

Low Income Household Water Assistance Program

THE SENECA NATION OF INDIANS LIHWAP PROFILE SUMMARY



The Seneca Nation of Indians Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is funded at nearly \$204K in FY21. The unemployment rates for the Seneca Nation's two residential territories are estimated at 7.5% for the Allegany Territory and 19.9% for the Cattaraugus Territory. Seneca Nation Executives report that about 52% of the workforce has been laid-off/furloughed for over six months. The territories have also experienced high rates of poverty with 28.9% of individuals at the Allegany Territory and 35.7% of individuals at the Cattaraugus Territory living below poverty. COVID-19 has highlighted a number of significant gaps in our current economy and its impact on our quality of life. On March 16, 2020 the Seneca Nation temporarily closed all its gaming facilities, severely impacting the Nation's ability to generate new revenue that can be used to combat and mitigate current conditions.

Program Operation

The Seneca Nation's LIHWAP, which began in December 2021, is managed and operated by the Tribal Nation through the Tribal Advocate program on the Allegany, Cattaraugus and Buffalo Offices. The Seneca Nation's LIHWAP provides relief assistance to **two priority groups**:

- Households whose water or wastewater services have been disconnected
- Households facing the threat of disconnection of their water and wastewater services

FY21 LIHWAP FUNDING ALLOCATION



AMOUNT

TOTAL: \$203,936

- ARP: \$89,448
- CAA: \$114,488



OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES

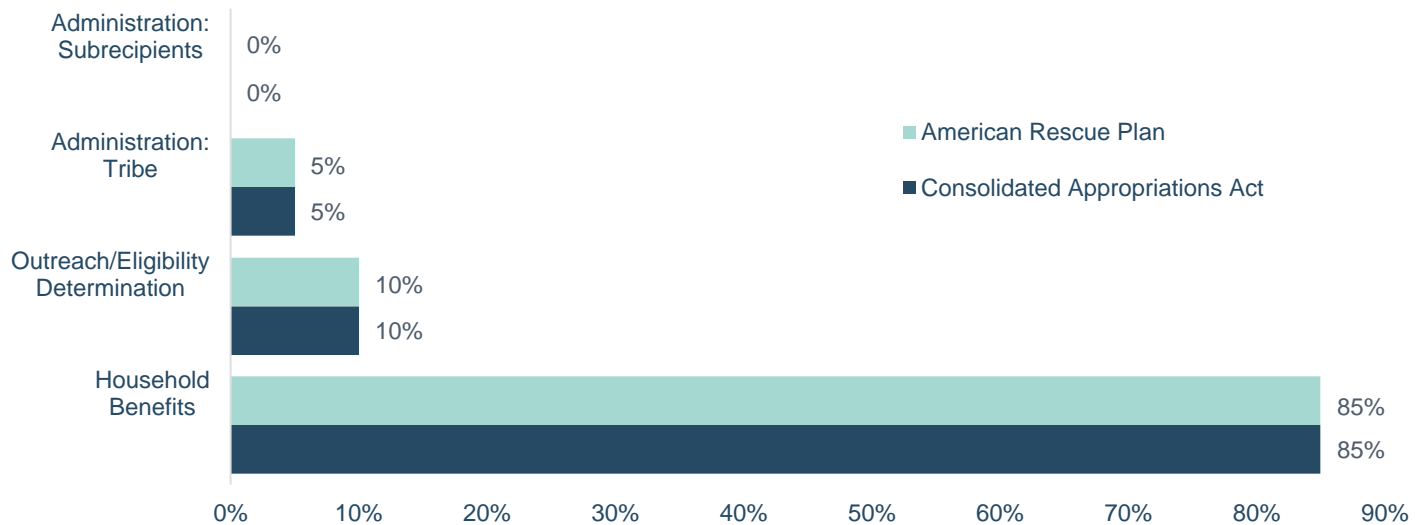
- Restoration of services
- Payment of arrearages



PROGRAM COORDINATION

- Intake referrals to/from other programs administered by the Tribal Advocate Program

Use of Funding by Funding Source



Benefits on Behalf of Households

Under Seneca Nation's administration of the program, eligible households may receive up to \$600 in financial assistance to pay the account balance, past due arrears, or disconnection and reconnection fees. Agency staff use applicants' income, household 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 their applications are processed first.

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

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.
- Information and outreach materials available at all public buildings and Tribal Advocate Offices.

Eligibility and Benefit Determination Criteria

Title	Item
Income Threshold	
✓	150% Federal Poverty Level
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	
\$10	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 Seneca Nation of Indians LIHWAP, contact:

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