



LIHWAP may be able to assist you with overdue water and wastewater bills.

What is LIHWAP?

The Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is a temporary emergency program to help low-income families pay overdue water bills. LIHWAP is a grant. You do not have to repay it.

To receive help...

- Apply starting January 4, 2022.
- You don't have to be on public assistance.
- You need to have an unpaid water bill.
- You can either rent or own your home.

How does LIHWAP work?

LIHWAP Crisis grants may be available if you have an emergency situation and are in jeopardy of losing your water service. You can receive one Crisis grant for your drinking water service and one Crisis grant for your wastewater service, up to \$2,500 each.

Crisis situations include:

- Past-due water bills.
- Termination of utility service.
- Danger of having utility service terminated (received a notice that service will be shut off within the next 60 days).

How do I apply?

- Apply online at www.compass.state.pa.us.
- Request an application by calling the Statewide Customer Service Center at 877-395-8930 or call PA Relay at 711 for the hearing impaired.
- Applications are available at your local county assistance office.

To apply, you will need:

- Names of people in your household;
- Dates of birth for all household members;
- Social Security numbers for all household members;
- Proof of income for all household members; and
- A recent water bill.

Who is eligible?

You may qualify for a LIHWAP grant if:

- You must have an overdue water bill that you are responsible for paying.
- Your household income meets the following income guidelines:

INCOME GUIDELINES	
Household Size	Maximum Annual Income
1	\$ 19,320
2	\$ 26,130
3	\$ 32,940
4	\$ 39,750
5	\$ 46,560
6	\$ 53,370
7	\$ 60,180
8	\$ 66,990
9	\$ 73,800
10	\$ 80,610
Each Additional Person Add \$ 6,810	

After your application is processed, you will receive a written notice that will tell you if you qualify. If eligible, it will tell you the amount of your grant.

ROXANNE PISRCIK

From: HS, Secretary's Office <RA-secretaryoffice@pa.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 03, 2022 11:57 AM
Subject: Wolf Administration Discusses Pennsylvania's New Water Assistance Program Opening on January 4



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 3, 2022

Wolf Administration Discusses Pennsylvania's New Water Assistance Program Opening on January 4

Harrisburg, PA – The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) and Public Utility Commission (PUC) today announced the launch of the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP), which will help Pennsylvanians with low incomes maintain access to drinking and wastewater services. Applications for LIHWAP open tomorrow, January 4, 2022.

"Access to clean drinking water and wastewater services that keep our homes safe are important to our daily lives and a family's ongoing health and wellbeing," said DHS Acting Secretary Meg Snead. "I encourage all Pennsylvanians who are at risk of losing these essential services to apply as soon as possible when the water assistance program opens on January 4."

"As part of our #CallUtilitiesNow campaign, the PUC strongly encourages consumers to learn more about LIHWAP, since direct conversations between customers and utilities about eligible programs are the best 'first step' for any Pennsylvania households or businesses struggling to #KeepUtilitiesOn," PUC Chairman Gladys Brown Dutrieuille. "The launch of the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program is a great opportunity to start the new year secure and connected."

Assistance is available for families who have past due water bills, had their service terminated, or received a notice indicating that their service will be terminated in the next 60 days. Households can receive LIHWAP grants for both drinking water service and wastewater service. Grants are issued directly to water service providers, and families must meet income requirements. Pennsylvanians should have the following information ready to include in their application:

- Names, Social Security numbers, and dates of birth for all people in their household;
- Proof of income for the applicant and all household members; and,
- A recent water bill.

Receiving utility assistance through another program like the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) or the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) does not prevent a household from receiving assistance through LIHWAP as long as the applicant meets LIHWAP eligibility criteria. Income guidelines for the program are as follows:

Household Size	Maximum Annual Income
1	\$19,320

2	\$26,130
3	\$32,940
4	\$39,750
5	\$46,560
6	\$53,370

More information and promotional materials for LIHWAP are available online. DHS encourages Pennsylvanians to help spread the word so those who need help know the program is available. LIHWAP is a new, temporary assistance program established through the American Rescue Plan Act and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021. These funds are part of the nation's continued response to families experiencing financial difficulties due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Pennsylvania received approximately \$43.2 million to assist families who have lost or are at risk of losing water service in their homes.

Applications for LIHWAP, LIHEAP, and ERAP as well as other public assistance programs that can provide health care, food, and cash assistance can be submitted online at www.compass.state.pa.us. DHS' County Assistance Offices (CAO) are available for in-person support if clients cannot access online services or need assistance or information that is not on the COMPASS website or the myCOMPASS PA mobile app. Pennsylvanians can also request a paper application or get help applying for assistance by calling the Customer Service Centers at 215-560-7226 for Philadelphia clients or 1-877-395-8930 for clients in all other counties.

All Pennsylvanians experiencing financial hardships due to the pandemic, a lost job, or a change in income are strongly encouraged to apply and see if they qualify for assistance with food, health care, and other essential needs.

Learn more about LIHWAP at www.dhs.pa.gov/waterhelp.

MEDIA CONTACT: Brandon Cwalina – ra-pwdhspressoffice@pa.gov

###