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2003

## Community Action Report

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

# 2003 Community Action Report



Community Action changes people's lives,  
embodies the spirit of hope,  
improves communities,  
and makes America a better place to live.

We care about the entire community,  
and we are dedicated to  
helping people help themselves and each other.



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# **Introduction**

# About this Report

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For more than 40 years, Community Action Programs have worked to fight poverty, to promote self-sufficiency, and to advocate for low-income people in Minnesota.

## The Economic Roots of Poverty

In 2001, for the first time in four years, there was an increase in the number of Americans living below the federally-defined poverty level (\$17,650 for a family of four).<sup>1</sup> In spite of the popular assumption that work provides an escape from poverty, an increasing number of low-income adults worked in jobs that failed to provide adequate income for themselves and their families. In 2000, 44.5 percent of the poor had one full-time worker in the family, compared with only 36 percent in 1993.

Stagnation of real wages at the bottom of the labor market is a major cause of poverty for working families. A full-time worker receiving today's minimum wage of \$5.15 earns less than 80 percent of the poverty line for a family of three. Dramatically rising costs and shortages in housing, energy, quality child care, and health insurance are also leading the assault on Minnesotan's real wages.

## Community Action and Poverty

As a result of declining real wages and other barriers, many low-income households need additional support to reach economic self-sufficiency. With the economic picture worsening in 2003, a broad spectrum of families approached Community Action Agencies around the state for assistance - including those who had never before experienced poverty, and those reaching the time limits of their public assistance benefits. In the past year Community Action Agencies and Tribal Governments have reported large increases in the number of requests for assistance, particularly in the area of emergency services, such as increased use of local food shelves and emergency shelters.

In communities all across the state, Community Action Agencies and Tribal Governments are being challenged to meet the immediate needs of households coming through their doors, while still fostering individual growth and a transition to household stability. Job training, child care, transportation assistance, and other programs play a critical role in supporting households as they move to greater self-sufficiency.

Working in partnership with low-income people, Community Action Agencies and Tribal Governments provide a range of services to meet the unique needs of Minnesota communities. Specifically, Community Action programs focus on achieving outcomes with low-income families in the following areas:

Basic Needs (food and shelter)  
Economic Self-Sufficiency  
Senior Services

Children and Family Services  
Housing  
Transportation

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<sup>1</sup> Source: U.S. Census Bureau, "Poverty in the United States: 2001" available at <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty01.html>

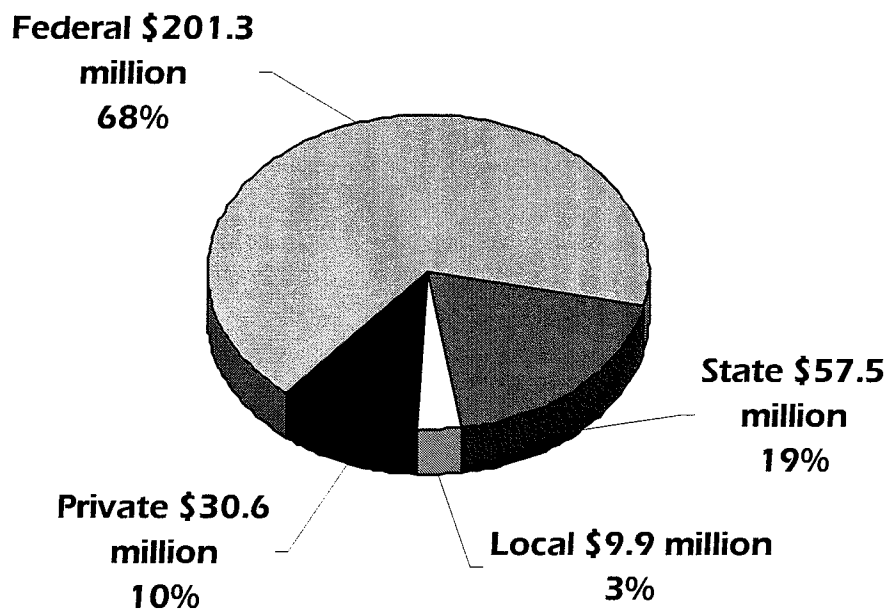
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Combining the provision of basic services with advocacy for low-income people, Community Action programs also partner with private and public entities to assist the people of Minnesota.

In 2003, \$12.6 million of combined MEOG and CSBG funding enabled Community Action Agencies to leverage:

- More than \$299 million in other program funding
- More than 42,500 volunteers contributed 1.6 million hours of community service with an estimated value of more than \$8.3 million.

## Total Community Action Funding



# **From the Minnesota Community Action Association...**

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As we look to the future of community action in Minnesota it is useful to revisit our original mandate when the War on Poverty officially began 40 years ago.

The definition of a community action program in the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964—means a program...

“which provides services, assistance, and other activities of sufficient scope and size to give promise of progress toward elimination of poverty or a cause or causes of poverty through developing employment opportunities, improving human performance, motivation, and productivity, or bettering the conditions under which people live, learn, and work.”

This definition requires community action agencies to not only offer services and assistance but do so with “sufficient scope and size to give promise toward the elimination of poverty”. This is a powerful mandate in an era of decreased funding for human services as government priorities shift away from lending a hand to those struggling to support their families.

How will community action agencies in Minnesota meet the challenge of delivering on our mandate in this environment?

I believe the best way to show progress toward eliminating poverty is through community engagement.

In order to change systems that keep people in poverty, community action must provide leadership that will engage Minnesota communities to change public policy that prevents families from reaching their full potential. Families need affordable, quality preschool opportunities; affordable housing; good jobs and the education to get those jobs; and a way for individuals with enough money to share their skills and resources with those families struggling in poverty.

Public education around poverty issues has always been a priority for community action agencies but the need for community engagement elevates public education on poverty issues so it becomes the foundation on which social change can be built.

Why is the high school graduation rate 58% for Minnesota children eligible for school meal programs when children who are not eligible have a graduation rate of 86%? Why do 4 out of 10 low-income children in Minnesota lack a basic high school diploma and what are their chances at success without it? How might community action work with community partners to change that?

Community action must facilitate a process where community leaders can shape an agenda for eliminating poverty in their community so that it becomes a community agenda. We will not eliminate poverty overnight but we must be intentional about organizing around a public policy agenda that will eliminate barriers for those in poverty.

Community action in Minnesota must remake itself from a social service agency to a social change agency if we are to achieve our mandate to give the promise of progress toward the elimination of poverty.

Barbara C. Dorry, Chair  
Minnesota Community Action Association  
Grand Rapids, Minnesota 55744

# MN Community Action Association Strategic Plan

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## 2002-2005 Strategic Plan

The mission of the Minnesota Community Action Association (MCAA) is to provide advocacy, research and support to member agencies and their communities so low-income people can move out of poverty and achieve greater self-reliance.

The Minnesota Community Action Association is committed to eliminating poverty. We believe all people should have the opportunity to earn an adequate income and have the resources to meet their families' basic needs. Towards this end, over the next three years MCAA will:

Provide leadership in advocating to eliminate the conditions that negatively impact low-income people including those conditions that keep people in poverty:

- Develop and advocate for public policies and needed funding for strategies that keep people safe, focus on self-reliance, and create systemic changes that help eliminate poverty; influence public policy makers, stakeholders and the public on issues and lives of low-income people and what must be done to help people out of poverty.
- Provide the MCAA network with tools, training, technical assistance and support so they can use high impact strategies to influence/change the mindset of the public/policy makers, stakeholders and the public on issues and lives of low-income people and what must be done to help people out of poverty:
  - Support grassroots advocacy and organizing (e.g. local Power Action Leadership teams),
  - Develop and implement ongoing media strategies that support statewide high impact strategies,
  - Collect, analyze and package data that helps build the case for change and shows results and outcomes, and
  - Provide support to agencies in developing and implementing local leadership teams to facilitate community and economic development at a locally defined level.
- Partner with supporters and providers of services to low-income people on strategies to eliminate poverty:
  - Provide leadership in statewide coalitions and partnerships that help eliminate the conditions that keep low-income people in poverty,
  - Provide support to member agencies and related Community Action networks; connect them with partners and those who share our goals, and
  - Assist agencies and related Community Action networks to help low-income people own a stake in their community.

Increase member agencies' capacity to eliminate poverty:

- Help agencies build and/or maintain healthy organizations that have strong fiscal and programmatic management as well as effective boards, policies and administration through technical assistance, trainings, clearinghouse information and support.
  - Provide an annual conference, other trainings, technical assistance as requested, facilitate the sharing of best practices, clearinghouse information, and related activities,
  - Coordinate and communicate information that will assist agencies in their work to get people out of poverty including information from national, regional and state organizations, agencies and other entities of interest to agencies, and
  - Provide technical assistance to agencies to pursue new local funds and larger foundation resources for innovative, high-impact strategies.
- Help member agencies develop and implement high impact strategies that help low-income people become more self-reliant and to eliminate the conditions that keep low-income people in poverty.
  - Coordinate the partnership with Move the Mountain Leadership Center to assist agencies in developing three year transformational plans and link Minnesota's agency and state work to a National community of practice on ending poverty.
  - Work together with the Office of Economic Opportunity and local agencies to provide leadership on results oriented management and accountability in Minnesota and the nation including ROMA related training and technical assistance, staff support to the ROMA team, and ROMA related research and analysis.

## **From the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council...**

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Minnesota established an Indian Affairs agency in 1963 to serve as the official liaison between state and tribal governments. The Council's mission is to protect the sovereignty of the Minnesota Tribes and the well being of American Indian people throughout the state. Our vision is to strive for the social, economic and political justice for all American Indian people living in Minnesota, while embracing our traditional cultural and spiritual values.

President Lyndon Johnson began the federal War on Poverty and much has changed for Minnesota's Indian Reservation Governments. Until the early 1970s the federal government controlled and managed tribal resources and affairs. Tribal efforts to improve the conditions for American Indian communities resulted in the passage of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1973 (PL 92-638).

Poverty has, however, disproportionately impacted American Indian people in both our state and across the nation. The U.S. Census indicates that Minnesota's Indian people are worse off than minorities living elsewhere in the state and nation.

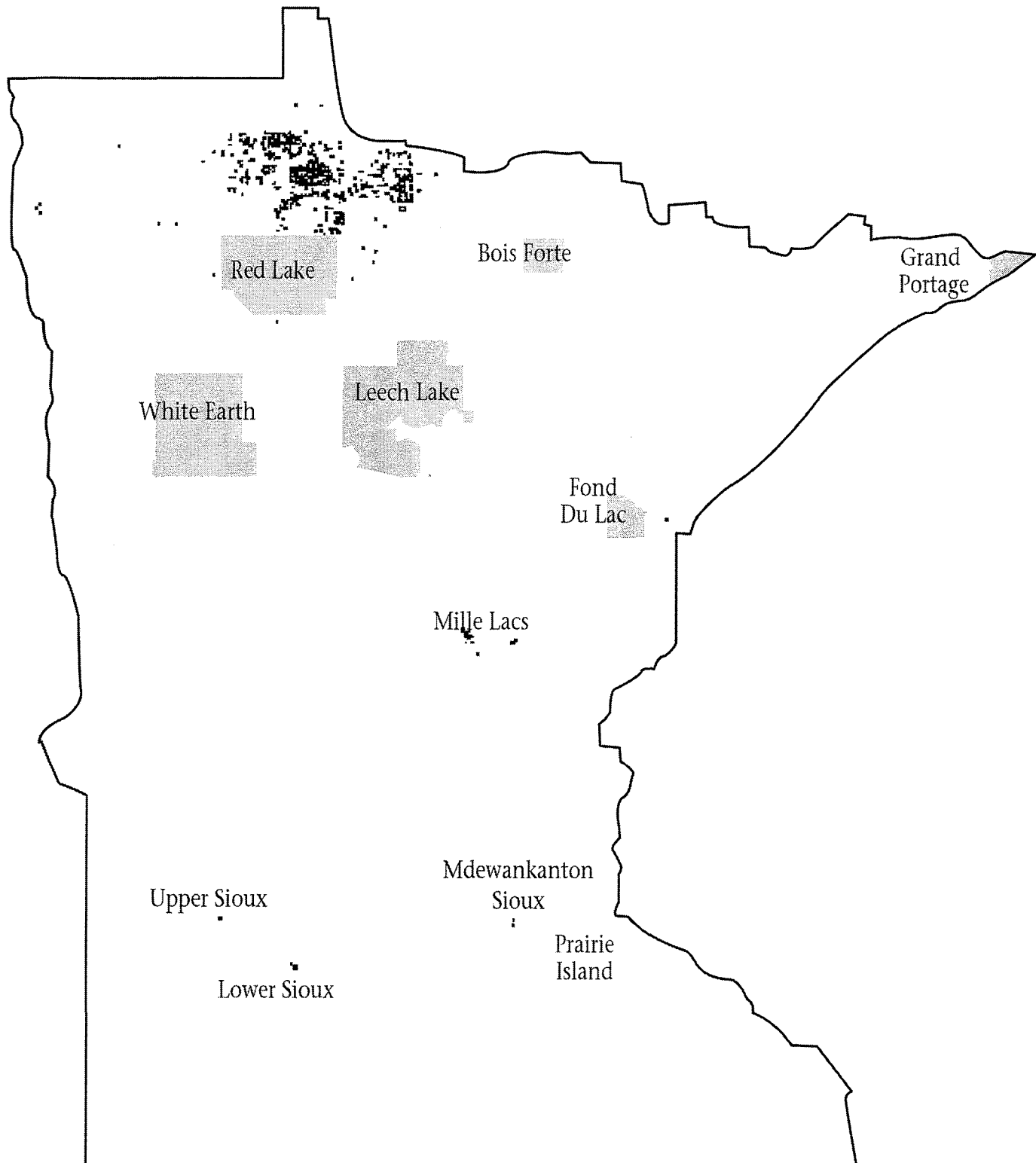
The support of CSBG/MEOG, Head Start, and OEO has greatly benefited Minnesota's 11 Tribes. There are 7 Chippewa (Ojibwe) and 4 Dakota (Sioux) reservations who benefit from the Economic Opportunity Grant as documented in this report.

Current development in federal domestic fiscal policies is increasing this disparity. The denial of tribal communities of the funding they need to overcome the centuries of deprivation, poverty, and neglect have left American Indians the poorest of the poor. The future progress in alleviating poverty, meeting the health and educational requirements, and fulfilling the economic needs of the American Indian people will depend upon adequate funding of these programs.

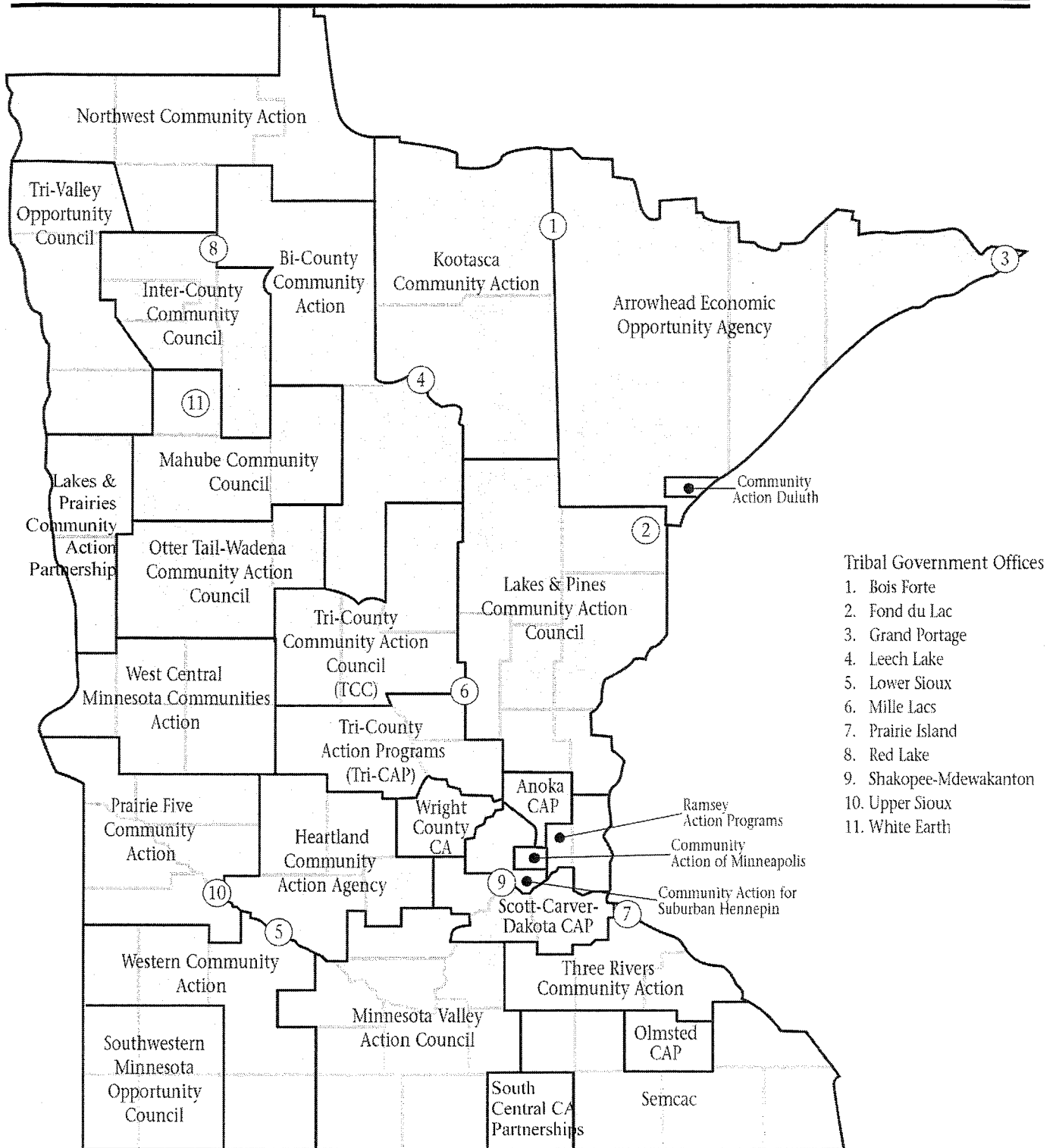
Joseph B. Day, Executive Director  
Minnesota Indian Affairs Council  
Bemidji, Minnesota 56601

# Minnesota Tribal Governments

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# Minnesota Community Action Agencies



# **Community Action Overview**

# What is a Community Action Agency?

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Community Action Agencies are private non-profit or public organizations that were created by the federal government in 1964 to combat poverty in geographically designated areas. Status as a Community Action Agency is the result of an explicit designation by local or state government. A Community Action Agency has a tripartite board structure that is designated to promote the participation of the entire community in the reduction of poverty. Community Action Agencies seek to involve the community, including elected officials, private sector representatives, and especially low-income residents, in assessing local needs and attacking the causes and conditions of poverty.

## Purpose and Mission

To reduce poverty in its community, a Community Action Agency works to better focus available local, state, private, and federal resources to assist low income individuals and families to acquire useful skills and knowledge, gain access to new opportunities, and achieve economic self-sufficiency.

## Structure

A Community Action Agency:

- Has received designation as a Community Action Agency either from the local government under the provisions of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, or from the state under the Community Services block Grant Act of 1981, as amended;
- Is recognized as an eligible entity as defined in the CSBG Act and can receive funding from the state under the Community Services Block Grant;
- Has a governing board consisting of at least one-third democratically selected representatives of low income people, one-third local public officials or their designee, and the remainder representatives of business, industry, labor, religious, social welfare, and other private groups in the community; and
- Belongs to a national network of similar agencies, the majority of which received their initial designation, federal recognition and funding under the amended Economic Opportunity Act of 1964.

## Mode of Operation

A Community Action Agency carries out its mission through a variety of means including:

- Community-wide assessments of needs and strengths,
- Comprehensive antipoverty plans and strategies,
- Provision of a broad range of direct services,
- Mobilization of financial and non-financial resources,
- Advocacy on behalf of low income people, and
- Partnerships with other community-based organizations to eliminate poverty.

A Community Action Agency involves the low income population it serves in the planning, administering and evaluating of its programs.

## Why are Community Action Agencies Unique?

Most poverty-related organizations focus on a specific area of need, such as job training, health care, housing, or economic development. Community Action Agencies reach out to low income people in their communities, address their multiple needs through a comprehensive approach, develop partnerships with other community organizations, involve low income clients in the agency's operations, and administer a full range of coordinated programs designed to have a measurable impact on poverty.

# Mandates of Community Action Agencies

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Community Action Agencies (CAAs) are legally mandated to address policies, programs and activities relating to poverty. These mandates serve as the forces guiding the policy development of the Community Action Partnership, formerly the National Association of Community Action Agencies (NACAA).

## Fight Poverty

CAAs must provide resources and services to reduce poverty.

## Promote Self-Sufficiency

CAAs must help low-income persons:

- Secure and retain meaningful employment
- Attain an adequate education
- Better use available income
- Obtain and maintain adequate housing
- Obtain emergency assistance
- Engage in civic participation
- Maximize use of available assistance.

## Feed the Hungry

CAAs must provide services to counteract starvation and malnutrition.

## Improve Social Services

CAAs must establish linkages with social service organizations.

## Engage the Private Sector

CAAs must encourage private sector participation to fight poverty.

Provided by: Community Action Partnership, 2000

The Community Action Partnership was established in 1972 as the National Association of Community Action Agencies (NACAA) and is the national organization representing the interests of the 1,000 Community Action Agencies (CAAs) working to fight poverty at the local level. Visit Community Action Partnership on the web at <http://www.communityactionpartnership.com>



# Community Action Basics

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**Local citizens govern local nonprofit Community Action Agencies.**

Local Community Action governance embraces the principle of “maximum feasible participation” of people experiencing poverty. Community Action Boards of Directors have a unique mandate to include:

- 1/3 people experiencing poverty
- 1/3 public officials
- 1/3 at-large local citizens

For example, this unique board structure could mean a board composed of: a successful small business owner, debt collection supervisor, retired disabled VA hospital worker, retired community activist and leader, high tech medical device consulting firm President, political activist and full time community volunteer, lay minister, HR director of a large fraternal insurance Co., CFO of a local corporation, county commissioner, city council member, school board member, county social services Director and a state legislator.

Community Action Agencies in Minnesota are 26 private, non-profit corporations, and 1 county government. The State of Minnesota has a unique partnership with Tribal Governments such that Minnesota’s eleven Tribal Governments are part of the Community Action network in Minnesota.

**Community Action Agencies provide a comprehensive range of services.**

Local communities determine fast, flexible, local solutions for Minnesotans experiencing poverty. The following programs are typically offered within Minnesota’s Community Action Network. However, each local Community Action Agency provides a unique combination of programming to meet locally determined objectives.

- Economic Development Business Start-Up
- Energy Assistance, Weatherization & Energy Conservation
- Housing Construction, Rehabilitation & Assistance
- Jobs for Youth, Adults & Seniors
- Senior Independent Living Services & Volunteer Placement
- Family Crisis Services, Case Management & Asset Development
- Nutrition, Gardening, Dining & Assistance
- Emergency Shelter & Transitional Housing
- Head Start, Child Development Programs & Referrals
- Advocacy, Education & Outreach
- Transit & Transportation alternatives

**Community Action has diverse funding.**

Core funding for Community Action Agencies is comprised of the Minnesota Economic Opportunity Grant (MEOG), which totaled \$5.6 million after unallotment, and the federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), totaling \$6.7 million. The federal block grant was established in 1981; the state funds in 1976. Additionally, Community Action Agencies leverage funding from a wide range of private and public sources at the local, state, and federal level which totaled more than \$299 million in 2003.

For CSBG enabling language see <http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/ocs/csbgr/html/ocsfr.pdf>.

## Statewide Statistics

- 40 CSBG/MEOG Grantees, 32 of which are not unionized, four of which are unionized, and four of which are partially unionized.
- 29 Community Action Agencies
- 11 Indian Reservation Tribal Governments
- 87 Counties Served and 11 Reservations served
- 3,138 Full-time Employees and 2,347 Part-time/Seasonal Employees
- 48,299 volunteers contributing 1,846,758 volunteer hours
- 100% of grantees conduct annual community needs assessments.
- 100% of grantees complete an annual independent audit.
- 10 EOG grantees operate 27 food shelves in the state.
- EOG grantees serve 11,624 Head Start children and their families statewide.
- 16 grantees reported having a new refugee or immigrant population in their service areas.
- Participants speak 32 different languages. Spanish is the most frequently spoken (25 agencies), followed by Somali (15 agencies), Hmong (12 agencies), Vietnamese (8 agencies), and Russian (7 agencies).
- Twenty-eight of 29 agencies reported they have taken steps to ensure that people who are limited in their proficiency to understand or speak English can receive, free-of-charge, the language assistance they need to receive meaningful access to agency services.

Collaborative Relationship	Number of Grantees Involved in Collaboration	Number of Grantees that Administer Services
Child Care	33	5
Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R)	27	10
Child Support	32	3
Continuum of Care	33	5
Displaced Homemaker Program (DHP)	23	7
Early Education Programs (non-child care)	33	4
Emergency Food Programs	32	9
Energy Assistance/Weatherization	16	27
Faith-Based Organizations	34	0
Family Service Collaboratives	33	4
Head Start	7	30
Housing Redevelopment Authority (HRA)	33	4
Human Service Agencies	35	2
Law Enforcement/Neighborhood Policing	33	2
Surplus Commodity Distribution Programs	26	5
Transitional Housing Programs	20	21
Transportation	26	9
Vocational Rehabilitation Programs	30	2
WorkForce Centers	35	1

# Community Action Code of Ethics

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We, as community action professionals ever respectful of cultural diversity, dedicate ourselves to eliminate poverty in the midst of plenty in this nation by opening to everyone the opportunity for education and training; the opportunity to work; and the opportunity to live in decency and dignity, and commit ourselves to:

- Recognize that the chief function of the community action movement at all times is to serve the best interests of the poor.
- Accept as a personal duty the responsibility to keep up-to-date on emerging issues and to conduct ourselves with professional competence, fairness, and effectiveness.
- Respect the structure and responsibilities of the board of directors, provide them with facts and advice as a basis for their decision making, and uphold and implement the policies adopted by the board of directors.
- Keep the community informed about issues affecting the poor and to facilitate communication among the poor, the non-poor private sector, and locally elected public officials.
- Conduct our organizational and operational duties with positive leadership exemplified by open communication, creativity, dedication, and compassion.
- Exercise whatever discretionary authority we have under the law to promote the interests of the poor.
- Serve the community action movement with respect, concern, and responsiveness, recognizing that service to the poor is beyond service to oneself.
- Demonstrate the highest standards of personal integrity, truthfulness, and fortitude in our community action activities in order to inspire confidence in the community action movement.
- Perform our professional duties in such a way so as not to realize undue personal gain.
- Avoid any interest or activity, which conflicts with the conduct of our official duties.
- Protect confidentiality in the course of our official duties.
- Strive for personal professional excellence and encourage the professional development of our associates and those seeking to become community action executives.

