

The Rural Community Development (RCD) Program

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



South Dakota State Facts



- 461** community water systems
- 416** water systems serve communities with fewer than 3,300 people
- \$814 million** estimated water infrastructure need for small systems
- 42.8%** 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 [Midwest Assistance Program, Inc. \(MAP\)](#) and [Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. \(ITCA\)](#) serve communities in the state of South Dakota.

Examples of RCD's Support in South Dakota

Corsica, South Dakota

Outdated water and wastewater systems in Corsica, South Dakota became a significant challenge for the small town, which led to an inability to manage their assets and monitor their infrastructure. With RCD funds, MAP helped the town digitize its water and wastewater infrastructure by building a GIS-based asset management system. Through the new asset management system, operators can collect data and manage existing infrastructure. As a result of this assistance, the town is now able to start replacing old equipment with new modern equipment and make major system improvements that benefit the entire community. [Watch the video to learn more!](#)

"The Rural Community Development program works with water and wastewater infrastructure projects. Because it is so flexible, it allows the communities to get what they need."

—Jackie Luttrell, MAP project manager

Oglala Sioux Tribe Water and Sewer

The Oglala Sioux Tribe Water and Sewer (OSTWAS) tribal utility program could not generate enough revenue to cover the full cost of providing water and sewer services, putting residents at risk of not having safe and sufficient water. In addition, recent sanitary surveys identified the need for OSTWAS to conduct periodic inspection and maintenance of its water storage tanks. With RCD funding, ITCA helped OSTWAS address these issues, including conducting a comprehensive tribal water utility rate study, completing a revenue generation study analysis report, and providing on-site strategic planning workshops and worker safety trainings.

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](#).