

# Low Income Household Water Assistance Program

## SPOKANE TRIBE OF INDIANS LIHWAP PROFILE SUMMARY



The Spokane Tribe of Indians' Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is funded at \$103,653 in FY21. The Tribe utilizes LIHWAP grant funds to provide emergency assistance to enable low-income households to access water and wastewater services and to provide information to the community regarding smart water use and conservation.

### Program Operation

The Spokane Tribe of Indians' LIHWAP, which began in May 2022, is managed and operated by the Health and Human Services (HHS) in coordination with other programs available to low-income households. The HHS is the central HUB for all Social Service Programs for consumers in need of services. The Spokane Tribe of Indians' LIHWAP provides relief assistance to **two priority groups**:

- Households whose water and wastewater services have been disconnected
- Households with arrearages to prevent service disconnection

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

### FY21 LIHWAP FUNDING ALLOCATION



#### AMOUNT

**TOTAL: \$103,653**

- ARP: \$103,653



#### OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES

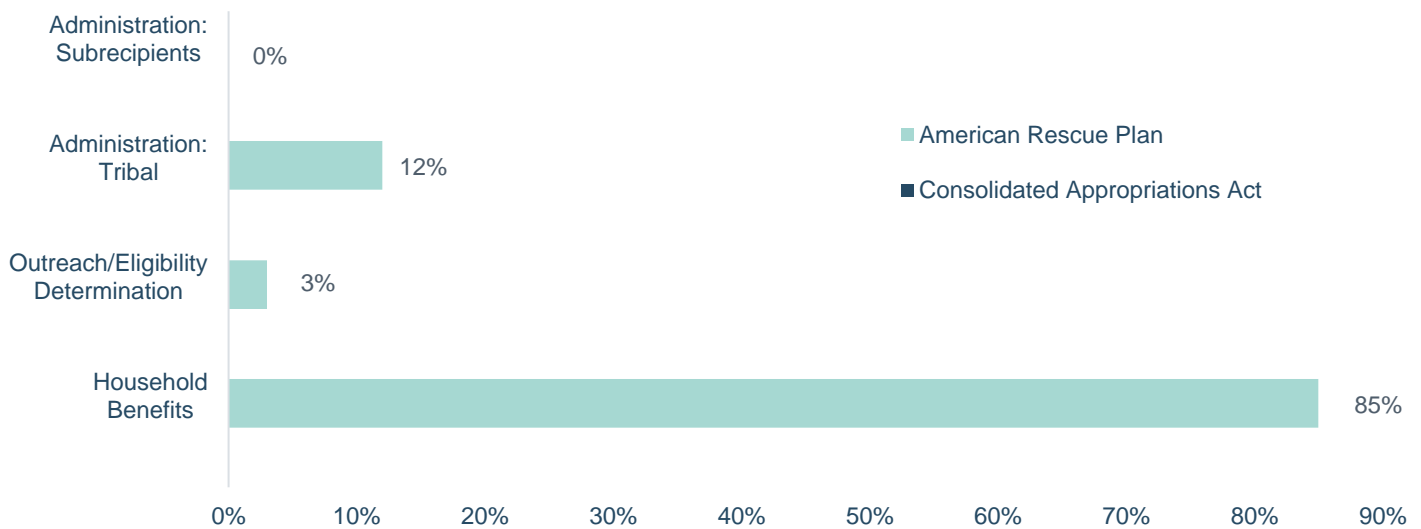
- Restoration of services
- Payment of arrearages
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#### PROGRAM COORDINATION

- The LIHEAP and LIWAP programs will be coordinated and outreach conducted simultaneously to capture all eligible consumers.
- Information and applications are shared with TANF, Spokane Indian Housing Authority, and all Tribal programs.

### Use of Funding by Funding Source



### Benefits on Behalf of Households

Under the Tribe's administration of the program, eligible households may receive up to \$800 in benefit assistance. Assistance is provided on a monthly basis for water services and quarterly for wastewater services.

### Priority Populations

Households that meet program eligibility criteria **and** fall in one of the following categories receive priority assistance. The program office mails applications and reaches out via telephone to applicants that may be eligible for the program.

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

### 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.
- Work directly with water utilities to identify potential recipients.
- 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.
- Execute interagency agreements with other low-income program offices and/or public health pathways created for COVID-19 outreach to perform outreach to target groups.
- Outreach to faith-based institutions, including those serving low-income people and people of color.

## 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	
<b>\$50</b>	Minimum
<b>\$800</b>	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 Spokane Tribe of Indians LIHWAP, contact:

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