Provided by: Community Action Partnership, 2000

# The Minnesota Economic Opportunity Act (2003)

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## MS 119A.374 Financial assistance for community action agencies.

Subdivision 1. **Authorization.** The commissioner of children, families, and learning may provide financial assistance for community action agencies, Indian reservations, and migrant and seasonal farm worker organizations to carry out community action programs as described in section 119A.376 in accordance with the Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1981, Public Law Number 97-35, as amended in 1984, Public Law Number 98-558, state law, and federal law and regulation.

Subdivision 2. **Allocation of money.** (a) State money appropriated and community service block grant money allotted to the state and all money transferred to the community service block grant from other block grants shall be allocated annually to community action agencies and Indian reservation governments under clauses (b) and (c), and to migrant and seasonal farm worker organizations under clause (d).

(b) The available annual money will provide base funding to all community action agencies and the Indian reservations. Base funding amounts per agency are as follows: for agencies with low income populations up to 3,999, \$25,000; 4,000 to 23,999, \$50,000; and 24,000 or more, \$100,000.

(c) All remaining money of the annual money available after the base funding has been determined must be allocated to each agency and reservation in proportion to the size of the poverty level population in the agency's service area compared to the size of the poverty level population in the state.

(d) Allocation of money to migrant and seasonal farmworker organizations must not exceed three percent of the total annual money available. Base funding allocations must be made for all community action agencies and Indian reservations that received money under this subdivision, in fiscal year 1984, and for community action agencies designated under this section with a service area population of 35,000 or greater.

Subdivision 3. **Reports.** Each community action agency receiving funds under this section shall report annually to the commissioner concerning the use of the funds.

Subdivision 4. **Definition.** For the purposes of sections 119A.374 to 119A.376, "poverty level population" means the number of people whose household income is at or below the poverty line established by the United States Office of Management and Budget in accordance with the most recent state population figures established by the United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

HIST: 1981 c 367 s 2; 1982 c 571 s 1-3; 1983 c 339 s 6; 1985 c 282 s 1,2; 1Sp1985 c 14 art 9 s 75; 1994 c 483 s 1; 1Sp1995 c 3 art 16 s 13; 1Sp1998 c 1 art 1 s 1,2

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## **MS 119A.375 Community Action Agencies.**

Subdivision 1. **In general.** A community action agency is a political subdivision of the state, a combination of political subdivisions, a public agency, or a private nonprofit agency which has the authority under its applicable charter or laws to receive funds under section 119A.374 to support community action programs as described in section 119A.376 and which was designated as an eligible entity under the Community Services Block Grant Act, Public Law Number 97-35, section 673(1), 95 Stat. 357, 512 (1981), as amended by, Act of October 30, 1984, Public Law Number 98-558, section 202, 98 Stat. 2878, 2884 (1984). For purposes of this subdivision, "eligible entity" also means any community action agency which qualified under all federal and state regulations applicable during the period from 1981 to September 30, 1984.

Subdivision 2. **Designation and recognition.** To obtain recognition by the governor a community action agency must be designated by a political subdivision having jurisdiction over the entire area to be served by the agency. To designate a community action agency, the political subdivision must hold a public hearing, pass a resolution to designate, and file a "notice of intent to designate" and eligibility documents with the state office of economic opportunity for final review and authorization for a new community action agency.

Subdivision 3. **Administering board.** Each community action agency shall administer its community action programs through a community action board consisting of 15 to 51 members:

(a) One-third of the members of the board shall be elected public officials, currently holding office, or their representatives.

(b) At least one-third of the members shall be persons chosen in accordance with democratic selection procedures adequate to assure that they are representative of the poor in the area served.

(c) The other members shall be officials or members of business, industry, labor, religious, welfare, education, or other major groups and interests in the community. Each member of the board selected to represent a specific geographic area within a community must reside in the area represented.

(d) The public community action agency shall have an administering board which meets the requirements of this subdivision.

(e) The statewide migrant seasonal farmworker organization known as the Minnesota migrant council and Indian reservations carrying out community action programs are exempt from the board composition requirements of this subdivision.

Subdivision 4. **Delegation of powers.** If a community action agency places responsibility for major policy determinations with respect to the character, funding, extent, and administration of and budgeting for programs to be carried on in a particular geographic area within the community in a subsidiary board, council, or similar agency, that board, council, or agency shall be broadly representative of the area.

Subdivision 5. **Local participation.** Each community action agency shall consult neighborhood based organizations composed of residents of the area or members of the groups served to assist the agency in the planning, conduct, and evaluation of components of the community action program.

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Subdivision 6. **Functions; powers.** A community action agency shall:

- (a) Plan systematically for an effective community action program; develop information as to the problems and causes of poverty in the community; determine how much and how effectively assistance is being provided to deal with those problems and causes; and establish priorities among projects, activities and areas as needed for the best and most efficient use of resources;
  - (b) Encourage agencies engaged in activities related to the community action program to plan for, secure, and administer assistance available under section 119A.374 or from other sources on a common or cooperative basis; provide planning or technical assistance to those agencies; and generally, in cooperation with community agencies and officials, undertake actions to improve existing efforts to reduce poverty, such as improving day-to-day communications, closing service gaps, focusing resources on the most needy, and providing additional opportunities to low-income individuals for regular employment or participation in the programs or activities for which those community agencies and officials are responsible;
  - (c) Initiate and sponsor projects responsive to needs of the poor which are not otherwise being met, with particular emphasis on providing central or common services that can be drawn upon by a variety of related programs, developing new approaches or new types of services that can be incorporated into other programs, and filling gaps pending the expansion or modification of those programs;
  - (d) Establish effective procedures by which the poor and area residents concerned will be enabled to influence the character of programs affecting their interests, provide for their regular participation in the implementation of those programs, and provide technical and other support needed to enable the poor and neighborhood groups to secure on their own behalf available assistance from public and private sources;
  - (e) Join with and encourage business, labor and other private groups and organizations to undertake, together with public officials and agencies, activities in support of the community action program which will result in the additional use of private resources and capabilities, with a view to developing new employment opportunities, stimulating investment that will have a measurable impact on reducing poverty among residents of areas of concentrated poverty, and providing methods by which residents of those areas can work with private groups, firms, and institutions in seeking solutions to problems of common concern.
- Community action agencies, migrant and seasonal farmworker organizations, and the Indian reservations, may enter into cooperative purchasing agreements and self-insurance programs with local units of government. Nothing in this section expands or limits the current private or public nature of a local community action agency.
- (f) Adopt policies that require the agencies to refer area residents and community action program constituents to education programs that increase literacy, improve parenting skills, and address the needs of children from families in poverty. These programs include, but are not limited to, early childhood family education programs, adult basic education programs, and other lifelong learning opportunities. The agencies and agency programs, including Head Start, shall collaborate with child care and other early childhood education programs to ensure smooth transitions to work for parents.

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Subdivision 7. **Agencies as local providers.** Agencies defined by this section shall be considered among local providers of outreach services and activities for all antipoverty efforts.

Subdivision 8. **Categorical funds.** Federal antipoverty categorical funds consolidated into block grants to the state of Minnesota shall be designated by the state for antipoverty purposes.

HIST: 1981 c 367 s 3; 1982 c 571 s 4-8; 1985 c 282 s 3; 1986 c 411 s 1,2; 1987 c 403 art 2 s 133; 1994 c 632 art 4 s 65; 1Sp1995 c 3 art 16 s 13; 1997 c 162 art 2 s 25; 1Sp1998 c 1 art 1 s 3

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### **MS 119A.376 Community action programs.**

Subdivision 1. **In general.** A community action program is a community based and operated program which:

- (a) Includes or is designed to include a sufficient number of projects or components to provide, in sum, a range of services and activities having a measurable and potentially major impact on causes of poverty in the community or those areas of the community where poverty is a particularly acute problem;
- (b) Has been developed, and which organizes and combines its component projects and activities, in a manner appropriate to carry out all the purposes of sections 119A.374 to 119A.376; and
- (c) Conforms to any other supplementary criteria as the governor may prescribe consistent with the purposes and provisions of sections 119A.374 to 119A.376.

Subdivision 2. **Components.** The components of a community action program shall be designed to assist participants, including homeless individuals and families, migrant and seasonal farm workers, and the elderly poor to achieve increased self-sufficiency and greater participation in the affairs of the community by providing services and programs not sufficiently provided in the community by any governmental unit, any public institution, or any other publicly funded agency or corporation. Community action agencies, governmental units, public institutions or other publicly funded agencies or corporations shall consult on whether or not a program or service is sufficiently provided in the community.

Subdivision 3. **Administration.** Components of a community action program may be administered by the community action agency when consistent with sound and efficient management and applicable law, or by other agencies. They may be projects eligible for assistance under section 119A.374, or projects assisted from other public or private sources; and they may be either specially designed to meet local needs, or designed pursuant to the eligibility standards of a state or federal program providing assistance to a particular kind of activity which will help in meeting those needs.

Subdivision 4. **Data classification.** Data collected on individuals from which the identity of any individual receiving services may be determined are private data on individuals as defined in section 13.02.

HIST: 1981 c 367 s 4; 1982 c 571 s 9; 1Sp1995 c 3 art 16 s 13; 1Sp1998 c 1 art 1 s 4; 2000 c 468 s 21

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# Guiding Principles for Partnership

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The Department of Human Services Office of Economic Opportunity has adopted three guiding principles in an effort to form meaningful and constructive partnerships with our local grantees. We believe that these principles will set a positive tone for working together. They are: Mutual Respect, Open Communication, and Joint Problem Solving.

## **Mutual Respect**

In working with our grantees' staff, board members, and consultants, we will value and recognize the unique knowledge, ability and independence of each person. We are committed to treating all persons fairly and maintaining credibility by matching actions with words.

## **Open Communication**

Effective communications is key in facilitating good working relationships with our partners, and we are committed to keeping lines of communication open. The purpose of our communications is to assist you in developing solutions to problems, to share program improvement ideas and provide information on new developments in the anti-poverty field. We intend to communicate with you frequently through a variety of tools and media. We are open to you contacting us and are committed to listening to you to gain an understanding of your operations and assist you in pursuing your priorities.

## **Joint Problem-Solving**

We operate under the basic belief that a team approach to problem solving is in the best interest of all parties involved. We sincerely believe that collectively we can arrive at the best solution to any situation. Through a team approach to problem solving, we are forced to think outside our traditional ways and come up with "best strategies" for program development, conflict resolutions or compliance issues. We want to promote an environment in which we and our partners will be open to change and can work together in exploring options and developing mutually agreeable solutions. Our goal is to have agencies function independently with our support in an effort to meet the needs of your local communities within the parameters set by legislation.

These principles were developed by Kay Willmoth, Head Start Region V office, Chicago, IL.

# Joint Statement of Agreement

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Note: The following document was signed in 2001. It committed the partnership to paper, as it has been functioning for many years. Work is currently underway to reinforce this vital commitment by signing an updated agreement in 2004.

AMONG  
THE  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,  
ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES REGION V,  
THE  
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, FAMILIES & LEARNING  
THE  
MINNESOTA COMMUNITY ACTION ASSOCIATION,  
AND THE  
MINNESOTA HEAD START ASSOCIATION

## 1. PARTIES

This is an Agreement among the United States Department of Health and Human Services/Administration for Children and Families Region V, the Minnesota Department of Children, Families & Learning, the Minnesota Community Action Association, and the Minnesota Head Start Association.

## 2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this agreement is to foster collaborative strategies that result in improved program performance and better outcomes for children, families and communities by enhancing the working relationship among the Parties.

## 3. INTRODUCTION

The Minnesota Department of Children, Families & Learning administers, in addition to other programs, the Community Services Block Grant (CSGB) and the Minnesota Economic Opportunity Grant (MEOG). These grants provide funds to local Community Action Agencies (CAAs) to create, coordinate, and deliver a wide array of programs and services to the low income. The CSBG/MEOG funds central management and core activities of the agencies. In Minnesota, the Community Services Network is made up of more than 40 local, private, non-profit and public agencies that work to alleviate poverty and empower low-income families in communities throughout the state.

The Administration for Children and Families administers, in addition to other programs, the CSGB. This provides, as noted above, funds to the Minnesota Department of Children, Families & Learning to operate the state-administered Community Services Network of local agencies that create, coordinate, and deliver many programs and services to low income people.

The Administration for Children and Families also administers Head Start and Early Head Start grants. In Minnesota, Head Start funds 34 grantee agencies, sixty-eight percent (68%) of which are CAAs. Of the non-CAA agencies, seven (7) are Tribal Reservation Governments, three (3) are private nonprofit agencies, and one (1) is a school district. All of these entities are included in this agreement.

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The Minnesota Association of Community Action Agencies is a membership organization of CAAs in Minnesota. Its mission is to assist its member agencies to meet their goals to alleviate the conditions of poverty in their communities and to assist low-income members of their communities to progress toward self-sufficiency.

The Minnesota Head Start Association is an organization of Head Start service providers, located throughout the State. A parent, staff, director, and friend represent each Program. The Association is organized to be a unified voice around issues facing families with young children experiencing poverty.

#### **4. SCOPE OF AGREEMENT**

The Parties understand that all activities and information sharing that results from implementation of this agreement will be used to assist grantees to grow more capable to carry out their missions and meet their goals, which are consistent among the Parties.

The Parties will encourage local CAA and Head Start program partnerships to develop collaborative strategies, which involve community residents, to improve program performance and result in better outcomes for children, families and communities.

##### **Information Sharing**

The Parties will share information in a manner that is in accordance with confidentiality requirements of both Federal and State law. Among information that the Parties will share:

- Grantee lists
- Funding levels
- Reports
- On-site review schedules
- On-site review results
- Dates of training and technical assistance to be provided to grantees, individually or as a group
- Dates of conferences that relate to the purpose of the agreement

##### **Communication**

The Parties will communicate at least quarterly on a schedule to be determined to coordinate and minimize duplication of activities and functions. They will communicate to one another: problems, issues, important information, important activities, conferences and training. For example, the Parties will add one another to their mailing lists, when appropriate. Periodic meetings will be held among the Parties to provide one another updates on program developments, related legislation, regulations and policy.

##### **Planning**

The Parties will jointly plan and participate in conferences, as appropriate. They will emphasize joint presentations and dissemination of informational and training materials.

The Parties or their representatives will meet annually, at a date to be determined by the Parties, to develop a work plan for the year to include results and timeframes for their accomplishment.

##### **Training and Technical Assistance**

The Parties will, to the extent feasible, collaborate to provide training and technical assistance to Minnesota Community Action and Head Start grantees. They will keep one another informed of efforts and outcomes related to training and technical assistance provided to individual grantees, as well as to the entire network.

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## Monitoring

The Administration for Children and Families monitors Minnesota Head Start grantees. It will inform the Parties of this monitoring, as noted above under Information Sharing. The Minnesota Department of Children, Families & Learning monitors CSGB/MEOG. In addition, it administers funding for housing and food programs. The Minnesota Department of Children, Families & Learning will share its perspective of an agency's status with the Parties.

## 5. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JOINT AGREEMENT

The Parties will continue to support cooperation and coordination among their programs at all levels (local, state and regional) as well as with and among other relevant agencies with programs and resources. The Parties agree to distribute this Joint Agreement.

## 6. AMENDMENT, REVIEW and EFFECTIVE DATE

This Joint Agreement will be reviewed periodically, but not less than annually. It may be amended as agreed to in writing by all Parties. The Parties will inform their respective partners about this Joint Agreement, which will become effective upon the signature of the authorized officials of the respective Parties.

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Christine Jax  
Commissioner  
MN Department of Children, Families  
& Learning

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Joyce Thomas  
HUD Director  
Administration for Children and Families  
Region V

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Stephen Nagle  
President  
MN Community Action Association

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Robert Benes  
Chair  
MN Head Start Association

## 2003 Federal Poverty Guidelines

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The poverty guidelines are issued each year in the Federal Register by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

A more extensive discussion of poverty thresholds and poverty guidelines is available on the Institute for Research on Poverty's Website at <http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/irp/>.

### 2003 HHS Poverty Guidelines

<b>Size of Family Unit</b>	<b>48 Contiguous States and D.C.</b>	<b>Alaska</b>	<b>Hawaii</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>\$8,980</b>	<b>\$11,210</b>	<b>\$10,330</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>\$12,120</b>	<b>\$15,140</b>	<b>\$13,940</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>\$15,260</b>	<b>\$19,070</b>	<b>\$17,550</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>\$18,400</b>	<b>\$23,000</b>	<b>\$21,160</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>\$21,540</b>	<b>\$26,930</b>	<b>\$24,770</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>\$24,680</b>	<b>\$30,330</b>	<b>\$28,380</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>\$27,820</b>	<b>\$34,790</b>	<b>\$31,990</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>\$30,960</b>	<b>\$38,720</b>	<b>\$35,600</b>
<b>For each additional person, add</b>	<b>\$3,140</b>	<b>\$3,930</b>	<b>\$3,610</b>

**SOURCE: Federal Register, Volume 68, Number 26, February 7, 2003**

# What the Census 2000 Tells Us About Poverty

## Progress for Most, Yet Many Still Suffer

Every ten years, the country takes stock of its demographics through a decennial census. Results from the 2000 Census have been released and are being analyzed, reported and discussed. Funding formulas such as the Economic Opportunity Grant (EOG) and Head Start, which use census data to determine how much money will go to which areas of the state, are being updated to reflect new realities. Local communities are assessing needs, resources and opportunities in light of this new information.

What does the 2000 Census tell about poverty in Minnesota? How many people are living at or below the federal poverty level? Which characteristics define the majority of people living in poverty? Are things getting better or worse, and for whom? These are some of the questions that can be answered in part by 2000 Census data. (Visit <http://www.census.gov> for more information on Census 2000.)

## How Many People Live in Poverty?

In the United States, with a total population of over 281 million people, close to 34 million, or 12.4% of the population, live at or below the federal poverty level (see page 27 for more information about the federal poverty level). This is comparable to the total population of Switzerland, Austria, Hungary and most of the Czech Republic combined. The U.S. poverty population, while larger in actual numbers than the previous decade, declined 7/10<sup>th</sup> of a percent from the 1990 Census.

A Historical Look at Poverty: US and MN

	1969	1979	1989	1999
<b>U.S.</b>				
Number Below Poverty	27,124,985	27,392,580	31,742,864	33,899,812
Percent Below Poverty	13.70%	12.40%	13.10%	12.40%
<b>MN</b>				
Number Below Poverty	397,662	374,956	435,331	380,476
Percent Below Poverty	10.70%	9.50%	10.20%	7.90%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

When looking at the state as a whole, Minnesota is faring better than most of the rest of the country. With a total statewide population of almost 4.8 million people, census data show that 380,476 Minnesotans live below the federal poverty line. This represents 7.9% of the state's population.

## Who Is Poor in Minnesota?

When one looks more closely at who is poor in Minnesota, a slightly different picture begins to emerge. Poverty is not evenly distributed within society. One's chances of being poor increase with certain characteristics.

## Racial and Ethnic Minorities

Levels of poverty vary significantly by race and ethnicity in the state. In general, racial and ethnic minorities in 1999 were 3 to 4 times more likely to be poor than were white Minnesotans. The chart below identifies numbers and percentages of poverty by race and ethnicity.

### Poverty by Race: Minnesota

1999	Number Below Poverty	Percent
White *	266,078	6.20%
African American *	43,164	27.10%
American Indian *	14,686	28.60%
Asian *	25,887	19.00%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander *	180	12.50%
Some other race alone *	13,580	21.40%
Two or more races	16,901	19.70%
Hispanic or Latino	27,727	20.20%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	255,419	6.00%
* single race		
SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, P159A-I		

### Children

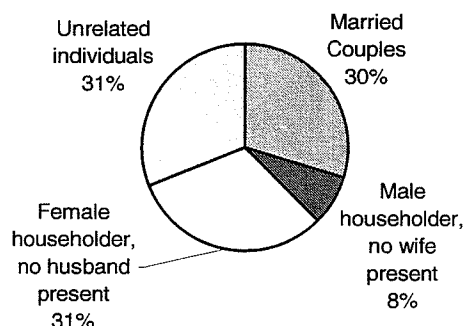
According to an analysis of 2000 Census done by the Children's Defense Fund-MN, 121,691 Minnesota children under 18 years of age live in a family making less than the federal poverty level. This represents nearly one in ten of all Minnesota children. Nearly 50,000 children live in families making less than 50% of the poverty level. If one expands the definition of low-income to 200% of poverty, 330,962 children live in families with incomes at or below this level. (SOURCE: Minnesota Children in the 2000 Census: Low-Income Families, CDF, Fall 2002).

### Different Household Types

As can be seen from the accompanying chart, poverty affects all types of households. The chart below describes what the 2000 Census tells of about Minnesotans under 65 years in poverty by household type.

### Poverty of Minnesotans Under Age 65 by Household Type, 1999

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



### Where Are We Going From Here?

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the prosperity of the 1990s helped lower poverty rates in many states including Minnesota. While the effects of this prosperity were evident into the early 2000s, the recent recession has cut into that progress. Where we go from here in terms of the number of people living in poverty depends in large part on what happens with the economy and what policies, both state and federal, are adopted.



# **Antipoverty Programs Information**

# Results Oriented Management & Accountability (ROMA)

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By the mid 1990s, public policy discussions at all levels—federal, state, and local—were focusing on results. In 1996, the Minnesota Community Action Association and the Minnesota Office of Economic Opportunity embraced as partners this transition to results-based management and implemented strategies for planning, training and reporting.

In 2000, work on a comprehensive assessment tool started. The resulting Self-Reliance Achievement Scale (SRAS) was implemented statewide in April 2002. For more information on ROMA visit <http://www.roma1.org/room4a.asp?dstate=MN>.

All of this activity transpired under the umbrella of a federal initiative, Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA). For information about ROMA, see <http://www.roma1.org>.

During the past year, the following major activities occurred in Minnesota to further the implementation of ROMA and the use of outcome data for service, management, and reporting purposes:

- a. OEO field staff held ROMA discussions with grantee boards during monitoring visits.
- b. Grantees continue to prepare annual evaluation reports detailing outcomes achieved.
- c. We continued statewide implementation of SRAS for case management programming.
- d. We continued a planning process that will allow participating agencies to leverage their collective resources to design, implement and operate an affordable next-generation information management system. This system will support comprehensive, integrated client services and outcome measurement.

The tables that follow contain selected examples of measurable results. As such, they do not reflect the full scope of community action. The tables are organized under the general ROMA categories of:

- Family
- Community
- Agency

Within each category, there are examples of results achieved with widespread impact. It is important to note that these selected examples are drawn from a group of nearly 200 statewide measures. It is equally important to note that because each local community action agency is unique, there are very few measures on which all agencies report. In fact, for many measures, only a handful of agencies deliver the service being measured. This reflects the nature of community action, that the board for each local agency establishes priorities to meet their local needs. Though this local uniqueness makes statewide reporting difficult, its more important virtue is that it makes the best possible use of limited resources in each community.

## Selected Family Results

Objective	Measure	Result
Individuals have good credit or restored credit.	# of individuals with a credit repair plan	959
Income tax preparation assistance provides economic stability to low-income households.	# of tax returns prepared and submitted	29,954
	# of families who received earned income tax credit through tax assistance program	879
	Estimated amount of tax credits	\$1,760,000
Reducing energy costs for households, thereby increasing their ability to use income for other basic needs.	# of households with at least a 10% reduction in energy consumption	2,088
	Average percentage of reduction	20%
	Estimated annual savings	\$400,000+
Individuals obtain employment.	# of individuals obtaining full-time employment	2,113
Families are knowledgeable about how to access needed services in the community.	# of times translation services are performed for low-income families/individuals	5,531
Families/individuals in crisis retain stable housing.	# of individuals retaining stable housing due to emergency rent payments	3,425
Families/individuals retain and stabilize housing.	# of individuals placed in transitional housing	5,737
Families/individuals facing economic instability retain their housing with intervention and short-term assistance.	# of individuals averting foreclosure and maintain home	505
Preschool children from low-income families are ready for school having developed pre-literacy and pre-numeracy skills.	Approximate # of preschool children from low-income families who are ready for school, as measured by assessments	5,000
Families have identified medical and dental providers and obtained needed medical, dental, and preventative care.	# of children who completed medical, dental, and mental health exams	8,934
	# of children who received follow-up health services	3,591
	# of families enrolled in Minnesota Care	1,369
Parents have the skills and resources to raise their children in an abuse/neglect free environment.	# of parents offered parent education classes who completed classes	4,705
Students earn wages while learning a trade.	# of students who successfully completed work experience training	658
Provide services to promote independence, dignity, and well being of older persons.	# of rides received by seniors	130,337
Families receive food and nutrition services to strengthen families.	# of households referred who received assistance from food shelves	23,950
Senior nutrition services promote independence, dignity, good health, and the nutritional well being of older persons.	# of congregate meals served	928,743
	# of home-delivered meals served	451,588

## Selected Community Results

Objective	Measure	Result
Access to community resources is improved.	# of meetings attended to advocate for low-income households	1,456
Increased, reliable, useful transportation for low-income residents in the community is available.	# of bus rides provided	728,123
	# of rides provided by volunteer drivers	74,495
	# of car loan agreements with participants	579
Childcare resources are improved through referrals and technical assistance.	# of families successfully matched with child care providers	3,541
Childcare is available in the community through an increase in quality, affordable, licensed child care providers.	# of new child care slots available	4,881
Safe, affordable housing is available in the community for low to moderate-income households.	# of single and/or multifamily housing units planned, constructed, or rehabilitated directly by CAAs or through partnerships	868
Home energy improvements reduce energy costs and usage, allowing households to use cost savings to pay for other basic needs.	# of unsafe combustion appliances repaired or replaced	1,664
Existing housing stock is improved in communities through the provision of home rehabilitation and repair services.	# of households receiving assistance with rehabilitation projects	1,088
	Following inspection, # of substandard units brought up to minimum standards	836
Community organizations increase their capacity to assist low-income, underrepresented individuals and individuals in need.	# of local organizations receiving services (e.g. prepare goals, strategic plans, reporting processes, fiscal agent)	77
New programs or organizations are created. Local organization are strengthened in their capacity to serve the community.	# of demonstration projects initiated	95
People learn skills to participate in and advocate for systems change on behalf of children in the community.	# of parents/individuals engaged in advocacy activities	6,368
	# of parents/individuals serving on a community board or committee	750
Low-income households have the knowledge to budget their finances and determine their ability to purchase a home.	# of individuals who successfully complete budget counseling	1,645
	# of individuals who complete classes and purchase a home	1,075
Services are provided in the community through the aid of volunteers	# of volunteers	30,194
	# of hours volunteered	1,439,431
	Estimated value	\$7,400,000

## Selected Agency Results

Objective	Measure	Result
Services and programs are efficient, well integrated, non-duplicative and meet the needs of low-income people in the community.	# of providers convened to engage in community assessment, planning, etc.	542
	# of collaboratives where involvement was maintained over the past year	952
Low-income individuals participate in community organizations, boards, policy councils, and advisory groups.	# of volunteers	11,588
Agency programs are evaluated regularly and improved to maximize strengths and deliver sound services to the community.	# of meetings with community groups and participants to evaluate programming	754
Agency staff can effectively interact with participants from other cultures and maximize allocated resources.	# of staff attending at least one training session related to cultural awareness during the year	1,026

All Community Action Agencies are actively engaged in partnerships and collaboration with:

- Child care
- Child Support
- HUD Continuum of Care
- Early education programs
- Emergency food programs
- Faith-based organizations
- Human services agencies
- Family services collaboratives
- Transitional housing
- LIHEAP/Weatherization
- Head Start
- Surplus Commodity Distribution Program
- Vocational rehabilitation
- Workforce Centers

# Homeless Programs

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## Minnesota's Homeless History

A group of determined and experienced advocates came to the Minnesota Legislature in the early 1980s with the vision to end homelessness. Their plan was for a program to meet the goal of helping homeless people to secure and maintain permanent housing. These advocates were responsible for crafting the legislative language for the Minnesota Temporary Housing Program. While the name of the program soon changed to the Minnesota Transitional Housing Program, the statutory language has not changed since it began in 1984.

