

mute Stop Video

Participants Chat Screen Share

# Communities Unlimited

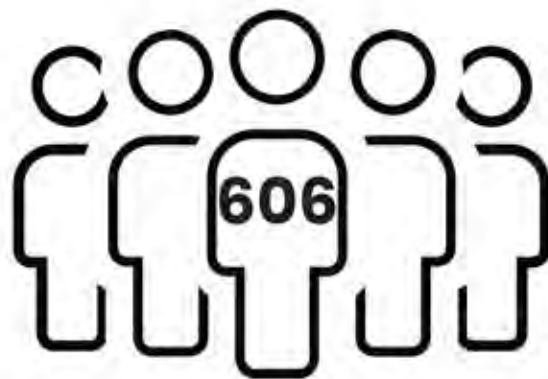
# 2020



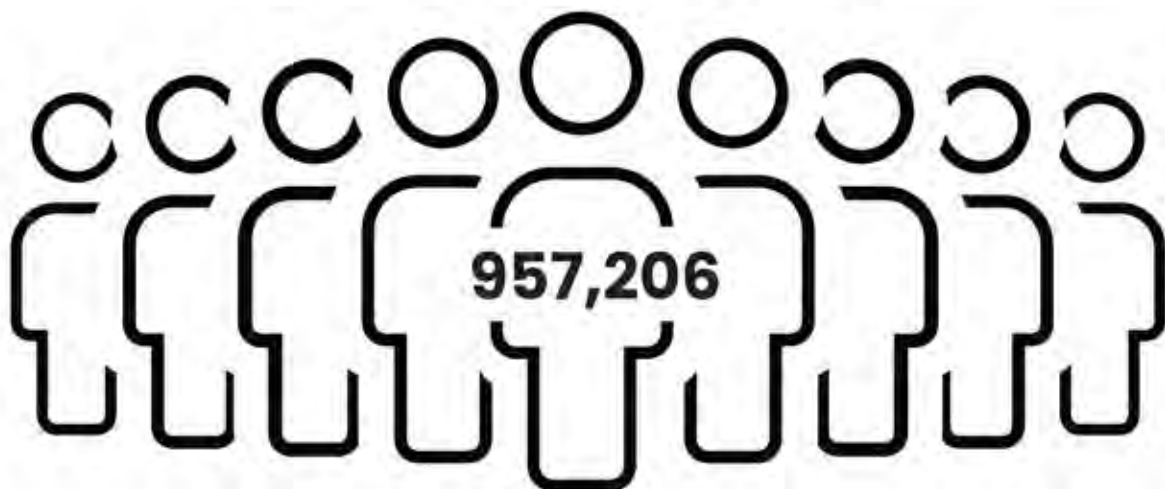


# COMMUNITIES Unlimited

Communities Unlimited has created new programs, adapted to continue delivering services, and is more tenacious than ever before. 2020 motivated our staff to recommit to our mission and work harder than ever.



