

Low Income Household Water Assistance Program

NEW JERSEY LIHWAP PROFILE SUMMARY



The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (NJDCA) Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is funded at nearly \$24 million in FY21. The program will ensure continuity of water and wastewater services for a high percentage of New Jersey residents who will be in danger of service termination at the conclusion of a moratorium in January 2022. The state utilizes LIHWAP grant funds to assist low-income households with water and wastewater bills.

Program Operation

New Jersey's LIHWAP, which began in January 2022, is managed and operated at the state level in coordination with other programs available to low-income households. New Jersey's LIHWAP provides relief assistance to **three priority groups**:

- Customers whose water and wastewater services have already been disconnected
- Customers who have received shut off notices and customers with past due balances on their water and wastewater bills
- Customers whose water and wastewater bills are current with no past due balances

Administrative agency staff conduct outreach activities to ensure that eligible households are aware of all LIHWAP assistance available, determine client eligibility and benefit levels based on a set of criteria, and process benefit payments to water service providers.

FY21 LIHWAP FUNDING ALLOCATION



AMOUNT

TOTAL: \$23,945,785

- ARP: \$13,424,790
- CAA: \$10,520,995



OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES

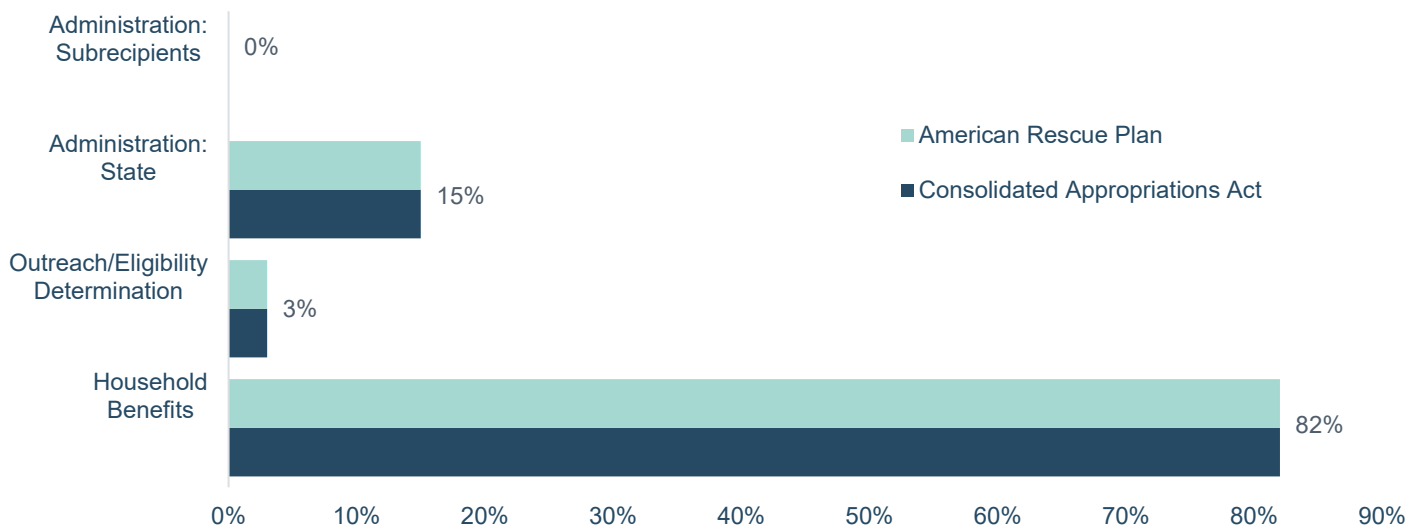
- Restoration of services
- Payment of arrearages
- Payment reductions



PROGRAM COORDINATION

- Joint application and income eligibility requirements with the LIHEAP program
- Intake referral from PAAD, SNAP, TANF, and LIHEAP programs

Use of Funding by Funding Source



Benefits on Behalf of Households

Under NJDCA's administration of the program, benefit payments on behalf of eligible households are initiated in stages with priority given to customers who have already been disconnected, have received shut off notices, or have past due balances to ensure that services are restored and/or not disrupted. Eligible households may receive up to \$5,000 in benefit assistance towards the payment of outstanding bills and associated fees.

Priority Populations

Households that meet program eligibility criteria, fall into one of the following categories, and whose services are about to be disconnected are prioritized for all services and their applications are processed immediately.

- People with disabilities
- Families with young children (<5)
- Older Adult/Seniors (60+)
- Households with high water burdens
- Households who have received a shut off notice and are in danger of service disconnection.

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.
- 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 (based on household size) |
| Categorical Eligibility | |
| ✓ | LIHEAP |
| | Means-tested Veterans Programs |
| ✓ | Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) |
| | Supplemental Security Income (SSI) |
| ✓ | Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and disabled (PAAD) |
| ✓ | 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 | |
| \$100 | Minimum |
| \$5000 | 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 New Jersey LIHWAP, contact:

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