

The Rural Community Development (RCD) Program

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



Idaho State Facts



755 community water systems

699 water systems serve communities with fewer than 3,300 people

\$1.18 billion estimated water infrastructure need for small systems

30.8% 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, Inc. \(ITCA\)](#) serve communities in the state of Idaho.

Example of RCD's Support in Idaho

Moose Draw, Idaho

Moose Draw Association, Inc. — the water utility for the small town of Moose Draw, Idaho — was placed under a compliance agreement schedule when the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) became aware that Moose Draw's 13 connections were supplied by an unregulated evaporative lagoon. Upgrading and securing a discharge permit to remedy the situation was cost prohibitive.

With RCD funding, RCAC helped the community secure a planning grant and a \$750,000 loan with \$637,000 in principal forgiveness, prepare applications, secure an engineer and contract operator, and work on board functions. With RCAC's assistance, the community is also building capacity by working with new partners, such as Idaho Rural Water for operations and bookkeeping support. Receiving this support for funding system upgrades and increased capacity for long-term system management will allow Moose Draw residents to continue to have access to safe and reliable water and wastewater.

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](#).