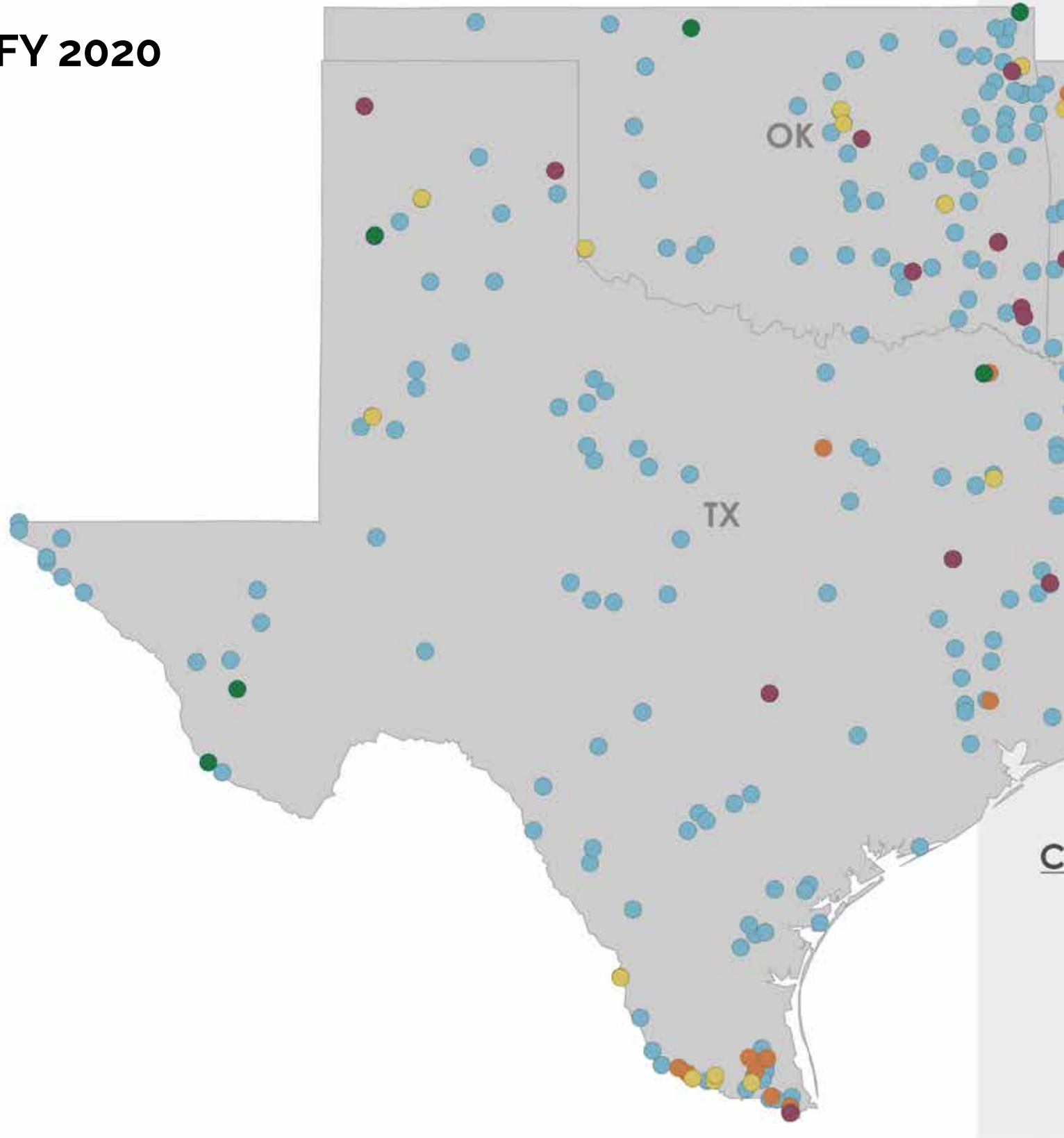
606 communities were impacted by  
Communities Unlimited's services



