

LIHWAP

Low Income Household Water Assistance Program

Operation Fuel

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What is LIHWAP

- Temporary authorization
- Congress appropriated \$638M for emergency water and wastewater assistance.
- The legislation provides emergency assistance to low-income households, that pay a high proportion of household income for water and wastewater services.
- Grantees must provide funds to owners or operators of public water systems or treatment works to reduce customer arrearages.



LIHWAP

- Survey went out across Nation, OPF shared with water utilities (MDC, CT Water, RWA and Aquarion)
- CT/Governor's Office has submitted Terms and Conditions letter to Fed, last month
- Allocation to States will be determined by:
 - Percentage of LMI households in State
 - Percentage of LMI households, paying more than 30% of income on housing
- Funds may go through same process as LIHEAP program (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program)
 - Via our DSS and Community Action Agency Network
- Funds to be distributed to States, end of May
 - Funds must be used by December 2023



LIHWAP

- Per the survey, Fed was looking for critical needs info such as:
 - Cost
 - Quality
 - Safety
 - Disconnection policies
 - Late fees
 - Home liens and
 - **Delivery systems**



OPF Water

- Established with the MDC in 2018, now partnered with CT Water and Aquarion
- 370 households served in FY21
- OPF is prepared to serve CT HH's with this program, if selected to do so
- Public portal, allows for ease and rapid application process OR applicants can rely on in person appointment at one of our partner Fuel Banks



Resources

- More can be found at: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/programs/lihwap>
- ADMIN_LIHWAP Slides: https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ocs/ADMIN_LIHWAP%20Feedback%20and%20Info%20Sessions_042020.pdf
- Operation Fuel – Home Energy Affordability Gap Study, 2015

Water and wastewater services have been subject to recent, and projected, price increases due to a number of circumstances. Price increases have been driven by an increased need for substantial capital investment, in turn driven by the need for municipalities to increasingly replace old and deteriorated infrastructure; to invest in clean water plant and processes to meet increasingly strict environmental standards; and the need to invest in stormwater controls, both as a flood control strategy and as a means of preventing the runoff of pollutants into local streams and waterways.

