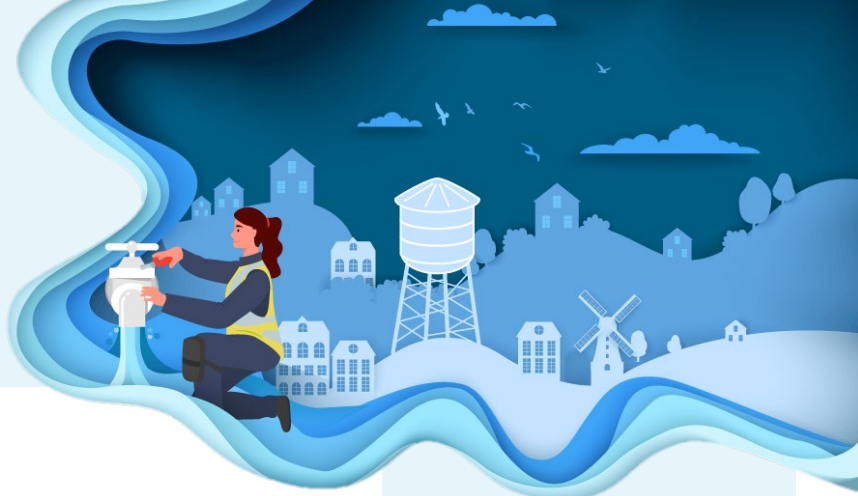


The Rural Community Development (RCD) Program

Helping Arizona's rural and tribal communities build and maintain safe water and wastewater systems



Arizona State Facts



- 746** community water systems
- 605** water systems serve communities with fewer than 3,300 people
- \$1.33 billion** estimated water infrastructure need for small systems
- 10.7%** of the population lives in a rural area

Sources: EPA, Census

About the RCD Program

The [Rural Community Development \(RCD\)](#) grant program builds capacity to create, expand, and maintain safe, affordable water and wastewater systems in rural 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 sometimes even indoor plumbing. RCD tailors its support based on community need. It helps communities assess water and wastewater infrastructure and accessibility needs, helps identify and secure funding for water facility upgrades, builds capacity through local experts to establish and maintain water facilities, and trains water operators to ensure water systems are functional and compliant. There are currently [eight RCD grant recipients](#) — six regional organizations and two organizations that support tribal communities. RCD grant recipients [Rural Community Assistance Corporation \(RCAC\)](#) and [Inter Tribal Council of Arizona \(ITCA\)](#) serve communities in the state of Arizona.

Examples of RCD's Support in Arizona

Colorado River Indian Tribe

The Colorado River Indian Tribe (CRIT), located along the Colorado River on the Arizona-Colorado state border, faced pressing needs to provide safe water and wastewater services for the four tribes of the CRIT nation. With RCD funding, ITCA helped CRIT connect communities previously reliant on well water to a new water system on the reservation. ITCA also supported a regional wastewater system — jointly operated by the CRIT nation and the town of Parker, Arizona. A tribal operator training and certification program was successfully implemented, which uniquely meets the tribe's need for sustained career development opportunities in the water and wastewater field. [Watch this spotlight video to learn more!](#)

Tohono O'odham Utility Authority

As it became more difficult to meet operating margins, the Tohono O'odham Utility Authority in Sells, Arizona struggled to provide the community with safe, clean water. RCAC used RCD funds to help the water authority adjust its water rates to more equitably distribute costs based on use and enhance affordability. The refined usage charges also promoted water conservation efforts.

"Helping small utilities implement needed rate adjustments is not glamorous work. However, such efforts are vital to build sustainable systems that can provide clean, reliable supplies of drinking water to the rural communities they serve."

— Karl Pennock, Rural Development Specialist, RCAC

National Outcomes*

With the help of RCD:



\$742 million
in additional funding
secured for communities



83,000 residents
have gained access to
safe drinking water



49,000 residents
have gained access to
sanitary sewer systems



2,100 communities
served by RCD projects

*Outcomes for RCD grant recipients' work across the country since FY21



For more information about the Rural Community Development (RCD) Program, [visit the RCD website](#) and the [RCD Information and Data Dashboard](#).

For more information about OCS's other anti-poverty programs, [visit the OCS website](#).