

The Rural Community Development (RCD) Program

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



New York State Facts



2,269 community water systems

1,965 water systems serve communities with fewer than 3,300 people

\$5.44 billion estimated water infrastructure need for small systems

12.6% 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 [RCAP Solutions, Inc. \(RSOL\)](#) and [United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. \(USET\)](#) serve communities in the state of New York.

Example of RCD's Support in New York

Andover, New York

The water system in Andover, New York provides 1,000 residents with drinking water. However, the water supply was recently found to be potentially contaminated. Town officials decided that this problem must be addressed by either installing treatment measures for the water source or establishing additional well water sources. Either solution would be costly to implement, so the town had to begin looking for additional funding sources.

With RCD funds, RSOL helped facilitate the procurement of funding to address this issue. RSOL provided multifaceted support to the town, including developing grant applications and conducting an income survey that meticulously documented the community's eligibility for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

With RSOL's help, the town secured over \$4 million in funding, which covers the full cost of the project. Andover can move forward with conducting the essential improvements to the water infrastructure, which will safeguard public health and fortify the community's water supply for years to come.

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](#).