



RCAP
Rural Community Assistance Program

Ohio Rural Community Assistance Program

Technical Assistance and Services for Small Communities

What is RCAP?



- The **Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP)** is a national, non-profit organization incorporated in 1972 that provides technical assistance to help solve water and wastewater problems.
- RCAP has field staff in all 50 states and Puerto Rico and has been assisting small, rural communities for over 30 years.
- Ohio RCAP is part of the Great Lakes RCAP region. Great Lakes RCAP is administered by the WSOS Community Action Commission, Inc. in Fremont, Ohio. WSOS is a 501(c)3 non-profit agency.






Traditionally, RCAP[®] has worked with communities to build *technical, managerial, and financial capacity* to construct and operate water and sewer infrastructure. This is still a major component of our program.

In Ohio, we have expanded to offer many other community and economic development services.

Ohio RCAP Receives Funding From the Following Agencies:



OhioEPA

Division of Drinking and Groundwaters



Grant Funded and Low Cost Services for Rural Communities



RCAP is fortunate to be able to provide many of its services free of charge.

Enrollment for our grant funded services is based on several factors, including the type of project and likely funding agencies, size and median household income of the area being served. The majority of our client communities receive free RCAP services. Many hire us to perform additional services to help them

Like most non-profits, RCAP has developed additional low-cost services to either fill a need or provide significant cost-savings to its clients.

Ohio RCAP Services



Water and Wastewater



Community Development



Water and Wastewater



Quite Simply, the RCAP mission is to "Assist rural people to improve the quality of life in their communities."

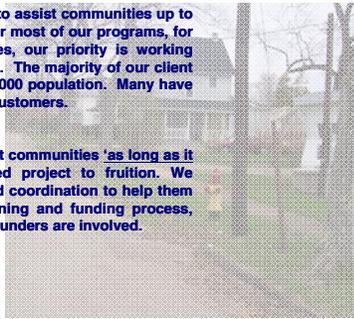
Traditionally, our focus and funding has been assisting communities with their water and sewer infrastructure needs.

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.



How do we help?



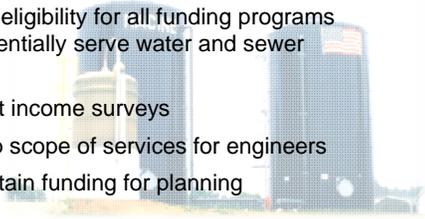
- Project Planning
- Engineer Selection Process
- Project Funding
- Oversight Board and Staff Training
- Financial Management and Rate Setting
- Mediate Regionalization Efforts
- Asset Management Program Development
- Security and Emergency Response Planning
- Special project to improve operational efficiencies



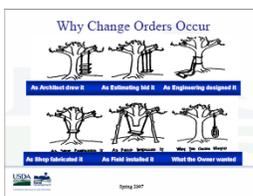
Planning



- Community Interest Surveys
- Facilitate local planning committee meetings – “What Do You Need and Want”
- Review eligibility for all funding programs that potentially serve water and sewer project
- Conduct income surveys
- Develop scope of services for engineers
- Help obtain funding for planning



Planning



- Explain and provide tools to follow a Qualifications Based Selection process to hire an engineer.
- Assist in procuring other professional services
- Coordination/facilitation among community representatives, funders, regulators & consultants

NEPA Environmental Reports



Over 15 years experience

Reports Prepared for:

- USDA
- HUD/CDBG
- Ohio EPA
- US EPA
- US Army Corps of Engineer



Fee-For-Service activity not covered under our grants.

Facility Development



- Assist in completing financial reports to funding agencies
- Prepare Ohio EPA Capacity Assurance Plans
- Perform Utility Rate Studies *
- Assist with Asset Management Plan Development and Capital Improvement Plans *

* Denotes service usually not covered under our existing funding programs for which we charge a modest fee.

Utility Rate & Structure Analysis



- Evaluation of Expenses and Revenues
- Development of Budgets and Projections
- Review of Fund Balances and Projections for Reserve
- Recommendations for Rate Change
- Evaluation of Rate Affordability
- Short Course Board Training

RCAP Wrote the Book!



Management & Operations



- Assist with the development and implementation of operating policies and procedures
- Clearinghouse for sample rules, ordinances and resolutions
- Help develop strategies, policies and legislation to reduce delinquent accounts
- Asset Management Plan Preparation* and CUPSS
- GPS Data Collection*
- GIS Program Development*
- Energy Audits*

*Fee-for-Service if not covered under an existing grant.

Asset Management Plan Development



Minimize lifecycle cost through improved preventative maintenance and timely asset rehabilitation



Energy Audits to Save Money



- General Facilities & Buildings
- Water Treatment Facilities
- Wastewater Facilities

Ohio RCAP's licensed professional engineer is one of the leading experts in the country for small water and sewer utility energy audits.

