



Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

DANIEL W. TIETZ
Commissioner

BARBARA C. GUINN
Executive Deputy Commissioner

General Information System (GIS) Message

Section 1

Transmittal:	22 TA/DC090 Upstate and New York City
Date:	September 30, 2022
To:	Subscribers
Suggested Distribution:	Commissioners, HEAP Coordinators, SNAP Directors, TA Directors
From:	Valerie Figueroa, Deputy Commissioner Employment and Income Support Programs
Subject:	Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) – FFY 2022-2023
Effective Date:	October 1, 2022
Contact Information:	LIHWAP Bureau at NYSLIHWAP@otda.ny.gov
Attachments:	N/A

Section 2

The purpose of this GIS is to advise social services districts (districts) of the opening of the 2022-2023 program year for the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP). Funded through the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, the program provides benefits to eligible low-income households who pay a high proportion of their income for water and/or sewer service. LIHWAP benefits assist low-income New York State households who have past due bills (arrears). The program is administered by the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) LIHWAP Bureau.

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

On October 1, 2022, new income guidelines go into effect for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. This represents an increase from 2021. On average, the income guidelines increased by 5 percent. Guidelines are set at 60% of State Median Income (SMI) or 150% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), whichever is greater. Updated income guidelines can be viewed on the program's website at <https://otda.ny.gov/programs/water-assistance/>.

Beginning October 1, 2022, households that received LIHWAP benefits may be eligible for additional benefits and are encouraged to re-apply if they continue to struggle with water and/or sewer arrears. To view eligibility requirements and application instructions, or to apply online, visit the LIHWAP website at <https://otda.ny.gov/programs/water-assistance/>.

Completed applications can also be submitted by mail, fax, or e-mail to:

NYS LIHWAP
PO Box 1789
Albany, NY 12201
Fax: 518-486-1259
Email: NYSLIHWAP@otda.ny.gov

Questions can be directed to the LIHWAP call center at 1-833-690-0208 or by email to NYSLIHWAP@otda.ny.gov.