with their current bill (third priority)

FY21 LIHWAP FUNDING ALLOCATION



AMOUNT

TOTAL: \$12,416

- ARP: \$5,453
- CAA: \$6,963



OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES

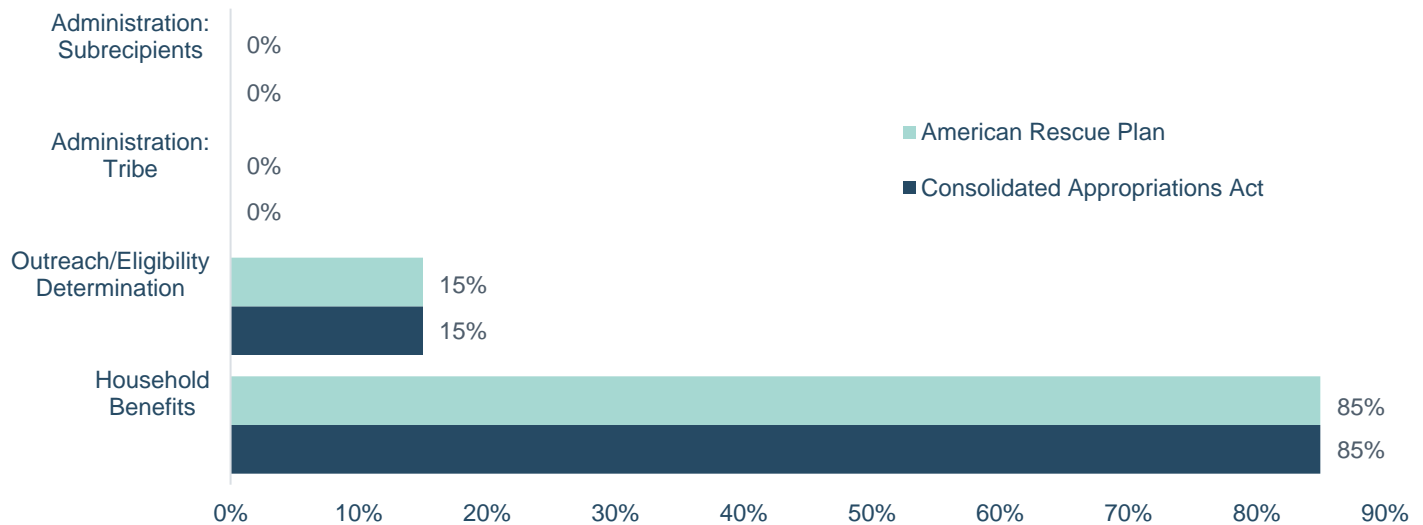
- Restoration of services
- Payment of arrearages
- Payment of current bill for COVID affected households



PROGRAM COORDINATION

- Joint application for multiple programs
- Intake referrals to/from other programs
- One-stop intake centers

Use of Funding by Funding Source



Benefits on Behalf of Households

Under Redding Rancheria's administration of the program, eligible households may receive up to \$400 in financial assistance to pay the account balance, past due arrears, or disconnection and reconnection fees. Agency staff use applicants' income, family size, and drinking water and wastewater burdens to determine the benefit amount.

Priority Populations

Households that meet program eligibility criteria **and** fall in one of the following categories are prioritized and receive additional points which brings forward the most in need.

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

Program Outreach Activities

- Publication of articles or public service announcements in local newspapers or broadcast media announcements.
- Inclusion of inserts in water vendor billings to inform individuals of the availability 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.
- 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
✓	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
\$400	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 Redwood Valley Little River Band of Pomo Indians' LIHWAP, contact:

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