

The Rural Community Development (RCD) Program

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



Michigan State Facts



1,381 community water systems

1,093 water systems serve communities with fewer than 3,300 people

\$2.81 billion estimated water infrastructure need for small systems

26.5% 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 [Great Lakes Community Action Partnership \(GLCAP\)](#) and [Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. \(ITCA\)](#) serve communities in the state of Michigan.

Example of RCD's Support in Michigan

Cheboygan, Michigan

The city of Cheboygan, Michigan's water and sewer infrastructure was over 100 years old. With RCD funding, GLCAP helped the city obtain funds to pay for infrastructure replacements. These replacements included sections of an old water main, a 400,000-gallon elevated storage tank, standby power at several wells, and improvements to chlorine equipment, electrical systems and more. GLCAP gave the city the increased capacity it needed to obtain the funding to improve its old water and wastewater systems. As a result of GLCAP's technical assistance, the city now has access to safer water and wastewater systems and can better support its residents' health.

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](#).