



Rural
Community
Assistance
Partnership



USDOT Thriving Communities: Ellsworth, Maine

Amy Renner, RCAP

Sarah Buck, RCAP Solutions

Rural Community Assistance Partnership



Founded in 1973, RCAP is a nationwide nonprofit network with 6 regional partners and a national office in Washington, DC.



350+ technical assistance providers in all 50 states and U.S. territories.

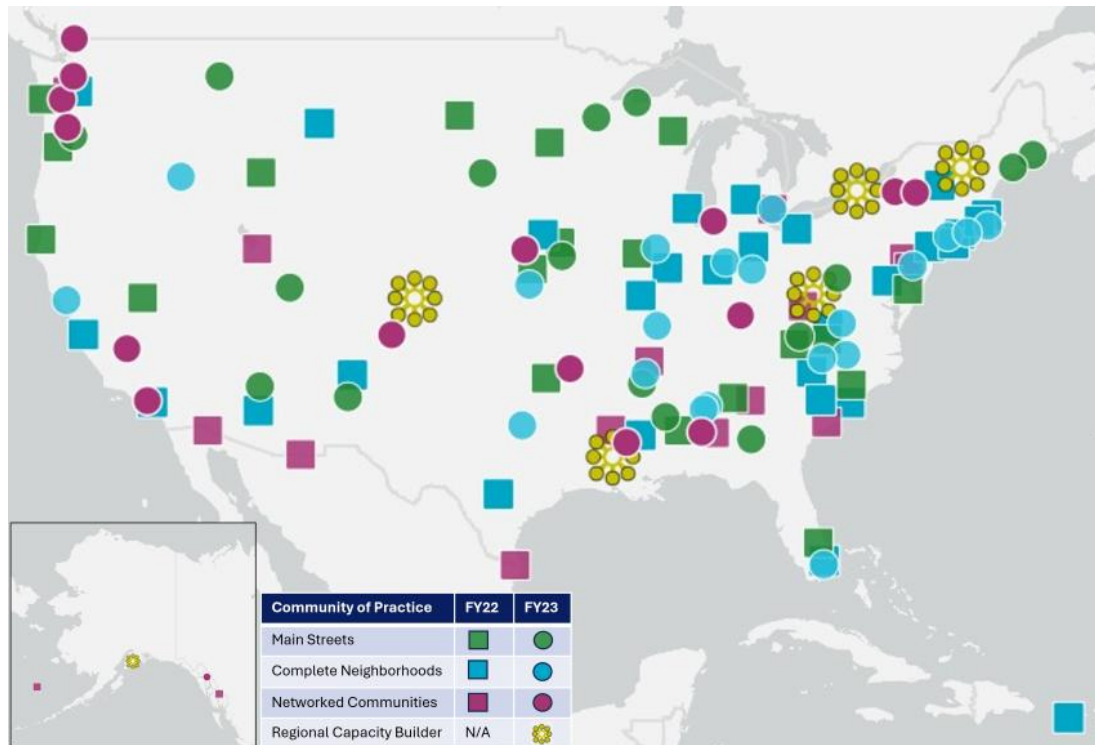


In 2024, assisted 1,833 rural and tribal communities across 50 states and territories.



Programmatic areas include water, wastewater, transportation, community development, disaster recovery, workforce development, and leadership

