

Low Income Household Water Assistance Program

YAKAMA NATION HOUSING AUTHORITY LIHWAP PROFILE SUMMARY



The Yakama Nation Housing Authority's Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is funded at \$314,151 in FY21. The Nation utilizes LIHWAP grant funds to provide emergency assistance to enable low-income households to access water and wastewater services.

Program Operation

The Yakama Nation's LIHWAP, which began in April 2022, is managed and operated by the Housing Authority in coordination with other programs available to low-income households. The Yakama Nation Housing Authority's LIHWAP provides relief assistance to **three priority groups**:

- Households that are without water or wastewater services due to a disconnection in order to restore services
- Households that have a past due amount in order to prevent disconnection
- Households that are in need of monthly rate reduction assistance in order to maintain water or wastewater services

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

FY21 LIHWAP FUNDING ALLOCATION



AMOUNT

TOTAL: \$314,151

- ARP: \$124,884
- CAA: \$189,267



OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES

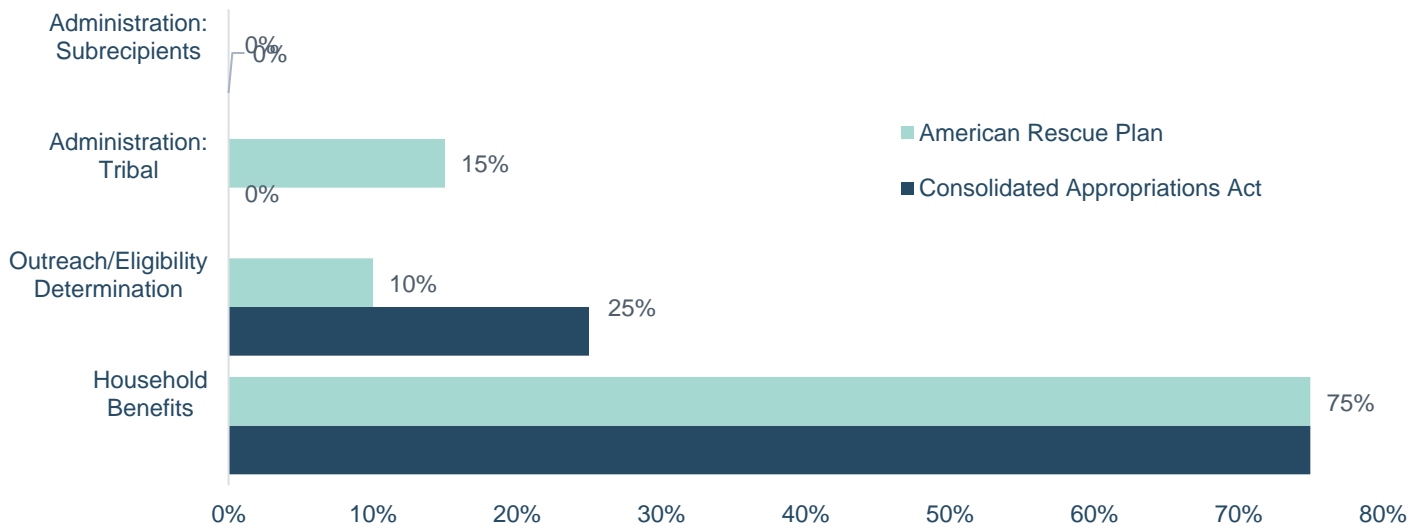
- Restoration of services
- Payment of arrearages
- Rate reductions



PROGRAM COORDINATION

- Coordination with the Emergency Rental Assistance Program to further identify clients to assist with WAP arrears due to COVID-19

Use of Funding by Funding Source



Benefits on Behalf of Households

Under the Housing Authority's administration of the program, eligible households may receive up to \$100 in benefit assistance towards arrearages, reconnection fees, late fees or penalties, and a monthly rate reduction benefit.

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 (60+)
- ✓ Households with high water burden

The highest priority is to serve households with the highest water burden with the lowest income.

Program Outreach Activities

- 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.
- 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	
\$50	Minimum
\$100	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 Yakama Nation Housing Authority LIHWAP, contact:

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