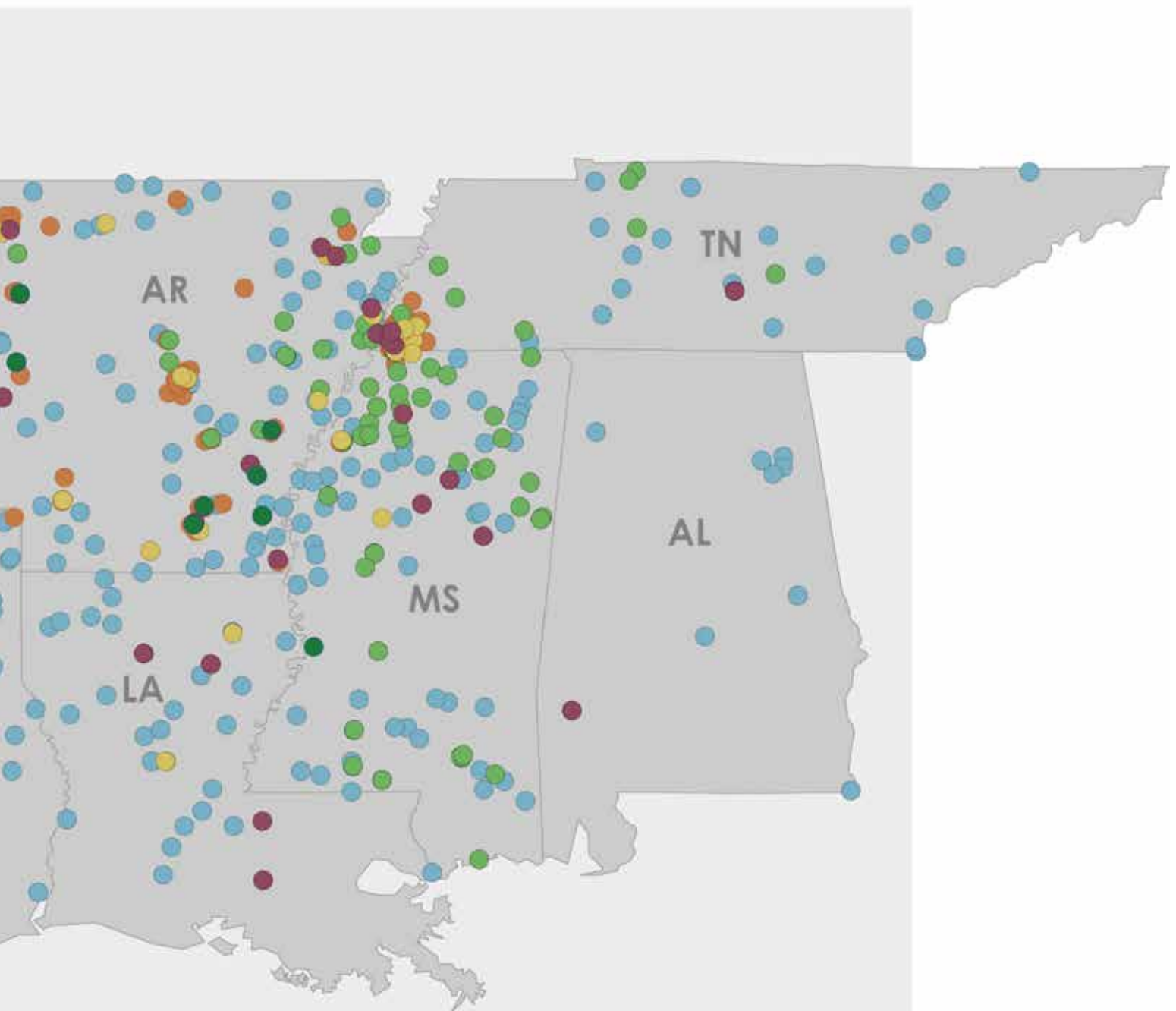
957,206 people were impacted by  
Communities Unlimited services

# IMPACT MAP

FY 2020







## Communities Unlimited Projects by Mission Focus

Project Type (Total Number of Projects)

- Environmental (450)
  - Entrepreneurship (165)
  - Lending (48)
- Healthy Foods (81)
  - Community Sustainability (14)
  - GIS (54)

# N95 Masks Reach Rural America

---



*Critical infrastructure worker  
from Melville, LA*

Sincere appreciation to Xylem Watermark and 120Water for the life-saving gift of **105,000** N95 masks for rural critical infrastructure workers!

These companies partnered with RCAP to reach rural communities across the nation, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Communities Unlimited is the southern regional RCAP service provider.



