Rural Community Assistance Program
Training, Technical Assistance and Services for Small Communities

**What is RCAP?**

**Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP)**

RCAP is operated by a national network of nonprofit organizations working to ensure that rural and small communities throughout the United States have access to safe drinking water, and sanitary wastewater and solid waste disposal.

RCAP provides technical assistance to communities to build technical, managerial, and financial capacity to construct and sustainably operate water and sewer infrastructure. This is the core of our program.

In Ohio, we have expanded to offer many other small utility and community development services in pursuit of this mission.
Ohio RCAP provides technical assistance to communities for infrastructure and community development. Often, those under 10,000 population can receive free assistance under our grant-funded programs. We assist with project planning, development, and funding. Often, we work with communities to evaluate their rate structures and financial capacity. In addition to helping individual communities, we offer several utility management classes each year to local officials and operators. RCAP also has a GIS Team and operates a GIS Cooperative for communities.

Cost of Services Provided

Free, Grant-Funded Assistance
Fee-for-Service Assistance
Who do we serve?

Although we are allowed to assist communities up to 10,000 in population under most of our programs, for our grant funded services, our priority is working with smaller communities. The majority of our client communities are under 5,000 population. Many have less than a few hundred customers.

RCAP works with its client communities "as long as it takes" to bring a needed project to fruition. We provide the guidance and coordination to help them through the project planning and funding process, especially when multiple funders are involved.

Often in small communities, employees have to wear multiple hats, many are underpaid, and some volunteer their time.

The do not need and cannot afford full time professional staff that large cities and counties are able to support in dedicated positions to manage individual utilities and develop projects.

RCAP brings the professional staff and expertise to help small communities fill these gaps.

We helped over 300 communities across Ohio in 2018.

For many, we worked on more than one project and/or provided multiple services.
How we help

Foster Vision

Leverage Funds

Achieve Sustainability

Facilitate Compliance

Asset Management Plan Development & Training

Planning, Project Development & Funding

Building Support
- Community outreach
- Strategic visioning
- Focus group meetings

Planning Services
- Development of work plans
- Qualification of potential projects for the potential use of professional services

Planning Strategy
- Planning grants
- Request for qualifications
- Previous financial activities
- Future financial activities

Environmental Compliance
- NEPA Environmental
- NEPA survey
- Ohio EPA
- NEPA grant & loan
- Environment

Project Coordination/Facilitation
- Coordination and technical assistance
- NEPA, CDBG, ARC, USDA

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We assist over 100 communities each year with project planning, development and funding, striving to secure the lowest cost loans and maximum grant dollars. Often in the process, we work with communities to evaluate their rate structures and financial capacity.

Since January 2015, we leveraged over $130,000,000 in Grants & $200,000,000 in Low-Interest Loans for water and sewer projects in Ohio.

We tackle the most challenging infrastructure projects in rural communities.

Training
- Utility Management
- Finance Management
- O&M Best Practices
- O&M Budgeting
- Financial Management
- Leadership Training
- Project Management
- Accounting
- Asset Management
- Budgeting, Asset Management & Rate Setting
- GIS
- GIS Planning & Management
- Shared Services
- Other Special Topics
Since 2008, Ohio RCAP has worked to create a Cooperative GIS Service for communities too small to afford their own GIS professional staff. To date, we have assisted over 100 communities in Ohio with inventorying and mapping using GIS and Gis technology, and currently serve over 45 communities with a combined population of 163,000 through our GIS Cooperative.
Services for Individuals

Private Well Assessments
Private Well Loans
Beyond Water and Wastewater

Community Development

Affordable, effective, results-oriented assistance

Comprehensive Planning

Community Engagement

Tailored Community-Level Plans

Local Partnerships
  Dynamic Process

Stakeholder Participation
Entrepreneurship

E-Community Initiative
- Identify and develop entrepreneurial assets and resources
- Provide tools and resources to target and engage with entrepreneurs
- Business networking and coaching facilitation

Youth Engagement Programs
- Ice House Entrepreneurial Mindset Training
- Startup Experience

Comprehensive Community Services
- Grants
- Visioning
- Leadership Development
- Community Surveys
- Rural Transportation Planning
- Hazard Mitigation Planning
- Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Plans

How can we help you?

www.ohiorcap.org  www.rcapgis.org
Questions

www.ohioncap.org