

# The Rural Community Development (RCD) Program

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



## Washington State Facts



- 2,310** community water systems
- 2,087** water systems serve communities with fewer than 3,300 people
- \$3.84 billion** estimated water infrastructure need for small systems
- 16.6%** 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 Washington.

## Example of RCD's Support in Washington

### Lind, Washington

The Town of Lind in rural eastern Washington, with a population of 564 people, needed to upgrade its drinking water system and drill a new source well. However, wells in this area must be very deep (approximately 500 to 2,000 feet deep) and are very expensive to drill. Furthermore, the town could not apply for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) through the Washington Department of Health without having the required current, approved Small Water System Management Program. With RCD funding, RCAC worked with the community to update this detailed plan, compiling technical, managerial, and financial information into one document to submit to the Washington Department of Health for approval. With RCAC's assistance, the Town of Lind received approval of its Small Water System Management Plan in October 2023 and is now able to apply for funding to improve its water system.

*"Our community has greatly benefited from the services provided by RCAC. We did not have the knowledge or resources necessary to adequately attack the issues until[a] RCAC representative became involved."*

— Paula Bell, mayor, Town of Lind

## 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](#).