The legislative design states that the program pay for a portion of housing costs, provide support services, and offer the program for up to 24 months. These simple and straightforward features work together to support and motivate the individual being served to become more self-sufficient and achieve permanent housing. Over the years the program has had a high degree of success. Local program grantees have advised that program changes should not be made, as the current constitution is a good recipe for success for a significant segment of the homeless population in Minnesota.

While there has not been a need to change state language for the Transitional Housing Program, other changes have occurred. Perhaps the biggest change is whom the program serves. Since 1985, the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) has conducted a quarterly shelter survey to capture information on who is served by the program and to determine program trends and demands. This survey and the Wilder Homeless Survey, which is conducted every three years, give a significant amount of information on homelessness in Minnesota.

At the program's inception, single men were the main recipients of services. Today, women and children make up more than half of those being served. In 1984, funding was sufficient for about a dozen programs. Today there are 76 programs of various sizes stretching from one end of the state to the other. They comprise a statewide network of providers prepared to meet a wide variety of needs. According to the last Wilder Shelter Survey, there are 4,244 persons residing in Transitional Housing on any given night. This is out of 21,329 homeless individuals. Even with growth in funding for the Minnesota Transitional Housing Program and the emergence of other programs and resources, there are more than 1,400 homeless men, women and children who go unsheltered nightly.

Since it began, there have been a number of important changes to the program at the local level. Advocates and service providers have become better trained and more sophisticated in their work, including the use of technology and improved collaboration. Many transitional housing providers help program participants to access a permanent apartment and then provide support through the program for up to 24 months. On average, participants need about eight months of assistance.

The needs of individuals and families experiencing homelessness can be seen across a continuum. Some people need support services for many years, perhaps forever, while others need assistance for a shorter period of time to end their homelessness. We know that some homeless people experience many barriers to independent living, including chemical dependency and mental health problems.

In some instances, transitional housing programs provide a first point of access for homeless individuals or families. If the local transitional housing provider is ill-suited to meet the needs presented, a referral is made to the right provider. Or the program works in partnership with other community service providers to help the family or individual to secure and maintain permanent housing.

The Minnesota Transitional Housing Program is one of many tools the State has to end and prevent the problem of chronic homelessness. The Department of Human Services intends that efforts of this program will be coordinated with other Department of Human Services and State efforts to end chronic homelessness in Minnesota.

# Emergency Food Programs

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## Hunger in Minnesota

The Office of Economic Opportunity emergency food programs are delivered by community-based, advocacy organizations and food shelves around the state of Minnesota. The programs aim to provide food to low-income individuals and families through Minnesota food shelves, soup kitchens, and other on-site meal programs.

The food programs receive funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the State of Minnesota. The programs work in collaboration with other community services to meet the immediate needs of Minnesota's low-income residents. Food program participants are connected with other agencies to improve the long-term ability of families to meet their basic needs.

In 2003, Minnesota's 300 food shelves distributed over 33 million pounds of food to meet the needs of 1.56 million food shelf visits. In the Twin Cities suburbs the number of working poor approaches 60% of the families served. The working poor is the fastest growing group of food shelf clients.

Almost half of all families who use food shelves have had to choose between paying their utilities and buying food. Over a third of these families have had to decide whether to pay their rent/mortgage or buy food, and a quarter of these families have had to decide whether to buy medicine or food. Of the individuals served at food shelves, one-half are children and 20% are seniors. Three quarters of Minnesota families receiving food are working, retired or disabled, yet their wages and benefits keep 85% of them living below the federal poverty guidelines.

There are about 300 food shelves in Minnesota; a third of them are located in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. By the end of 2003 statewide food shelf usage had increased ten percent over that of the previous year. Food shelves have had to make many changes to meet the needs of a diverse population that includes the Asian Pacific Islander community, the Chicano Latino community, the American Indian community, senior citizens, families living with HIV/AIDS, migrant agriculture workers and new immigrant families from Russia and Africa.

# Family Assets for Independence in Minnesota

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Family Assets for Independence in Minnesota (FAIM) helps low-income working Minnesotans build assets and develop positive financial management habits and skills toward achieving long-term economic self-sufficiency. It is a powerful tool in the arsenal for fighting poverty in communities across the state. In Minnesota, a 22-site collaborative of Community Action Agencies (CAAs), WomenVenture, City and County Credit Union, and Leech Lake Tribal Government administers the program.

FAIM serves approximately 350 accountholders statewide at any time. To be eligible for FAIM, households must have incomes at or below 200% of the federal poverty level and have fixed assets of \$10,000 or less. FAIM participants are considered the "working poor." Evaluation of Minnesota's FAIM participant characteristics show the following:

- 35% of FAIM participants are people of color.
- Most households (86%) have at least one child.
- 46% of participants have incomes below 100% of poverty and 79% are below 150%.
- 64% are or have been "welfare" recipients (AFDC or TANF).
- 75% do not currently own a home.

FAIM participants earn match at a rate of a 3:1 (half from state funds, half from non-state funds). Savings must be from earned income. Participants are encouraged to save regular amounts each month. Upon reaching their savings goal, participants use their accrued savings, interest, and match to buy a home, pursue post-secondary education, or start a small business.

Each FAIM participant receives 18 hours of financial education to help them achieve their savings goals. They also are required to take ten additional hours of asset-specific training. FAIM agencies negotiate with local financial institutions to secure favorable banking arrangements for participants (e.g. no minimum balances, no service charges). Banks receive Community Reinvestment Act credits when they provide financial contributions, mentoring, economic literacy, or other services to the community.

FAIM is part of a national initiative in the early 1990s to promote Individual Development Accounts (IDAs). The concept of IDAs came from the recognition that poor and working-poor families are often excluded from asset development opportunities, traditionally available to middle- and upper-income families (e.g. mortgage interest deduction, capital gains treatment, IRAs).

Data on income inequality show that incomes (adjusted for inflation) from the late 1970s to the late 1990s showed no growth for the poorest 20% of Minnesotans. This compared to 16.6% growth of incomes for the middle 20% of Minnesotans, and 42.6% growth of incomes for the richest 20% of Minnesotans. (Minnesota Budget Project, January 2000). Differences in the distribution of economic gains are even more pronounced for asset accrual than for income.

FAIM employs a combined strategy of financial assistance, mandatory participant education, research, and evaluation to achieve its goals. The Center for Social Development/Washington University in St. Louis published evaluation findings in September 2001.

The September 2001 FAIM evaluation of 27 FAIM sites and 513 participants found:

- The average participant saved \$28 per month.
- The average participant saved nine out of every 12 months.
- With a match rate of 3:1, participants accumulated about \$100/month or \$1,200/year.

Minnesota IDA savings totals through October 2003, as collected by MIS-IDA (the system used to collect information on all IDA programs receiving federal funding), showed:

- Nearly \$525,000 in participant savings were deposited.
- More than \$2,000 in interest has accrued.
- Participants have purchased 85 homes, capitalized 93 businesses, and made 124 payouts for post-secondary education.

# **Information Management Planning Leadership Group**

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## **Integrating Information Management Systems**

Community Action Agencies, the Office of Economic Opportunity, and the Minnesota Community Action Association are nearly ready to solicit bids for a web-based information management system known as the CAP Integrator. This system will provide clients with one-stop entry to numerous low-income assistance program services thereby greatly improving clients' access to services and reducing duplicative intake processes. In addition to improved client services, the CAP Integrator system will make both internal and external reporting more efficient and effective. Lastly, the system will provide improved ability to share information with both public and nonprofit partners who are using other systems.

For years, Community Action Agencies (CAAs) have been struggling with the complexity of the operating multiple databases that are mandated by a variety of public and private funders. CAAs typically operate from 3-7 separate databases. More often than not, client data must be re-entered in each database resulting in large cost inefficiencies and increased data errors. Currently, data sharing across systems is very difficult, if not impossible, preventing integration for improved client services and reporting.

Community Action Agencies will pool their resources in a computing collaborative to improve efficiency and effectiveness. The web-based software will allow an integrated approach to client services, internal management information systems and program evaluation, as well as external reporting. The application service provider hardware strategy will centralize ownership and maintenance and result in improved performance, security and reliability. The common training strategy will result in consistent high standards of performance and reduced total costs of ownership.

Finally, the migration to a web-based system will allow community action agencies to efficiently partner with the array of other web-based systems that are sprouting-up across the social services spectrum. The design team will continue to work closely with known systems, such as Energy Assistance and Homeless Management Information Systems. With an eye toward the future, the system will also be designed to provide CAAs with the capacity to work efficiently and effectively with additional partner systems that are certain to be developed.

# Community Action and Head Start

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## Partners Fighting Poverty

### Purpose

This document:

- Describes the historic context in which Community Action and Head Start were created as partners to overcome poverty;
- Provides practical strategies that Community Action and Head Start should implement to forge strong alliances for future anti-poverty work; and,
- Maintains that Community Action and Head Start should be working together to measure outcomes that document success in eradicating poverty.

### Background

In March 1964 President Lyndon B. Johnson proclaimed that "Because it is right, because it is wise, and because, for the first time in our history, it is possible to conquer poverty, I submit, for the consideration of Congress and the country, the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964."<sup>1</sup> Shortly thereafter Congress declared the War on Poverty by creating initiatives like Community Action and Head Start.

Since their inception, Community Action and Head Start have lifted Americans out of poverty through education and empowerment, and have challenged and changed institutional systems that perpetuate poverty. One of the assumptions behind the War on Poverty was that "the government was obligated to help disadvantaged groups in order to compensate for inequality in social or economic conditions."<sup>2</sup>

Both Community Action and Head Start have moved money and power to a grassroots level; the concept of maximum feasible participation means "the poor should help plan and run their own programs."<sup>3</sup> Both have held the abiding conviction that people living in poverty must be meaningfully involved in the administration of Community Action Programs (CAPs) and Head Start in order to realize authentic and significant change. In fact, both Community Action and Head Start require a significant percentage of their respective governing board membership to be low income people.

The initial decision not to dictate the educational component of Head Start is an example of the War on Poverty's respect for community wisdom and involvement. According to Head Start's first research director Edmund Gordon and his colleague Carol Lopate, there was " '...the conviction that Head Start should and would become part of an increasingly strong movement among the poor of our country to take control of the course of their lives, including the education of their children.' "<sup>4</sup>

Both Community Action and Head Start have been found to promote institutional changes. In a study of community change (MIDCO, 1972), it was found that "institutional changes were more frequent and important when there was high involvement of Head Start parents as decision-makers."<sup>5</sup> Another study (Vanecko, 1970) concluded that when Community Action Programs were active in a community, "...substantial and durable institutional changes consistent with the goals of the War on Poverty" were realized. (Vanecko, 1970)<sup>6</sup> In fact, Information Memorandum 49<sup>7</sup> commends Community Action for helping "many people achieve better lives in better communities"; the Memorandum also cites as a continued goal to "...achieve robust and measurable improvements in the lives of clients and communities."

While a division of labor between Community Action and Head Start may sometimes exist, there is no division of ultimate vision. One only has to walk into a local CAP or Head Start center to see that their clients are the same people, and that what they are ultimately trying to do is the same thing – lift people

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out of poverty. Moreover, both treat their clients with respect and consideration. These are not insignificant coincidences, but rather evidence that the major supporting pillars of Community Action and Head Start are the same. From the inception of both, advantages in working together were apparent.

According to a founding Head Start planner Reginald Lourie, "When we visited programs...we found that Head Start had special value to the Community Action Programs because the established business and social community would agree to join with the poverty-level workers in developing programs for children, whereas they would avoid any other type of collaborative community involvement. Thus Head Start became the foundation for community action upon which other programs were slowly built."<sup>8</sup>

There have been advantages for Head Start as well. Community Action Programs, with extensive knowledge of poverty in their communities, have been able to identify people who might benefit from Head Start. Moreover, Community Action Agencies have often quickly provided space for Head Start that lacks bureaucratic restrictions.

But the ultimate advantage in the programs working in tandem was summarized by founding Head Start planner Mitchell Ginsberg, "...Head Start was never seen as an answer in itself to the poverty problem. On the other hand, it was seen as part of the Community Action Program and thus not to be isolated from the other programs. The requirement for heavy local involvement and active parent participation was defined as helpful not only to the children but to the parents themselves. Members of the Committee were convinced that it was essential that the children be offered a combination of services and programs, that together they could accomplish much more than any one program by itself."<sup>9</sup>

Through the years Community Action and Head Start have seen changes in local, state and national landscapes. Both have been challenged on some issues, and applauded for numerous achievements; both have weathered intense political challenges, but stood the test of time. Most importantly, they have remained ever faithful to their shared mission of ending poverty, and have done so with an undying belief in the wisdom of those living in poverty.

According to Edward Zigler and Susan Muenchow, "...the term 'War on Poverty' was more than a catchy metaphor; it conveyed the hope that it was possible, once and for all, to eliminate poverty from America's cities and streets."<sup>10</sup>

The War on Poverty is not a sentimental, antiquated or no-longer-necessary concept. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2000 31 million people in the United States lived in poverty;<sup>11</sup> in 2000 there were over 11 million children living in poverty, or about one in six children.<sup>12</sup>

With millions of Americans suffering the ravages of poverty, an overwhelming number of them children, the War is far from won. In fact, more than ever, it demands that anti-poverty programs work together with an unwavering focus on the ultimate mission of ending poverty once and for all.

### Recent Years

Many programs participate in activities common to Community Action and Head Start, such as the education of young children or the development of employment opportunities. That said, few programs have the pure goal of ending poverty by empowering individuals; with this shared goal, Community Action and Head Start are natural partners. If their ultimate goal of eradicating poverty is in constant focus, the benefits realized when Community Action and Head Start work together are obvious and multiple. These benefits exist on a local, state and federal level.

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At a local level program efficiencies result that ultimately enable dollars to go further. For example, one person can be hired for a job common to a Community Action Program and Head Start. In addition, as the programs' clients are literally the same people in many communities, cost and time efficiencies are realized when they are housed together; clients do not have to travel to multiple locations, and Community Action and Head Start do not accrue associated travel costs.

A less quantifiable benefit is that people are better served through staff relationships grounded in common purpose and understanding; Community Action and Head Start staff can work toward common goals and thereby complement each others' efforts. When Community Action and Head Start staff have the opportunity to share experiences they get sustenance and encouragement that helps them do the hard work required to help move families toward self-reliance.

Another benefit that continues to be realized in many local communities is the broad legitimacy and community support Community Action and Head Start get when they work recognizably in tandem; this legitimacy and support ultimately enables staff to be more effective in their important work.

At a state level a strong Community Action and Head Start alliance means an increased ability to design and implement systems that effectively fight poverty. Statewide initiatives require that all those genuinely invested in fighting poverty bring their experience, perspective, support and resources to the table. If only one or some of the key anti-poverty fighters are present in a particular initiative, then that initiative is weakened.

At a state and federal level, monitoring benefits are accrued when Community Action and Head Start work together. As monitoring schedules vary, when Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) and Head Start monitors collaborate they are often able to detect problems earlier, meaning less time and resources necessary for problem resolution.

An additional state and federal benefit is that a Community Action and Head Start alliance enables the creation of a unified and consistent Congressional/legislative anti-poverty message that is worthy of strengthening families by fighting poverty - a message that inspires confidence that anti-poverty fighters are strong, capable and united. Ironically then, money and power for both Community Action and Head Start can be increased through a unified presence.

Our nation's continuing and deepening struggles with poverty make it imperative that Community Action and Head Start are not distracted by questions where there should be vision - the vision of President Johnson that poverty can and must be ended. Yet the realization of this vision requires that Community Action and Head Start recognize that working together they are stronger than working in isolation - that families suffering in poverty truly benefit when any surmountable differences receive less focus than the goal of ending poverty once and for all.

#### Working Together

For anti-poverty efforts to gain momentum and strength, Community Action and Head Start must foster relationships with one another that recognize and respect the inherent value of their connection.

The fundamental focus of these relationships must be how to best fight poverty together. More mundane issues must not be allowed to dominate the dialogue; only when the common vision of ending poverty is genuinely acknowledged will these mundane issues be recognized as secondary and manageable. Once the vision of ending poverty has taken center stage these peripheral issues should then be addressed by joint problem-solving methods.

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Community Action and Head Start relationships should reflect the Guiding Principles for Partnership put forth by the Administration for Children and Families/Region V Office. These Guiding Principles assert that mutual respect, open communication and joint problem-solving are essential for successful partnerships.

To show mutual respect Community Action and Head Start must value and recognize each other's unique knowledge and abilities. From this premise, both should commit to open communication; for example, program improvement ideas, anti-poverty field developments, and policy/regulation information should be shared. Community Action and Head Start should also operate with the basic belief that a joint problem-solving approach, with both parties open to change and working together, will consistently realize the best solution to any problem.

These relationships should also reflect the Code of Ethics put forth by the Community Action Partnership:

- Recognize that the chief function of the community action movement at all times is to serve the best interests of the poor;
- Accept as a personal duty the responsibility to keep up-to-date on emerging issues and to conduct ourselves with professional competence, fairness, and effectiveness;
- Respect the structure and responsibilities of the board of directors, provide them with facts and advice as a basis for their decision making, and uphold and implement the policies adopted by the board of directors;
- Keep the community informed about issues affecting the poor and to facilitate communication among the poor, the non-poor private sector, and locally elected public officials;
- Conduct our organizational and operational duties with positive leadership exemplified by open communication, creativity, dedication, and compassion;
- Exercise whatever discretionary authority we have under the law to promote the interests of the poor;
- Serve the community action movement with respect, concern, and responsiveness, recognizing that service to the poor is beyond service to oneself;
- Demonstrate the highest standards of personal integrity, truthfulness, and fortitude in our community action activities in order to inspire confidence in the community action movement;
- Perform our professional duties in such a way so as not to realize undue personal gain;
- Avoid any interest or activity which conflicts with the conduct of official duties;
- Protect confidentiality in the course of our official duties; and,
- Strive for personal professional excellence and encourage the professional development of our associates and those seeking to become community action executives.

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### Local Level

On a local level, the Community Action Director and the Head Start Director are critical to this process. In every community both must commit to a relationship that contributes to the eradication of poverty. Recognizing that communities have unique needs, Directors' relationships in various locales will look different to some degree. However, open communication that enhances mutual understanding is a common element that all Community Action and Head Start Directors' relationships should reflect.

Communication between the Community Action and Head Start Directors should occur both formally and informally, such as regular meetings as well as informal discussion. Annual work plans should be formulated that describe how the Community Action Program and Head Start will work together in a broad strategic sense and also on a day-to-day basis. In formulating these work plans "anti-silo" thinking should be exercised to avoid inefficiencies that result in duplicative services and less real help to real people.

One activity that should be included in these work plans is a joint analysis of community needs and assets related to poverty, and a determination of where the two programs should work closely together. In addition, there should be a plan to use monitoring results to ascertain joint program improvement work.

In the course of these various activities, staff at all levels as well as Boards of Directors and Policy Councils must also be involved if Community Action/Head Start partnerships are to be strong and effective. Staff can be directly involved in joint training and technical assistance that promotes high-quality, and consistent communication. For example, one local agency sponsored a training at which three guiding principles were developed. Now staff use these guiding principles to solve day-to-day conflicts in a way that maintains overall focus on broad agency vision and goals.

Another way that staff can be involved and invested in the fostering of Community Action/Head Start partnerships is through regular management team meetings. These meetings provide management staff the opportunity to discuss what is working and what is not, and in so doing keeps them informed and able to act early when problems arise.

A number of Community Action Agencies also promote open communication between Community Action and Head Start through periodic joint Board and Policy Council meetings. Some agencies have chosen to develop formal agreements outlining Board responsibilities, Policy Council responsibilities and shared responsibilities. Such agreements can reduce conflict as all parties have agreed upon roles.

Community Action and Head Start infrastructure resources should be shared, where efficiencies result. For example, if the two programs are not already housed together, serious consideration should be given to the advantages of such an arrangement. As noted earlier, there are significant benefits to clients when the Community Action Program and Head Start reside in the same location. In addition, technological resources may be coordinated, for cost benefits and also for mutual outcome monitoring.

### State Level

On a state level, two parties critical to this process include the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Offices and the Head Start Collaboration Directors. Even though a myriad of state designs determine specifics such as the parties' location within state government, a CSBG Office and a Head Start Collaboration Director exist in each state.

The general expectation each state must have for these parties is that they actively and regularly communicate on a strategic and practical level, in a manner that fosters continuous improvement in a state's

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overall ability to fight poverty. This communication should be structured as well as spontaneous. For example, the parties should have an annual work plan that encompasses both statewide anti-poverty initiatives as well as practical and ongoing activities. Annual work plans should be specific and include goals and corresponding timeframes.

Major strategic activities included in an annual work plan should include conducting joint conferences/trainings, as well as creating and participating on statewide coalitions and other broad state initiatives.

On a more ongoing basis, these parties should share information such as grantee lists; funding levels; reports; onsite review schedules; onsite review results; grantee training and technical assistance dates, and conference or activity dates. Additional information that should be shared includes any problems or issues that either program is facing, as well as other related program, legislation, regulation and policy developments. This information sharing must be executed in a manner that is in accordance with confidentiality requirements of both federal and state law.

The parties should also collaborate to provide training/technical assistance and monitoring to Community Action and Head Start grantees, keeping one another informed of efforts and outcomes related to any training/technical assistance and monitoring provided to individual grantees, as well as training/technical assistance provided to the entire networks.

Additional parties essential to the establishment and maintenance of a strong Community Action and Head Start alliance are both the Community Action and the Head Start state associations. They should participate in the aforementioned activities as appropriate, while also create and promote a joint legislative agenda.

#### Working Toward Common Outcomes

According to Information Memorandum 49, "The most successful (community action) agencies have come to understand that Community Action not only survives, but thrives, when it engages in continuous self-examination.... 'star players' ask and answer, again and again: 'Why are we here? Who are we helping? What are we helping them to become? How will we know and describe success, both theirs and ours?'"

With the common goal of ending poverty, Community Action and Head Start should be asking these questions together. Both have developed systems for monitoring success, such as Results Oriented Management Accountability (ROMA) and the Program Performance Measures. Specifically, ROMA goals include the following:

- Goal 1: Low-income people become more self-sufficient.
- Goal 2: The conditions in which low-income people live are improved.
- Goal 3: Low-income people own a stake in their community.
- Goal 4: Partnerships among supporters and providers of service to low-income people are achieved.
- Goal 5: Agencies increase their capacity to achieve results.
- Goal 6: Low-income people, especially vulnerable populations, achieve their potential by strengthening family and other supportive systems.

Not surprisingly, Community Action and Head Start have both developed systems for monitoring success that have goals related to helping people achieve self-reliance. Community Action and Head Start must work together on a local, state and federal level to ensure that coordinated outcome planning and implementation occurs.

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### Benefits to a Strong Alliance

If Community Action and Head Start meaningfully recommit to an alliance, albeit a challenging endeavor at times, families in poverty will reap the benefits of focused and united efforts. They will reap the benefits of efficiencies on a local, state and federal level that ultimately mean there are more dollars to fight poverty. They will reap the benefits of a clear and consistent anti-poverty message to policymakers.

Families and all people living in poverty will reap the benefits of two strong poverty fighters more frequently and consistently thinking and planning with a higher purpose – that being how best to end poverty.

### Conclusion

Under ever intense political and financial pressures, Community Action and Head Start can be lured into believing that if they “go it alone” they can single-handedly eradicate poverty - that the merit of their alliance should be based solely on issues other than the recognition that together they are better equipped to fight poverty than separately.

Community Action and Head Start must remain visionary and keep the focus on ending poverty, for once poverty is genuinely named the enemy, secondary issues such as power, turf and money will take their rightful place behind the ultimate goal. Then they will become issues to be solved through joint problem-solving, and not issues that threaten the very foundation and effectiveness of anti-poverty work.

For when President Johnson declared “Because it is right, because it is wise, and because, for the first time in our history, it is possible to conquer poverty....”<sup>13</sup> he hailed a fight to the finish, with resources targeted and working together. Community Action and Head Start are two primary fighters in the War, and with thirty million Americans still living in poverty their work together is far from finished.

Written & Compiled by Julie Keller, 2002.

<sup>1</sup> [www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1964johnson-warpoverty.html](http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1964johnson-warpoverty.html)

<sup>2</sup> Edward Zigler and Jeanette Valentine, ed., *Project Head Start* (The Free Press, Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc., 1979, 1997), p. 6.

<sup>3</sup> *Project Head Start*, page 6.

<sup>4</sup> Edward Zigler and Susan Muenchow, *Head Start: The Inside Story of America's Most Successful Educational Experiment* (New York: BasicBooks, HarperCollins Publishers, Inc., 1992), p. 43.

<sup>5</sup> *Project Head Start*, p. 409.

<sup>6</sup> *Project Head Start*, p. 409-410.

<sup>7</sup> Community Services Block Grant Program Information Transmittal No. 49 (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Community Services, February 21, 2001).

<sup>8</sup> *Project Head Start*, p. 99.

<sup>9</sup> *Project Head Start*, p. 92.

<sup>10</sup> *Head Start: The Inside Story of America's Most Successful Educational Experiment*, p.2.

