

# Low Income Household Water Assistance Program

## SOUTH PUGET INTERTRIBAL PLANNING AGENCY LIHWAP PROFILE SUMMARY



The South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency (SPIPA) Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is funded at \$76,956 in FY21. The program addresses the need among many Tribal families who, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, have lost their source of income and fallen behind on their water and wastewater bills. The SPIPA utilizes LIHWAP grant funds to provide emergency assistance to enable low-income households to access water and wastewater services.

### Program Operation

The South Puget LIHWAP, which began in October 2021, is administered through the SPIPA Community Services Program in coordination with other programs available to low-income households. South Puget's LIHWAP provides relief assistance to **three priority groups**:

- Households whose water and wastewater services have been disconnected
- Households with existing arrearages for household water bills
- Households that require assistance paying their existing water bills

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

### FY21 LIHWAP FUNDING ALLOCATION



#### AMOUNT

**TOTAL: \$76,956**

- ARP: \$30,584
- CAA: \$46,372



#### OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES

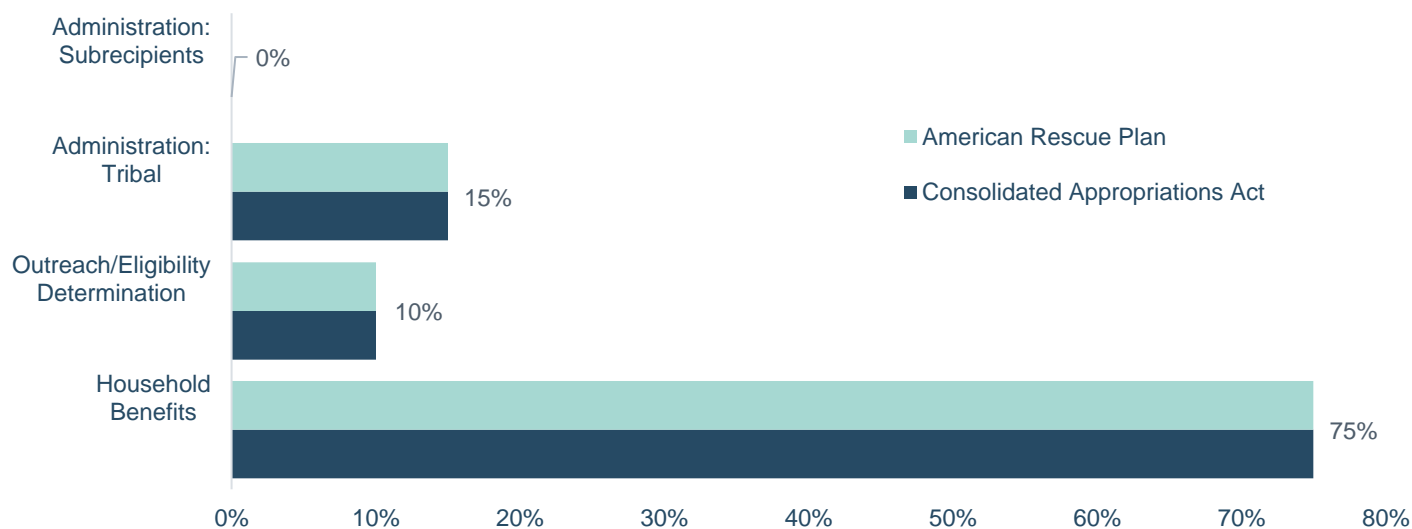
- Restoration of services
- Payment of arrearages
- Rate reductions



#### PROGRAM COORDINATION

- Intake referrals to LIHEAP and TANF
- The Tribal LIHEAP/LIHWAP Program is administered through the SPIPA Community Resources cluster which also administers WIC, and other low-income serving programs. The department coordinates client services to assure that day care providers, foster home providers, and families in need of assistance are included in the Tribal LIHEAP/LIHWAP outreach.

### Use of Funding by Funding Source



### Benefits on Behalf of Households

Under the Community Services' administration of the program, applicants must live within the SPIPA consortium five-county service area. Eligible households may receive up to \$1,000 in benefit assistance during the program year. Households will receive a one-time payment unless funds are available at the end of the program year. Program staff use a benefit matrix to determine applicant's benefit amount based on household size.

### Priority Populations

Households that meet program eligibility criteria **and** fall in one of the following categories receive priority assistance.

- ✓ Older Adult/Seniors (60+)
- ✓ Households with high water burden

The SPIPA LIHWAP benefit matrix indicates that households with Elders, disabled individuals or children under the age of 2 will receive an additional \$25 benefit.

### 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.
- 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.
- Outreach and promotion on the SPIPA website and at health fairs.

## 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               |  |
| \$0                          | 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 South Puget LIHWAP, contact:

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