

The Rural Community Development (RCD) Program

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



Pennsylvania State Facts



1,887 community water systems

1,554 water systems serve communities with fewer than 3,300 people

\$4.08 billion estimated water infrastructure need for small systems

23.5% 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 [RCAP Solutions, Inc. \(RSOL\)](#) and [United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. \(USET\)](#) serve communities in the state of Pennsylvania.

Example of RCD's Support in Pennsylvania

Broad Top Township

Broad Top, Pennsylvania is a small riverside town with 1,650 residents. The town lacked a centralized system for wastewater treatment causing some residents to rely on straight piping to remove wastewater from their homes. As straight pipes deposit untreated wastewater directly into bodies of water or backyards, this practice created significant public health hazards.

Town officials began a major project to create a centralized wastewater system. With RCD funds, RSOL helped the town apply for funding, design a comprehensive wastewater system, and ensure compliance with all applicable regulations.

The flexibility of RCD funding allowed RSOL to work with Broad Top continuously for decades. During this time, town officials and RSOL transformed the town's approach to wastewater. Residents now have access to a reliable and sanitary sewer system, and the river is no longer polluted with wastewater. [Watch the video to learn more!](#)

"There's been a whole lot that's been done... we have provided access to wastewater systems for over 90% of the residents."

—Ernest Fuller, former secretary treasurer, Broad Top Township

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](#).