

The Rural Community Development (RCD) Program

Training & Technical Assistance to Support Safe, Affordable Water & Wastewater Systems

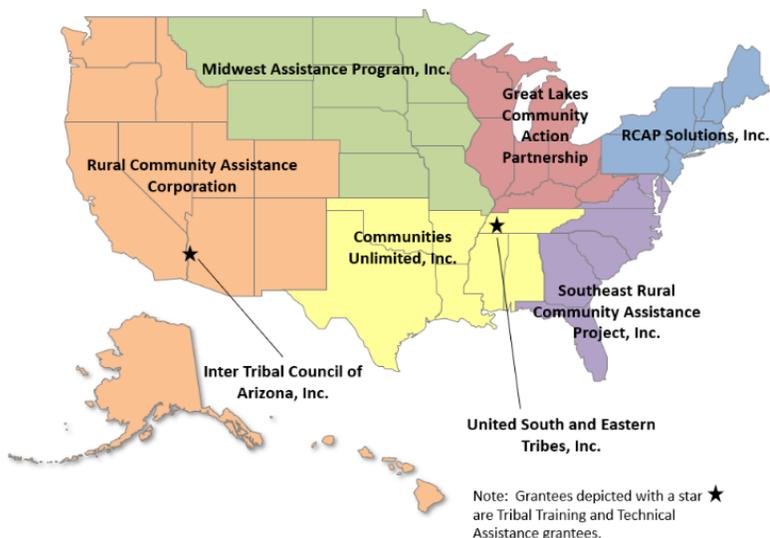


About RCD

The [Rural Community Development \(RCD\)](#) program, within the Office of Community Services (OCS), is dedicated to reducing the causes and consequences of poverty, increasing opportunity and economic security of individuals and families, and revitalizing communities.

RCD builds community capacity for creating and maintaining safe and affordable water and wastewater systems for the nation's unincorporated areas and lowest income communities, including tribal and persistent poverty areas.

RCD serves very small communities in sparsely populated areas made up predominately of residents with low income who lack safe water and wastewater treatment services and often indoor plumbing. Many of these communities have populations less than 2,500 people without clean water systems or access to existing water systems.



There are currently [eight RCD grant recipients](#)—six regional organization and two organizations that specifically support tribal communities—which collectively serve all regions of the country.

Program Objectives

RCD funds are used to provide training and technical assistance to:

- Increase access to safe water and waste disposal services in low-income communities;
- Manage safe water systems in rural and tribal communities;
- Preserve affordable community water and wastewater facilities;
- Ensure the safety and security of water systems;
- Improve local capacity and leadership to support water systems and service; and
- Train water operators.

Program Outcomes

In FY 2021 and 2022, RCD grant recipients:

- Helped **14,826 residents** in rural, low-income communities gain access to safe drinking water;
- Assisted **12,049 residents** in rural, low-income communities gain access to sanitary sewer systems;
- Conducted **10,766 management, technical operations, and compliance trainings** to ensure effective operation of water and sewage systems, resulting in **3,267 technical certifications**; and
- Leveraged over **\$453 million** in additional public and private resources.

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Project Highlights

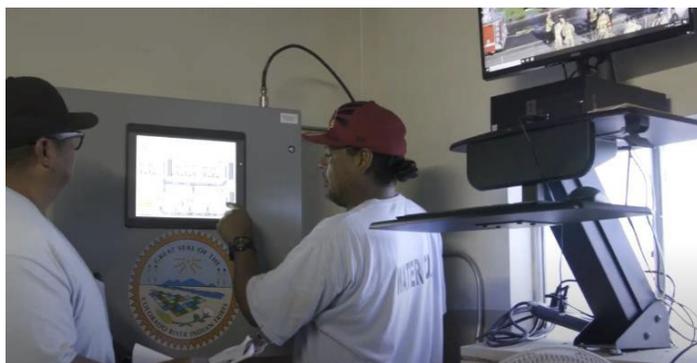
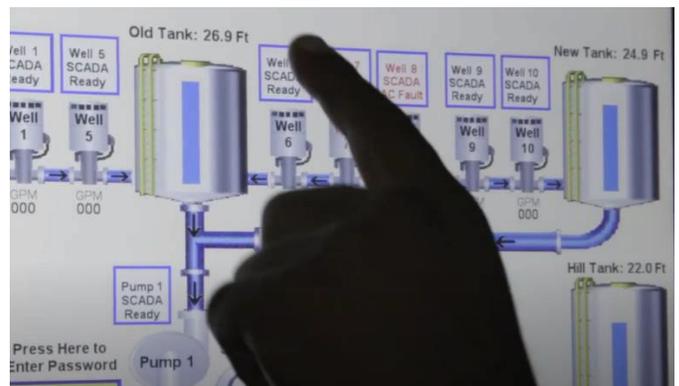
Project highlights include providing training and technical assistance to improve technical capacity and increase critical infrastructure reliability of rural water and wastewater systems, such as:

- Creating maps of water system infrastructure (e.g., pipes and drains) using GIS technology;
- Providing technical trainings on: chemistry basics for water and wastewater operators, regulatory compliance with wastewater systems (in Spanish), and chlorine treatment and residual testing;
- Developing plans for responding to emergencies, mitigating risk, and ensuring system resiliency for tribal entities; and
- Developing and implementing a plan for a tribal entity to correct compliance violations related to pollutant discharge.

Grant Recipient Stories

To learn more about the impact of the RCD program, check out these videos that spotlight RCD efforts across the nation:

- [Expanding Household Access to Safe Wastewater Services in Lowndes County, Alabama](#)
- [Transforming Water Quality and Expanding Access to Clean Water in Ellendale, Delaware](#)
- [Increasing Wastewater Treatment Access in Broad Top, Pennsylvania](#)
- [Building Capacity for Ensuring Clean Water in Mora County, New Mexico](#)
- [Improving New Boston, Ohio's Ancient Combined Sewer System](#)
- [Extending Sewer Service to over 30 Households in Magnolia, Mississippi, Population 2,000](#)
- [Training Certification for the Colorado River Indian Tribes to Ensure the Health of the River](#)
- [Technical Assistance Brings Reliable Public Drinking Water to Hobson Village, Virginia](#)



“Point blank, without those funds from the Rural Community Development program, we’re very limited in the assistance that we can provide... Those residents experience a better quality of life, and the partnerships that was created out of that is key to them moving forward.”

— Alexander Brandon, Area Director, Environmental Services, Communities Unlimited