

# Technical Assistance, The SRF and Ohio RCAP





# 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, part of the Great Lakes RCAP region, is administered by the W.S.O.S. Community Action Commission, Inc. in Fremont, Ohio.

Ohio RCAP works with **small communities** concentrating on their *management* and *financial* needs.





# Is there a cost for Ohio RCAP services?

- Ohio RCAP services are provided free of charge to communities or community projects that serve a population of 10,000 or less.



# Direct Technical Assistance

- Direct technical assistance to small systems include:
  - Project Planning
  - Facility Development
  - Operation and Maintenance
  - Management and Finance

# Why do Communities Need Ohio RCAP Assistance?

- Rates don't support the needs of the system
- May be heading for enforcement
  - Communities that have deferred maintenance
  - Communities that may need to work with other PWS as a customer or in a hired management relationship
- The need for more communication between management and operations

# Why do Communities Need Ohio RCAP Assistance? *(continued)*

- Rates are too high
- Have no direction
  - They just can not decide what to do
- Public support for needed changes is non-existent

# Ohio RCAP Works with Ohio EPA DDAGW to:

- Ensure small communities have assistance with development of projects and funding (i.e.SRF applications)
- Develop System Capacity
- Improve Compliance

The logo for Ohio EPA, featuring the text "OhioEPA" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letter "o" in "Ohio" is replaced by a green circular icon containing a stylized leaf or plant. The logo is set against a white rectangular background.

**OhioEPA**

# RCAP Assists Communities in Developing SRF Applications:

- Assisting communities on the Project Priority List (PPL) with:
  - Preparing capability assurance plans
  - Preparing loan applications
  - Meeting loan requirements (technical, managerial, and financial capability )
  - Leveraging other loans & grants to make the project affordable



# RCAP and Capacity Development Efforts

## ➤ Board Training Program

- **Utility** Management for Local Officials
- **Financial** Management for Local Officials
- **Asset** Management, Budgeting & Rate Setting for Local Officials
- **Applied Asset** Management, Budgeting & Rate Setting for Local Officials (in development)
- **\*New\*** Project Development Short Courses

# RCAP and Improving Compliance

- Moving small communities toward managing a sustainable water system
  - Increase the communities ability to be proactive in decision making
- Developing rates that will cover: O&M, debt service, and capital replacement.

# RCAP and Improving Compliance (continued)

- Develop sufficient credit worthiness to apply for funding for water system improvement projects
  - Move more small communities in need of the SRF, through the process more efficiently
  - Leverage funds in a timely manner that make the project affordable
- Implement best management practices

# RCAP and Improving Compliance (continued)

Ohio RCAP assists small communities needing a new water system or rehabilitation of their existing water system - even if they are not on the PPL.

For Example: Ohio RCAP will work with Communities that are not ready to be funded, but need managerial and/or financial assistance with problems identified by Ohio EPA and move them toward compliance.

# Direct Technical Assistance Results of Ohio RCAP

- Currently working with about 150 communities in Ohio
- Assisting most communities with improved or new infrastructure
- Approximately 30 of these communities have asked for the development of rate recommendations and a few are working on asset management

# Training Results



- 500 participants so far this year representing over 250 communities
- Last three years over 1,500 participants representing nearly 650 communities.
- Funding Agencies are requiring some

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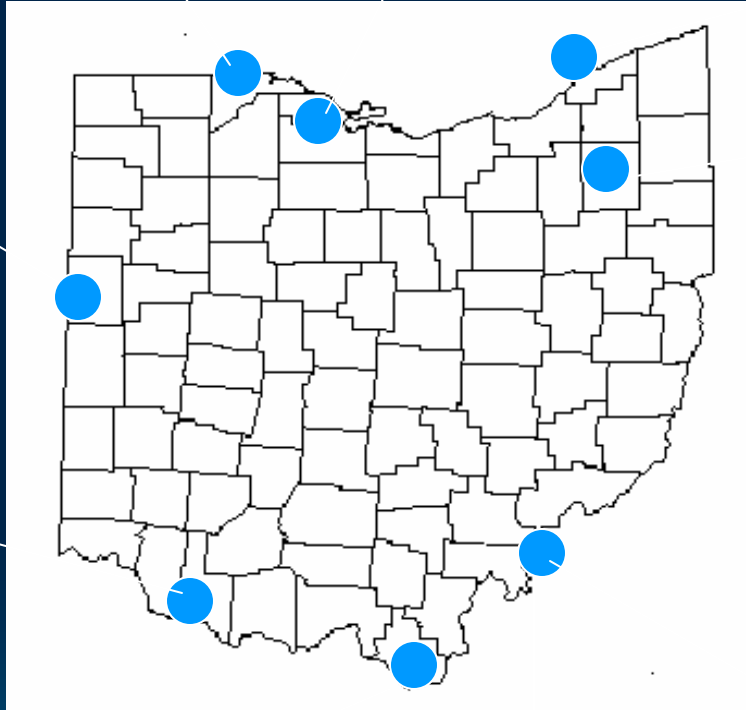
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**Administered by**  
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Ohio RCAP Web site:  
[www.glracap/ohio.org](http://www.glracap/ohio.org)

**Questions ???**

