Who is RCAP?

• RCAP is a non-profit organization made up of a network of regional non-profit partners (6) and a national office in Washington DC serving rural communities (under 10,000 pop.) across all 50 states, the U.S. territories and on Tribal lands

• RCAP has been providing TA and training services for 50 years

• RCAP is staffed by over 350 on the ground TA providers across the country that live and work in the communities they serve
Served more than **3,566,000** million rural and tribal residents and over **1,650** communities in all **50** states and four territories.

Conducted **639** trainings, serving **6,680** systems reaching **~13,000** attendees.

Helped rural communities across the country leverage **$692,488,929** in infrastructure funding.

Supported the smallest, often overlooked communities with an average population of **1,520** and median household income of **$40,430**.
The work that makes a difference

RCAP works with small, rural, Tribal, and often disadvantaged communities to access infrastructure funds, achieve compliance, address public health concerns, develop capacity, and create long-term sustainability and resilience.
**Pre-Pre Development**  
(also termed planning)

When there is a need but no vehicle to get there

- Work with community leaders to create a governance structure
- Help seat a governing body
- Hire staff – operator, billing clerk, others
- Create operating budgets
- Develop operating policies, rules, and regulations
- Train decision-makers and staff
- Feasibility
Pre-Development

A need has been identified and a solution needs to be put in place

- Mapping/Asset Management
- ID compliance challenges and solutions
- Scope of work
- Procurement services
- Financial Review – Financial statements, budgets, rates
- Income surveys
- Financial =, technical and environmental planning – PER & ER/EA
- Funding applications
Project Development

The PER & ER have been completed. We can apply!

- Work with the decision-makers on the alternative analysis
- RDApply
  - Work with utility staff
  - Upload documents
  - Ensure eligibility
- Resolutions
  - Draft and get decision makers to approve funding resolutions
- Community Engagement
  - Facilitate conversations with the community – financial impacts and beyond
- Funding application – Design, Construction
Letter of Conditions

RCAP TAPs help entities with:

- Policies – assist to develop missing policies – Drug-Free Workspace, LEP
- Permits – right-of-way, easements, water rights, etc.
- Rate Analysis - Review/Revise Rates
- Set up reserve set-asides
  - Annual targets
  - Reserve policies
- Work with the utility to develop the VA/RRA & ERP
- Provide board training (in some states)
- Others
Project Implementation

Work with decision-makers through the project implementation

• Will there be over $750K spent in a year?
  • Does the utility have the budget to pay for an audit?
  • Does the utility need an RFP for an auditor with federal grant experience?
• Are all the permits in place?
• Is the project budget spending on track with the project implementation?
• Is there enough funding or is there a funding shortfall?
• Is the project meeting all the federal and state requirements?
• Is the community loving/hating their consultant(s)?
Project close-out and beyond

• RCAP’s work with a community is a long-term relationship including building and maintaining trust

• RCAP will provide periodic reviews of the rates to ensure sufficient revenues to cover operating expenses including loans and reserve set-asides

• At the request of USDA, RCAP will:
  • Work with the utility to update the VA/RRA & ERP
  • Conduct Security Inspections
  • Submit required budget forms
  • Ensure debt repayment/maintenance of the debt and other reserves
RCAP’s commitment is to make sure that every project is sustainable and provides technical, managerial and financial TA and training to build local capacity.
How is RCAP’s work for communities supported: RD Title

❑ USDA Technical Assistance & Training Program (Sections 306 Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act)
  ❑ In the last few years this has also included GIS TA, training and licensing

❑ USDA Technical Assistance & Training – Tribal
  ❑ Includes the creation and maintenance of the Native American Water Masters Association (NAWMA)

❑ USDA Technical Assistance & Training – Colonias
  ❑ Major focus of regional collaboration and water access

❑ USDA Solid Waste Management Program
  ❑ Diverse set of TA service from the landfill to the classroom to ensure public/environmental health and water quality/pollution prevention
Leveraged Funding:

RCAP leverages USDA funds with other federal programs:

- EPA
- HHS
- EDA
- DOT
RCAP services are intended to be wrap-around services to ensure rural prosperity and sustainability

- Economic Development
- Broadband
- Leadership Development
- Regionalization
- Workforce Solutions
- Disaster and Climate Resiliency
Additional Resources

• RCAP’s 2023 Farm Bill Priorities
• CRS Report on USDA Rural Development Programs
• CRS Report on USDA Rural Definitions & Program Eligibility
• USDA Water & Environmental Programs Website
• RCAP Website
Questions?
To learn more about RCAP, please visit us at: www.rcap.org

Thank you for your time:

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