

# Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project

## CONTACT

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## BY THE NUMBERS

(Fiscal Year 2014)

Year Founded: 1969

Location: Roanoke, VA

Households Assisted: 111,296

Housing Units Developed: 21

Financing Secured: \$1.7M

Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project (SERCAP) is a nonprofit organization with a mission to improve the quality of life of low-income individuals by promoting affordable water and wastewater facilities, community development, environmental health, and economic self-sufficiency. SERCAP works with a number of different populations to provide a variety of services including training, technical, and financial assistance to both low-income, individual households and rural communities for water, wastewater, housing, and community development projects.

SERCAP's owner-occupied housing rehabilitation services assist rural households with incomplete indoor plumbing and failing septic systems by providing rehabilitation or substantial reconstruction.

With SERCAP's Aging in Place program, the organization provides seniors and people living with disabilities universal design and accessibility features in their home. SERCAP also acts as the rehabilitation and/or grant administrator for projected financed with Community Development Block Grants (CDBG). These projects focus on providing housing rehabilitation services to communities in need of revitalization.

As a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)-Certified Housing Counseling Agency, SERCAP provides pre-purchase, post-purchase, homebuyer education, rental counseling, foreclosure prevention, home maintenance, credit

counseling, and financial literacy education services to anyone seeking affordable housing. The organization recently adopted the National Housing Counseling Standards.

## Randolph Creek Road

In 2013, Ms. Alberta Brown, a senior homeowner, reached out to SERCAP for help to improve her living conditions. Due to a failing foundation, wood decay, termite damage, and the lack of indoor plumbing, her home in Buckingham County, Virginia was no longer a safe and healthy place to live.

Together, SERCAP and the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) helped Ms. Brown secured Indoor Plumbing and Rehabilitation funding to remove the original home and replace it with a new, two-bedroom house. Under the program, loan repayments are based on Ms. Brown's income level and will be forgiven after 10 years.

The home was built from the ground up by local homebuilding crews, including a fully functioning, open, universal-designed plan that promotes accessibility and safety. A heat pump system and high R-value insulation package was also included, as well as private, onsite water and plumbing.

In 2014, Ms. Brown moved into her new home. "No more cold and buying firewood. I also don't have to buy drinking water from my neighbor."

