

New York State

Low Income Household Water Assistance Program

Do you need help paying for overdue water and wastewater bills?

The Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) can help.

LIHWAP is a drinking water and wastewater emergency assistance program funded through new federal resources. Benefits are based on the amount of unpaid water and wastewater bills owed by applicants. This assistance is targeted at low income households and income guidelines will mirror that of the Home Energy Assistance Program.

LIHWAP benefits are based on the actual amount of drinking water and/or wastewater arrears, up to a maximum of \$2,500 per drinking water or wastewater provider, or \$5,000 if drinking water and wastewater services are combined, per household. Benefits are paid directly to the household's drinking water and/or wastewater vendor(s).

Eligibility and benefits are based on:

- income,
- household size,
- household includes a U.S. citizen, U.S. national, or qualified alien, and
- amount owed to drinking water and/or wastewater provider(s).

Primary applicants must provide:

- Proof of identity
- Proof of residence
- Documentation of earned and unearned income
- A drinking water, wastewater, or combined drinking water and wastewater bill listing their permanent and primary residence
- A valid Social Security Number (SSN)
 - SSNs of additional household members will be requested

For more information, visit <https://otda.ny.gov/LIHWAP>



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Information for Applicants – Document Checklist

The Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) can help pay overdue water and wastewater bills.

Identity

The primary applicant must provide at least one of the following:

- Driver license
- Photo ID
- U.S. Passport or Naturalization Certificate

Or provide 2 of the following:

- Birth certificate or baptismal certificate
- Social Security number
- Statement from another person

Residence (Where you now live)

Applicants must provide one or more of the following:

- Current rent receipt with the name and address
- Copy of lease with address
- Water, sewage, or tax bill
- Utility bill
- Mortgage payment books/receipts with address
- Homeowners insurance policy
- Deed

Drinking Water and/or Wastewater Vendor Relationship

Applicant must be the customer of record with the drinking water and/or wastewater provider and submit one of the following:

- A current drinking water and/or wastewater bill; or
- A current tax bill indicating drinking water and/or wastewater charges.

Income

The primary applicant must provide proof of income, earned or unearned, including but not limited to:

- Pay stubs for the most recent four weeks
- If self-employed or have rental income, business records for the most recent three months
- Child support or alimony checks
- Bankbook/dividend or interest statement
- Statement from roomer/boarder
- Copy of award letter or most recent check:
- Social Security/Supplemental Security Income (SSI)/Social Security Disability Income (SSD)
- Veteran's benefits
- Pensions
- Worker's Compensation/Disability
- Verification of Unemployment Insurance Benefit amount