

Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) assists rural communities achieve their goals and visions by providing training, technical assistance and access to resources. We strive to help local organizations, rural communities and tribal governments increase their own capacity to implement solutions to their problems and to provide these services in a culturally appropriate fashion. Since its inception in 1978, RCAC has placed a priority on providing information and assistance to Native American groups. We serve rural and Native communities in the areas of drinking water, wastewater, solid waste, housing and financial services.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

RCAC's tribal water/wastewater circuit rider program assists water operators and administrators in Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah to operate and manage their community water and wastewater systems. Since program inception, bacteriological occurrences have dropped dramatically. Training workshops have helped operators and Native leaders become more educated about water and wastewater operation and management issues, and many operators have obtained state operator certification.

Native community environmental work

- Helped a coalition of 18 tribes in Southern California setup and operate the *Native American Water Masters Association (NAWMA)*.
- Assist tribes conduct utility district rate studies
- Conduct waste generation surveys for recycling programs
- Conduct contamination testing, bacteriological and well sampling

- Conduct on-site operation and maintenance evaluations and provide follow-up training
- Conduct water operator certification classes
- Assist with proposal writing and financial packaging

LOAN FUND

The RCAC Loan Fund fills financing gaps and serves those traditionally neglected by conventional markets. The loan fund demonstrates that prudent and profitable lending can be done in Native communities when approached in a culturally appropriate fashion.

Recently financed projects

Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, Economic Development Corporation — A \$100,000 loan to capitalize ATNIEDC's lending pool.

San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians — A \$189,000 loan to pay for engineering costs needed to improve the tribe's water system.

United Indian Health Services — A \$1 million loan to develop a 42,000 square-foot health village.

HOUSING SERVICES

RCAC provides technical assistance to a variety of organizations that help retain or expand a community's affordable housing stock. Technical assistance is provided in areas as diverse as strategic planning for nonprofit and tribal organizations to project-specific assistance, such as land acquisition and construction management.

Recent Native housing work

RCAC facilitated a strategic planning process with *Northern Circle Indian Housing Authority* in Northern California, resulting in a new nonprofit organization. RCAC also provided proposal writing and fundraising assistance for Northern Circle's housing rehabilitation program.

RCAC assisted *Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL)* transition to NAHASDA programming. Our work has developed Native Hawaiian controlled Habitat for Humanity affiliates that use a combination of federal and private funds to build housing on DHHL land. RCAC staff drafted a standardized DHHL memorandum of understanding for loan guarantees for the Habitat affiliates.

RCAC provided board training and helped the *Havasupai Tribe* organize its Tribally Designated Housing Entity. RCAC helped the tribe inventory and assess its existing housing stock and write an Indian Housing Plan. RCAC also helped the tribe secure additional housing funds.



OTHER DIRECT SERVICES

RCAC takes a comprehensive approach to its community development work. Often, our work extends beyond environmental, finance or housing programs.

Examples of other direct services

RCAC assisted the *Tanacross Village Council* in Alaska to convert a school into a Skills Training Center. With RCAC assistance, the council conducted an environmental assessment, negotiated a building lease, recruited a project manager and packaged funding applications. The center will offer building skills courses, on-the-job training through student home construction, classroom space for other nonprofit organizations and office space for small businesses.

RCAC staff assisted the *Tetlin Village Council* in Alaska to conduct a needs assessment for a community health center, develop a health and social service delivery plan, and prepare concept design drawings, cost estimates and funding applications. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development funded the project while RCAC Loan Fund committed the needed match. RCAC is assisting Tetlin Village in project planning, design, financial management and construction activities.



R U R A L C O M M U N I T Y A S S I S T A N C E C O R P O R A T I O N

RCAC has field offices throughout the west — check our web site for the location nearest you.

Corporate office: 3120 Freeboard Drive
Suite 201, West Sacramento, CA 95691
Telephone: 916/447-2854

Fax: 916/447-2878
Email: rcacmail@rcac.org
Web site: www.rcac.org