Ohio RCAP analyzes the opportunities to conserve energy through changes, modifications, or upgrades to both equipment and operations.

The end result is often significant energy and budget cost reduction opportunities. Every facility is different, and RCAP has seen potential savings ranging from 6% to 60%, with just over 25% being the average.

Training



Council/Board Training

- 101 Utility Management
- 201 Financial Management

OWDA Short courses

- Project Planning
- Project Design
- Project Construction
- Rate Setting and Asset Management

Leadership Training



Training



Operational Staff Training

- 301 Budgeting, Asset Management & Rate Setting
- 401 Applied Asset Management using (CUPSS)
- Locating Mains, Leaks & Lost Revenue
- Energy Audits
- Other Special Topics

Operator recruitment & training with Jobs \$

Most course offer CEU's

National RCAP Publications



<http://www.rcap.org/commpubs>

While you're there, check out the resource library!

Consulting Services



Technical assistance for communities who do not qualify for traditional RCAP assistance because of an ineligible project type, large population or higher incomes.

Fee-For-Service Consulting



- Loan and Grant Writing Services
- NEPA Environmental Reports
- CDBG Administration
- Source Water Protection Planning
- Energy (Operational) Audits
- GPS Data Collection and GIS Development
- Asset Management Planning
- Rate & Structure Analysis
- Comprehensive Community Development



Source Water Protection Planning



Benefits Include:

- Risk of contamination reduced
- Consumer confidence increased
- Additional funding points
- Potential cost savings



Loan and Grant Writing

(for communities over 10,000 population)



Grant and loan writing for water and wastewater projects

Loan writing for USDA Community Facility and B&I Guarantee Loans



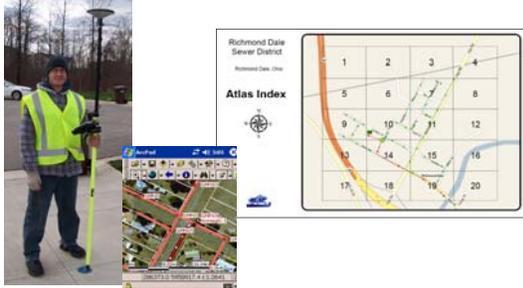
*Note: In most cases water and sewer grant writing provided free of charge for grants for communities <10,000 in population.



The RCAP GIS Team



RCAP is pleased to now offer GPS Data Collection and GIS Mapping



Cooperative GIS Service



Ohio RCAP Services



Water and Wastewater



Community Development



Community Development



The RCAP goal is to help fill the gaps in local services with affordable, effective, results-oriented assistance and to bring to the local community the specific services or planning products and processes that are most needed.

Planning and Development Services



RCAP staff can work with your community to develop a variety of custom planning documents or join your community development team.



Downtown Revitalization



- We deliver a far-reaching blueprint for downtown organization, promotion, economic restructuring, and design.
- We involve the stakeholders. It's your plan!
- We meet requirements for CDBG "Tier 2" funding.



Comprehensive Planning



- RCAP involves the people via community meetings, stakeholder groups, surveys...
- RCAP has written plans at the County, Municipal, and Township level.
- RCAP can partner with others to provide a local dimension to the process.



Economic Development



- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies for EDA funding
- Revolving Loan Fund administration
- Economic Development CDBG applications and administration
- Team with local development practitioners to seek and apply for resources to make projects happen

Comprehensive Community Services



- Grant and resource searches
- Grant administration
- Meeting facilitation
- Visioning and goal setting
- Leadership programs
- Business financing consultation
- Community needs surveys
- Community attitude surveys
- Rural transportation planning

Economic Gardening



- RCAP will begin a pilot project this year to begin an *Economic Gardening Program* targeted to rural counties, small cities and villages
- Specific services to help grow 'Second Stage' Companies (appx. 10-100 employees) that are already rooted in the community
- Most potential for job creation, involves no grants or tax abatements



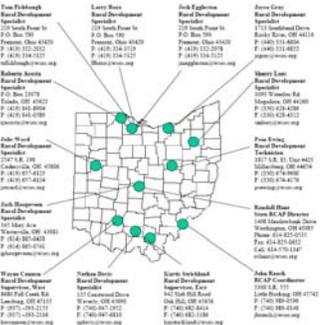
SAVE THE DATE

**Small Towns
BIG Futures**

August 14 & 15, 2012
Hilton at Easton
Columbus, OH



To Inquire about RCAP's Services or refer a community, please contact Randy Hunt, Director of Ohio RCAP, or your nearest RCAP Field Agent.



Questions



Check out Ohio's toolkit - www.ohiorcap.org
