

The Rural Community Development (RCD) Program

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



Nevada State Facts



193 community water systems

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

\$389 million estimated water infrastructure need for small systems

5.9% 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 [Rural Community Assistance Corporation \(RCAC\)](#) and [Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. \(ITCA\)](#) serve communities in the state of Nevada.

Example of RCD's Support in Nevada

Paradise Valley, Nevada

When Paradise Valley, Nevada developed a new community center to address the need for after-school activities for local youth, the addition of a kitchen large enough to support community events significantly increased water use and placed a burden on the very small water system. Once the new, larger community center was connected to the water system, the system could not support the water need, and the kitchen was rendered unusable until operations and procedures could be updated.

With RCD funding, RCAC helped the community develop new operations and maintenance plans, identify potential cross-connection risks and create cross-connection-control policies, and update its emergency response plans. By documenting standard operating procedures, operators now know how to ensure the system can support the community in times of increased water demand, such as when an event is taking place at the community center. This allowed the community center to continue serving Paradise Valley residents, particularly its youth.

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



RCD
Rural Community Development

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](#).