*Critical infrastructure workers  
from Hugo, OK*



**Rural Community  
Assistance  
Partnership**

*"Thank you for your contribution in keeping our employees safe; we do appreciate it very much."  
- Roxanne Gillean, Assistant City Treasurer,  
Hugo, Oklahoma*





**"We ordered and received them at no cost to The Town of Roff. Thanks to the Rural Community Assistance Partnership and Communities Unlimited for providing us with this valuable resource!"**

**~Audra Scott, Town Administrator, Roff, Oklahoma**

## CU DISTRIBUTED

- **9,500 Masks for Critical Infrastructure Workers**
- **363 Rural Communities**

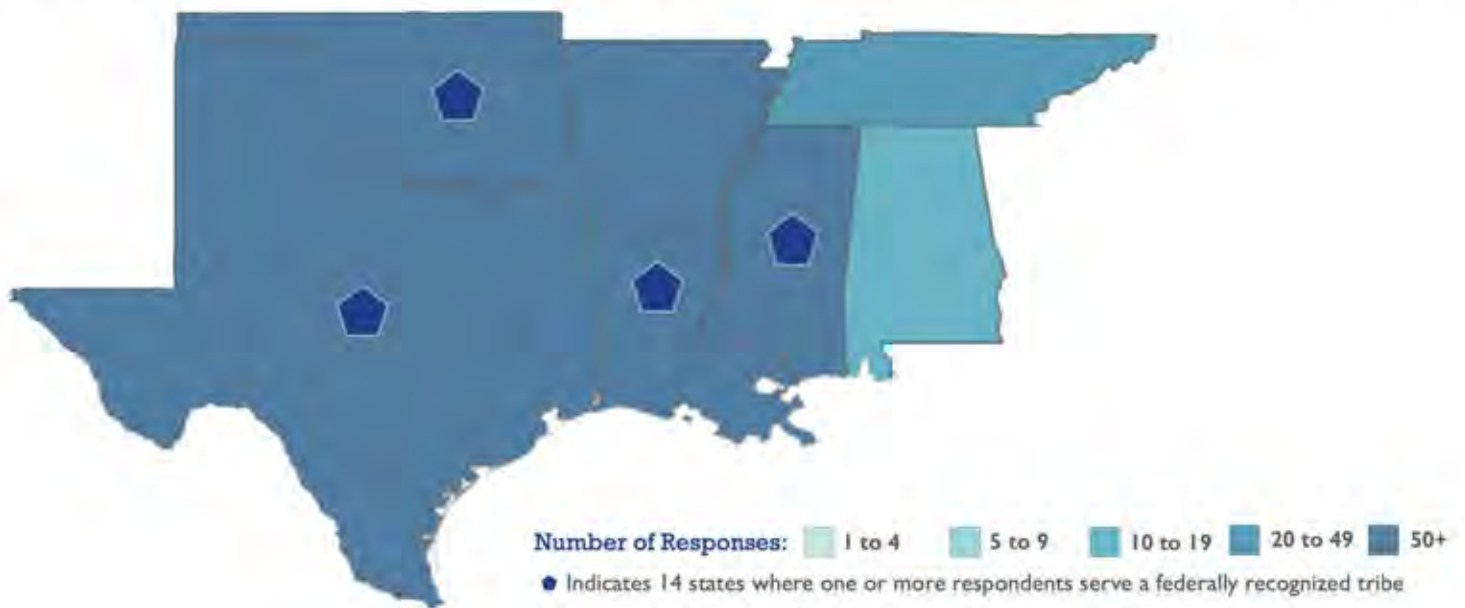




# COVID-19 RESPONSE

No one will ever forget 2020 because it fundamentally changed the way we live forever. For Communities Unlimited 2020 was an opportunity for innovative solutions and partnerships.

## Impact of covid-19 on Rural and Tribal Water and Wastewater systems



### CHERRY TREE RURAL WATER DISTRICT

CU spoke with Cherry Tree Rural Water District almost every day. CU assisted Cherry Tree in having a payment dropbox installed outside their office. They maintained service and financial sustainability throughout 2020. The office remains closed except by appointment and board meetings.



