



RCAP Private Well Program Brochure



Approximately 23 million households across the US rely on private well water for their main drinking water source. Most private wells are unregulated, and the owners themselves are responsible for their water quality, quantity, and necessary maintenance.

To help meet this need, RCAP's private well program, funded through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), uses a combination of online and in-person technical assistance, training, education, and resources/tools to boost knowledge and competency of individual well owners as well as thousands of private well professionals and stakeholders across the country.

RCAP also hosts a National Private Well Conference once per year in conjunction with the University of Illinois through this program.

Who is RCAP?

The Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP) is a national network of non-profit partners working to ensure that small, rural and tribal communities have access to resources, tools and technical assistance that create capacity and opportunity for increased rural prosperity. RCAP and its six regional partners have more than 300 team members operating on the ground building capacity in rural and tribal communities in every state and the US Territories across the country. Every year, RCAP reaches millions of rural residents through water/wastewater, economic development, regionalization, and other technical assistance projects and trainings. RCAP's work has an outsized impact in disadvantaged communities, with a focus on helping those who need it most. In general, about one-third of residents in the communities supported are low-income, and/or Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC).



Additional partners include:

- [National Environmental Health Association \(NEHA\)](#)
- [National Ground Water Association \(NGWA\)](#)
- [Pennsylvania State University Extension \(PSU\)](#)
- [Texas A&M Agrilife Extension's \(TAMU\)](#)
- [University of Illinois \(U of I\)](#)
- [University of Rhode Island \(URI\)](#)
- [Virginia Tech University \(VT\)](#)
- [Water Systems Council \(WSC\)](#)

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Support to well owners is provided through private well assessments, educational well owner workshops, webinars, self-paced e-learning, podcasts, brochures, and a Hotline. RCAP also offers well test kits to homeowners with follow-up consultations providing results, resources, and guidance. All of these efforts have led to local cooperative programs with state health departments, county/local health districts, well drillers associations, state extension offices, realtors, philanthropic partnerships, and environmental laboratories, among others, that leverage state and local resources to provide additional direct, targeted support for well owners. Some RCAP regions have loan funds available to assist Well Owners with well/septic quality and quantity issues.



Education for Well Owners:

The Well Assessment Tool is available not only to RCAP, but also to private well professionals, sanitarians, environmental health specialists, and other stakeholders around the country. This tool looks at a well's history, construction, condition, surroundings, and potential threats. Recommendations are given to cover maintenance of the well, vulnerability to contaminants and best practices to maintain water quality and quantity. The well owner is given a full copy of the assessment to assist in mitigating any current or future issues with their well water system.

There is a WellAssess Mobile App available for download for iPhones or Android users.



Training & Workshops for Professionals and Stakeholders:

Trainings and workshops targeted at private well professionals, sanitarians, environmental health professionals, and stakeholders have a curriculum designed to meet the educational goals of each group and provide them with the essential tools they need to assist well owners. Trainings and workshops can be targeted to any other professional that may interact with well owners, have interest in groundwater, or seek professional development. These trainings/seminars provide attendees with information on current materials and resources available to assist them while interacting with well owners.

www.Privatewellclass.org

boosts knowledge and competency of individual well owners as well as the thousands of dedicated environmental health, cooperative extension, and water well professionals that serve well owners day to day. The program is a collaboration between RCAP and the Illinois State Water Survey at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.



How do I request assistance?

If you are a private well owner or professional/stakeholder, RCAP is here to help. We can provide in person or remote training, well assessments, water tests kits etc. to help you understand and solve private well issues. Please visit our [website](#) where you can see which RCAP you should contact based on where you live/the area you serve. For general questions on our program/services, please contact Andrew Nordbye: anordbye@rcap.org.