

The Rural Community Development (RCD) Program

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



Minnesota State Facts



969 community water systems

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

\$2.38 billion estimated water infrastructure need for small systems

28.1% 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 Minnesota.

Example of RCD's Support in Minnesota

Bricelyn, Minnesota

In Bricelyn, Minnesota, 365 residents that utilized the town's wastewater system experienced sewer backups caused by inflow and infiltration (I&I) issues. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency inspected the wastewater system and confirmed that the system required repairs.

With RCD funding, MAP worked with the community's wastewater operator to develop an I&I plan, hire a wastewater company to investigate and repairs issues causing the inflow and infiltration issues, and develop a map of the I&I plan to continue to track the pipe repair process. As a result of these technical assistance efforts, the town was able to improve the wastewater system. Additionally, the town was able to identify, track, and resolve many of the I&I issues moving forward and work with the wastewater company to investigate underlying issues.

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](#).