

The Rural Community Development (RCD) Program

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



Oregon State Facts



- 926** community water systems
- 809** water systems serve communities with fewer than 3,300 people
- \$1.71 billion** estimated water infrastructure need for small systems
- 19.5%** 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 Oregon.

Example of RCD's Support in Oregon

Rose Lodge, Oregon

The Panther Creek Water District in Rose Lodge, Oregon was significantly damaged by wildfires in the fall of 2021. This damage affected the water and wastewater systems, resulting in decreased quality and access for residents. With RCD funding, RCAC worked with the district on an Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant (ECWAG) application to secure \$794,000 in funding to make repairs. However, the district still needed additional financial assistance to hire an engineering firm to design a retaining wall that would protect their water source from an unstable hillside. RCAC helped the district partner with an engineering firm that is designing the community's retaining wall. This will protect the district's water source and treatment building from future natural disasters.

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](#).