<sup>11</sup> [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)

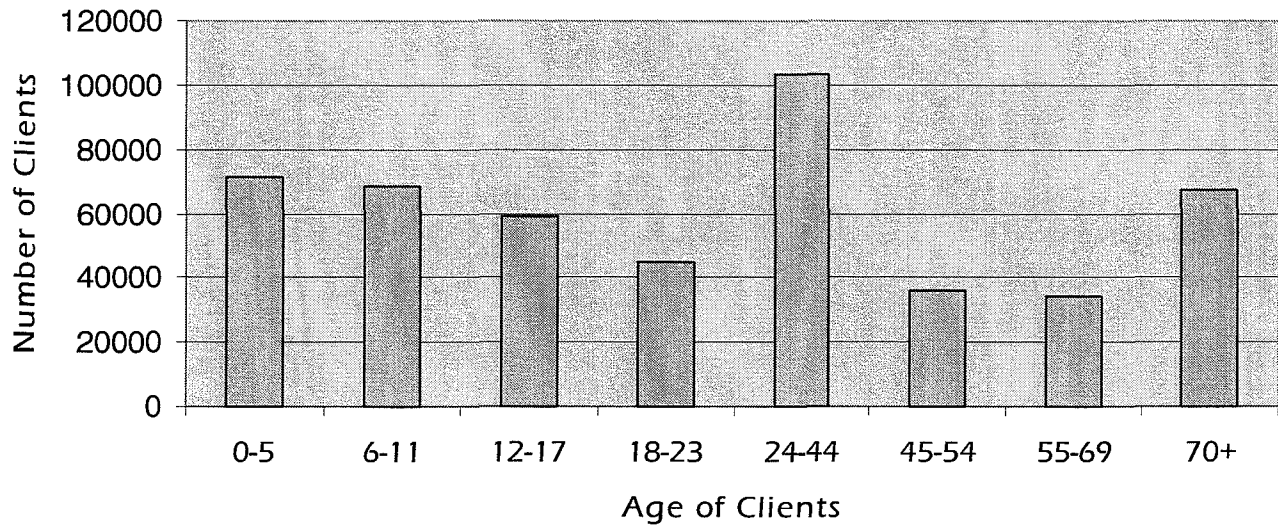
<sup>12</sup> [www.childrensdefense.org/fairstart-povstat1.htm](http://www.childrensdefense.org/fairstart-povstat1.htm)

<sup>13</sup> [www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1964johnson-warpoverty.html](http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1964johnson-warpoverty.html)

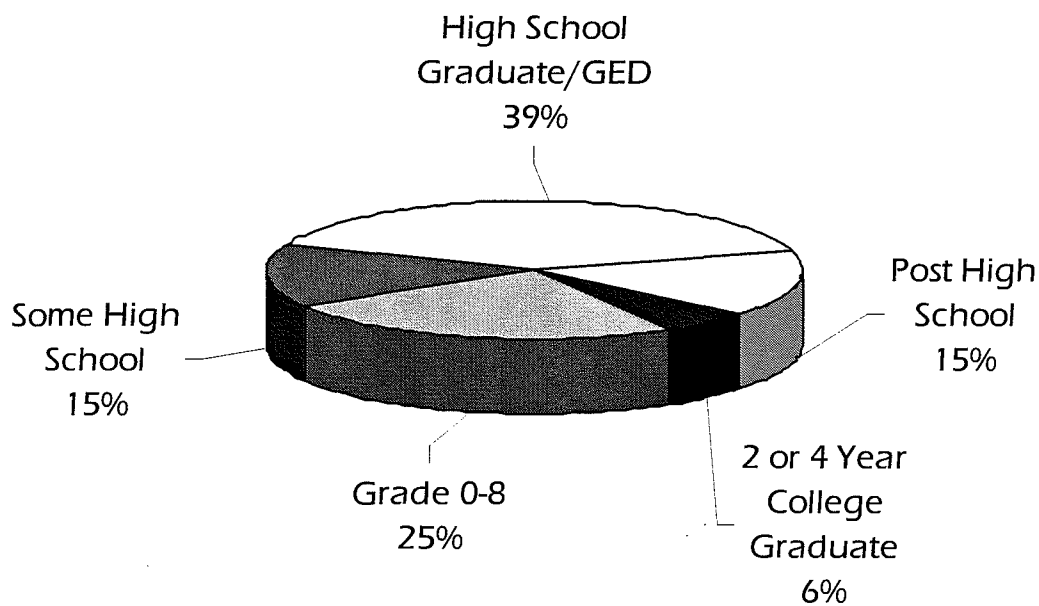
# **Statewide Overview**

## 2003 Client Characteristics

### Age Distribution of Clients

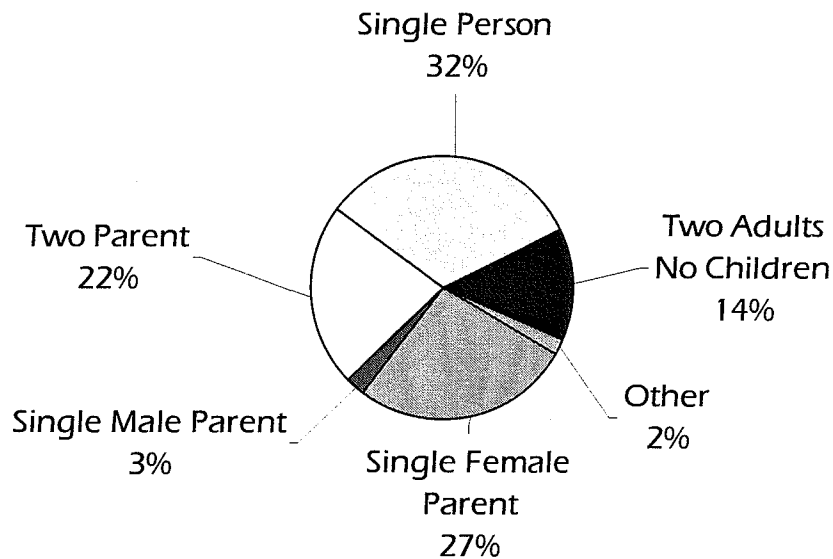


### Client Education Level

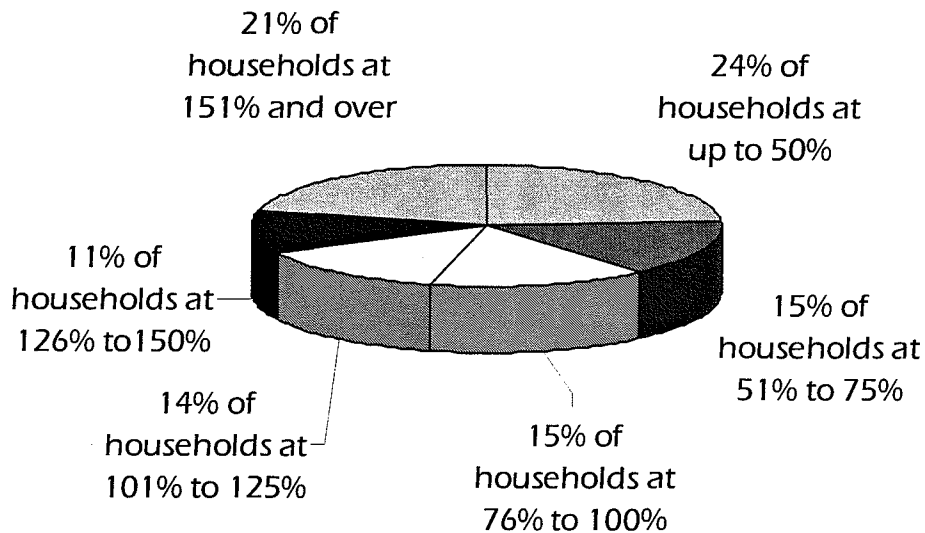


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## Client Household Composition



## Household Incomes Relative to the Federal Poverty Level



## 2003 Community Action Funding Summary

Agency Name	MEOG	CSBG	Other Federal
Anoka	\$236,335	\$198,862	\$ 19,447,157
Arrowhead	\$216,344	\$228,601	\$ 16,369,900
Bi-County	\$38,764	\$193,109	\$ 7,644,539
Bois Forte	\$ 5,878	\$14,291	\$827,712
CA Duluth	\$184,830	\$209,213	
CA Minneapolis	\$766,620	\$939,401	\$ 9,253,425
CASH	\$329,227	\$427,598	\$ 3,797,774
Fond du Lac	\$13,002	\$23,381	\$ 1,099,739
Grand Portage	\$12,380	\$13,518	\$403,928
Heartland	\$222,417	\$187,411	\$ 5,629,893
Inter-County	\$78,791	\$107,827	\$ 3,631,022
KOOTASCA	\$149,005	\$139,357	\$ 5,518,288
Lakes & Pines	\$250,990	\$266,249	\$ 7,540,626
Lakes & Prairies	\$102,892	\$135,707	\$ 3,098,032
Leech Lake	\$18,083	\$49,294	\$ 4,934,758
Lower Sioux	\$12,000	\$20,012	
Mahube	\$159,908	\$142,911	\$ 6,159,733
Mille Lacs Band	\$13,147	\$16,448	\$100,000
MVAC	\$382,076	\$387,87	\$ 10,194,468
Northwest	\$66,855	\$57,217	\$ 3,681,573
Olmsted	\$94,921	\$122,072	\$987,003
Otter Tail-Wadena	\$86,353	\$157,686	\$ 2,856,291
Prairie Five	\$81,617	\$118,246	\$ 3,245,792
Ramsey Action	\$443,064	\$865,500	\$ 18,020,689
Red Lake Band	\$10,204	\$36,880	\$ 1,100,991
Scott-Carver-Dakota	\$294,929	\$247,065	\$ 5,058,225
Semcac	\$200,017	\$257,010	\$ 7,530,013
South Central	\$24,794	\$57,543	\$78,995
Southwestern	\$82,154	\$110,771	\$ 3,627,085
Three Rivers	\$167,517	\$142,246	\$ 3,327,874
Tri-CAP (St. Cloud)	\$240,311	\$297,223	\$ 2,811,708
Tri-County (TCC)	\$217,840	\$236,157	\$ 3,424,035
Tri-Valley	\$79,993	\$94,355	\$ 10,434,427
Upper Sioux	\$8,822	\$18,940	\$956,003
West Central	\$104,669	\$144,242	\$ 5,745,130
Western	\$145,747	\$147,090	\$ 3,726,805
White Earth	\$35,739	\$48,738	\$ 1,800,791
Wright County	\$48,770	\$87,612	\$ 4,648,760
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,627,003</b>	<b>\$6,947,657</b>	<b>\$188,713,184</b>

\*More than half (\$4,857,061) of the original 2003-2004 Minnesota Economic Opportunity Grant (MEOG) was unallotted in February of 2003.

<b>Total State</b>	<b>Local</b>	<b>Private</b>	<b>Total Budget</b>
\$2,130,941	\$1,115,850	\$307,379	<b>\$23,436,524</b>
\$10,390,775	\$348,954	\$1,944,318	<b>\$29,498,892</b>
\$1,600,929		\$327,005	<b>\$9,804,346</b>
\$102,095			<b>\$949,976</b>
\$184,830		\$35,343	<b>\$614,216</b>
\$570,213	\$197,872	\$68,713	<b>\$5,391,397</b>
\$781,120		\$1,237,426	<b>\$12,977,992</b>
\$1,208,730	\$1,954,253	\$1,391,781	<b>\$5,690,886</b>
\$81,281			<b>\$511,107</b>
\$1,005,411	\$377,028	\$568,074	<b>\$7,990,234</b>
\$644,398	\$36,867	\$453,194	<b>\$4,952,099</b>
\$1,443,441	\$162,297	\$811,934	<b>\$8,224,322</b>
\$1,240,590	\$23,899	\$47,303	<b>\$9,369,657</b>
\$797,214	\$109,251	\$1,279,250	<b>\$5,522,346</b>
\$2,510,429			<b>\$7,512,564</b>
\$12,000			<b>\$44,012</b>
\$1,024,499		\$888,257	<b>\$8,375,308</b>
\$75,749	\$701,341		<b>\$906,684</b>
\$6,620,814	\$140,605	\$1,123,208	<b>\$18,849,045</b>
\$1,813,171		\$292,808	<b>\$5,911,624</b>
\$127,508	\$57,878	\$300	<b>\$1,389,682</b>
\$1,279,785	\$68,023	\$910,899	<b>\$5,359,037</b>
\$813,345	\$106,020	\$841,770	<b>\$5,206,790</b>
\$3,486,581	\$2,178,436	\$1,821,048	<b>\$26,815,318</b>
\$10,204	\$142,883		<b>\$1,301,162</b>
\$1,688,903	\$448,357	\$4,322,448	<b>\$12,059,927</b>
\$2,056,924	\$284,330	\$1,769,561	<b>\$12,097,855</b>
\$121,942	\$50,835	\$135,321	<b>\$469,430</b>
\$968,047	\$40,064	\$251,448	<b>\$5,079,569</b>
\$1,021,772	\$56,415	\$1,099,155	<b>\$5,814,979</b>
\$1,525,568	\$363,760	\$2,942,057	<b>\$8,180,627</b>
\$915,826	\$37,513	\$222,510	<b>\$5,053,881</b>
\$3,399,953	\$612,401	\$898,353	<b>\$15,519,482</b>
\$292,872			<b>\$1,276,637</b>
\$624,455	\$60,349	\$639,552	<b>\$7,318,396</b>
\$2,821,699		\$1,416,506	<b>\$8,257,847</b>
\$1,594,094	\$232,974	\$2,029,740	<b>\$5,742,076</b>
\$516,049		\$514,351	<b>\$5,815,542</b>
<b>\$57,504,156</b>	<b>\$9,908,455</b>	<b>\$30,591,012</b>	<b>\$299,291,467</b>

\* Private dollars do not include the value of donated volunteer hours  
1,625,250 hours at \$5.00 per hour = \$8,126,250 additional value.

# Statewide Program Activity Summary

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households	Times Service Was Provided
<b>EMPLOYMENT</b>				
D1	Employment and Training Services	1,685	1,598	1,749
D3	Youth Employment	1,313	1,100	1,176
D6	Senior Employment Programs	335	319	329
D7	FSET	316	226	316
D8	Displaced Homemakers	672	407	407
<b>EDUCATION</b>				
J1	Head Start	34,644	12,349	14,815
L1	GED and Educational Services	4,440	2,565	2,844
L2	Literacy	1,859	1,072	1,859
L3	English as a Second Language (ESL)	10	10	10
L4	Adult Basic Education (ABE)	147	147	147
<b>INCOME MANAGEMENT</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	7,404	3,383	4,366
M3	Tax Aid	59,349	25,988	26,729
M4	Asset Development (FAIM)	743	348	547
<b>HOUSING</b>				
B1	Weatherization	10,015	3,720	3,723
B3	MECS Audits	4,133	1,369	1,369
B4	Other Conservation Services	2,636	1,084	1,075
B7	Energy Related Repairs	10,053	3,621	3,621
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	2,148	826	879
C3	Home Repair/Rehabilitation	908	490	546
C5	Small Cities Development Grants (SCDG)	979	361	355
C6	Rental Housing Assistance	3,408	1,769	1,769
C7	Low-Income Housing Development	784	571	575
C8	Community Housing Stabilization	3,139	1,345	1,345
<b>EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>				
C9	Community Homeownership Education	4,118	1,926	1,926
B5	Energy Assistance	297,090	108,030	109,190
B6	Energy Crisis	81,282	25,685	26,015
B8	Fuel Fund	4,408	1,455	1,358
C10	Homeless Assistance	11,720	4,292	9,755
C11	MN Transitional Housing	729	312	572
C12	TANF/Transitional Housing	516	132	514
G1	Emergency Family Services	8,048	4,760	7,443
G3	Abuse and Neglect	1,290	739	1,163
G6	Donated Articles	112,408	35,336	83,475
G8	Crisis Intervention	15,243	5,957	6,216

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households	Times Service Was Provided
<b>NUTRITION</b>				
H1	Food Assistance	103,399	38,249	46,196
H2	Community Services Food Packages	1,367	997	1,364
H3	Holiday Projects	28,000	8,842	6,851
H4	Women, Infants, Children (WIC)	21,827	11,841	95,256
H5	Gardening	617	273	273
H6	Home Delivered Meals	15,381	10,737	426,799
H7	Congregate Meals	17,277	13,506	1,095,048
H9	USDA Commodity Assistance	25,453	11,525	16,137
<b>LINKAGES</b>				
E1	Transportation System	55,203	46,291	372,866
E3	Transportation Assistance	13,700	10,991	26,065
E4	Vehicle Program	597	534	534
F1	Senior Oriented Services	4,535	3,618	5,414
F3	Chore Services	1,613	1,542	129,821
F5	Retired Senior Volunteers (RSVP)	79,030	5,167	5,742
F6	Senior Companions/Foster Grandparents	32,554	11,458	13,334
K1	Information and Referral	642,046	244,746	436,953
K2	Outreach	367,103	170,177	253,426
K3	Advocacy Info/Education	527,099	235,665	329,112
K4	Contract Services	4,004	1,991	4,061
<b>SELF SUFFICIENCY</b>				
J2	Child Care	3,447	1,961	2,408
J3	Child Care Administration	5,745	2,387	5,976
J4	At Risk Youth	1,751	1,073	1,130
J5	Campership	41	23	34
J6	Child Care Resource & Referral	23,208	15,366	16,321
J7	Youth Recreation	2,780	2,344	2,517
J8	Parenting Education	2,582	1,563	3,082
J9	Fatherhood Initiative	1,205	838	1,228
J10	Crisis Nursery	892	437	1,145
M1	Self Sufficiency	7,483	4,860	5,621
M5	Family Loan Fund	472	184	183
<b>HEALTH</b>				
I1	Health Care Aid Non-Financial	4,765	4,514	4,735
I2	Health Care Aid – Financial	3,530	1,318	3,754
I3	Family Planning	5,122	5,073	5,076
<b>OTHER</b>				
A1	Community Development	680	483	381
A5	Cottage Industries	403	392	436
	Coat Drive	161	72	72
	School Supplies	154	54	80
	Rainbow Bridge	375	250	1,219

# Funding Source Definitions

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## SOURCES OF ANNUAL FUNDING

### **Minnesota Economic Opportunity Grant (MEOG)**

Minnesota Economic Opportunity Grant funding is appropriated through the Minnesota state legislature and is used for the same purpose as federal CSBG funding. The grant period is the state fiscal year.

### **Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)**

Community Services Block Grant funding is appropriated through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The grant period is the federal fiscal year.

### **Other Federal Funding**

Includes non-Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funding appropriated by the Federal Government. Some examples of Other Federal Funding are:

- Weatherization (Wx)
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- LIHEAP and Weatherization
- Head Start
- Early Head Start
- Older Americans Act
- Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)
- Medicare/Medicaid
- Community Food & Nutrition
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
- Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG)
- Women, Infants & Children Nutrition Program (WIC)
- USDA food and non-food programs
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
- HUD Housing Programs
- Employment and Training Programs
- Corporation for National Service Programs
- Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA)
- Assets for Independence Act (AFIA)
- Transportation

### **Other State Funding**

Includes non-Minnesota Economic Opportunity Grant (MEOG) funding appropriated through the Minnesota state legislature. Some examples of Other State Funding are:

- State Housing and Homeless Programs
- State Nutrition Programs
- State Child Care and Early Childhood Programs
- State Energy Programs
- State Health Programs
- State Youth Development Programs
- State Head Start Programs
- Family Assets for Independence in Minnesota (FAIM) Program

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- State Senior Services
  - State Transportation Programs
  - State Education Programs
  - State Community and Economic Development Programs
  - State Rural Development Programs

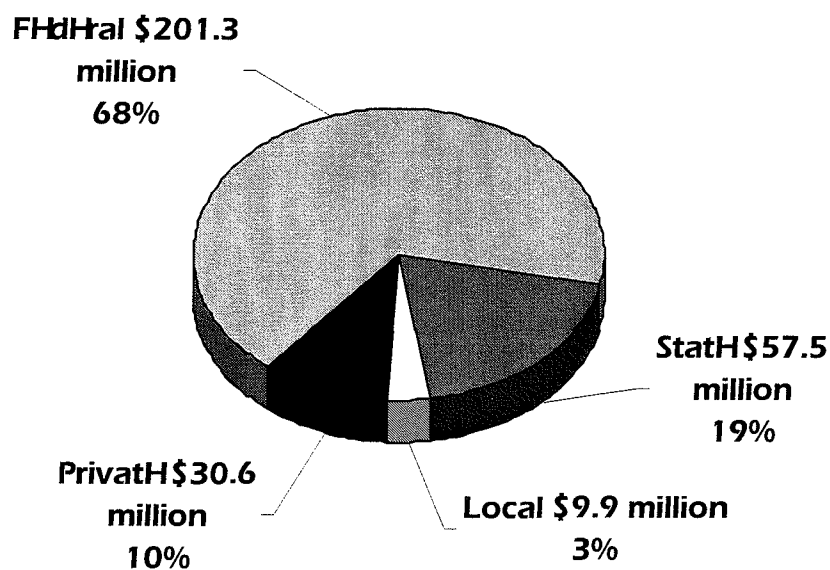
### **Local Funding**

Includes all funding appropriated by a county or city government as well as Tribal Government funding.

### **Private Funding**

Includes funding from foundations, corporations, United Way and other donated funding. Private funding also includes the value of donated items such as food, clothing and furniture.

## **Total Community Action Funding**





# **Local Agency Information**

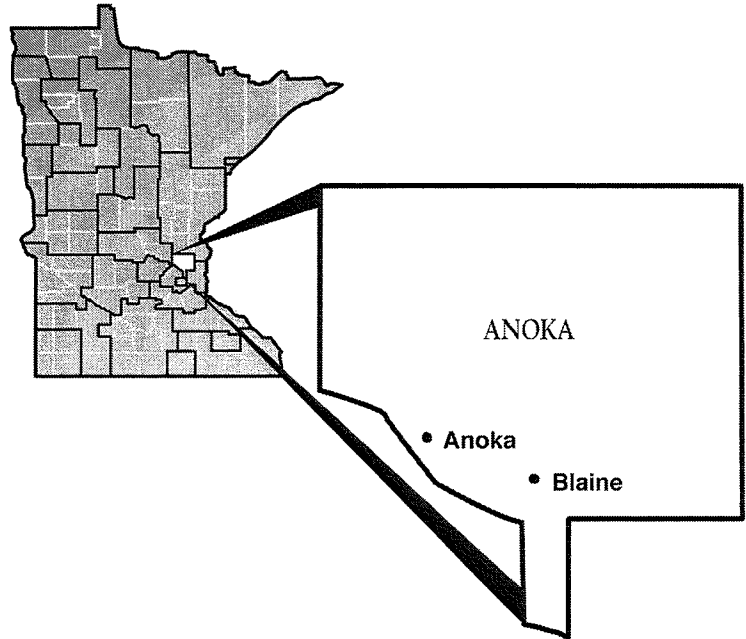
# Anoka County Community Action Program, Inc.

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## Results Highlight

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### *Child Care Assistance Subsidy Programs Administration*

Anoka County Community Action Program, Inc. (ACCAP) administers all Child Care Assistance (CCA) programs under contract with Anoka County. CCA programs are government-funded programs that help low and moderate income parents and other caregivers, pay for a child's care. CCA programs include basic sliding fee for non-welfare clients, MFIP child care for parents moving from welfare, and transitional child care for parents moving from welfare to non-welfare. About 1,300 families are served on average by all three programs, all of whom are either employed or in school developing employment skills.

The programs are very effective in alleviating poverty and fostering self-sufficiency by allowing parents to work. It provides the most resources to the lowest income families and provides incentive for people to leave welfare. Last year, the programs collectively spent \$12,000 helping people pay their child care costs.

The programs are a collaboration between ACCAP, Anoka County, the Workforce Center, and child care providers. The programs work with more than 900 child care licensed family homes and centers, and provide substantial employment opportunities for child care professionals.

Our programs are uniquely positioned to provide resources that are an absolute necessity to low income parents with young children in their efforts to become self reliant. They are key to improving the local child care community and also to improving the existing child care community assets.

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households Served	Times Service Was Provided
<b>Education</b>				
J1	Head Start	2,834	1,417	1,705
<b>Income Management</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	301	108	108
M4	Asset Development (FAIM)	40	10	10
<b>Housing</b>				
B1	Weatherization	457	153	153
B4	Other Conservation Services	149	47	47
B7	Energy Related Repairs	155	55	55
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	20	8	8
C6	Rental Housing Assistance	39	39	39
C7	Low-Income Housing Development	335	330	335
C8	Community Housing Stabilization	1	1	1
C9	Community Homeownership ED	480	191	191
<b>Emergency Services</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	9,565	3,788	3,788
B6	Energy Crisis	1,572	478	478
B8	Fuel Fund	92	22	22
C10	Homeless Assistance	309	107	107
C11	MN Transitional Housing	64	64	64
G6	Donated Articles	1,210	412	412
G8	Crisis Intervention	656	221	221
<b>Linkages</b>				
F1	Senior Oriented Services	1,119	899	2,191
F3	Chore Services	482	349	3,216
F6	Senior Companions/Foster Grandparents	83	82	1,909
<b>Self Sufficiency</b>				
J2	Child Care	35	9	9
J3	Child Care Administration	5,582	2,082	5,582
J6	Child Care Resource & Referral	5,237	1,485	2,440

# Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, Inc.

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Harlan Tardy, Executive Director

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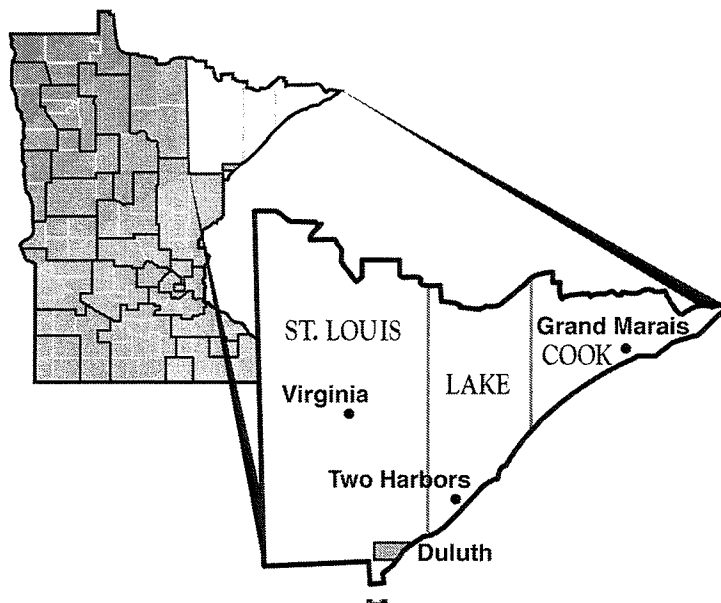
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## Results Highlight

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### *Section 8 to Homeownership: Partnering and Caring to Make Dreams Come True*

Section 8 to Homeownership is an innovative program that allows very low-income and eligible households to use housing subsidy as payment toward a mortgage. Traditionally, Section 8 subsidies have been used for rental units. Managed by the Virginia Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA), Section 8 to Homeownership is a collaborative project with AEOA Housing Services and other providers. Many factors contribute to its success – cooperative planning and implementation, feasible household eligibility requirements, and willingness to take a risk. Nothing illustrates the success better, however, than the story of the first family to own their home, Marcene Drift and her sons.