*Cherry Tree Rural Water District Board Meeting in March 2021*



# PPP & EIDL PARTNERSHIP

CU partnered with Hope Credit Union and RCAC. CU's Entrepreneurship Team worked with the small business owners to prepare their applications then Hope and RCAC processed them.



The governor ordered daycare's statewide to close. Toni Walker was worried about how her employees would make ends meet without a paycheck. She soon learned that assistance was accessible.

Listen to Toni's Story

[READ MORE](#)

# Where Are They Now?

---



## WING CHAMPS

2020 was another learning curve for Wing Champs. Whose owners once again found ways to adapt and survive not only COVID-19 but a tropical storm that left the city of Raymondville without power for 3 days. They called CU and received assistants in applying for and receiving a PPP loan and got their employees back to work.

[READ MORE](#)





Listen to Wing Champs Story

## Lupe Ruiz

“

Be ready, humble yourself, listen to others. Humble yourself to be able to take instruction. Humble yourself to be able to accept change.

”

“

**Having a laptop gave us access to a different level of business. It's just been a big game-changer.**

Maurice Henderson  
CxffeeBlack







# Cxffeeblack

---

Maurice Henderson, aka Bartholomew Jones, noticed most customers only visited Cxffeeblack once. He had an idea for a coffee subscription service, but he needed a new laptop to make it work. Epicenter Memphis referred him to Communities Unlimited, where he received a Pivot Loan for \$1,600 to buy the new laptop. When Cxffeeblack launched the subscription service, their sales went from an average of \$2,000 to \$65,000 in a month.

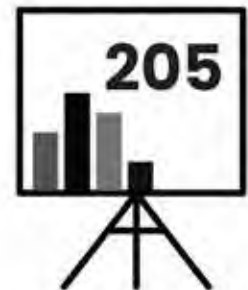
[READ MORE](#)



426  
Existing Jobs  
Sustained



85  
New Jobs  
Created



205  
Businesses received  
assistance

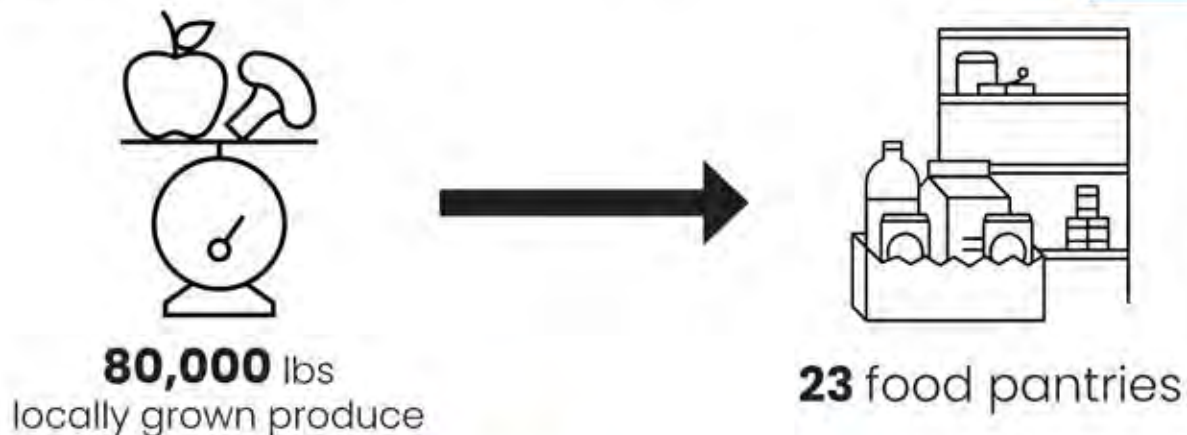
# Farm To Food Pantry

When the pandemic closed schools, restaurants and farmer's markets, many small-scale farmers had acres of ripe produce and no buyers.

