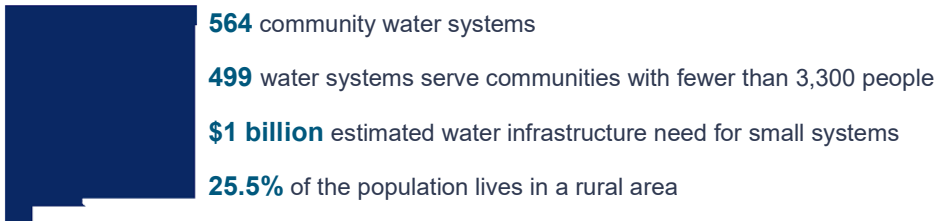


# The Rural Community Development (RCD) Program

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



## New Mexico State Facts



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 New Mexico.

## Examples of RCD's Support in New Mexico

### Ute Mountain Ute Tribe

The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe's Public Works Department faced challenges ensuring its water systems were resilient, supported, and met regulations. With RCD funding, ITCA helped the department develop an emergency response plan, risk resilience assessment, drought contingency plan, and customer service plan. ITCA also provided staff training, recommendations, and assessments to enhance operational resiliency, stakeholder support, water resource adequacy, and customer service. ITCA helped establish drought stage trigger criteria, demand reduction goals, and preparedness improvement recommendations, all of which helped the department improve its water systems and operations to better meet the needs of the community it serves.

### Mora County, New Mexico

Nearly every small water company in Mora County, New Mexico was out of compliance. Underlying issues included aging facilities, lack of managerial capacity, and lack of funding and experience needed to ensure compliance. With RCD funding, RCAC helped bridge the gap for these communities by bringing these individual water companies together under the Mora County Water Alliance. RCAC helped the community address regulatory compliance issues, navigate the funding process, and build capacity. This allowed the alliance to continue to provide safe drinking water to their communities. [Watch the video to learn more!](#)

*"RCAC is critical to helping us meet the challenges of those water systems because they bring the knowledge. They have the environmental skills to help us with the technical assistance that we need."*

— Anita Laran, executive director & collaborative visions secretary, Mora County Water Alliance

## 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](#).