Marcene Drift graduated from AEOA's Homeownership program in September of 2002, and in February, 2003, she closed on her home in Eveleth. Marcene has three boys and her house is always full of people. She owns a white two-story home with a birch tree in the front yard and a great-looking deck off of her kitchen in back. "It was the kitchen that sold me on the house, but everything about having my own home has been wonderful for my family. The boys are not embarrassed to have friends over. We can finally have pets – Emily, Bailey, a kitty, a turtle, and a hamster. I don't have to wait until morning to call the landlord with a problem. I can pound a nail in the wall and the boys can choose the colors they want their rooms painted."

Marcene has a physical disability that prevents her from working, and two of her sons also cope with health issues. "The people who helped me worked together so well. John at the HRA is such a great person and was so helpful. Dorene made home visits so that I could complete homeownership classes when I was sick. Cary worked with me to find a house that would be affordable. Jenny at the Family Investment Center helped me as I transitioned from being employed to having to quit work because of my disability, and Kris at Rural Development helped me secure an affordable mortgage. If I can do this, anyone can. Everyone was so helpful. I wouldn't own a home without them."

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households Served	Times Service Was Provided
<b>Employment</b>				
D1	Employment & Training Services	19	19	19
D3	Youth Employment	8	8	8
D6	Senior Employment Programs	13	13	13
D7	FSET	637	605	637
D8	Displaced Homemakers	86	86	86
<b>Education</b>				
J1	Head Start	797	733	797
L2	Literacy	37	37	37
L3	English / Second Language (ESL)	90	90	90
L4	Adult Basic Education (ABE)	2,503	2,378	2,503
<b>Income Management</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	26	10	26
M3	Tax Aid	3,347	3,347	3,347
M4	Asset Development (FAIM)	26	10	26
<b>Housing</b>				
B1	Weatherization	835	342	342
B3	MECS Audits	335	129	129
B7	Energy Related Repairs	1,276	524	524
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	361	157	157
C6	Rental Housing Assistance	116	44	44
C7	Low-Income Housing Development	18	7	7
C9	Community Homeownership ED	237	170	170
<b>Emergency Services</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	20,056	8,907	8,907
B6	Energy Crisis	5,801	2,134	2,314
B8	Fuel Fund	123	41	41
C10	Homeless Assistance	609	343	343
C11	MN Transitional Housing	66	56	56
G1	Emergency Family Services	64	20	20
G6	Donated Articles	817	331	23,222
<b>Nutrition</b>				
H1	Food Assistance	18,329	7,187	7,187
H3	Holiday Projects	2,033	898	898
H6	Home Delivered Meals	2,299	2,241	213,312
H7	Congregate Meals	10,124	9,618	230,773
<b>Linkages</b>				
E1	Transportation System	374,665	93,666	374,665
E3	Transportation Assistance	7,698	1,925	7,698
F1	Senior Oriented Services	676	610	676
F3	Chore Services	85	85	286
F5	Retired Senior Volunteers (RSVP)	74,320	743	1,273
K1	Information and Referral	1,080	298	580
K3	Advocacy Info/Education	7,046	4,820	11,304
<b>Self Sufficiency</b>				
J4	At Risk Youth	210	210	210
M1	Self Sufficiency	1,623	1,592	1,623

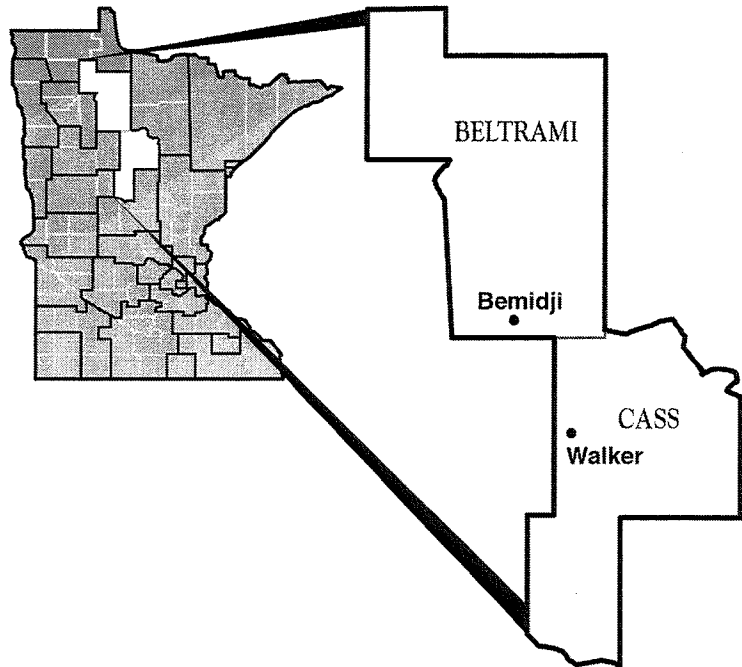
# Bi-County Community Action Program, Inc.

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Lucille A. Moe, Executive Director

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## Results Highlight

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### *YouthBuild Program*

Bi-County Community Action Program, Inc.'s (Bi-CAP's) YouthBuild Program is a comprehensive, hands-on construction training program that includes education and leadership development components. It serves 20 at-risk youth each year. Orientation is held twice a year, and approximately ten youth per orientation are accepted. Bi-CAP's YouthBuild Program is diploma-based rather than GED-based. The construction projects are single family homes for low-income buyers that serve as a vehicle for job readiness. YouthBuild also provides maintenance and repair, and in some cases, rehabilitation on Bi-CAP's transitional housing units for homeless people.

Bi-CAP serves Beltrami and Cass counties, two large, rural, high-poverty counties in northern Minnesota. Parts of the Leech Lake and Red Lake Indian Reservations are encompassed in the two counties. The YouthBuild Program has numerous examples of positive outcomes. The past two years Bi-CAP's Youthbuild has enjoyed a 75% Native American participation rate. The program has consistently maintained at least a 50% Native American participation rate for the past five years. Currently, the program's retention rate is 85% with 40% of graduates going on to post-secondary education. More than 50% of the participants complete their high school diplomas while they are in the program, and the majority of the others finish within the next year of follow-up.

These results are highly significant in the world of high-risk youth, especially for minority populations. Achieving a high school diploma, learning construction trade skills and leadership development activities all foster self-sufficiency, fend off poverty, and integrate youth into their communities.

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households Served	Times Service Was Provided
<b>Employment</b>				
D1	Employment & Training Services	16	16	16
D3	Youth Employment	115	30	30
<b>Education</b>				
J1	Head Start	1,382	479	387
<b>Income Management</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	2,706	903	928
<b>Housing</b>				
B1	Weatherization	328	125	125
B3	MECS Audits	3	1	1
B4	Other Conservation Services	51	28	28
B7	Energy Related Repairs	551	192	192
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	19	12	15
C3	Home Repair/Rehabilitation	57	41	67
C5	Small Cities Development Grants (SCDG)	63	26	26
C6	Rental Housing Assistance	188	73	73
C7	Low-Income Housing Development	3	1	1
C8	Community Housing Stabilization	19	5	5
C9	Community Homeownership ED	185	85	85
<b>Emergency Services</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	8,599	3,384	3,384
B6	Energy Crisis	2,684	897	897
B8	Fuel Fund	84	26	26
C10	Homeless Assistance	664	231	664
C11	MN Transitional Housing	82	23	82
C12	TANF/Transitional Housing	236	69	236
G6	Donated Articles	22	7	7
G8	Crisis Intervention	310	123	123
<b>Nutrition</b>				
H2	Community Services Food Packages	150	50	600
H3	Holiday Projects	1,402	467	467
<b>Linkages</b>				
E3	Transportation Assistance	118	98	118
K1	Information and Referral	6,282	2,672	15,187
K2	Outreach	6,282	2,672	15,187
K3	Advocacy Info/Education	22,762	15,175	22,762

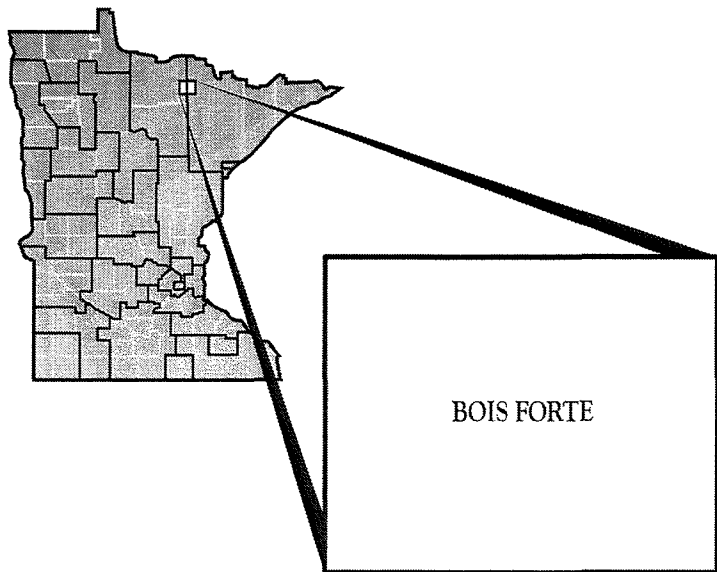
# Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council

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## Results Highlight

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### *Housing Rehabilitation*

Over the past three years, the Tribal Council has undertaken a major housing rehabilitation effort of privately owned homes on the Reservation. More than 50 homes occupied by low-to-moderate-income families are being approved to Section 8 standard living conditions. This successful effort to provide decent, affordable housing has been funded by a combination of HUD Indian Community Development Block Grant, Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act (NAHSDA) funds and Band resources.

Improving the conditions of the Reservation housing compliments those activities funded through the program funded through MEOG/CSBG. These programs provide modest emergency housing repairs, emergency food and clothing, utility assistance, youth services, and support for the Bois Forte News, which keeps all Band members aware of Reservation-wide services.

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households	Times Service Was Provided
<b>Employment</b>				
D3	Youth Employment	35	15	15
D6	Senior Employment Programs	3	3	3
<b>Education</b>				
J1	Head Start	147	54	54
<b>Housing</b>				
B1	Weatherization	11	3	3
B7	Energy Related Repairs	4	4	4
C6	Rental Housing Assistance	218	93	93
C9	Community Homeownership Education	37	10	10
<b>Emergency Services</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	702	121	121
B6	Energy Crisis	82	29	29
C11	MN Transitional Housing	153	60	60
<b>Nutrition</b>				
H1	Food Assistance	47	17	18
H5	Gardening	36	25	25
H7	Congregate Meals	23	18	18
<b>Linkages</b>				
F5	Retired Senior Volunteers (RSVP)	4	4	4
	Senior Companions/Foster	1	1	1
F6	Grandparents			
<b>Self Sufficiency</b>				
J2	Child Care	39	39	39
J6	Child Care Resource & Referral	1	1	1

# Community Action Duluth, Inc.

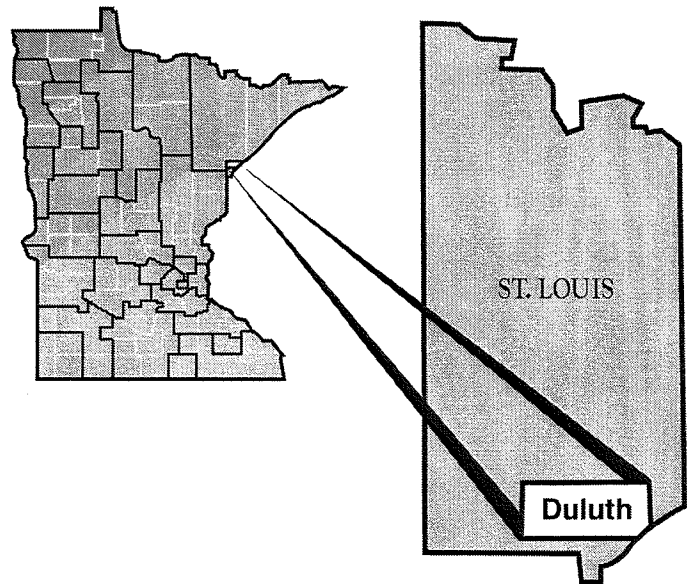
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## Results Highlight

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In June 2003, Community Action Duluth (CAD) program participants produced a framework for understanding the root causes of poverty through a theater production. The production, *One Voice*, creatively connected the audience to the insightful and sometimes shocking look at the lives of low-income people through telling their personal story and skits on work, class, race and poverty. The production of the play was a collaborative effort between CAD and Stepping Stone Theatre in St. Paul, Minnesota. The performance was an eye opener that compelled cast members of the play and the audience to re-examine their private and public lives, as caring individuals and families, to give of their time and personal commitment in sharing the responsibility of ending poverty in our community.

Our goal was to create an emotional connection with diverse people in the cast and the audience to increase relationships across socio-economic class and race lines. The production of the play allowed us to show how important the theatre's connection is to its community. It gave us an opportunity to reach a different audience, who was not fully aware of the daily challenges low-income people face, especially families who have multiple barriers and for whom poverty is generational. For many of the families, this was the first time that they had participated in the performing arts and felt totally empowered by this experience. As a result of the play, five families obtained full-time employment from audience members who attended the performance. The play was a tool for us to also address the new budget cut impact on low-income families by the last legislation session. *One Voice* was given rave reviews by audience members and the second production of play will be coming soon in 2004.

<i>Code</i>	<i>Program Activity</i>	<i>Number of People Served</i>	<i>Number of Households Served</i>	<i>Times Service Was Provided</i>
<b>Employment</b>				
D1	Employment & Training Services	25	21	21
D6	Senior Employment Programs	1	1	1
D8	Displaced Homemakers	10	10	10
<b>Education</b>				
L1	GED & Educational Services	25	21	25
<b>Income Management</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	63	62	189
M3	Tax Aid	20	20	20
M4	Asset Development (FAIM)	41	39	41
<b>Housing</b>				
B1	Weatherization	2	2	2
B7	Energy Related Repairs	7	1	1
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	14	14	14
C6	Rental Housing Assistance	19	19	19
C9	Community Homeownership Education	37	33	33
<b>Emergency Services</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	12	12	12
B6	Energy Crisis	21	21	21
B8	Fuel Fund	5	5	5
C10	Homeless Assistance	4	4	4
C11	MN Transitional Housing	2	2	2
C12	TANF/Transitional Housing	1	1	1
G1	Emergency Family Services	25	21	25
G3	Abuse and Neglect	1	1	1
G6	Donated Articles	13	13	13
G8	Crisis Intervention	25	21	21
<b>Nutrition</b>				
H1	Food Assistance	27	23	23
H2	Community Services Food Packages	2	2	2
H3	Holiday Projects	25	21	21
H4	Women, Infants, Children (WIC)	2	2	2
H9	USDA Commodity Assistance	2	2	2
<b>Linkages</b>				
E1	Transportation System	25	21	21
E3	Transportation Assistance	25	21	21
E4	Vehicle Program	15	15	15
K1	Information and Referral	472	410	410
K2	Outreach	3,482	3,221	3,221
K3	Advocacy Info/Education	3,251	3,120	3,120
K4	Contract Services	25	27	27
<b>Self Sufficiency</b>				
J2	Child Care	5	5	5
J4	At Risk Youth	11	10	10
J5	Campership	13	6	6
J6	Child Care Resource & Referral	11	10	10
J8	Parenting Education	25	21	21
J10	Crisis Nursery	3	3	3
M1	Self Sufficiency	25	21	21
M5	Family Loan Fund	30	25	25
<b>Health</b>				
I1	Health Care Aid Non-Financial	12	10	10
I2	Health Care Aid – Financial	2	2	2
I3	Family Planning	2	2	2

# Community Action of Minneapolis

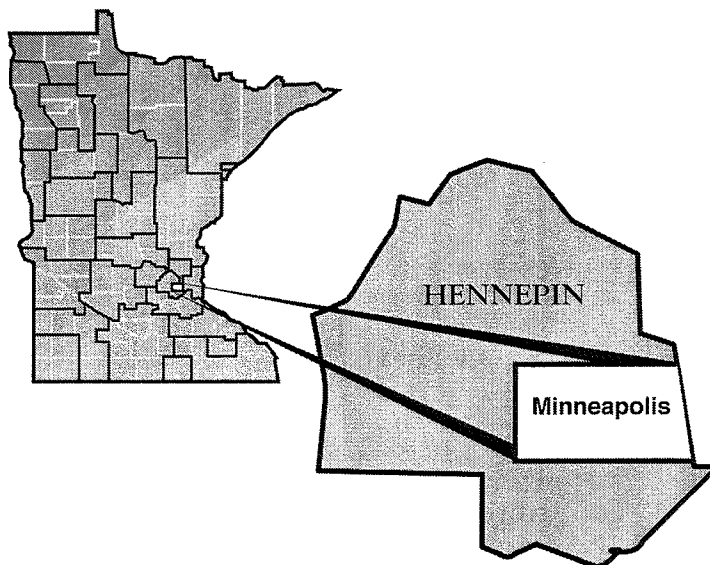
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## ***Project Striving Toward Economic Progress***

Project Striving Toward Economic Progress (STEP) uses a family development model that focuses on holistic planning for self-sufficiency and intense case management. Last year, Project STEP served 63 families. The youth component of the program served 143 children. The graduate group, called Sister Circle, served 25 women. Fifty women completed STEP with 29% reaching two or more self-sufficiency goals within their Family Action Plan. Two women earned their GEDs, and 18 gained employment and/or remained employed during the program year.

Project STEP changed the lives of many of the women it has served over its ten-year history. One 46-year-old graduate from the 2001-2002 group remained active in the Sister Circle Graduates Group. "Project STEP gave me a sense of who I am and where I can go," she says. "It gave me self-esteem and a place to go for confidential advice, education and training. It's a very good resource."

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households Served	Times Service Was Provided
<b>Employment</b>				
D3	Youth Employment	2	2	2
<b>Education</b>				
L2	Literacy	76	76	76
<b>Income Management</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	17	17	17
M3	Tax Aid	10	10	10
M4	Asset Development (FAIM)	68	68	68
<b>Housing</b>				
B1	Weatherization	623	192	192
B3	MECS Audits	2,678	875	875
B7	Energy Related Repairs	638	197	197
<b>Emergency Services</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	41,409	13,288	13,288
B6	Energy Crisis	13,159	3,764	3,764
B8	Fuel Fund	178	71	71
G1	Emergency Family Services	2,250	2,250	2,250
<b>Nutrition</b>				
H7	Congregate Meals	12	12	84
<b>Linkages</b>				
E3	Transportation Assistance	75	75	75
F1	Senior Oriented Services	12	12	12
K1	Information and Referral	14,851	4,305	4,770
K3	Advocacy Info/Education	66	32	546
<b>Self Sufficiency</b>				
J2	Child Care	143	63	143
J4	At Risk Youth	6	6	6
J7	Youth Recreation	600	600	600
J8	Parenting Education	65	65	65
M1	Self Sufficiency	88	88	88
<b>Health</b>				
I1	Health Care Aid Non-Financial	45	45	45

# Community Action for Suburban Hennepin, Inc.

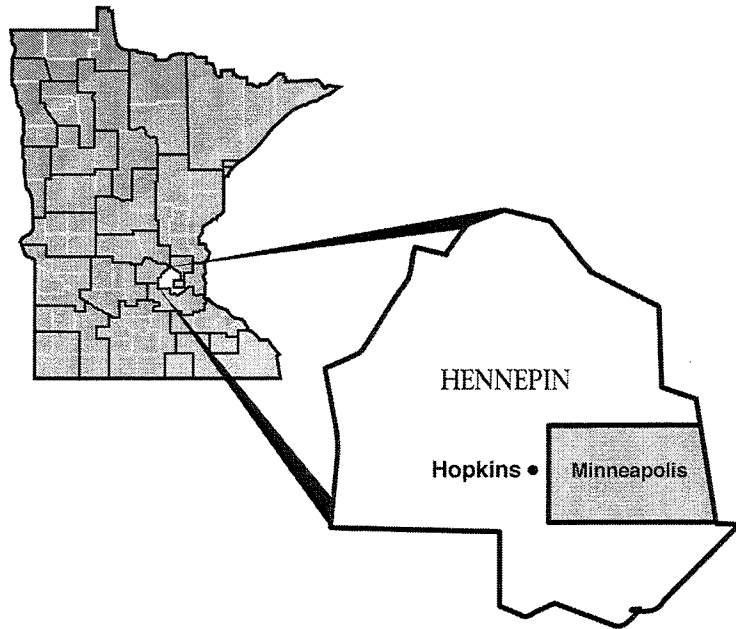
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## Results Highlight

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### *Sub-grants to Community Providers Ensure Help to Many*

Community Action for Suburban Hennepin (CASH) recently awarded approximately \$300,000 in sub-grants to 21 nonprofit organizations that serve low-income residents in suburban Hennepin County. These non-renewable funds will support many of the emergency and social services providers in the service area, enabling them to provide vital direct services and maintain a basic safety net for low-income people.

CASH, itself impacted by budget cuts, was able to make these funds available through careful planning and compression, understanding that other direct service providers were faced with severe budget reductions as well. In order to help as many people as possible without duplicating programs and services, CASH's Board and Executive Director quickly implemented a plan to distribute funds through sub-grants. The funds were made available to current programs that had been adversely affected by government cuts and reductions in private donations, and whose capacities to provide self-sufficiency and gap services to low-income individuals had been compromised.

CASH saw this set of circumstances as one where it could provide limited assistance to people in need by working and partnering with other community providers. As a result of its ability to remain flexible and committed to the cause of reducing poverty, CASH will impact the lives of roughly 22% of suburban Hennepin County residents who live in poverty, or approximately 60,000 individuals.

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households Served	Times Service Was Provided
<b>Employment</b>				
D1	Employment & Training Services	37	10	10
D3	Youth Employment	1	1	1
<b>Education</b>				
L1	GED & Educational Services	725	324	10
<b>Income Management</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	1,212	550	550
M4	Asset Development (FAIM)	54	20	54
<b>Housing</b>				
B7	Energy Related Repairs	438	145	145
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	116	43	86
C3	Home Repair/Rehabilitation	196	93	93
C6	Rental Housing Assistance	657	387	387
C8	Community Housing Stabilization	2,720	1,183	1,183
C9	Community Homeownership Education	626	283	283
<b>Emergency Services</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	22,607	8,611	8,611
B6	Energy Crisis	7,495	2,392	2,415
B8	Fuel Fund	254	94	
C11	MN Transitional Housing	127	40	127
C12	TANF/Transitional Housing	58	16	58
G8	Crisis Intervention	336	240	240
<b>Nutrition</b>				
H1	Food Assistance	2,812	1,480	1,480
<b>Linkages</b>				
E1	Transportation System	960	427	427
F1	Senior Oriented Services	712	467	785
K1	Information and Referral	6,500	6,500	6,500
K2	Outreach	11,700	4,415	4,415
K3	Advocacy Info/Education	200,000	75,000	75,000
K4	Contract Services	1,558	974	
<b>Self Sufficiency</b>				
J2	Child Care	14	6	6
J4	At Risk Youth	2	1	1
J8	Parenting Education	12	5	12
M1	Self Sufficiency	16	5	16
<b>Other</b>				
A1	Community Development Partnerships/Collaboratives		6 55	1

# Fond du Lac Reservation Business Committee

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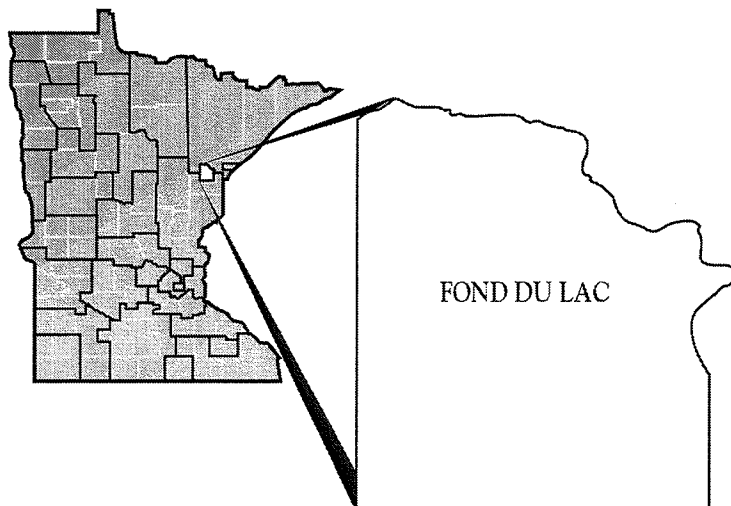
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## Results Highlight

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### *Strengthening Community Policy*

In 1996, The Fond du Lac Reservation Planning Division was approached by the Tribal Council to look for grant funding to start a police department. Since that time, the Fond du Lac Planning Division has written a grant to the U.S. Department of Justice under the Community Oriented Policing Service (COPS) program. The reservation has applied for and received eight grants totaling \$1.46 million. All of this has been done with assistance from CSBG/MEOG funds.

This funding assists the Reservation's support of an 11-officer police force that provides law enforcement coverage 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Also, the reservation has entered into cross-deputization agreements with local sheriff's offices to create a more efficient police force. The local crime rate on the Reservation has decreased since 1998.

