

Low Income Household Water Assistance Program

TURTLE MOUNTAIN BAND OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS LIHWAP PROFILE SUMMARY



The Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians (TMBCI) Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is funded at \$464,148 in FY21. Seventy-six percent of the tribe's population lives in public housing and is responsible for their utility bills, including a monthly water bill. Turtle Mountain Public Utilities stated in January 2022 that 167 households were categorized as "shut-off" due to months of non-payment and 493 households were in arrears (nonpayment for more than 60 days). TMBCI is working with Turtle Mountain Public Utilities to maintain water services for those who are eligible for LIHWAP assistance.

Program Operation

TMBCI's LIHWAP, which began in June 2022, is managed and operated at the tribal level. TMBCI's LIHWAP provides relief assistance to **two priority groups**:

- Customers whose water and wastewater services have been disconnected
- Customers with arrearages

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

FY21 LIHWAP FUNDING ALLOCATION



AMOUNT

TOTAL: \$464,148

- ARP: \$184,506
- CAA: \$279,639



OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES

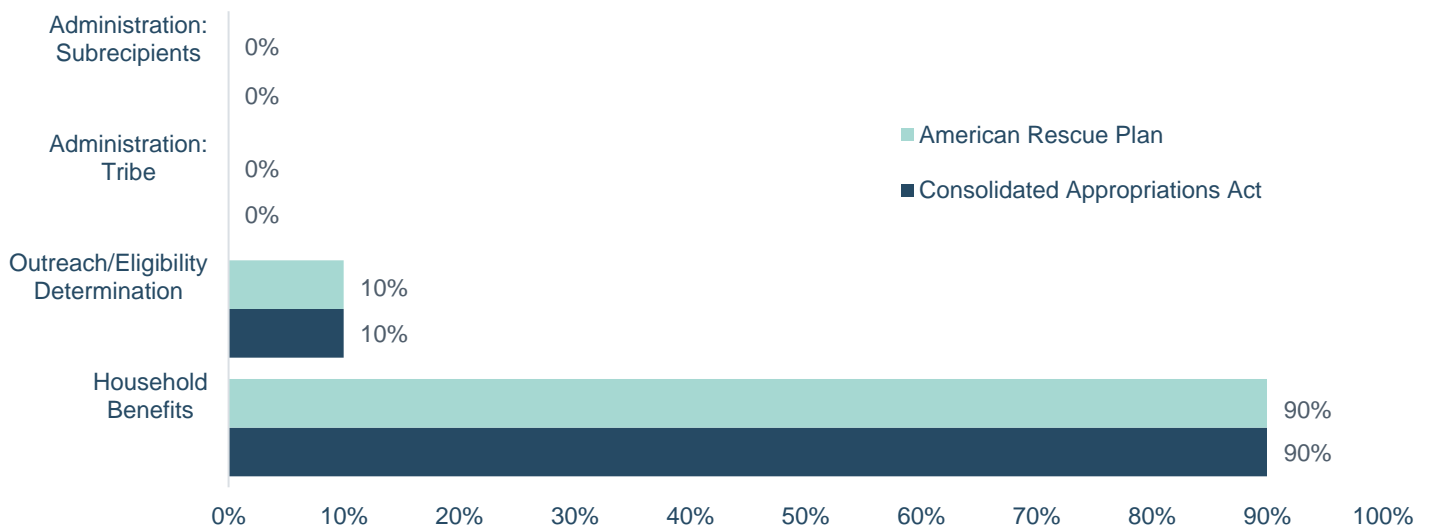
- Restoration of services
- Payment of arrearages



PROGRAM COORDINATION

- Intake referrals to/from other assistance programs
- One-stop intake centers at the Tribal LIHEAP office

Use of Funding by Funding Source



Benefits on Behalf of Households

Under the LIHEAP Program's administration of the program, eligible households may receive up to \$500 in benefits. Program staff use a benefits matrix to determine benefit assistance. Households may receive the benefit once if they have a single account for water and wastewater, and households may receive the benefit twice if they have separate water and wastewater bills.

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 (55+)
- ✓ Households with high water burden
- ✓ Households facing water shutoff

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.
- Inform low-income applicants of the availability of all types of LIHWAP assistance at application intake for other low-income programs.

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	
\$80	Minimum
\$500	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 Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians LIHWAP, contact:

Shawn Poitra
 Chief Financial Officer
 Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians
 P.O. Box 900, Belcourt, ND 58316
 TEL: 701-477-2600
 E-Mail: poitra_shawn@hotmail.com

Website: www.tmchippewa.com

