*Rural Community Assistance Corporation*

**Job Description**

 ***Rural Development Specialist***

**Classification:** *Grade E* **Department:** *Community and**Environmental*

**Status:** *Exempt* **Supervisor:** *Regional Environmental Manager, CES*

**Organization**

Founded in 1978, RCAC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that provides training, technical and financial resources and advocacy so low-income rural communities can achieve their goals and visions. Our dedicated staff and active board work to make our vision of vibrant, healthy and enduring rural communities a reality across the West.

**Community and Environment Department**

RCAC’s comprehensive community and economic development services support rural communities to create a vision, set goals and implement an action plan for community development projects. We work with rural water, wastewater and solid waste systems to make them sustainable. We also work with small systems’ boards of directors and staff to make sure they comply with state and federal regulations and understand system finances and operations. RCAC’s work include: system regulatory compliance; access to resources for capital improvement projects; and board and staff capacity building in technical, financial and managerial (TMF) best practices.

**Position Description**

A Rural Development Specialist (RDS) under the Environmental Finance Center (EFC) EPA Region 10 program at RCAC provides technical, managerial, and financial (TMF) assistance to small disadvantaged community water and wastewater systems so they can operate sustainably and deliver quality services to the communities served. This position’s primary focus will be serving systems owned/operated by tribal entities or located on tribal lands.

Specific tasks may include conducting sanitary surveys on behalf of EPA, providing technical assistance to systems to improve regulatory compliance, conducting capacity assessments and assisting seasonal water systems. Additionally, the RDS prepares and delivers classroom and individual trainings as needed to build local partners’ capacity and supports other EFC projects as needed.

**Specific job goals, objectives and tasks are established for each employee as part of the annual evaluation process.** **Duties and responsibilities include but are not limited to:**

* Assess our local partners’ needs
* Build technical, managerial, and/or financial capacity
* Access financial resources to address local demands
* Recommend and implement solutions
* Promote and facilitate partnerships to maximize limited resources
* Develop, prepare, and deliver group and one-on-one trainings
* Provide excellent customer service
* Prepare activity and outcome reports as required
* Perform other duties as assigned

**Skills and Qualifications**

* Ability to manage technical aspects of field work related to water and/or wastewater
* Facilitation, mediation and meeting management skills
* Familiarity with rural and tribal community culture and social norms
* Ability to troubleshoot, innovate and problem-solve
* Proficiency with personal computers including Microsoft Office
* Ability to complete administrative and reporting requirements on time
* Ability to listen and communicate effectively, verbally and in writing
* Ability to work independently and in team environments, and to effectively prioritize multiple tasks

**Physical Job Requirements:**

The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this position. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable persons with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

Work performed in an office requires ability to operate computers and various pieces of office equipment, including the telephone. Use may be moderate (average 2 hours per day) to heavy (4 or more hours per day)

While performing the duties of this position, the employee is frequently required to stand and/or sit for prolonged periods of time; walk; talk; hear; use hand to finger; handle; feel or operate objects, tools or controls; and reach with hands and arms. The employee is occasionally required to climb or balance; stoop, kneel, crouch or crawl.

The employee may occasionally lift and or move up to 25 pounds. Specific vision abilities required by this job include close vision, distance vision, color vision, peripheral vision, depth perception and the ability to adjust focus.

This position also requires moderate (up to 2 days per month) to heavy (up to 10 days per month) automobile and airline travel, including overnight travel.

**Preferred Education and Experience:**

A combination of experience and education is required to qualify for the position. A typical qualifying combination would be:

Experience:

Three years of applicable experience in water, wastewater, environmental project management, or other closely related field (if a higher level of related education is possessed than is required, this education may be substituted for the experience requirement up to a maximum of one year). Experience in utility operations or engineering is mandatory.

Education:

Bachelor’s degree (additional qualifying experience may be substituted for the required education).

**Special Requirements:**

Possession of a valid drivers' license and proof of insurance that meets the minimum requirements of RCAC corporate liability policy will be required when traveling for business purposes.