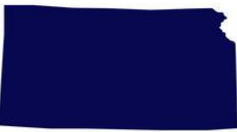


The Rural Community Development (RCD) Program

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



Kansas State Facts



861 community water systems

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

\$2.33 billion estimated water infrastructure need for small systems

27.7% 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 [Midwest Assistance Program, Inc. \(MAP\)](#) and [Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. \(ITCA\)](#) serve communities in the state of Kansas.

Examples of RCD's Support in Kansas

Coolidge, Kansas

Coolidge, Kansas utilized a lagoon treatment system for wastewater to serve the town's 95 residents. The lagoon was located in a floodplain, which caused waste from the lagoon to seep into the groundwater that was the source of drinking water for the town. Due to the town's small size, it did not have the financial capacity to evaluate and fix the problem on its own. With RCD funding, MAP helped the community secure a planning grant from Rural Development (RD) to evaluate the problem and determine appropriate next steps. The evaluation concluded that the lagoon needed to be completely relocated to protect the drinking water source. MAP helped the town complete various applications, and as a result, the town has successfully secured the required funding to relocate the lagoon, thereby preventing pollution of the drinking water and protecting the health of the community.

"An organization to utilize like MAP is a tremendous asset and an absolute necessity! Our ability to operate, comply regulatorily, and ensure that our community sustains a healthy environment is more dependent on organizations like MAP with each passing day."

—Lori Lennen, mayor of Coolidge, Kansas

Miami County & Johnson County, Kansas

An initial emergency response plan (ERP) was completed inefficiently and redundantly, making it hard for personnel from Miami County and Johnson County, Kansas to use and update. With RCD funding, MAP worked with staff to develop an ERP that is more user-friendly and specific to the district's needs. MAP also developed instructions on how to use the ERP. Now, staff are able to update the ERP and keep it current, which allows the system to be ready to operate under emergency conditions and also keeps them in compliance with America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018.

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](#).