

The Rural Community Development (RCD) Program

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



Virginia State Facts



1,078 community water systems

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

\$2 billion estimated water infrastructure need for small systems

24.4% 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 [Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project, Inc. \(SERCAP\)](#) and [United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. \(USET\)](#) serve communities in the state of Virginia.

Example of RCD's Support in Virginia

Hobson Village, Virginia

Water outages without notice used to be a common occurrence in Hobson Village, Virginia. In addition to frequent outages, water quality issues were rampant, with residents expressing that they had never drunk water from the faucet despite living in Hobson for decades. Water was supplied to residents in Hobson through two small, privately owned wells; however, the water was unsafe

With RCD funds, SERCAP forged a collaborative partnership with town residents and officials to develop solutions to the water quality problems. SERCAP explained the options available to the town residents, and they decided together that the best option available was to connect residents to city water. SERCAP used RCD funds to pay for each resident's connection fees, which saved households with low incomes thousands of dollars.

Residents are now connected to city water, which has provided them with reliable access to safe drinking water and sanitary sewer services. [Watch the video to learn more!](#)

"We are extremely happy to be on city water now. It is a game changer, it is a life changer, not just for us, but for our kids and grandkids. We are able to leave a legacy."

—John Thrower, Hobson Village resident

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](#).