

WASTEWATER COLLECTION AND TREATMENT PROJECT

STATE PROGRAM: Indiana Finance Authority

ASSISTANCE RECIPIENT: Romney Regional Sewer District

ASSISTANCE AMOUNT: \$2M



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In 2004, an estimated 75 percent of the homes in Romney, Indiana, were discharging sewage to local ditches and streams in the Wea Creek watershed. These failing septic systems negatively impacted the local public health and environment of the area, prompting residents to advocate for change. After exploring regionalization alternatives and weighing the financial challenges, citizens worked with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) to form the Romney Regional Sewer District. Local leaders contacted Indiana's State Revolving Fund and United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Development (RD) programs to seek innovative low-cost solutions to correct the small community's wastewater management problem. After extensive review, they decided to construct a wastewater collection and treatment system that connects 135 residents and 12 commercial entities to the system. The plant includes ultraviolet disinfection, phosphorous removal, and an emergency generator, and it will significantly reduce the amount of pollution entering local waters. Indiana's CWSRF provided the Romney District with a \$2 million forgivable Bond Anticipation Note, and RD offered the community a grant of \$1.6 million paired with a low-interest RD loan of \$1.1 million. This project received a total funding amount of \$4.8 million, 76 percent of which came in the form of grants or forgivable loans. This creative financing solution allowed the new district to address the environmental issues surrounding their community using an affordable solution.

To read more about this case study, please visit https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2021-02/documents/2020_pisces_compendium.pdf.