

The Rural Community Development (RCD) Program

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



Iowa State Facts



1,071 community water systems

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

\$2.56 billion estimated water infrastructure need for small systems

36.8% 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 [Midwest Assistance Program, Inc. \(MAP\)](#) and [Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. \(ITCA\)](#) serve communities in the state of Iowa.

Example of RCD's Support in Iowa

Stockport, Iowa

The City Council in Stockport, Iowa had been purchasing water from a nearby district to provide clean drinking water to the town's 296 residents. However, when the cost to purchase the water exceeded available funds, the city council had to look for another source. With RCD funding, MAP helped the city council take steps toward finding an additional source for quality drinking water and increasing revenue to purchase the water. First, MAP helped the town replace old, outdated meters and create a bill collection system, in conjunction with calculating new, reasonable rates. MAP provided best practices information about establishing dues collection procedures and payment due dates. Lastly, MAP helped the council create a budget to help them repair and maintain their own water distribution system. With MAP's assistance, the town has taken steps toward being able to continue to purchase quality water for its residents, while also repairing its own infrastructure for the future.

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](#).