**LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLD WATER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHWAP)**

Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is a temporary federally funded program that provides emergency assistance to low-income households to prevent disconnection or provide assistance with reconnection of drinking and wastewater services.

**Eligibility Requirements:**

Be a US Citizen or eligible legal permanent resident.

Have income equal to or less than 150% of the federal poverty level.

Have water or wastewater services that are disconnected, in jeopardy of being disconnected or have a current outstanding bill.

Be responsible for paying the water bill.

**Priority Groups:**

Group 1 – Households that water services have been disconnected.

Group 2 – Households that water services are in jeopardy of being disconnected, unless action is taken to prevent the disconnect.

Group 3 – Households that have current water services bill and needs assistance to maintain service.

**Benefit Amount of Assistance:**

Group 1 & 2 – There is no limit on the benefit amount of assistance for households needing help.

Group 3 – The maximum benefit amount is $600.00 for households in this group.

**Vulnerability:**

Households with private wells do not meet the definition of vulnerable for LIHWAP and are not eligible.

**How to apply:**

Households apply online at <https://epass.nc.gov/> , over the phone by calling DSS (828.697.5500), printing out a paper application from the website mentioned and dropping if off or faxing the application to DSS, or apply in person at the local DSS Agency.

**LIHWAP RUNS THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2023, OR UNTIL FUNDS ARE EXHAUSTED.**