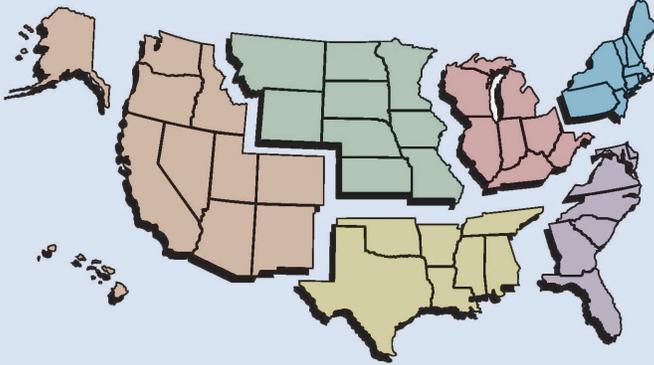


APPROPRIATIONS request



What is RCAP?



The Rural Community Assistance Partnership is a nonprofit national network of six regional organizations that provide technical assistance and training to small, rural water and wastewater systems throughout the U.S. We help communities:

- maintain compliance with federal and state regulations
- protect public health and the environment
- develop, operate, and maintain sustainable systems
- build local leadership capacity

☞ Our funding comes from three main sources:

Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations

REQUEST: \$6 million and bill language for rural facilities under section 680(3)(B) of the Community Services Block Grant Act to provide technical assistance to low-income rural communities who are developing water and wastewater systems. This is not an earmark; §680(3)(B) is an authorized program and RCAP competes for the funds.

“Provided further, that not less than \$6,000,000 shall be for section 680(3)(B) of the Community Services Block Grant Act...”

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“Infrastructure investment is a rare ‘win-win’ that generally boosts overall economic productivity in the long run and creates jobs in the short term.”

—McKinsey Global Insights, “Infrastructure Productivity: How to save \$1 trillion a year”

Agriculture-Rural Development Appropriations

REQUEST #1: at least \$6 million and bill language in the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) account to improve the operation and management of small water and wastewater systems. RCAP competes for these funds.

“...of which \$6,000,000 shall be made available for a grant to a qualified non-profit multi-state regional technical assistance organization with experience in working with small communities on water and wastewater problems, the principal purpose of such grant shall be to assist rural communities with populations of 3,300 or less in improving the planning, financing, development, operation, and management of water and wastewater systems.”

REQUEST #2: \$500,000 in the RUS account for the Revolving Fund Program to finance small water and wastewater projects.

REQUEST #3: 5% of Essential Community Facilities appropriation for Technical Assistance authorized in the 2014 Farm Bill (see enclosed sheet for more information)

Interior and Environment Appropriations

REQUEST: \$15 million for EPA Environmental Programs and Management account for technical and regulatory compliance assistance to small communities, to be equally divided between drinking water and clean water activities, with language allowing for fair competition between technical assistance providers.

“...EPA shall award grants on a competitive basis and give priority to not-for-profit organizations that: conduct activities that are national in scope;...and currently provide multi-state regional technical assistance...”

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“There is no question in my mind that we would NOT have accomplished all that we have if we had not had RCAP’s support.”

—S. Staley, Beanblossom, Indiana (Population 160)

PROGRAM facts

What is RCAP?

The Rural Community Assistance Partnership is a nonprofit national network of six regional organizations that provide technical assistance and training to small, rural water and wastewater systems throughout the U.S. We help communities:

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HHS Office of Community Services Rural Facilities

HHS-OCS funding enables RCAP to work with the smallest, poorest communities in America.

Since 1981, HHS has provided funding for technical assistance for rural community facilities as part of its anti-poverty program. For poor rural communities, the lack of clean water or adequate wastewater infrastructure is a public health issue and an obstacle to economic growth. The lack of these facilities is an impediment to development of commercial or industrial facilities and new housing – all sources of jobs and business activities. Funding from HHS-OCS is key to efforts to improve water and wastewater facilities in small, low-income, rural communities.

EPA Water and Wastewater Programs

EPA funding enables RCAP to assist small systems with regulatory compliance.

RCAP has partnered with the EPA in serving small water and wastewater systems for over 20 years. RCAP provides customized technical assistance and training to address drinking water and wastewater compliance issues. RCAP works to develop local leadership capacity to help systems maintain compliance over the long-run. Despite many successes over the years, many needy rural areas go unassisted and RCAP's waiting list continues to grow with communities that face continued compliance challenges.



USDA Rural Development Water and Wastewater Program

USDA-RD funding enables RCAP to assist RUS loan- and grant-eligible communities.

Since 1988, RCAP has worked with RUS to provide assistance to communities of 3,300 or fewer residents that are eligible for RUS loans or grants—helping them both with the technical aspects of system operations and with finding the financial resources necessary to operate their systems sustainably. By putting these communities on the path to fiscal sustainability, RCAP reduces their reliance on future government grants and loans. RCAP's work is closely aligned with Rural Development's long- and short-term performance measures—particularly the goal of “ensuring the sustainability of water and wastewater systems in rural communities.”

Why invest in water infrastructure?

JOBS

Every \$1 billion spent on upgrading and/or maintaining clean water infrastructure creates about **28,500 jobs**.



ECONOMIC GROWTH

For every

\$1

invested in water and sewer infrastructure, gross domestic product increases by **\$6.35** in the long term.

