

**Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)**  
**Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 and American Rescue Plan**  
**GRANT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

Grantee Name: **Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs**

Document Status: [Public Comment Draft](#)

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The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs received recent guidance from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (USHHS) which impacts the Draft LIHWAP Plan and therefore the Department will incorporate the following revisions to the LIHWAP Draft Plan as of July 29, 2021. The Draft LIHWAP Plan was posted on the TDHCA website <https://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/public-comment.htm> on 7/27/2021 and this document is being posted as an addendum to the Draft Plan.

### 1.2 Operational Priorities and Emergency Flexibilities

*Consistent with goal of the American Rescue Plan to provide immediate relief to the American people, briefly describe the operational priorities within your state, territory or tribal area (e.g. immediate restoration of services to households without current water services, immediate payment of existing arrearages to prevent disconnection of drinking water or wastewater services after a previous moratorium on water services due to Covid-19).*

Texas will provide immediate restoration of services to households without current water services and provide assistance for the payment of existing arrearages to prevent disconnection of drinking water or wastewater services. Texas ~~will~~ may determine, based allowability from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to also provide monthly water/wastewater bill payments for eligible clients, but the Department will not be pursuing rate reduction negotiations with water/wastewater providers, although this is a permissible activity for Subrecipients. The LIHWAP program design will provide assistance based on actual bills. The Department will utilize existing LIHEAP processes, procedures, policies, and systems to provide assistance to low-income households, by using existing programs and program announcements, application and approval processes to provide funds to owners or operators of public water systems or treatment works.

### 12.3 Identification Verification

- Identify what methods will be used to verify the authenticity of identification documents provided by clients or household members. Select all that apply
- Verify SSNs with Social Security Administration
- Match SSNs with death records from Social Security Administration or State agency
- Match SSNs with State eligibility/case management system (e.g., SNAP, TANF)
- Match with State Department of Labor system
- Match with State and/or federal corrections system
- Match with State child support system
- Verification using private software (e.g., The Work Number)
- In-person certification by staff (for Tribal grantees only)
- Match SSN/Tribal ID number with Tribal database or enrollment records (for Tribal grantees only)
- Other - Describe: See response to 12.4 Subrecipients will verify the authenticity of identification documents provided by clients who are not U.S. citizens or nationals. That verification is made through the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) system.

### 12.4. Citizenship/Legal Residency Verification

**What are your procedures for ensuring that household members are U.S. citizens or permanent residents who are qualified to receive LIHWAP benefits? Select all that apply.**

- Clients sign an attestation of citizenship or legal residency

- Client's submission of Social Security cards is accepted as proof of legal residency
- Noncitizens must provide documentation of immigration status
- Citizens must provide a copy of their birth certificate, naturalization papers, or passport
- X Noncitizens are verified through the SAVE system
- Tribal members are verified through Tribal enrollment records/Tribal ID card
- X Other - Describe: ~~If HHS makes the determination that these funds are a federal public benefit that does not fall under any PRWORA exception, then the Department will follow 10 TAC §1.410.~~ Noncitizens must provide documentation of immigration status. Citizens must provide a copy of their birth certificate, naturalization papers, passport, or other applicable documentation. U.S. Nationals will have to provide documentation of that status. Noncitizens are verified through SAVE system.