

The Rural Community Development (RCD) Program

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



Texas State Facts



- 4,655** community water systems
- 3,537** water systems serve communities with fewer than 3,300 people
- \$9.76 billion** estimated water infrastructure need for small systems
- 16.3%** 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 [Communities Unlimited, Inc. \(CU\)](#) and [Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. \(ITCA\)](#) serve communities in the state of Texas.

Example of RCD's Support in Texas

Old West Mobile Home Park

The new owner of the Old West Mobile Home Park in Amarillo, Texas was dedicated to improving the living conditions of the tenants and fixing issues, including poor water quality and service disruptions arising from a consistently low water level in the community's well. The project would include conducting updates to the water system and drilling a new well on the site to provide access to clean drinking water.

With RCD funding, CU helped the owner explore funding options and apply for funding through the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) and Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). CU also conducted a rate analysis to determine a reasonable water rate for residents that would still allow the owner to boost financial capacity. With assistance from CU, the owner obtained funding to complete the project.

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](#).