

Low Income Household Water Assistance Program

RIVERSIDE SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY INDIAN HEALTH LIHWAP PROFILE SUMMARY



The Riverside-San Bernardino County Indian Health Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is funded at \$95,798 in FY21. The non-profit healthcare organization utilizes LIHWAP grant funds to provide emergency assistance to enable low-income Native American households to access water and wastewater services.

Program Operation

The Riverside-San Bernardino County Indian Health's LIHWAP, which began in January 2022, is centrally managed by the non-profit organization in coordination with other programs available to low-income Native American households. The Riverside-San Bernardino County Indian Health's LIHWAP provides relief assistance to three **priority groups**:

- Households that require immediate restoration of water and wastewater services
- Households with existing arrearages to prevent disconnection of services
- Households that need assistance paying existing water and wastewater bills

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

FY21 LIHWAP FUNDING ALLOCATION



AMOUNT

TOTAL: \$95,798

- ARP: \$38,105
- CAA: \$57,693



OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES

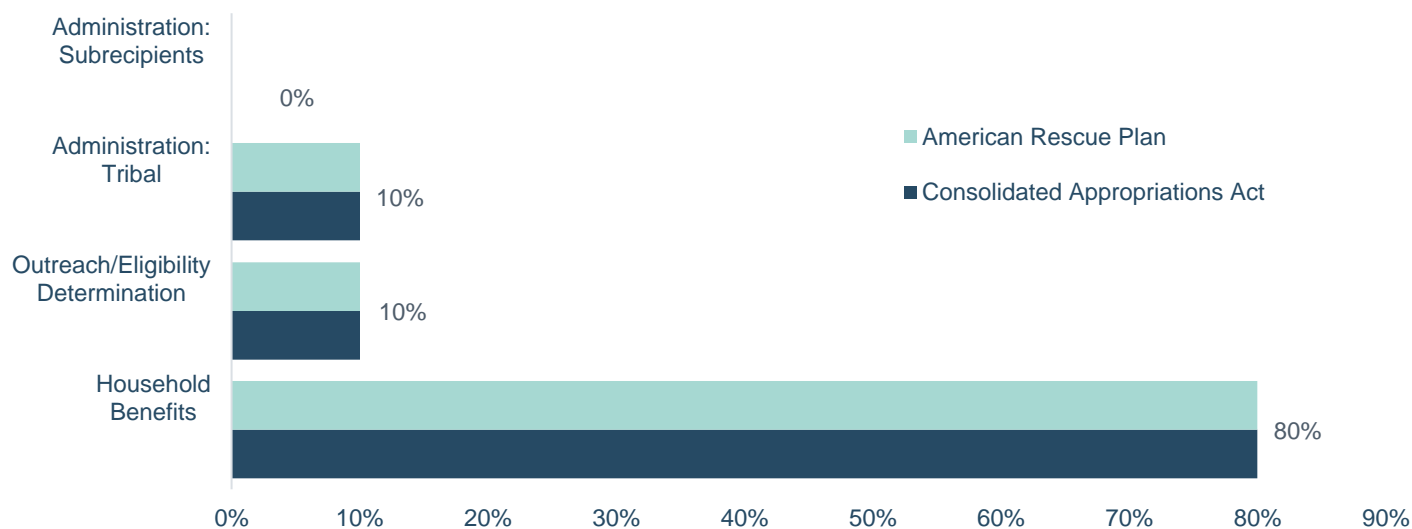
- Restoration of services
- Payment of arrearages
- Rate reductions



PROGRAM COORDINATION

- Streamlined application for LIHEAP, LIHEAP ARA and LIHWAP programs.
- Intake specialists inform the applicant of the LIHWAP program when completing LIHEAP applications.

Use of Funding by Funding Source



Benefits on Behalf of Households

Under the Riverside-San Bernardino County Indian Health's administration of the program, eligible households may receive up to \$800 in benefit assistance up to three times per year, based on available funds. Program staff use a benefit matrix to determine household eligibility and ensure that benefits are distributed to the priority households.

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

The benefits matrix point system allows for more points if there is an elder, disabled person or children under 5 in the home, thus the household is eligible for a higher benefit amount.

Program Outreach Activities

- 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.
- Include LIHWAP flyer/pamphlet in Riverside San Bernardino County Indian Health, Inc newsletters and Patient's Guides.
- Advertise LIHWAP information in clinical waiting rooms via television.
- Send mass text messages to existing LIHEAP recipients.

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	
\$450	Minimum
\$800	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 Riverside-San Bernardino County Indian Health LIHWAP, contact:

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