

# Low Income Household Water Assistance Program

## YUROK TRIBE LIHWAP PROFILE SUMMARY



The Yurok Tribe Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is funded at \$25,784 in FY21. Many of the Yurok service areas within the California counties of Humboldt, Del Norte, and Trinity are very rural areas and continuously struggle with payment and maintenance of water and wastewater services. A large number of the population in their service areas are low-income, reside in a high rate of unemployment and poverty. Data shows that 46% of households within the service area are at risk of having their water shut-off and face arrearages that average between \$30-\$5,000.

### Program Operation

The Yurok Tribe's LIHWAP, which began in January 2022, is managed and operated at the Tribal level. The Yurok Tribe's LIHWAP provides relief assistance to **three priority groups**:

- Households whose water or wastewater services have been disconnected
- Households facing the threat of disconnection of their water and wastewater services
- Households with existing arrearages

### FY21 LIHWAP FUNDING ALLOCATION



#### AMOUNT

**TOTAL: \$25,784**

- ARP: \$10,225
- CAA: \$15,556



#### OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES

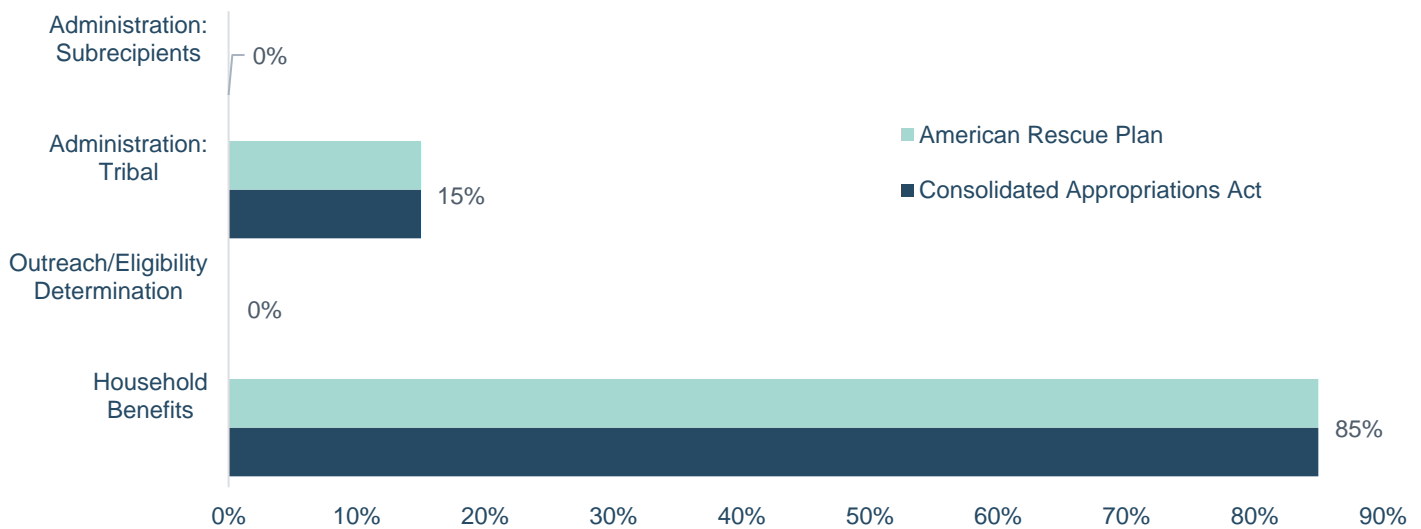
- Restoration of services
- Payment of arrearages
- Rate reductions



#### PROGRAM COORDINATION

- Intake referrals to/from other programs including the Yurok TANF program, Yurok LIHEAP program, and the Yurok Indian Housing Authority's Emergency Rental Assistance program

### Use of Funding by Funding Source



### Benefits on Behalf of Households

Under the Yurok Tribe's administration of the program, eligible households may receive up to \$1,000 in financial assistance to pay the account balance, past due arrears, or disconnection and reconnection fees. Program staff use applicants' income, household size, and drinking water and wastewater burdens to determine the benefit amount. Households with an elder may receive an additional benefit.

### Priority Populations

Households that meet program eligibility criteria, have an enrolled Tribal member or Tribal member child residing in the home, **and** fall in one of the following categories are prioritized and their applications are processed first, during the first two weeks of the program.

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

### 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.
- Interagency agreements executed with other low-income program offices and/or public health pathways created for COVID-19 outreach to perform outreach to target groups.

## 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
\$1000	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 Yurok Tribe LIHWAP, contact:

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