

# The Rural Community Development (RCD) Program

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



## Louisiana State Facts



**953** community water systems

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

**\$2.44 billion** estimated water infrastructure need for small systems

**28.5%** 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 [Communities Unlimited, Inc. \(CU\)](#) and [Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. \(ITCA\)](#) serve communities in the state of Louisiana.

## Example of RCD's Support in Louisiana

### Arnaudville, Louisiana

Arsenic levels in the drinking water for Arnaudville, Louisiana have occasionally exceeded allowable limits set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), posing significant health risks for residents. With RCD funding, CU helped United Water Systems, Inc. (UWS) obtain funding to update the filtration system and conduct other upgrades to the water system. CU worked with UWS to complete funding applications by helping UWS officials gather information and organize documentation. CU also conducted a technical managerial financial (TMF) assessment to identify areas in which to build UWS' capacity. CU continues to help UWS maintain compliance and provide clean drinking water for 3,640 Arnaudville residents.

## 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](#).