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households Served	Times Service Was Provided
<b>Employment</b>				
D1	Employment and Training Services	74	74	70
D3	Youth Employment	122	112	117
<b>Education</b>				
J1	Head Start	199	196	199
<b>Housing</b>				
B1	Weatherization	5	5	5
B4	Other Conservation Services	88	88	88
B7	Energy Related Repairs	10	10	10
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	3	1	3
C3	Home Repair/Rehabilitation	154	124	154
C7	Low-Income Housing Development	65	65	65
<b>Emergency Services</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	1,550	410	1,550
B6	Energy Crisis	398	91	398
B8	Fuel Fund	13	13	10
<b>Nutrition</b>				
H2	Community Services Food Packages	112	112	112
H5	Gardening	110	110	110
H6	Home Delivered Meals	161	161	48,300
H7	Congregate Meals	51	51	15,300
H9	USDA Commodity Assistance	395	160	789
<b>Linkages</b>				
F1	Senior Oriented Services	12	12	12
F6	Senior Companions/Foster Grandparents	5	5	5
K1	Information and Referral	3,900	1,000	3,900
<b>Other</b>				
A1	Community Development	24	10	10

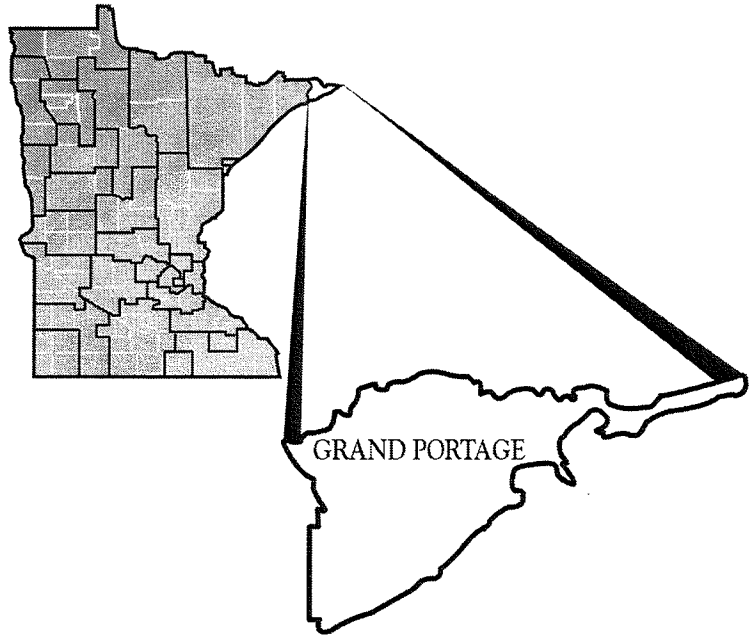
# Grand Portage Reservation Tribal Council

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## Results Highlight

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### *Improving the Lives of Elders*

MEOG/CSBG funds help in assisting the Elderly Assistance Program. This program, combined with the Elderly Nutrition Program and band funds, creates a safe and healthy living environment for elders in the community. Minor home maintenance, painting, home cleaning, yard work, garbage removal, transportation assistance, outings, and other activities are some of the services provided to elders under this grant. These activities promote the safety, security and health of elders, while keeping them active.

MEOG/CSBG funds are also used for emergency food, shelter, clothing, utilities and training. Individuals have the opportunity to attend classes to improve their capacity in the workplace or to gain adequate skills for job placement. All of these services, in collaboration with other programs in the community, address unmet needs and help promote increased self-reliance within the community.

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households Served	Times Service Was Provided
<b>Employment</b>				
D1	Employment and Training Services	3	3	3
D3	Youth Employment	16	12	12
<b>Education</b>				
J1	Head Start	18	15	15
L1	GED and Educational Services	2	2	2
L4	Adult Basic Education (ABE)	1	1	1
<b>Income Management</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	6	6	6
M3	Tax Aid	10	10	10
<b>Housing</b>				
B7	Energy Related Repairs	7	5	5
C3	Home Repair/Rehabilitation	5	3	3
C7	Low-Income Housing Development	45	13	13
<b>Emergency Services</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	105	41	61
B6	Energy Crisis	90	31	31
G1	Emergency Family Services	10	7	7
G3	Abuse and Neglect	5	5	5
G8	Crisis Intervention	27	12	12
<b>Nutrition</b>				
H3	Holiday Projects	25	25	25
H4	Women, Infants, Children (WIC)	36	32	32
H5	Gardening	5	5	5
H6	Home Delivered Meals	11	11	3,333
H7	Congregate Meals	76	57	17,100
H9	USDA Commodity Assistance	32	16	160
<b>Linkages</b>				
E3	Transportation Assistance	30	28	28
F1	Senior Oriented Services	35	27	27
F3	Chore Services	35	27	37
K1	Information and Referral	7	7	7
K2	Outreach	16	16	16
<b>Self Sufficiency</b>				
J2	Child Care	30	25	25
J3	Child Care Administration	30	25	25
J4	At Risk Youth	16	16	16
J6	Child Care Resource & Referral	5	5	5
J7	Youth Recreation	89	70	70
M1	Self Sufficiency	105	59	59
<b>Health</b>				
I1	Health Care Aid Non-Financial	110	76	76
I2	Health Care Aid – Financial	310	182	18
I3	Family Planning	12	12	12
<b>Other</b>				
A1	Community Development	342	269	269

# Heartland Community Action Agency, Inc.

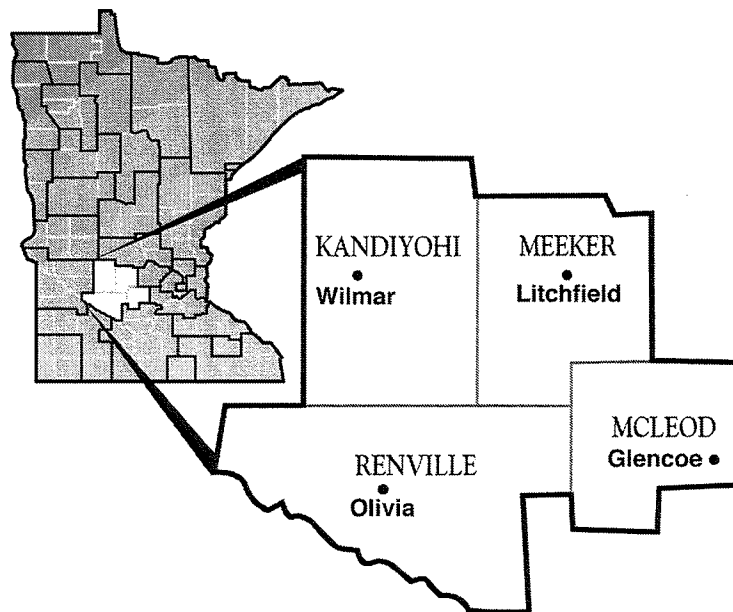
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## Results Highlight

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### *Transformational Leadership and Planning*

Heartland's transformational leadership development and planning process will result in a HOPE transformational plan to end poverty in Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker, and Renville Counties. There are too many poor people in our four-county area to ignore. People don't want to be poor. Our communities have the good will and the resources needed to end poverty.

Five strategic work teams have been formed to develop outcomes and measures around high-impact strategies, which will change the goals or rules of the system, support people in self-organizing, and change the mind-set of the community. Building community to end poverty is the overarching strategy.

The planning process engaged the community at a great level. The community assessment process included more than 550 random sample door-to-door surveys in low-income census tract neighborhoods. Heartland staff members and volunteers interviewed people to learn if meeting basic living needs was a problem. A review was done to assess the Agency's strengths and limitations. Staff member and board visioning sessions were held. In June, focus groups were asked what would it take to get people out of poverty, what the community could do to end poverty, and what Heartland needed to do to end poverty. All this information has informed the development of the high impact strategies for the HOPE Plan. Staff member and community feedback is being sought in the final stages of development before implementation begins in June 2004.

The HOPE Plan is Heartland's expression of our mandate to end poverty and our belief that our jobs in community action are to eliminate poverty and to advocate for low-income people. The HOPE Plan expands the capacity of the Agency to build thriving, vibrant communities in which families and individuals are nurtured and supported. This is Heartland's HOPE for everyone.

<i>Code</i>	<i>Program Activity</i>	<b>Number of People Served</b>	<b>Number of Households Served</b>	<b>Times Service Was Provided</b>
<b>Employment</b>				
D8	Displaced Homemakers	90	88	88
<b>Education</b>				
J1	Head Start	1,398	437	466
<b>Income Management</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	20	19	23
M4	Asset Development (FAIM)	5	5	5
<b>Housing</b>				
B1	Weatherization	281	93	93
B4	Other Conservation Services	18	7	7
B7	Energy Related Repairs	242	83	83
C5	Small Cities Development Grants (SCDG)	13	9	3
C6	Rental Housing Assistance	1,206	494	494
C8	Community Housing Stabilization	11	7	7
C9	Community Homeownership Education	328	216	216
<b>Emergency Services</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	7,604	2,762	2,762
B6	Energy Crisis	1,883	567	567
B8	Fuel Fund	113	33	33
C10	Homeless Assistance	136	129	129
C11	MN Transitional Housing	12	10	10
G1	Emergency Family Services	95	89	89
G6	Donated Articles	7,936	967	967
G8	Crisis Intervention	295	275	275
<b>Nutrition</b>				
H3	Holiday Projects	617	286	286
<b>Linkages</b>				
E3	Transportation Assistance	25	23	26
F5	Retired Senior Volunteers (RSVP)	469	474	376
K1	Information and Referral	9,828	3,688	8,506
K2	Outreach	11,615	3,690	11,615
K3	Advocacy Info/Education	66,247	20,657	8,557
K4	Contract Services	25	18	18
<b>Self Sufficiency</b>				
J8	Parenting Education	299	100	233
M1	Self Sufficiency	20	20	20
M5	Family Loan Fund	15	15	15

# Inter-County Community Council, Inc.

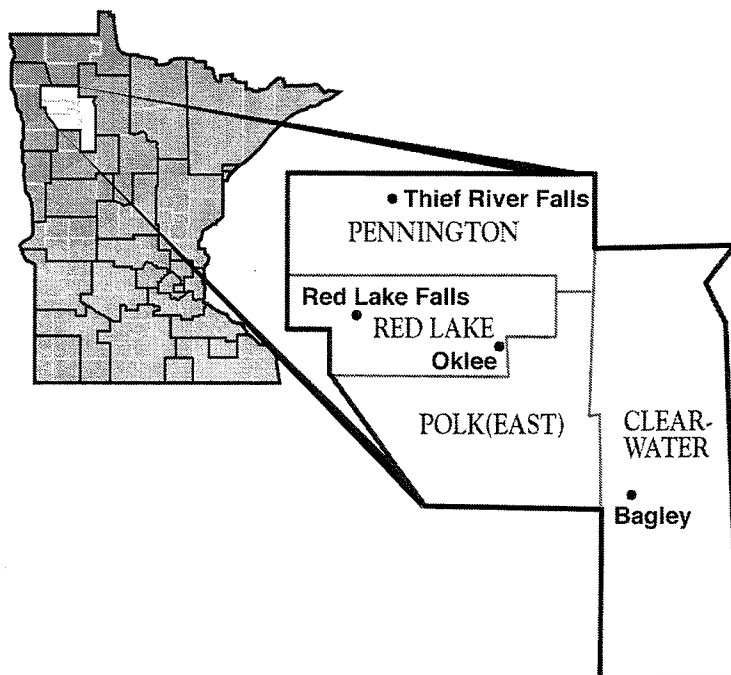
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## Results Highlight

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### *Family Services Program Provides Assistance for Emergencies*

A key need in the Inter-County Community Council service area is funding for emergency services. Because of this, Inter-County uses its CSBG/MEOG funds to support the Family Services Program. This allows agency staff to work with families that are struggling for their survival. Jill and her family are an example of this.

Jill's county financial worker referred her to us. Jill is a single mother of three children, ages five and younger. Her six-week-old baby was born prematurely and weighted only three pounds one ounce and was in need of medical services. Jill was forced to take family leave from her full-time job in order to take care of her new baby. With financial assistance, case management, and lots of encouragement, she was able to move into an apartment in a nearby town.

Soon after getting situated, Jill found out that her 15-month-old daughter had leukemia. She began taking her for treatments in a hospital about two hours away from where she lived. The money spent for the many trips to the hospital and other costs associated with the illness left nothing to pay the rent. Jill tried to work in-between trips to the hospital but was unable to earn enough to meet her basic needs. She went on public assistance and was assisted in applying for Section 8 Rental Assistance. Inter-County Family Service staff worked closely with her to secure Family Homeless Prevention Assistance as well as help from the local Salvation Army. With the cooperation and coordination of local agencies and on-going case management and advocacy services from Inter-County Community Council staff, Jill has stabilized her housing situation. She continues to doctor with her two youngest children with the goal of getting back to full-time work and off of public assistance.

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households Served	Times Service Was Provided
<b>Employment</b>				
D3	Youth Employment	316	316	316
D6	Senior Employment Programs	17	17	17
<b>Education</b>				
J1	Head Start	594	198	210
<b>Income Management</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	3	3	3
M3	Tax Aid	129	101	101
M4	Asset Development (FAIM)	3	3	3
<b>Housing</b>				
B1	Weatherization	279	125	125
B3	MECS Audits	196	81	81
B4	Other Conservation Services	101	54	54
B7	Energy Related Repairs	285	106	106
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	21	11	11
C3	Home Repair/Rehabilitation	5	3	3
C8	Community Housing Stabilization	11	11	11
<b>Emergency Services</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	3,629	1,548	1,548
B6	Energy Crisis	859	317	317
B8	Fuel Fund	45	15	15
C10	Homeless Assistance	156	58	156
G6	Donated Articles	20	7	7
G8	Crisis Intervention	292	98	98
<b>Nutrition</b>				
H1	Food Assistance	200	63	98
<b>Linkages</b>				
K1	Information and Referral	325	202	256
K2	Outreach	1,016	488	601
K3	Advocacy Info/Education	19	19	3,360
K4	Contract Services	9	2	2
<b>Self Sufficiency</b>				
M5	Family Loan Fund	37	14	14
<b>Other</b>				
A5	Cottage Industries	338	338	338

# Kootasca Community Action, Inc.

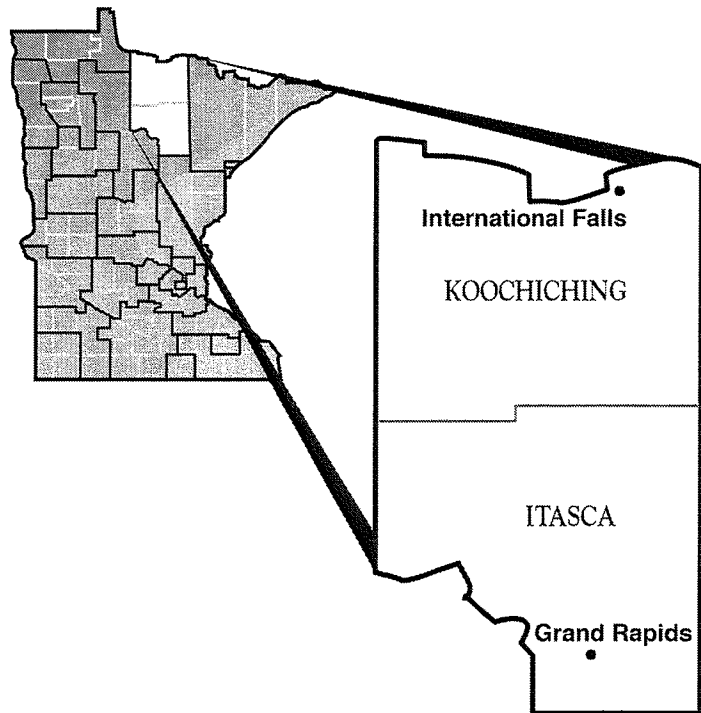
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## Results Highlight

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### *Senior Wheels Fill a Gap*

Itasca and Koochiching counties conducted an analysis of the "gaps in services" to seniors in Fall 2001. This gaps analysis showed that transportation was a top issue for seniors. Public transportation is limited, both within the counties and for out-of-county travel. Especially critical was the need for seniors to get to medical appointments at larger regional medical centers (often miles from their homes).

KOOTASCA's Senior Programs partnered with Itasca County Elder Circle, the county's provider of coordinated senior services, to create a new program called, Senior Wheels. Senior Wheels recruits and trains volunteer drivers in the two-county area to provide door-to-door transportation to medical appointments for seniors age 65 and over. To qualify for the program, seniors must not be able to transport themselves and not have a caregiver available to transport them. Volunteers are reimbursed for mileage and seniors who use the program are asked to contribute \$0.10/mile to help offset the costs. No senior is ever denied service due to inability to pay.

The Senior Wheels program has trained 19 volunteers, provided 391 rides, and driven 42,108 miles since the program's inception in late 2002. The program engages community members and helps vulnerable members of our community connect to high quality medical care. The Senior Wheels program is a low-cost, community-based program that increases the ability of the senior population in Koochiching and Itasca counties to stay healthy and self-sufficient.

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households Served	Times Service Was Provided
<b>Education</b>				
J1	Head Start	656	243	267
<b>Income Management</b>				
M3	Tax Aid	485	485	485
<b>Housing</b>				
B1	Weatherization	124	69	69
B3	MECS Audits	136	51	51
B4	Other Conservation Services	3	2	2
B7	Energy Related Repairs	226	90	90
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	57	26	26
C5	Small Cities Development Grants (SCDG)	61	21	21
C7	Low-Income Housing Development	13	3	3
C8	Community Housing Stabilization	17	5	5
C9	Community Homeownership Education	189	155	155
<b>Emergency Services</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	7,630	3,051	3,051
B6	Energy Crisis	621	249	249
C10	Homeless Assistance	421	218	218
C11	MN Transitional Housing	68	30	30
G1	Emergency Family Services	446	415	415
G6	Donated Articles	386	200	200
G8	Crisis Intervention	978	399	399
<b>Nutrition</b>				
H1	Food Assistance	550	550	550
H3	Holiday Projects	1,789	866	866
H4	Women, Infants, Children (WIC)	4,337	2,087	17,125
<b>Linkages</b>				
E3	Transportation Assistance	19	19	145
F1	Senior Oriented Services	87	87	87
F5	Retired Senior Vol (RSVP)	542	542	542
K1	Information and Referral	2,362	2,362	2,362
K2	Outreach	39	39	3
K3	Advocacy Info/Education	500	500	500
<b>Self Sufficiency</b>				
J8	Parenting Education	19	19	19
J10	Crisis Nursery	462	246	462
M1	Self Sufficiency	246	82	82

# Lakes and Pines Community Action Council, Inc.

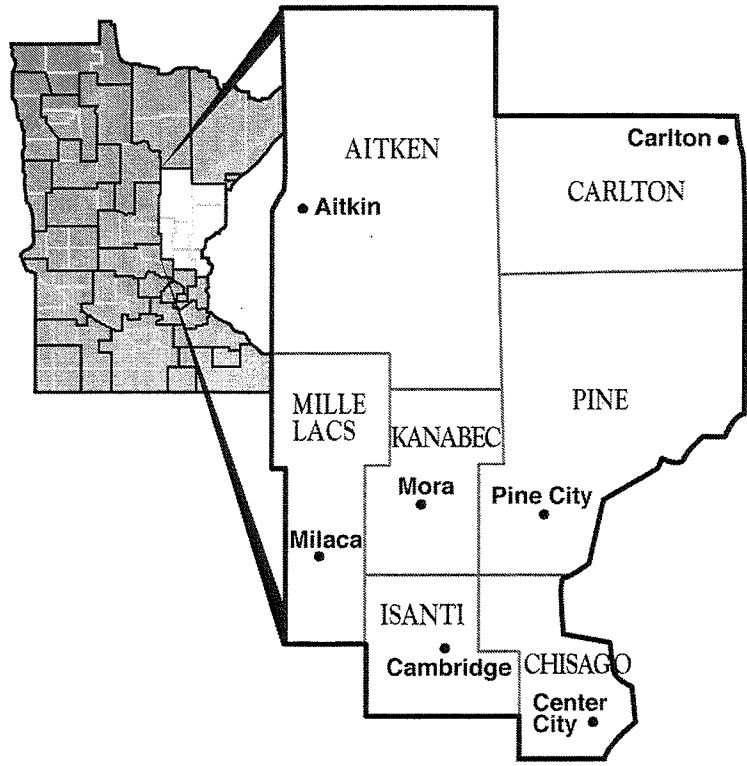
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## Results Highlight

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### *Lead Risk Assessment*

Lakes and Pines C.A.C., Inc. designed a lead-based paint inspection and lead-risk assessment service a couple of years ago. The development of this capability is proving to be beneficial to other community agencies including: cities, counties, townships, HRAs, a Regional Development Commission, as well as to our own agency.

When rehabilitating houses, the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development requires lead inspections for the Small Cities Development Program (SCDP). Local communities that receive SCDP funding for housing rehabilitation services for low- and moderate-income households turn to Lakes and Pines for project administration and lead-risk assessment services. When lead assessment requirements were added to residential properties, Lakes and Pines was ready to meet this need. This has produced an effective collaboration that serves the low- and moderate-income residents by improving their housing, reducing the negative effects of lead-poisoning, and improving the entire community in which we live.

Due to this operational activity, Lakes and Pines CAC, Inc. now has three employees trained and certified as lead risk assessors. The agency has also become a licensed lead certified firm by the Minnesota Department of Health. Additionally, the agency works closely with private contractors to provide the training necessary to employ lead-safe work practices when working around lead-based paints.

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households	Times Service Was Provided
<b>Education</b>				
J1	Head Start	1,602	561	561
<b>Housing</b>				
B1	Weatherization	717	277	277
B4	Other Conservation Services	203	58	58
B7	Energy Related Repairs	711	260	260
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	11	11	11
C5	Small Cities Development Grants (SCDG)	183	88	88
C9	Community Homeownership Education	20	4	4
<b>Emergency Services</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	14,307	5,764	5,764
B6	Energy Crisis	4,097	1,383	1,383
B8	Fuel Fund	623	220	220
C10	Homeless Assistance	995	343	995
G8	Crisis Intervention	632	220	220
<b>Nutrition</b>				
H1	Food Assistance	136	52	26
H5	Gardening	466	133	133
<b>Linkages</b>				
K1	Information and Referral	1,545	562	562
K2	Outreach	1,993	591	591
K3	Advocacy Info/Education	2,053	2,053	8,737
<b>Self Sufficiency</b>				
J9	Fatherhood Initiative	681	314	681
J10	Crisis Nursery	11	4	4
M1	Self Sufficiency	9	9	8

# Lakes & Prairies Community Action Partnership, Inc.

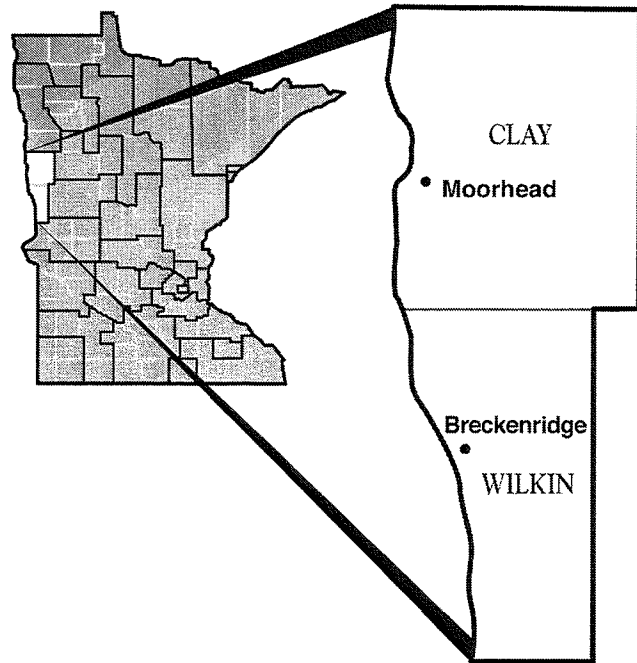
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## Results Highlight

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### *Helping Low-Income People Access Free Prescription Drugs*

Lakes & Prairies has contracted with the Area Agency on Aging to link low-income people with prescription drug programs (Pfizer, Eli Lilly, etc.), to provide free medications to those eligible. There are more than 100 drug companies participating to provide many hundreds of prescription drugs to income-eligible people.

The person calls with information about themselves, their prescriptions, and which doctor and clinic they go to. Next, computer-generated forms are sent to the client. The client then completes the information and takes it to their doctor. The doctor completes his or her section of the forms and then sends it to the drug manufacturer. The drug manufacturer determines eligibility and sends the free medication to the clinic, where the patient picks it up. This process must be repeated every three months, but it is a cost-effective way to ensure that low-income people get the medicine they need.

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households Served	Times Service Was Provided
<b>Employment</b>				
D1	Employment & Training Services	31	31	31
D6	Senior Employment Programs	162	152	162
<b>Education</b>				
J1	Head Start	305	305	305
L1	GED & Educational Services	6	6	6
L2	Literacy	741	278	741
L3	English as a Second Language (ESL)	7	7	7
<b>Income Management</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	58	26	78
M3	Tax Aid	40	10	40
<b>Housing</b>				
C8	Community Housing Stabilization	5	2	2
<b>Emergency Services</b>				
C10	Homeless Assistance	610	199	601
C11	MN Transitional Housing	9	4	9
C12	TANF/Transitional Housing	48	13	48
G3	Abuse and Neglect	29	13	15
G6	Donated Articles	11	5	5
<b>Nutrition</b>				
H1	Food Assistance	193	112	112
H2	Community Services Food Packages	282	88	4
H3	Holiday Projects	276	69	276
H9	USDA Commodity Assistance	2,992	310	310
<b>Linkages</b>				
E1	Transportation System	293	250	250
F6	Senior Companions/Foster Grandparents	4	4	4
K1	Information and Referral	11,006	2,009	5,113
K2	Outreach	7,553	6,672	3,992
K3	Advocacy Info/Education	1,267	474	180
K4	Contract Services	40	40	40
<b>Self Sufficiency</b>				
J2	Child Care	229	179	229
J6	Child Care Resource & Referral	3,017	3,017	3,017
J8	Parenting Education	741	305	1,525
J9	Fatherhood Initiative	25	25	48
M1	Self Sufficiency	50	50	3
<b>Health</b>				
I1	Health Care Aid Non-Financial	73	73	98
I2	Health Care Aid – Financial	5	5	5
<b>Other</b>				
	Rainbow Bridge	375	250	1,219

# Leech Lake Reservation Tribal Council

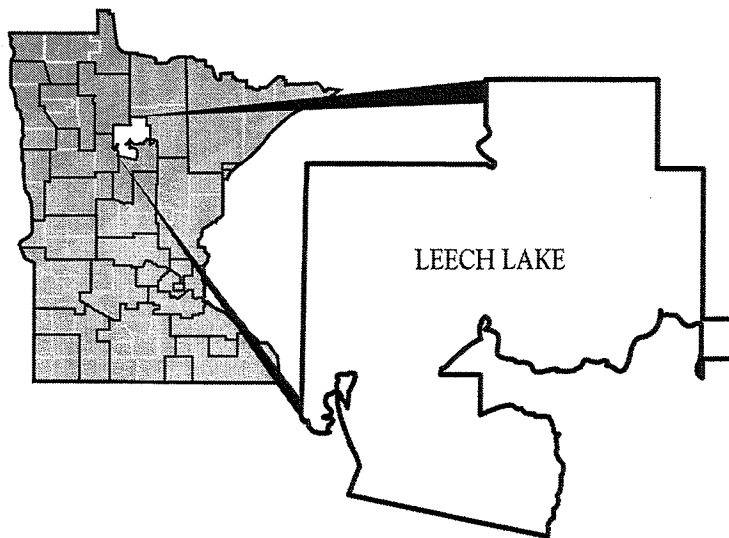
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## Results Highlight

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### *Focusing on Homeless Prevention and Health*

The Leech Lake Tribal Council considers the priority needs of low-income reservation residents when determining funding allocations of anti-poverty service programs. In support of the Tribal Council's long-term priority of helping low-income reservation residents achieve an adequate living environment, which provides for the health and basic needs of the reservation, the Council has directed that a portion of CSBG/MEOG funding be used toward homelessness prevention and the Nutrition Supplement Program.

