

The Rural Community Development (RCD) Program

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



Ohio State Facts



1,147 community water systems

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

\$2.66 billion estimated water infrastructure need for small systems

23.7% 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 Ohio.

Example of RCD's Support in Ohio

New Boston, Ohio

Pollutants in the Ohio River caused by combined sewer overflow plagued the Village of New Boston, Ohio, putting the community out of compliance with federal environmental regulation and ultimately impacting the health of residents. Combined sewer overflow describes when storm water and wastewater are combined into one system rather than two separate systems.

With RCD funds, GLCAP conducted a feasibility study of what the village should do to address the issue. Secondly, GLCAP assisted the community with obtaining funds to install a new sewer system. As a result of GLCAP's technical assistance, the overflows have been reduced by at least 80%. GLCAP helped the community decrease the inflow of excess water into the sewer system, remove combined sewer overflow violations and work toward EPA compliance, and engage in negotiations to obtain principal forgiveness and low interest loans to manage fines associated with non-compliance. [Watch the video to learn more!](#)

"I think what the Rural Community Development funds really do is allow communities like New Boston to have hope. It gives these communities the ability to stand on their own two feet. Without the Rural Community Development program, there is no way that village could have been able to do what they've done."
—Deb Martin, community development director, GLCAP

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](#).