

Circuit Rider Program Technical Assistance for Rural Water Systems

What does this program do?

This program provides technical assistance to rural water systems that are experiencing day-to-day operational, financial, or managerial issues.

Who are the circuit riders?

- **USDA Rural Development has contracted with the National Rural Water Association to provide circuit riders in each U.S. state and territory who are experienced in managing issues that arise in the day-to-day operations of rural water systems.**
- **Visit an NRWA state association's website to contact the circuit riders located in that state:**
<https://nrwa.org/state-associations/>

What is an eligible project area?

- Assistance can be provided in areas with populations of 10,000 or fewer.
- You can check for eligible addresses at this link: <https://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov/eligibility/welcomeAction.do>

Who can receive assistance under this program?

- If your organization is eligible for a USDA Rural Development Water and Waste direct loan or grant (see 7 CFR 1780, Section 1780.7, available at this link: <https://go.usa.gov/xeazZ>), you can receive technical assistance under the Circuit Rider program.
- To be eligible, your organization must serve an area with a population of 10,000 or fewer AND be either a public body, nonprofit, or Tribe with legal authority to own and operate the water facility.
- Your organization does NOT need to be a Rural Development borrower to receive assistance under the Circuit Rider program.

On what topics can the circuit rider assist?

- Board training
- Management and finance
- Operation and maintenance
- Leak detection
- Water treatment
- Regulatory compliance
- Facility security
- Loan application and reporting
- Disaster and emergency assistance

Is there a time limit on assistance?

- Assistance is provided on an as-needed basis.

How do we get started?

Contact your NRWA state association (available at this link: <https://nrwa.org/state-associations>) or local Rural Development office (a list is available at this link: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/about-rd/state-offices>) for program details.

How can I become a circuit rider?

For more information, visit: www.nrwa.org or <https://nrwa.org/state-associations>.

What governs this program?

- A contract between USDA Rural Development and the National Rural Water Association
- Section 306(a)(22) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act - 7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(22), as amended (information is available at this link: <https://go.usa.gov/xtmGb>)

Why does USDA Rural Development do this?

This program helps USDA Rural Development meet statutory and regulatory oversight requirements for loans, loan guarantees, and grants to rural water systems in need of short-term technical assistance.

NOTE: Because citations and other information may be subject to change, please always consult the program instructions listed in the section above titled "What Governs This Program?" You can also contact your local Rural Development office (a list of locations is available at this link: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/about-rd/state-offices>). You will find additional forms, resources, and program information at rd.usda.gov. *USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.*