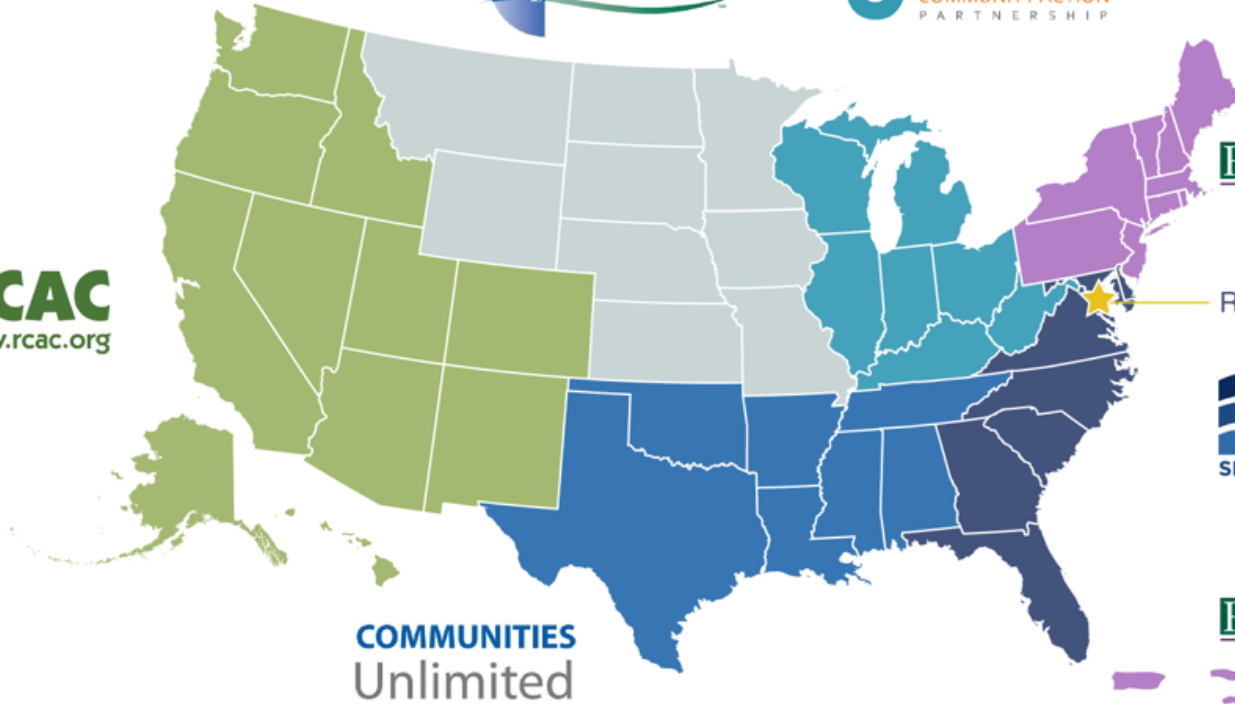
USDOT Thriving Communities Program



- Administered by the Build America Bureau
- Capacity building and technical assistance program designed to take transformative projects from concept to completion
- Created to assist communities in successfully acquiring federal funding opportunities
- 16 communities selected in FY23 for the Main Streets community of practice



Rural Community Assistance Partnership



External Partners:



Community
Engineering Corps



RCAP National Office



USDOT's Thriving Communities Program

01

Conduct needs assessment site visits to determine the technical, financial, and managerial capacity of each community

02

TA and community team work together to develop a TCP work plan to guide the next 1.5 years of technical assistance

03

Determine how the community will utilize the ~\$50,000 in pass through funding to advance work plan priorities

04

Conduct deep dive technical assistance including stakeholder engagement to ensure project longevity beyond the life of TCP

September, 2024

The City and RCAP Solutions, the lead capacity builder in Maine, completed a comprehensive needs assessment and toured the community to develop a TCP community workplan for the 2+ year intensive TA engagement

Workplan Priorities

- Corridor Study for High Street
- Stormwater
- Childcare Assessment

High Street Corridor Study

Safety

Pedestrian/Bicycle Access (focus on Ped)

Streetscaping/Beautification (with focus on green infrastructure)

High Street Corridor Study

**Scope of Work out for quotes from trusted, preapproved consultants
(paid for by USDOT)**

Will be completed by summer 2026

**Will include comprehensive community engagement through TCP and
with community partners including HCPC and GrowSmart Maine**

**Put together a funding and implementation roadmap after the study is
completed**

Stormwater

Ensure Digital Maps are up to date and optimally used

Help develop and roll out Operations & Maintenance, Asset Management, and Capital Improvement Plans; explore future funding opportunities

Technical engineering solutions for major problem areas (lower hanging fruit and bigger future infrastructure projects)

Coordinate with ordinance consultant on development and adoption of stormwater ordinance best practices

Stormwater

Completed a stormwater specific site visit

Hoping to coordinate with existing engineering firm

Waiting for background data to develop stormwater workplan/timeline and begin to execute

Childcare Assessment

Gather data including outreach and engagement with providers and those needing services (from Ellsworth and broader Hancock county)

Also look at childcare travel patterns and how that impacts transportation challenges and solutions

Make recommendations and provide support, including funding applications, to bolster existing and set up new providers to better meet current and future need

Planned Priority for 2026 roll out

Ways to get involved

- Provide feedback during engagement pieces of high street corridor study
- Participate in/spread the word on the childcare survey/assessment in 2026
- Sign up to be a part of the regular quarterly local Ellsworth community partner meetings

Thank You

Amy Renner, RCAP
Sarah Buck, RCAP Solutions



Contact

Sarah Buck
sbuck@rcapsolutions.org

Madison Wellman
mwellman@rcapsolutions.org

Twila Fisher
tfisher@ellsworthmaine.gov

