

The Rural Community Development (RCD) Program

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



Indiana State Facts



779 community water systems

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

\$1.94 billion estimated water infrastructure need for small systems

28.8% 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 [Great Lakes Community Action Partnership \(GLCAP\)](#) and [Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. \(ITCA\)](#) serve communities in the state of Indiana.

Example of RCD's Support in Indiana

Van Bibber Lake Conservancy District

The inefficiencies of the outdated water and wastewater systems supplying the Van Bibber Lake Conservancy District (VBLCD), located in rural Putnam County, Indiana, were causing significant strain on the district's finances. With RCD funding, GLCAP helped VBLCD identify and prioritize necessary repairs, as well as seek grant funding for an engineering study which would offer structural repair, replacement, and upgrade alternatives. GLCAP also provided VBLCD with financial and technical training and assistance to ensure they remained in compliance with state regulations.

"We have few opportunities to receive training and assistance we need. RCAP filled that gap and helped us."

— *Barbara Johnson, former office manager, VBLCD*

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](#).