The Tribal Referral Program provides direct assistance to prevent the loss of homes of individuals and families who have received eviction or mortgage foreclosure notices, or have had home burnouts. Staff members make payment arrangements to secure client homes. The program also provides temporary shelter for families and individuals who are homeless. Motel vouchers are provided to clients who have lost their homes due to burnout, or have moved back to the reservation without having secured housing. Staff members help clients search for housing by providing advocacy and referral services to housing programs and area landlords.

Leech Lake's Health Division administers the Nutritional Supplement Program, which provides nutritional supplements to individuals who have been diagnosed with cancer, diabetes, arthritis, and malnutrition. Those individuals receiving nutritional supplements are under the care of a doctor for conditions that impair their health.

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households Served	Times Service Was Provided
<b>Employment</b>				
D1	Employment and Training Services	328	296	328
D3	Youth Employment	118	92	118
<b>Education</b>				
J1	Head Start	225	201	225
L1	GED and Educational Services	72	72	72
L2	Literacy	222	201	222
<b>Income Management</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	86	72	86
<b>Housing</b>				
B1	Weatherization	13	5	5
B4	Other Conservation Services	53	36	36
<b>Emergency Services</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	2,108	993	993
B6	Energy Crisis	1,511	570	570
C10	Homeless Assistance	490	360	360
C11	MN Transitional Housing	27	14	14
G1	Emergency Family Services	448	270	270
G8	Crisis Intervention	642	500	500
<b>Nutrition</b>				
H3	Holiday Projects	8,463	2,200	2,200
H4	Women, Infants, Children (WIC)	6,159	3,575	3,575
H6	Home Delivered Meals	99	89	13,884
H7	Congregate Meals	297	267	297
H9	USDA Commodity Assistance	7,471	4,308	4,308
<b>Linkages</b>				
E3	Transportation Assistance	828	600	600
F1	Senior Oriented Services	191	175	240
F3	Chore Services	93	88	10,560
K2	Outreach	1,437	672	12
K3	Advocacy Info/Education	5,100	2,500	525
<b>Self Sufficiency</b>				
J2	Child Care	136	82	82
J4	At Risk Youth	450	285	104
J6	Child Care Resource & Referral	54	42	42
J7	Youth Recreation	500	300	156
<b>Health</b>				
I1	Health Care Aid Non-Financial	87	87	87
I2	Health Care Aid – Financial	55	55	660

# Lower Sioux Indian Community

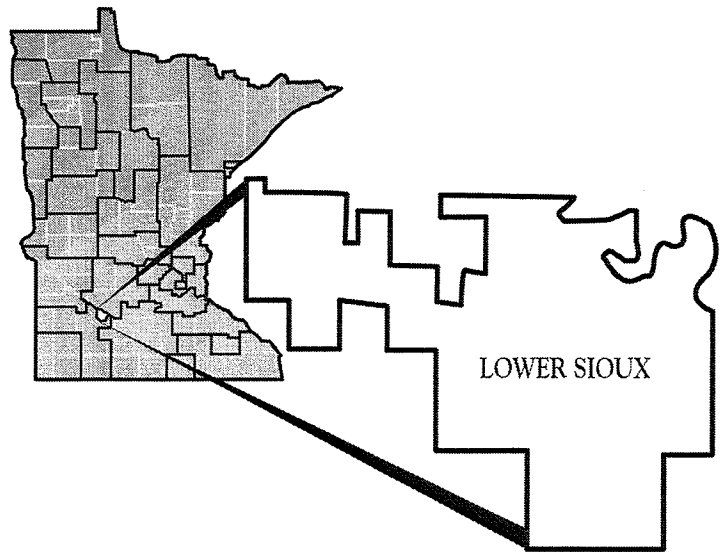
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## Results Highlight

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### *Promoting Cultural Understanding and Self-Sufficiency*

Lower Sioux's Culture Project is an effort to preserve the Dakota culture. The project is designed to educate and stimulate public interest in our Dakota history and culture. Tribal members and individuals living within and around the community are encouraged to become involved. Through the program, the Lower Sioux Community Council provides employment opportunities to low-income families and others who are interested in working with the project.

Individuals are educated and trained to work at various cultural events and activities such as the pow-wow, art fairs, and exhibits taking place during the year. Staff members work on a part-time basis with opportunity for full-time employment. This project strengthens the Lower Sioux Community, builds cultural diversity and promotes self-sufficiency. CSBG/MEOG funds are used to assist the tribe in the Lower Sioux Culture Project.

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households Served	Times Service Was Provided
<b>Employment</b>				
D1	Employment and Training Services	12	8	2
D3	Youth Employment	6	4	4
D6	Senior Employment Programs	3	3	3
<b>Education</b>				
L1	GED and Educational Services	4	4	4
L4	Adult Basic Education (ABE)	2	2	2
<b>Income Management</b>				
M3	Tax Aid	327	327	327
<b>Housing</b>				
B1	Weatherization	22	8	8
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	35	15	15
C3	Home Repair/Rehabilitation	15	7	7
C6	Rental Housing Assistance	18	6	6
C9	Community Homeownership Education	35	21	21
<b>Emergency Services</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	14	6	6
B6	Energy Crisis	9	3	3
B8	Fuel Fund	14	6	6
C10	Homeless Assistance	8	3	3
C11	MN Transitional Housing	3	1	1
C12	TANF/Transitional Housing	6	4	4
G1	Emergency Family Services	367	210	210
G3	Abuse and Neglect	25	7	25
G8	Crisis Intervention	37	12	37
<b>Nutrition</b>				
H1	Food Assistance	338	134	134
H3	Holiday Projects	870	534	534
H6	Home Delivered Meals	32	32	8,320
H7	Congregate Meals	20	20	5,200
<b>Linkages</b>				
E1	Transportation System	503	353	3,530
K1	Information and Referral	283	283	283
K2	Outreach	310	159	159
K3	Advocacy Info/Educ ation	59	12	12
<b>Self Sufficiency</b>				
J2	Child Care	45	30	45
J3	Child Care Administration	8	3	8
J4	At Risk Youth	30	24	30
J5	Campership	23	14	23
J6	Child Care Resource & Referral	14	10	10
J7	Youth Recreation	665	365	665
M1	Self Sufficiency	63	27	63
<b>Health</b>				
I1	Health Care Aid Non-Financial	173	96	173
I2	Health Care Aid - Financial	150	150	150
<b>Other</b>				
A1	Community Development	47	47	47
A5	Cottage Industries	3	3	3

# Mahube Community Council, Inc.

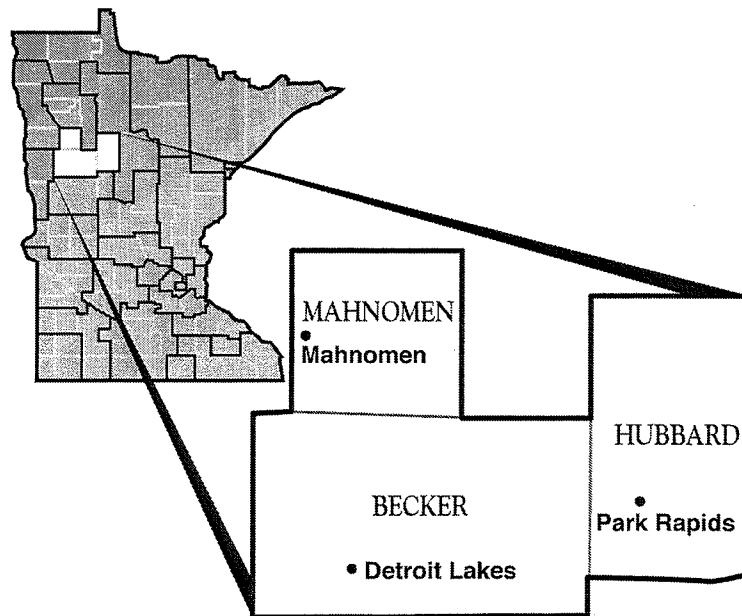
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## Results Highlight

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### *Aging Assistance Program Helps Senior Stay in Their Homes*

Mahube Community Council, Inc. operates a new program in Mahnomen County, the Aging Assistance Program. This program is funded by the Minnesota Department of Human Services and offers Independent Daily Living Activity assistance to elderly people, enabling them to live independently in their homes.

The Northwest Minnesota Rural Outreach Program referred one 79-year old man to the program. He lives alone with no family or support system in the area. Previously, his main source of heat was a wood stove, but he is no longer physically able to cut or carry wood to his stove. As a result, he was heating his home with space heaters, which was an expensive and unsafe alternative. He could not afford the cost of installing an oil-burning furnace, but he did have some money to contribute toward cost of purchasing one.

The Aging Assistance Program made it possible for this man to have a new oil-burning furnace installed. Our Agency paid 80% of the cost and the man paid 20%. He is now able to stay warm with a flip of the furnace switch. Without the furnace, he would not have been able to continue to live in his home. His only alternative would have been to move into a nursing home or assisted living apartment. By making it possible for this man to stay in his own home, he is happier and more self-sufficient, and thousands of dollars have been saved in public assistance costs for alternative care.

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households Served	Times Service Was Provided
<b>Education</b>				
J1	Head Start	2,690	910	910
L1	GED AND Educational Services	328	328	328
<b>Income Management</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	49	20	100
M3	Tax Aid	1,880	1,880	1,880
M4	Asset Development (FAIM)	16	3	16
<b>Housing</b>				
B1	Weatherization	243	93	93
B4	Other Conservation Services	190	74	74
B7	Energy Related Repairs	570	226	226
<b>Emergency Services</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	7,995	3,172	3,172
B6	Energy Crisis	2,707	1,074	1,074
B8	Fuel Fund	63	25	25
C10	Homeless Assistance	509	141	509
C11	MN Transitional Housing	13	9	13
C12	TANF/Transitional Housing	71	2	71
G1	Emergency Family Services	41	26	41
G3	Abuse and Neglect	290	64	64
G6	Donated Articles	96	42	42
G8	Crisis Intervention	492	171	171
<b>Nutrition</b>				
H1	Food Assistance	15,502	7,625	7,625
H3	Holiday Projects	1,518	506	506
<b>Linkages</b>				
F1	Senior Oriented Services	292	292	292
F5	Retired Senior Vol (RSVP)	644	644	644
K1	Information and Referral	110,671	37,188	37,188
K2	Outreach	4,482	1,494	1,494
K3	Advocacy Info/Education	10,444	4,482	6,000
<b>Self Sufficiency</b>				
J2	Child Care	245	211	211
J5	Campership	5	3	5
J6	Child Care Resource & Referral	1,170	669	669
J8	Parenting Education	504	504	504
J9	Fatherhood Initiative	327	327	327
J10	Crisis Nursery	123	88	123
M1	Self Sufficiency	91	23	2

# Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians

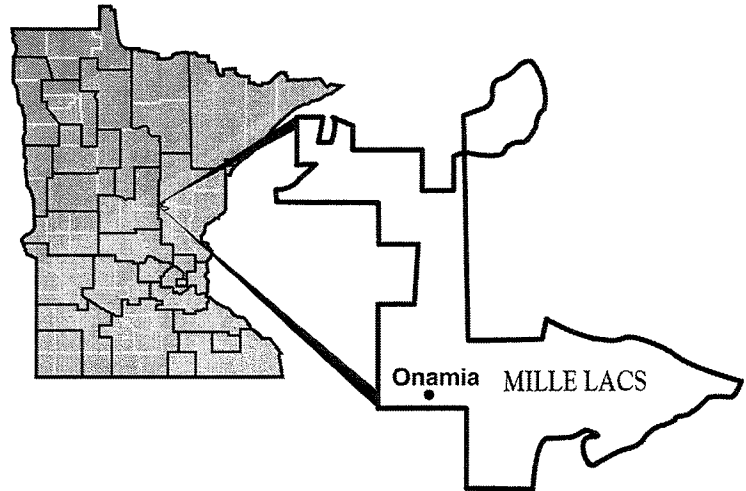
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## Results Highlight

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### *Community Youth Services Enhance Skills and Improve Lives*

The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe serves communities, youth, and families. The Community Youth Services (CYS) is a program within the Band and was designed to serve as a holistic effort to promote healthy lifestyle choices in the following four areas: cultural, emotional, physical, and intellectual. The CYS program provides activities for youth and families. These activities are intended to enhance a variety of skills regarding responsibility, accountability, and self-esteem within the four areas, including Annishinaabe enrichment, life skills, recreation, and an umbrella of education, mentoring and youth prevention. We collaborate with tribal programs as well as non-tribal programs to serve all communities in four districts.

The Mille Lacs Band continues to develop prevention programs for youth and families to reduce high crime rates, negative impacts of drug and alcohol use, and generational poverty. Although there are many challenges, we continue to strive to meet and overcome them, and to improve the lives of Band Members and our community.

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households	Times Service Was Provided	
Education					
J1	Head Start		1,290	322	374
Income Management					
M2	Budget Counseling		90	38	38
M3	Tax Aid		116	109	109
M4	Asset Development (FAIM)		30	15	15
Housing					
B1	Weatherization		138	55	55
B4	Other Conservation Services		76	53	53
B7	Energy Related Repairs		337	165	165
C1	Housing Grants and Loans		96	40	40
C8	Community Housing Stabilization		239	96	96
C9	Community Homeownership Education		135	86	86
Emergency Services					
B5	Energy Assistance		3,299	1,401	1,401
B6	Energy Crisis		796	294	294
B8	Fuel Fund		37	12	12
C10	Homeless Assistance		315	115	315
G6	Donated Articles		47	11	11
G8	Crisis Intervention		818	321	321
Nutrition					
H2	Community Services Food Packages		69	33	43
H3	Holiday Projects		534	152	152
Linkages					
K1	Information and Referral		800	322	674
K2	Outreach		800	322	674
K3	Advocacy Info/Education		1,517	374	1,122
Self Sufficiency					
J4	At Risk Youth		80	43	80
M5	Family Loan Fund		5	1	1
Health					
I2	Health Care Aid - Financial		95	26	30

# Minnesota Valley Action Council, Inc.

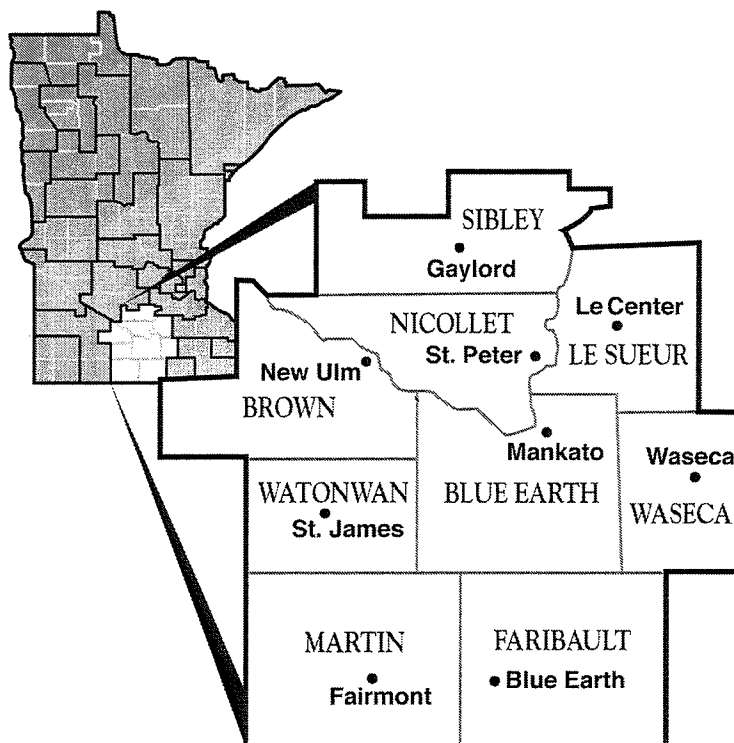
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## Results Highlight

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### *Providing Loan Programs that Improve Housing in South Central Minnesota*

Affordable housing is a key component in providing stability for families and the community they live in. Minnesota Valley Action Council (MVAC) offers a variety of affordable home improvement loan programs to assist eligible households in maintaining their homes. This investment in the community maintains housing affordability and provides jobs for local contractors.

The loan programs available through MVAC are designed to assist households of many income levels. Through a partnership with the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA), MVAC assists very low income households with 0% interest-deferred loans, moderate-income households with below-market interest rate financing, and households unable to qualify for conventional financing with a sub-prime home improvement loan at affordable interest rates. MVAC originates and closes the loans, and MHFA provides the funding source.

MVAC is one of the largest out-state, non-traditional lenders providing home improvement loans through MHFA. These home improvement programs also leverage other program resources. Over the past year, MVAC has assisted more than 150 households with their home improvement needs. This has resulted in \$1.95 million being invested in communities within MVAC's service area. MVAC supported these loan programs with MEOG funds. MEOG provides the assistance required to administer the loan programs and help households with their affordable housing needs.

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households	Times Service Was Provided
<b>Employment</b>				
D1	Employment and Training Services	614	602	614
D3	Youth Employment	308	308	308
D6	Senior Employment Programs	102	98	98
D7	FSET	316	226	316
<b>Education</b>				
J1	Head Start	1,528	611	665
<b>Income Management</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	90	28	28
M4	Asset Development (FAIM)	90	28	28
<b>Housing</b>				
B1	Weatherization	1,248	408	408
B7	Energy Related Repairs	429	143	143
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	589	239	239
C6	Rental Housing Assistance	427	163	163
<b>Emergency Services</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	11,979	4,873	4,873
B6	Energy Crisis	2,115	705	705
B8	Fuel Fund	216	73	73
C10	Homeless Assistance	193	90	90
G8	Crisis Intervention	200	72	72
<b>Nutrition</b>				
H4	Women, Infants, Children (WIC)	2,545	1,673	11,042
<b>Linkages</b>				
E1	Transportation System	1,430	1,430	6,292
E4	Vehicle Program	535	503	503
K1	Information and Referral	178,496	89,248	89,248
K2	Outreach	160,646	80,323	80,323
K3	Advocacy Info/Education	17,850	8,925	8,925
K4	Contract Services	164	48	48
<b>Self Sufficiency</b>				
M1	Self Sufficiency	2,287	1,681	2,287

# Northwest Community Action, Inc.

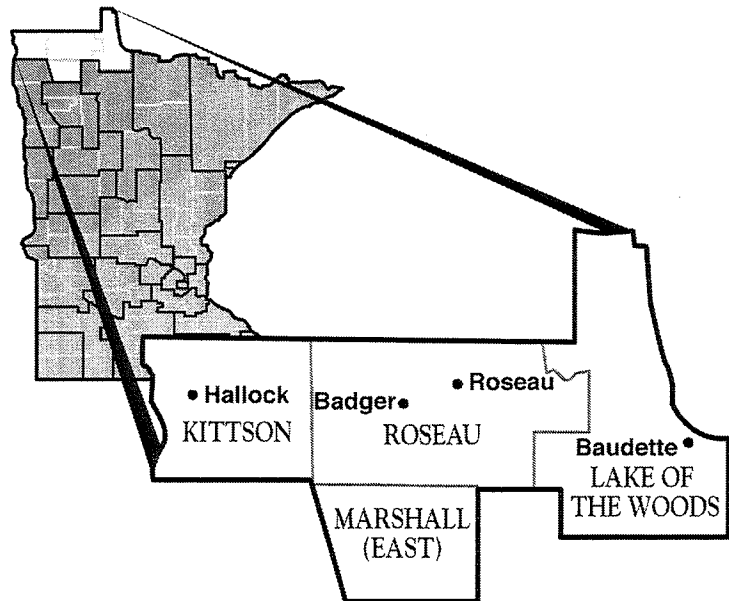
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## Results Highlight

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### *Community Development: A Crucial Strategy to Lift People Out of Poverty*

Northwest Community Action Agency (NWCAA) has taken the approach that the best way to alleviate poverty and foster self-sufficiency, is to work in the area of total community development. This past summer, the USDA named part of NWCAA's service area a "Champion Community". We have put a Champion Community Board in place to continue the work on economic development, community development, and the needs of each city or township. Once all community projects are benchmarked, NWCAA will be able to gather financial resources for each prioritized project to further the efforts of housing, jobs, infrastructure, etc. The county leaders in the various designated areas are involved, as are area business leaders.

NWCAA's perception of what it takes to get families out of disadvantaged situations is a three-fold system: the availability of living-wage jobs, affordable housing, and technical assistance. All three components are equally important. The work so far has generated a new level of interest and excitement within communities. We are seeing a positive collaboration among the cities, USDA, business owners, and multiple supporting agencies. The board structure allows us to have representation from all areas of the named census tract, and gives us the unique ability to hear and address all community needs, whether it is the creation of new, or the development of existing assets.

The outcomes of these efforts will be measured over time.

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households	Times Service Was Provided
<b>Education</b>				
J1	Head Start	1,290	322	374
<b>Income Management</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	90	38	38
M3	Tax Aid	116	109	109
M4	Asset Development (FAIM)	30	15	15
<b>Housing</b>				
B1	Weatherization	138	55	55
B4	Other Conservation Services	76	53	53
B7	Energy Related Repairs	337	165	165
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	96	40	40
C8	Community Housing Stabilization	239	96	96
C9	Community Homeownership Education	135	86	86
<b>Emergency Services</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	3,299	1,401	1,401
B6	Energy Crisis	796	294	294
B8	Fuel Fund	37	12	12
C10	Homeless Assistance	315	115	315
G6	Donated Articles	47	11	11
G8	Crisis Intervention	818	321	321
<b>Nutrition</b>				
H2	Community Services Food Packages	69	33	43
H3	Holiday Projects	534	152	152
<b>Linkages</b>				
K1	Information and Referral	800	322	674
K2	Outreach	800	322	674
K3	Advocacy Info/Education	1,517	374	1,122
<b>Self Sufficiency</b>				
J4	At Risk Youth	80	43	80
M5	Family Loan Fund	5	1	1
<b>Health</b>				
I2	Health Care Aid - Financial	95	26	30

# Olmsted Community Action Program

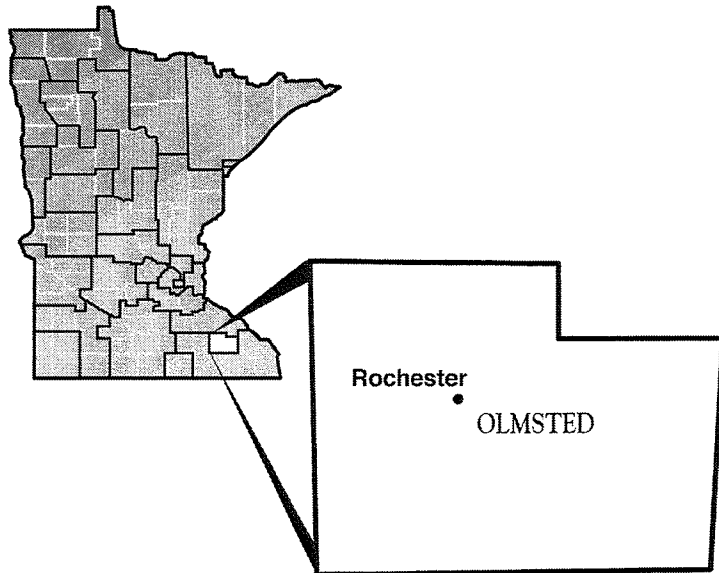
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communityservices/familysupport/cap.htm](http://www.olmstedcounty.com/communityservices/familysupport/cap.htm)



## Results Highlight

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### *Effective Intervention with Disabled TANF/MFIP Families*

It is estimated that 20-25% of low-income adults on TANF/MFIP have some type of disability that limits or prevents them from achieving stable employment. If the family is unable to be gainfully employed and achieve self-reliance, due to disability, another income support must be identified in addition to connecting the family to appropriate services. CAP's family support worker specializes in helping these families.

Support includes activities such as: assisting getting appropriate medical or psychological assessment/diagnosis, completing forms/applications for SSI/Disability Income/rehabilitation services, attending hearings, and coordinating services needed by the entire family. The family support worker frequently performs home visits and case management with other professionals involved with the family. The goal is to quickly find a stable income option for MFIP families with disabilities, and to connect the family with ongoing supports that foster as much independence as possible within the limitations of their condition.

Results: 60% have stopped their MFIP clock before reaching the 60-month limit and transitioned into child-only grants. 66% have been approved for SSI/Disability Income. All have increased personal and household resources to help support family stability.

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households	Times Service Was Provided
<b>Income Management</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	61	61	132
M4	Asset Development (FAIM)	9	2	18
<b>Housing</b>				
B7	Energy Related Repairs	117	46	46
<b>Emergency Services</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	6,196	2,231	2,231
B6	Energy Crisis	1,365	410	410
B8	Fuel Fund	28	11	11
C10	Homeless Assistance	182	55	55
G8	Crisis Intervention	36	12	16
<b>Linkages</b>				
E1	Transportation System	133	133	133
K1	Information and Referral	9,516	2,300	2,300
K2	Outreach	356	288	736
K3	Advocacy Info/Education	2,900	2,900	34,800
<b>Self Sufficiency</b>				
M1	Self Sufficiency	234	78	59

# Otter Tail-Wadena Community Action Council, Inc.

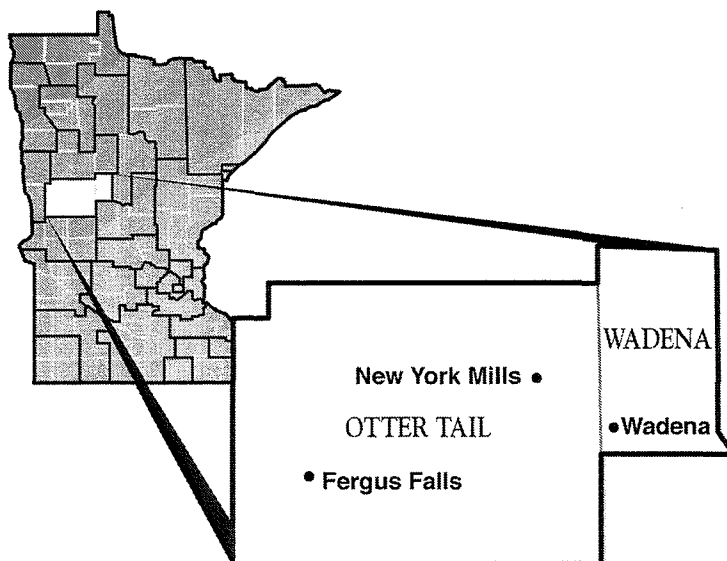
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## Results Highlight

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### *Expanding Housing Services to Meet Needs*

The Otter Tail-Wadena Community Action Council's (OTWCAC) Affordable Housing program has expanded its services to include housing inspections, rental inspections, and loan origination services, to better serve low- to moderate-income families in our service area. The housing program currently builds 18-20 new homes a year using Department of Correction inmates on three crews. We completed six loan originations for families that purchased homes we built. Approximately 30 home inspections were done for low-income buyers. Rental inspections were done for the cities of Rothsay and New York Mills.

