

# The Rural Community Development (RCD) Program

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



## West Virginia State Facts



**418** community water systems

**325** water systems serve communities with fewer than 3,300 people

**\$1.4 billion** estimated water infrastructure need for small systems

**55.4%** 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 [Great Lakes Community Action Partnership \(GLCAP\)](#) and [United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. \(USET\)](#) serve communities in the state of West Virginia.

## Examples of RCD's Support in West Virginia

### Cameron, West Virginia

The city of Cameron, West Virginia has a declining population and lacks needed revenue to fund improvements to its water system. The city received a significant deficiency in its sanitary survey for failure to maintain the required level of less than 15% water loss and for not having a leak detection program in place. With RCD funding, GLCAP collaborated with the chief water operator, mayor, and water system staff to develop and implement a leak detection program and helped staff continue to check accuracy within the billing system. With assistance from GLCAP, the city also installed a master meter and adjusted the amount of water being delivered to reduce water loss. GLCAP and the city of Cameron continue to track water usage monthly, document leaks and subsequent water loss, remove meters from vacant accounts, and record and analyze daily meter reads. With these activities, Cameron has reduced water loss from 43% to 28% and will eventually reach the acceptable level of less than 15%. This progress will help Cameron become compliant and also save the system money lost by water that is treated but never consumed.

### Triadelphia, West Virginia

Residents of the town of Triadelphia, West Virginia experienced frequent interruptions in water service because the water system was failing. This resulted in contaminated water and unsanitary conditions. To improve the quality of the public water supply, the town of Triadelphia received funding to upgrade its system, which includes 18,000 linear feet of main line replacement, replacement of valves and fire hydrants, and fire protection for customers. With RCD funding, GLCAP developed and implemented recommendations to improve the system's capabilities to achieve long-term viability. As a result of the upgrades, the town's water service is reliable once again and has even created an opportunity for further development in collaboration with the Ohio County Public Service District (PSD) and the Village of Valley Grove Water Association.

## 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](#).