

# Low Income Household Water Assistance Program

## SUQUAMISH TRIBE LIHWAP PROFILE SUMMARY



The Suquamish Tribe's Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is funded at \$41,593 in FY21. The Tribe utilizes LIHWAP grant funds to provide emergency assistance to enable low-income households to access water and wastewater services.

### Program Operation

The Suquamish Tribe's LIHWAP, which began in June 2022, is managed and operated by the Department of Human Services in partnership with the Department of Community Development and in coordination with other programs available to low-income households. The Suquamish Tribe's LIHWAP provides relief assistance to **three priority groups**:

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

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

### FY21 LIHWAP FUNDING ALLOCATION



#### AMOUNT

**TOTAL: \$41,593**

- ARP: \$16,553
- CAA: \$25,040



#### OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES

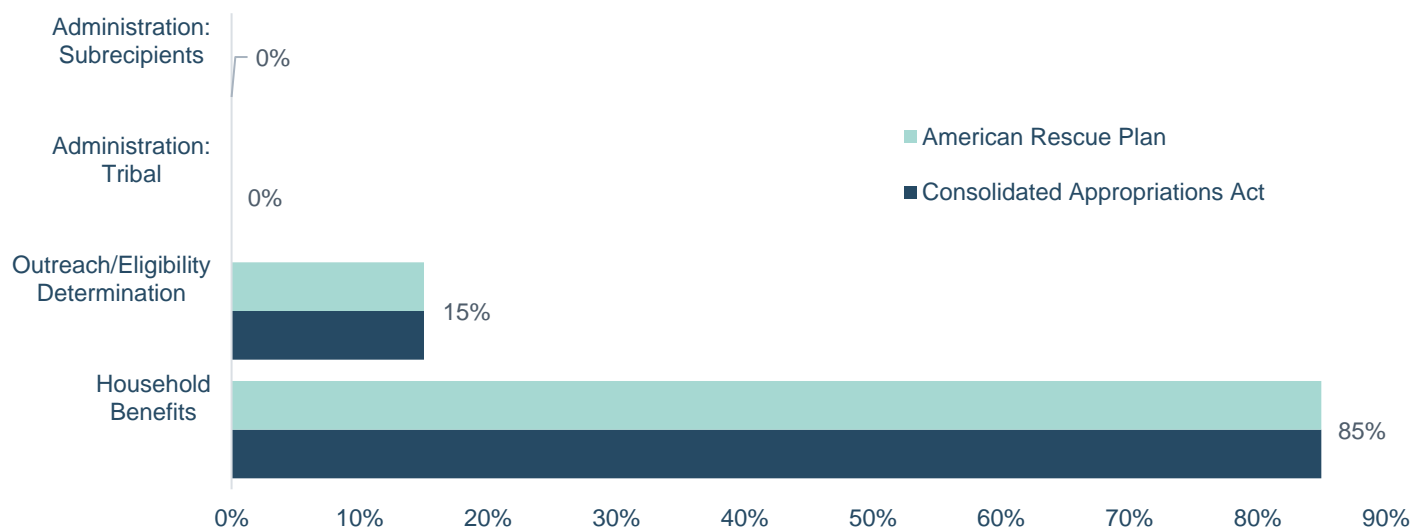
- Restoration of services
- Payment of arrearages
- Rate reductions



#### PROGRAM COORDINATION

- One application for LIHEAP and LIHWAP
- Intake referrals from the Tribe's ERAP or HAP programs
- One-stop intake centers through the Human Services Department

### Use of Funding by Funding Source



### Benefits on Behalf of Households

Under the Department of Human Services' administration of the program, eligible households may receive up to \$750 in benefit assistance. Eligible households may receive assistance for three months out of the year while funding is available.

### Priority Populations

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

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

Program staff conduct home visits to reach vulnerable populations who may not have transportation or access to digital applications to ensure that they can access LIHWAP benefits with reduced barriers.

### 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.
- Send out a message to all previous LIHEAP recipients via the Tribe's SUN Alert system that sends mass individual texts to a specified group of people or to the entire Tribal population.
- Post notice on social media platforms such as the Tribe's web page, Facebook Page.
- Publish a notice in the Tribe's monthly Newsletter.

## 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	
\$1	Minimum
\$750	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 Suquamish LIHWAP, contact:

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