A grant from the Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation allowed CU's Healthy Foods Program to purchase produce at wholesale prices that was delivered to Heartland Hands Food Pantry for distribution.

Heartland Hands serves local families and small rural food pantries throughout the Mississippi Delta. The collaboration provided healthy food for those facing food insecurity and revenue to support small-scale farmers.

[READ MORE](#)



- Food insecurity near U.S. average
- Food insecurity above U.S. average



Listen to the Farm to Food Pantry Story



**Ray Tyler**



We are very grateful to be part of the program, as we were able to keep our team employees this past season.





# Composting in Bogota

---

Bogota, TX, lost a business that employed many people leading to the closure of their grocery store. Michelle Viney, Community Facilitator, worked with community leaders to develop goals for their city. The community leaders decided to focus on recycling education and composting, more specifically, vermicomposting.

[READ MORE](#)

[Learn How to Make a  
Compost Box](#)







# Growing La Grulla

---

Communities Unlimited Environmental Services staff has been working with the City of La Grulla for many years. In 2020 Communities Unlimited staff Raul Gonzalez and Sergio Salazar worked with La Grulla to fulfill the requirements to receive the **\$12 million** in funding awarded to the city by USDA-RD. The **\$12 million** go to build a new water treatment facility to serve their current customers and **29 neighboring colonias**.

[READ MORE](#)

# Neighbors of Hermitage

---

Hermitage contacted Communities Unlimited to assist with them through the process much need improvements to their sewer system lagoons. The city received a \$358,640 CDBG Grant and a \$499,000 loan from USDA-RD to improve and extend sewer service. Hermitage learned about the other services offered by CU. Which led to a GIS mapping project, the USDA's Farmers to Families Food Box program, and three CFTAT applications for a police vehicle, new computers, and a generator.

[READ MORE](#)



**\$2,684,784**

\$2,684,784 was lent from Communities Unlimited's CDFI.



**\$154,904,177**

\$154,904,177 was leveraged in 2020 more than any other year in Communities Unlimited history.



A woman with short dark hair, wearing a dark blazer and a necklace, is speaking outdoors. She has a name tag on her lapel. The background shows trees and a fence.

Listen to Hermitage's story

## Mayor Tonya Kendrix

“ Before Communities Unlimited, I don't know how we made it. But once they got here, they were a godsend, and we appreciate that so much. ”

A portrait of Korey Adams, a Black man with short hair, a beard, and glasses, wearing a grey suit jacket, a light blue shirt, and a dark tie with white polka dots. He is smiling and standing in front of a brick wall.

Listen to Korey's Story

## Korey Adams

“Communities Unlimited, with its capabilities, with its extensive network, has been vital in helping me to identify those partners that can assist with the capital that's needed, as well as playing a significant role in being a contributing member.”





Meet Team Distinction  
Left to Right: Todd Weeks, VP of Finance & Administration;  
Redford Salmon VP of Operations; Korey Adams, President & CEO and  
Tiffany Campbell, VP of HR and Business Development

## \$41.2 million Contract & \$500,000 in capital

Korey Adams started his own Job Corp facility management company, Distinction, LLC, in rural Mississippi. He attended a workshop about economic development in rural areas and, by a twist of fate, sat next to Ines Polonius, the CEO of CU. She told him about the services CU offered to small business owners. Ines put Korey in contact with CU's Entrepreneurship Team and the Partners for Rural Transformation (PRT). He received assistance developing his business from CU. He then received **\$500,000** in capital to get Distinction's **\$41.2 million** Job Corp contract operational.

[READ MORE](#)

---

# COMMUNITIES Unlimited

---

Communities Unlimited, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation founded in 1976 that connects people to solutions unwinding generations of inequity and disinvestment to build healthy communities, healthy businesses and healthy families.

🌐 [www.CommunitiesU.org](http://www.CommunitiesU.org)

✉ [info@CommunitiesU.org](mailto:info@CommunitiesU.org)

☎ 479.443.2700

