

# The Rural Community Development (RCD) Program

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



## Connecticut State Facts



**475** community water systems

**419** water systems serve communities with fewer than 3,300 people

**\$800 million** estimated water infrastructure need for small systems

**13.7%** 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 [RCAP Solutions, Inc. \(RSOL\)](#) and [United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. \(USET\)](#) serve communities in the state of Connecticut.

## Example of RCD's Support in Connecticut

### School Hill Water Association

The School Hill Water Association in Broad Brook, Connecticut serves 77 residents. Over the years, the water system had become untenable. Major infrastructure improvements were needed to ensure access to safe and reliable drinking water for all residents.

To undertake these improvements, the association had to search for outside funding, but its options were limited by insufficient data. Income data were only available for the entire population of Broad Brook, which had an income level too high to qualify for some loans and grants. The income level of those served by the association was much lower than that of Broad Brook, but there were no readily available data to show it.

With RCD funds, RSOL collaborated with the association and community partners to conduct an income survey and disadvantaged criteria assessment of the households served by School Hill Water Association. This data illustrated that the income of residents served by the association was lower than the income of the general Broad Brook population. With this new data, the association was able to receive disadvantaged criteria loan terms from the Connecticut State Revolving Fund to pay for infrastructure replacements.

## 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](#).