

RURAL AMERICA RELIES ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT



NATIONAL
RURAL WATER
ASSOCIATION



USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT WATER PROGRAMS ENSURE AFFORDABILITY

AFFORDABILITY FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

Affordability is the key factor for small and rural communities in their decisions to upgrade and enhance water services for their customers.

Skyrocketing construction costs, disrupted supply chains, and ever increasing regulatory requirements are just a few of the roadblocks rural America faces when financing critical water infrastructure.

Rural Development's Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program is a lifeline for rural America, funding clean and reliable water systems nationwide.

America has 49,397 community water systems, most of which are small. Small and rural communities lack economies of scale. Passing the costs of unfunded mandates onto customers is not feasible without assistance from USDA Rural Development.

91%
of America's
water systems are small

Grant costs can cover up to 75% of total development costs for the most vulnerable communities, which is necessary to provide affordable rates. For the majority of small and rural communities, a grant/loan mix is critical to keep projects affordable. USDA RD needs an adequate amount of baseline grant funding to maintain their mission to serve rural America.

Today's Congressional policies and funding decisions are jeopardizing the ability of every community in rural America to keep water and wastewater services affordable. Budget cuts will leave USDA WEP unable to accomplish its mission. WEP is instrumental in helping rural America maintain affordable and sustainable water access for all rural people.

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT WATER & ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS (WEP)

For many underserved communities, USDA Rural Development is the lender of first opportunity. RD exclusively serves small and rural communities. Without this program, many rural Americans will lose access to affordable safe and clean water.

In 2023, WEP excelled in their mission to serve rural America:

72% of WEP funded projects benefited communities with populations of 2,500 or less.

45% of WEP funded projects benefited communities with populations of 1,000 or less.

TELL CONGRESS NOW

KEEP RURAL AMERICA STRONG!

Scan the QR Code to learn more about how you can help keep Rural America Strong!



THE IMPACT

Quality On Tap!

Our Commitment  Our Profession



A WEP IS AFFORDABLE SOLUTION FOR TRICO RURAL WATER IN DILLON, SOUTH CAROLINA

RURAL AMERICA DESERVES RURAL DEVELOPMENT

“ Rural Development is irreplaceable when it comes to giving utilities a viable option for infrastructure improvement. Rural America would not be the same without their funding.”

Corbin Arnette
Trico Water Company
Dillon, South Carolina



IMPACT IN ACTION

Trico Water Company needed a new water treatment facility to serve its community. With the help of Rural Development, Trico Water was able to install a new water treatment facility at an affordable rate to its users. This new facility allowed Trico Water to increase their overall water capacity while distributing water to their residents on the far side of the county lines. The facility was important in providing new users access to clean affordable drinking water. Not only has the upgrade increased the system capacity, but also relieved nearby treatment plants and wells in lowering their need of production.

“Without affordable funding and grants through USDA Rural Development, these improvements in rural areas would not be possible. The funding that we received has played a vital role in keeping costs down while bringing an increased capacity of potable water to our customers,” said Corbin Arnette, Trico Water Company.

This project completed in April 2024, has not only ensured water availability to its consumers in rural areas, but also increased the possibility for new economic development opportunities. The expansion included a new treatment plant, groundwater well, and SCADA system to go alongside an existing 200,000 gallon water tower.

“Rural Development is irreplaceable when it comes to giving utilities a viable option for infrastructure improvements. Rural America would not be the same without their funding,” Arnette said.

CALL TO ACTION

Fund Water Infrastructure - Stand Up for USDA Rural Development

Rural Development will continue to play a vital role in modernizing, preserving, and protecting rural America’s infrastructure and public health. You can help secure its future today by signing the pledge and writing to your Congressional representatives today.

Providing adequate support and resources necessary to protect and enhance the environment, public health, sustainability of utilities, and economic vitality of rural America with clean, affordable, and safe water service is a primary responsibility for our federal elected officials.

Visit www.ruralwaterstrong.org to learn more.