



Low-Income Water Ratepayer Assistance LC 2585

At a glance

The federal Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) expired last year, leaving low-income Oregonians without crucial water bill assistance. Our bill will allocate \$11 million to backfill the gap.

Key metrics



\$11.44 M

Disbursed from the Low-Income Water Assistance Program in Oregon between 2022-2024



18,500+

Oregonian households helped from 2022-24



\$11 M

Requested allocation for the 2026-27 biennium



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ISSUE

The federal Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) disbursed \$11.44 million to assist low-income households with high water burdens between 2022 and 2024, aiding thousands of families across Oregon. Its expiration creates a funding gap, risking water disconnections for vulnerable households, who then face potential eviction due to many city ordinances deeming homes without water uninhabitable.

SOLUTION

Community Action Agencies, water utilities, and other social service organizations are asking for \$11 million in state funding for OHCS to replace the federal LIHWAP program.

BENEFITS

1 Housing Stability

Protect vulnerable families from the cascading hardships of disconnection, eviction, and homelessness.

2 Economic Security

Alleviate financial strain on low-income households, helping avoid unmanageable repair costs and stabilize their finances.

3 Community Health

Minimize public health risks associated with potential disconnections of service in homes, promoting healthier neighborhoods.

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