



Office of Congresswoman Marcia L. Fudge (OH-11)
The Low-Income Sewer and Water Assistance Program (LISWAP) Act of 2017

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of the Low-Income Sewer and Water Assistance Program (LISWAP) Act of 2017?

- LISWAP aims to help low-income families across America pay for high sewer and water bills. The Act does this by directing the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish a pilot program awarding at least ten grants to assist low-income households with bill repayment.

Who may apply for grants under LISWAP?

- Any public utility that owns or operates a public water system through a consent decree to remain in compliance with section 301(a) of *The Clean Water Act*.

Which households are eligible for LISWAP Assistance?

- Household eligibility is based on income or receipt of other federal benefits.
 - *Eligibility Based on Income:* Grantees have the option of setting LISWAP eligibility for households at or below 150% of the federal poverty income guidelines, or if greater, 60% of the state median income. States can adopt lower income limits, but no household with income below 110% of the poverty guidelines may be considered ineligible.
 - *Eligibility Based on Receipt of Other Benefits:* Grantees may separately choose to make eligible for LISWAP assistance any household of which at least one member is a recipient of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), or certain needs-tested veterans' programs.

Is LISWAP necessary?

- Yes. As municipalities work to comply with *The Clean Water Act* and fulfill the terms and conditions outlined in consent decrees entered with the EPA, the cost of compliance will place a high burden on low-income ratepayers. In Ohio, the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District approved a rate increase of 75 percent in Cuyahoga County over a five-year period. Sewer rates in the City of Akron (Summit County) increased by 69 percent in 2015 alone.

Will the program be evaluated?

- Yes. No later than one year after the date of enactment, the EPA administrator shall transmit a report to Congress on the results of the pilot program.

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