



Who Is RCAP?

RCAP is a non-profit national network of **six** regional organizations that provide technical assistance and training to leaders in rural communities throughout the United States

We help communities develop, operate, and maintain viable water and wastewater systems; maintain compliance with federal/state regulations; **protect public health** and the environment; and build local leadership capacity

RCAP serves more than **2,503** unique rural communities every year
RCAP employs more than **350** engineers, operators, accountants, former mayors and other experts who are out in the field assisting rural leaders

For over **50 years**, RCAP has worked with USDA and EPA to improve the quality of life in rural America

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2024 Farm Bill Priorities

The Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP) supports the enactment of a robust and comprehensive Rural Development Title in the reauthorization of the Farm Bill. RCAP calls on Congress and the Administration to emphasize rural development programs and strategies that will create opportunities for all rural Americans including underserved places. RCAP supports several key priorities in the Farm Bill that will boost rural economies, create jobs, and improve the quality of life in rural America:

Rural Utilities Service: Water and Environmental Programs

- Reauthorize the **Water & Waste Disposal Technical Assistance & Training Grant Program** to the maximum amount (Section 306(a)(14)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act 7 U.S.C. 1921 et seq.), set-aside no less than **10%** of funding for expanded technical assistance and capacity building, and include additional language for separate emergency response technical assistance activities under emergency disaster supplementals from Congress.
- Reauthorize the **Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program** (Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act).
- Reauthorize the **Solid Waste Management Grant Program** (Section 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act) at **\$10 million** a year over five years, create additional flexibility under the program by removing caps on funding.
- Reauthorize the **Rural Decentralized Water Systems Grant Program** (Section 306E of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act), include additional program eligibility and flexibility by raising the income eligibility requirements from **60%** of statewide median household income up to **100%** in cases of extreme need.
- Reauthorize the **Revolving Funds for Financing Water and Wastewater Projects Program** (Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act).
- Reauthorize the **SEARCH -Special Evaluation Assistance for Rural Communities and Households Program**, include additional matching flexibility under the program to include in-kind or waivers in cases of extreme need.
- Reauthorize the **Water & Waste Disposal Predevelopment Planning Grant Program**, include additional matching flexibility under the program to include in-kind or waivers in cases of extreme need.

Flexible Technical Assistance Services and Coordination Across USDA-Rural Development Mission Areas

- Authorize a flexible program for expanded capacity building and flexibility across all USDA-Rural Development mission areas, including adequate resources to implement modern plans, community broadband access, create jobs, and leverage new infrastructure development to increase the resiliency of rural communities.

Rural Housing Service: Community Facilities Programs

- Reauthorize the **Community Facilities Technical Assistance and Training Program** (Section 306(a)(26) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act), set-aside no less than **10%** of funding for expanded technical assistance and capacity building and create additional flexibility under the program by removing caps on funding.
- Reauthorize the **Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program** (Sec. 306(a)(19) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act).