

Low Income Household Water Assistance Program

UTE INDIAN TRIBE LIHWAP PROFILE SUMMARY



The Ute Indian Tribe Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is funded at \$141,594 in FY21. The Ute Tribe Water Service on the Ute Tribe Uintah and Ouray Reservation is one of the largest water sources in the area. Delinquent accounts for 427 customers amount to nearly \$227,475, and Tribal members get their water from other water districts in the area as well. The Ute Tribe Water Systems refrains from shutting off water services and instead chooses to work with customers to lower payments if necessary due to the pandemic. Many customers have account balances that exceed \$1,000.

Program Operation

The Ute Tribe's LIHWAP, which began in January 2022, is managed and operated at the tribal level. The Ute Tribe'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: \$141,594

- ARP: \$56,297
- CAA: \$85,297



OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES

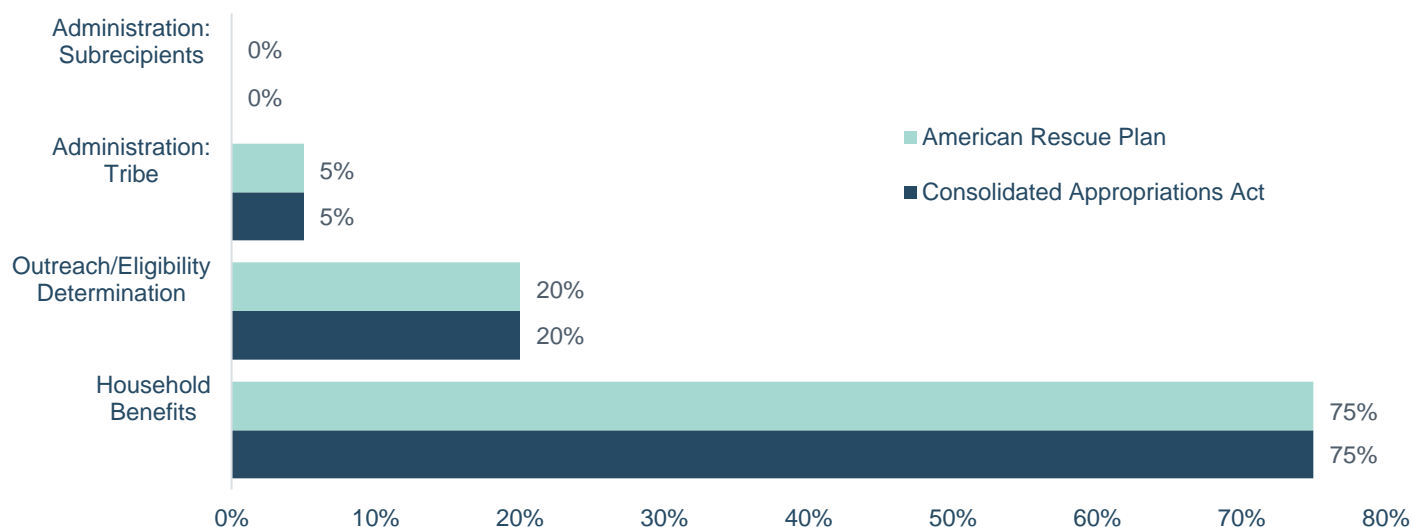
- Restoration of services
- Payment of arrearages



PROGRAM COORDINATION

- Intake referrals to/from other programs

Use of Funding by Funding Source



Benefits on Behalf of Households

Under Ute Tribe's administration of the program, eligible households may receive up to \$1,250 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 are eligible for a higher benefit amount.

- People with disabilities
- Families with young children
- Older Adult/Seniors (55+)
- 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.
- 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.

Eligibility and Benefit Determination Criteria

Title	Item
Income Threshold	
✓	150% Federal Poverty Guideline
✓	60% State Median Income
✓	Hybrid Federal and State
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	
\$500	Minimum
\$1,250	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 Ute Tribe LIHWAP, contact:

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