Helping a low-income family purchase a new home involves working with many different partners. Through this program a homebuyer has access to Homestretch, budget counseling, mortgage origination, special discounts on home loans and other programs offered by local banks, lending institutions, MHFA, Greater Minnesota Housing Fund, and USDA programs. Our goal is to have as many low-income families as possible become eligible to purchase a new home. Our rental and housing inspection programs ensure that families will reside in safe, clean and stable housing.

As of February 2003, results of the housing program for OTWCAC and our partner, West Central Communities Action Council: Leveraged \$359,433 (donated sites and paint, HVAC installation by NWTech-Wadena, discounts by subcontractors); economic impact \$4,481,439 (value of homes built, new taxes paid, income received by subcontractors, suppliers, DOC, carpenters, and inmates); deductions from inmate wages \$14,165 (aid to victims, court-ordered, special obligations); savings to DOC for housing inmates in county jails \$201,480; income earned by local detention centers housing inmates \$455,520. This program has been a win-win opportunity for families, individuals, communities, and our agency at local, county and state levels of operation.

<b>Code</b>	<b>Program Activity</b>	<b>Number of People Served</b>	<b>Number of Households Served</b>	<b>Times Service Was Provided</b>
<b>Employment</b>				
D3	Youth Employment	91	34	34
D6	Senior Employment Programs	6	4	4
D8	Displaced Homemakers	201	104	104
<b>Education</b>				
J1	Head Start	731	271	293
L1	GED and Educational Services	1,544	672	672
<b>Income Management</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	156	65	195
M3	Tax Aid	53,964	22,485	22,485
M4	Asset Development (FAIM)	51	19	51
<b>Housing</b>				
B1	Weatherization	421	166	166
B3	MECS Audits	25	8	8
B4	Other Conservation Services	129	57	57
B7	Energy Related Repairs	301	112	112
C7	Low-Income Housing Development	49	18	19
C8	Community Housing Stabilization	14	4	4
C9	Community Homeownership Education	721	267	267
<b>Emergency Services</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	2,498	979	979
B6	Energy Crisis	585	217	217
C10	Homeless Assistance	729	375	375
G1	Emergency Family Services	356	132	132
G6	Donated Articles	337	125	125
G8	Crisis Intervention	168	75	75
<b>Nutrition</b>				
H1	Food Assistance	1,744	646	646
H3	Holiday Projects	43	16	16
<b>Linkages</b>				
E3	Transportation Assistance	40	40	40
E4	Vehicle Program	27	10	10
F1	Senior Oriented Services		68	68
F3	Chore Services		89	89
F5	Retired Senior Volunteers (RSVP)	711	663	663
F6	Senior Companions/Foster Grandparents	4	4	4
K1	Information and Referral	11,955	4,536	27,216
K2	Outreach	6,317	2,490	2,490
K3	Advocacy Info/Education	14,426	7,735	13,029
K4	Contract Services	11	4	4
<b>Self Sufficiency</b>				
J2	Child Care	119	41	41
J6	Child Care Resource & Referral	7,604	7,604	7,604
J7	Youth Recreation	149	700	700
J8	Parenting Education	50	50	50
J9	Fatherhood Initiative	149	149	149
M5	Family Loan Fund	16	5	5
<b>Health</b>				
I1	Health Care Aid Non-Financial	2,754	2,754	2,754
I3	Family Planning	1,008	1,008	1,008
<b>Other</b>				
A1	Community Development	8	3	3

# Prairie Five Community Action Council, Inc.

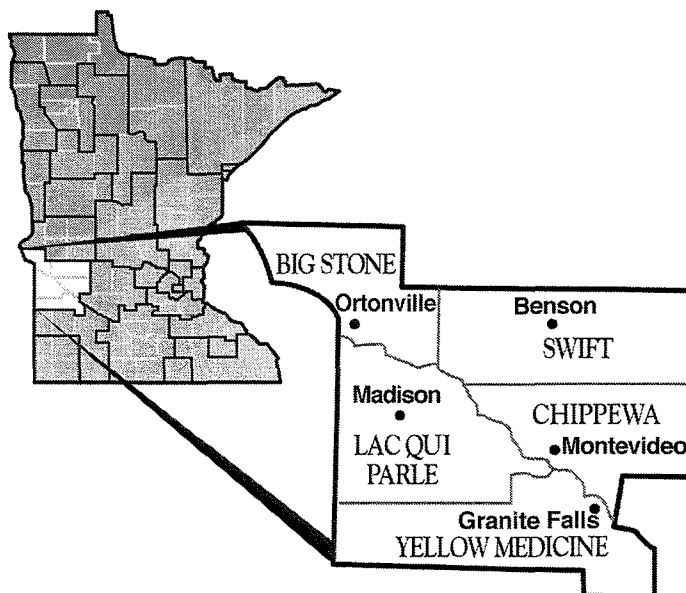
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## Results Highlight

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### *Project HOME Helps Seniors Remain Independent*

The images and roles of seniors are rapidly changing. People are living longer, healthier lives. We often, however, forget to look at how this impacts the bigger picture. Older people have unique needs and require increased services. Twenty-one percent of our service area is over the age of 65. Thirty-seven percent of our households are on Social Security. Prairie Five has been a leader in recognizing the needs of and finding appropriate services for the aging population in Region 6W.

Prairie Five started the HOME Program to provide home modifications and repairs for seniors. The service is provided to elderly and disabled individuals age 60 and older who would be unable to remain independently in their own homes without modifications. Ninety percent of the seniors receiving HOME are low-income. One hundred-eighteen individuals and/or 100 households have been served by HOME at an average cost of \$530 per home. With the average cost of nursing home care in Minnesota at \$3,848 per month, this is saving individuals and social service agencies hundreds of thousands of dollars by delaying nursing home care for these individuals.

Prairie Five HOME coordinates staffing and services with Prairie Five weatherization, CARE, nutrition, housing, fuel assistance, and outreach offices. The HOME Advisory Board consists of members from Countryside Public Health, housing redevelopment authorities, county social service agencies, senior advocates, and clients. This group is involved in our local communities and is the perfect match to help develop and expand service.

The program has grown immensely since its inception. More funding has been acquired and more agencies are aware of and willing to be involved with HOME. Thanks to HOME, more area seniors are living independently in their own homes longer.

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households	Times Service Was Provided
<b>Education</b>				
J1	Head Start	324	303	303
L2	Literacy	41	41	41
<b>Income Management</b>				
M3	Tax Aid	1,382	357	357
M4	Asset Development (FAIM)	5	1	1
<b>Housing</b>				
B1	Weatherization	206	77	77
B3	MECS Audits	50	15	15
B4	Other Conservation Services	50	15	15
B7	Energy Related Repairs	591	208	208
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	22	15	15
C5	Small Cities Development Grants (SCDG)	80	40	40
C9	Community Homeownership Education	79	35	35
<b>Emergency Services</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	6,751	2,734	2,734
B6	Energy Crisis	1,995	670	670
B8	Fuel Fund	355	118	118
C10	Homeless Assistance	70	44	44
G1	Emergency Family Services	19	6	14
G6	Donated Articles	51,924	18,157	18,541
G8	Crisis Intervention	400	224	224
<b>Nutrition</b>				
H1	Food Assistance	5,422	3,461	3,461
H2	Community Services Food Packages	752	712	603
H3	Holiday Projects	1,714	641	641
H6	Home Delivered Meals	566	260	49,241
H7	Congregate Meals	2,968	1,054	116,820
<b>Linkages</b>				
E1	Transportation System	10,331	8,669	67,912
E3	Transportation Assistance	10,331	8,439	8,439
F1	Senior Oriented Services	1,015	662	524
F6	Senior Companions/Foster Grandparents	30	30	76
K1	Information and Referral	2,332	1,823	1,823
K2	Outreach	6,278	3,881	3,881
K3	Advocacy Info/Education	22,750	10,341	240
<b>Self Sufficiency</b>				
J2	Child Care	142	142	142
J6	Child Care Resource & Referral	565	178	178
J8	Parenting Education	62	58	58
<b>Other</b>				
A5	Cottage Industries	62	51	95
	School Supplies	154	54	80
	Coat Drive	161	72	72

# Prairie Island Tribal Council

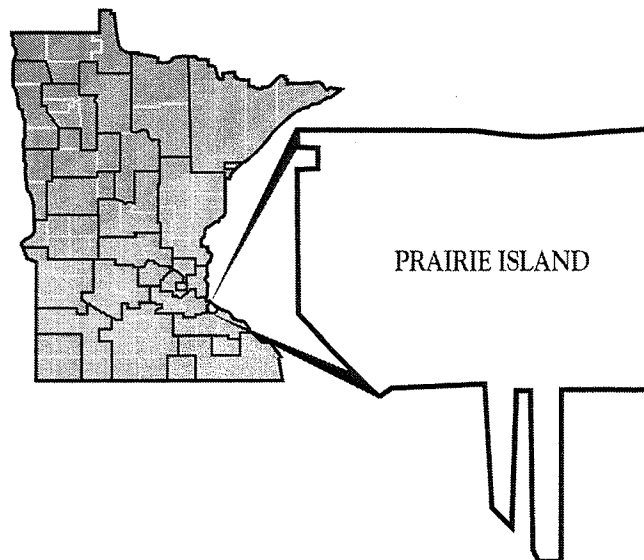
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## Results Highlight

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### *Meeting the Needs of Working Families*

Our program focuses on child care for families who are working and/or attending school. Our clients could not afford to work if they did not receive child care assistance. This is a particularly important program that affects families who are transitioning off of welfare. By offering this program, we are helping to alleviate poverty and promote self-sufficiency.

Our social service department offers free classes in parenting, family budgeting, and emergency shelter and food services. Our clinic provides free well child checks and immunizations to children. This is an example of how our program cooperates, communicates, and/or collaborates with other Departments within our Tribe. We also collaborate with Goodhue County to assure that there is no duplication of service being provided.

Our clients are American Indians who live within the Tribes' service area. Most of our clients are from other Tribes who have come to Prairie Island seeking employment. Our unique ability to address unmet needs stems from the fact that we provide services to American Indians by American Indians.

# American Indians in Minnesota

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## Demographic Fast Facts

Information taken from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 census. Thank you to the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council and the Tribes for providing this information.

- Minnesota's total population for all races is 4,919,479. There are 54,967 American Indian/Alaska Natives living in Minnesota, or 1.1% of the total population.
- Minnesota has the 13th largest American Indian/Native Alaska population in the United States.
- There are 17,171 American Indians living on reservations in Minnesota.
- Hennepin County has the largest American Indian/Alaska Native population in the state with 11,163 residents; Beltrami County is second with 8,071.
- The city of Minneapolis has the largest American Indian/Alaska Native population with 8,378 residents; St. Paul is second with 3,259.

# Ramsey Action Programs, Inc.

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Jim Scheibel, Executive Director

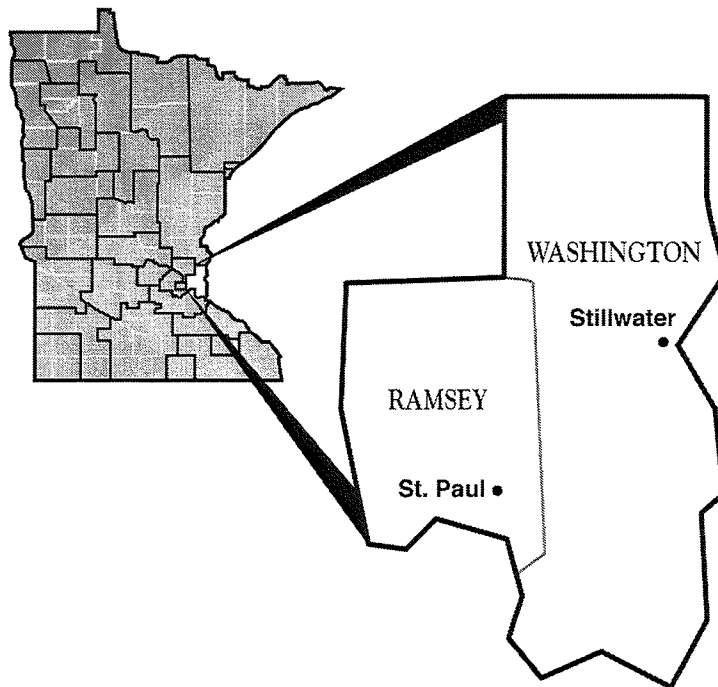
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## Results Highlight

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### *Project Success Helps Families Navigate Successful Paths to Self-Sufficiency*

Project Success has a unique ability to address unmet needs in the community through, one-on-one intensive case management, financial resources, and flexibility to develop programming that can address the changing needs of the community.

Because the program looks at the well-being of the entire family, there are collaborative partnerships that address additional needs that go beyond the scope of the program. A few of the programs that the department works with on a consistent basis are Bridging, Lens Crafters, WorkForce Centers, and Twin City Community Voice Mail. Also, this past summer we sent 61 children of parents who participate in Project Success to camp. This initiative alone provided community support to more than 17 different camp programs in the area, gave children a safe and fun place to spend their summer, and serviced the mission to ensure the overall well being of the entire family.

Financial resources also are available to help each program participant with expenses that arise while progressing toward their goals. Finally, we are able to develop additional programming to address the constant changing needs of the community in which we serve. Instead of offering the basic education in financial literacy and employment resume writing, we have developed a whole initiative for 2004 that will move employment and financial literacy training to a new level. Discussing financial wellness, with explorations into one's relationship with money will address the core issues surrounding financial health, while the more obvious budgeting, understanding credit and asset development are addressed. Employment training will work to really address the readiness of an individual to enter the job market. We will address issues like non-verbal communication, language, and dress, as well as understanding work culture, expectations, and norms for those who have not spent much time in the workforce or who are immigrants who are not familiar with the culture they now are in.

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households	Times Service Was Provided
<b>Education</b>				
J1	Head Start	1,766	1,629	1,766
<b>Income Management</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	32	32	32
M3	Tax Aid	715		715
M4	Asset Development (FAIM)	32	32	32
<b>Housing</b>				
B1	Weatherization	986	463	466
B4	Other Conservation Services	492	205	205
B7	Energy Related Repairs	778	275	275
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	94	42	42
C5	Small Cities Development Grants (SCDG)	363	112	112
<b>Emergency Services</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	49,595	15,794	15,794
B6	Energy Crisis	12,361	3,645	3,645
B8	Fuel Fund	277	93	93
G1	Emergency Family Services	422	130	422
G6	Donated Articles	535	285	285
G8	Crisis Intervention	363	112	112
<b>Nutrition</b>				
H6	Home Delivered Meals	212	212	47,155
H7	Congregate Meals	1,176	1,176	292,827
<b>Linkages</b>				
K1	Information and Referral	16,900	7,011	37,500
K2	Outreach	295	295	295
K4	Contract Services	258	80	82
<b>Self Sufficiency</b>				
M1	Self Sufficiency	150	117	117
M5	Family Loan Fund	116	39	39

# Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians

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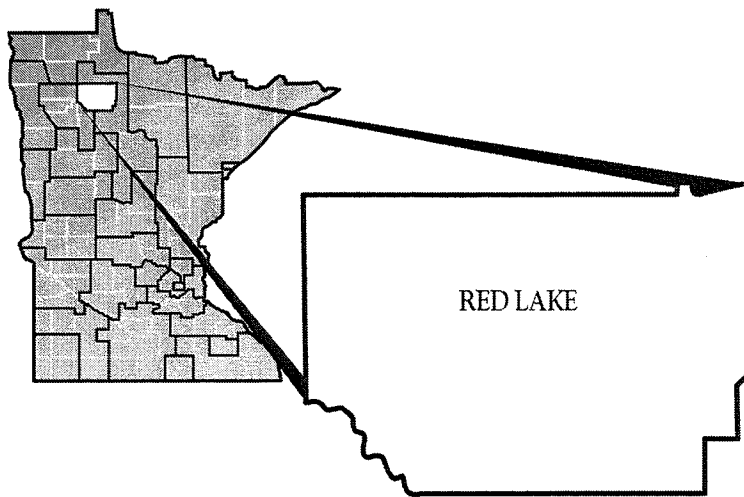
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## Results Highlight

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### *Employment Remains a Top Priority*

With a current unemployment rate on the Red Lake Reservation roughly 60% or higher, we have prioritized our CSBG/MEOG funds to retain and educate tribal members in a variety of health and vocational fields.

Due to substantial increases in population and the number of households eligible for home repair and maintenance assistance, there is great demand for additional trained home repair and maintenance employees. Red Lake CAP and Tribal Council agreed to offer training for two years to two low-income, MFIP-referred employees each year, to learn marketable skills and become employed at Red Lake Housing Authority.

Red Lake CAP and Tribal Council also agreed to supplement the Jourdain/Perpich Extended Care Facility Nursing Assistant training program to maintain local quality nursing home care.

We also use CSBG/MEOG funds to supplement our Elderly Nutrition Program food costs. Monies are used to purchase Indian culture food items to be served to elders in a warm, hospitable environment, which has resulted in improved health and nutrition.

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households	Times Service Was Provided
<b>Employment</b>				
D1	Employment and Training Services	39	39	156
D3	Youth Employment	14	14	50
D6	Senior Employment Programs	22	22	22
<b>Education</b>				
J1	Head Start	167	167	174
L1	GED and Educational Services	15	15	15
<b>Income Management</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	659	659	659
<b>Housing</b>				
B1	Weatherization	139	31	31
B3	MECS Audits	139	31	31
B4	Other Conservation Services	18	4	4
B7	Energy Related Repairs	536	158	158
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	10	10	10
C3	Home Repair/Rehabilitation	30	30	30
C6	Rental Housing Assistance	401	401	401
C7	Low-Income Housing Development	48	48	48
C9	Community Homeownership Education	40	40	40
<b>Emergency Services</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	4,898	1,088	1,088
B6	Energy Crisis	2,307	659	659
B8	Fuel Fund	4	1	1
G8	Crisis Intervention	2,307	659	659
<b>Nutrition</b>				
H6	Home Delivered Meals	125	125	20,912
H7	Congregate Meals	375	375	34,808
H9	USDA Commodity Assistance	1,571	349	4,188
<b>Linkages</b>				
E3	Transportation Assistance	452	452	15,063
K1	Information and Referral	452	452	850
K2	Outreach	350	350	350
K3	Advocacy Info/Education	55	55	55
<b>Self Sufficiency</b>				
J2	Child Care	461	224	250
J3	Child Care Administration	14	224	250
J4	At Risk Youth	9	4	4
<b>Health</b>				
I1	Health Care Aid Non-Financial	568	568	568

# Scott Carver Dakota CAP Agency, Inc.

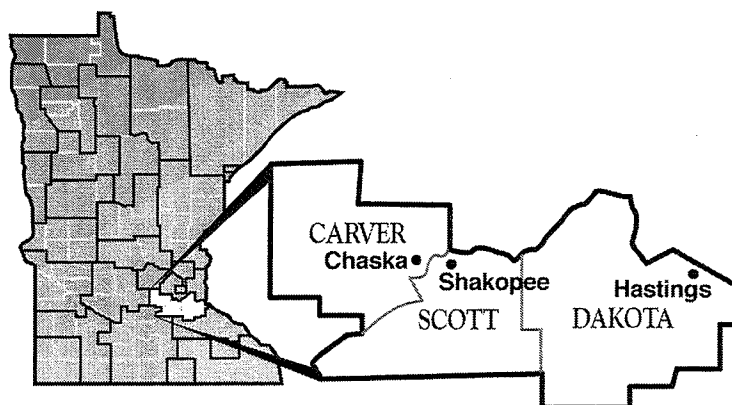
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## Results Highlight

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### ***CHORE Service Program Helps Seniors Maintain Homes and Live Independently***

The CAP Agency CHORE Service Program was established in 2002 through a cooperative effort between the CAP Agency and Scott and Carver County Social Service Agencies. Both Scott and Carver Counties established the need for CHORE Services for the older population in their Gaps Analysis for Long-Term Care. CHORE helps seniors access and receive the services they need to maintain their homes and continue living independently.

The CAP Agency CHORE Service Program provides paid workers or volunteers to perform household tasks. It acts as a liaison between the clients and those performing the services, including lawn care, snow removal, and minor home repairs. Adult or youth groups often perform the services for seniors in their communities. The impact and results are evident in the following survey results:

- 73% of respondents found that CHORE services provided them help for work that they can no longer do themselves;
- 60% said their homes feel more cared for and orderly;
- 86% said the volunteers/service providers did a nice job and were very helpful;
- 100% said the CHORE services provided a safer home environment and/or provided services that they could no longer do safely themselves;
- 80% of respondents reported that the most helpful aspect of the CHORE Service is its trust and dependability;
- 6% reported the service providing needed help during a crisis; and,
- 20% said that CHORE was helpful in allowing them to remain independent in their own home.

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households	Times Service Was Provided
<b>Education</b>				
J1	Head Start	1,715	746	829
<b>Income Management</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	88	24	88
M4	Asset Development (FAIM)	88	24	88
<b>Housing</b>				
B1	Weatherization	128	43	43
B4	Other Conservation Services	195	61	61
B7	Energy Related Repairs	227	73	73
<b>Emergency Services</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	12,892	4,504	4,504
B6	Energy Crisis	3,890	1,163	1,163
B8	Fuel Fund	301	102	102
C10	Homeless Assistance	182	49	182
C11	MN Transitional Housing	70	15	70
C12	TANF/Transitional Housing	52	14	52
G6	Donated Articles	6,885	1,817	49,572
G8	Crisis Intervention	1,751	574	574
<b>Nutrition</b>				
H1	Food Assistance	2,611	2,328	10,265
H3	Holiday Projects	4,594	1,052	1,052
H4	Women, Infants, Children (WIC)	4,465	2,232	30,272
H6	Home Delivered Meals	462	418	52,089
H7	Congregate Meals	1,236	1,123	93,152
<b>Linkages</b>				
E4	Vehicle Program	20	6	6
F1	Senior Oriented Services	71	49	49
F3	Chore Services	28	26	857
K1	Information and Referral	30,947	9,855	9,855
K2	Outreach	30,947	9,855	9,855
K3	Advocacy Info/Education	30,947	9,855	66,160
<b>Self Sufficiency</b>				
J6	Child Care Resource & Referral	1,350	745	745
J8	Parenting Education	182	64	66
J10	Crisis Nursery	219	64	479
M1	Self Sufficiency	499	124	499

# Semcac

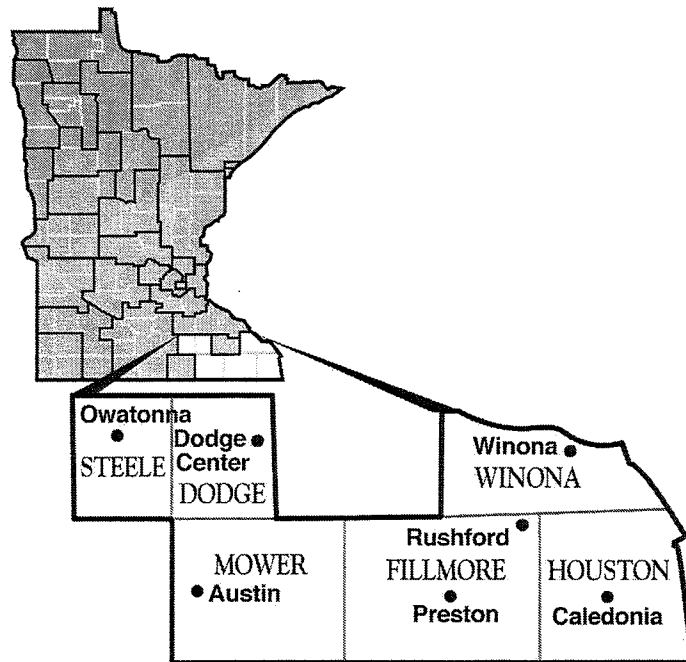
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## Results Highlight

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### *Contact Centers Provide Administrative Leadership for Needed Services*

The CSBG makes it possible for Semcac to have Contact Centers in each of its six service-area counties. Field Services staff at the Contact Centers provide a personal connection between low-income households and community resources and services. These staff members directly administer Semcac programs and provides support to other Semcac programs.

During the past reporting period, we developed several new initiatives in Dodge County. As in Semcac's other service-area counties, the Dodge County Field Services staff is active in the county's Family Service Collaborative (FSC). In February 2003, the Dodge County FSC developed a committee to create the Dodge County Flexible Fund Program with \$7,500 from the FSC. Semcac was chosen to administer the fund, and CSBG dollars paid for Semcac's staff time involved in the development of the program. The Flex Fund is used to expand access to items, services, and activities that enhance the lives of Dodge County children, youth and families, but for which no categorical fund exists. During the reporting period, 67 individuals in 17 households were assisted with these funds. For instance, the Flex Fund was used to help a household avoid a utility disconnection, make a house payment, buy prescription drugs, or participate in extra curricular activities for youth.

The Kasson-Mantorville Care and Share program provides families within the school district with emergency assistance. The Care and Share committee consists of 10 citizens, Semcac, Citizens Bank of Mantorville, and the Dodge County DHS. In addition to assisting with the design of the program, fulfilling the Care and Share request is at the discretion of Semcac Field Services staff. All Semcac's expenses to operate the program, including information and referrals to other appropriate services, were supported by CSBG. Care and Share assisted 16 households from February 2003 to September 2003 with utility emergencies, which kept the families in safe, warm housing.

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households	Times Service Was Provided
<b>Education</b>				
J1	Head Start	1,544	386	408
<b>Housing</b>				
B1	Weatherization	933	350	350
B4	Other Conservation Services	343	124	124
B7	Energy Related Repairs	301	136	136
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	51	28	28
C7	Low-Income Housing Development	26	19	19
C9	Community Homeownership Education	74	59	59
<b>Emergency Services</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	14,321	5,979	5,979
B6	Energy Crisis	4,313	1,359	1,359
B8	Fuel Fund	195	57	57
C10	Homeless Assistance	932	332	932
G1	Emergency Family Services	566	490	566
G6	Donated Articles	385	385	385
G8	Crisis Intervention	74	18	18
<b>Nutrition</b>				
H1	Food Assistance	23,421	8,848	8,848
H3	Holiday Projects	2,092	658	658
H6	Home Delivered Meals	642	567	72,289
H7	Congregate Meals	7,430	6,390	341,477
<b>Linkages</b>				
E1	Transportation System	305	277	38,000
E3	Transportation Assistance	523	472	472
F1	Senior Oriented Services	71	63	256
F3	Chore Services	48	48	654
F5	Retired Senior Volunteers (RSVP)	1,343	1,200	1,343
K1	Information and Referral	5,278	2,639	5,073
K2	Outreach	20,107	10,053	10,053
K3	Advocacy Info/Education	25,935	13,284	25,935
K4	Contract Services	1,416	566	3,565
<b>Health</b>				
I1	Health Care Aid Non-Financial	546	546	546
I3	Family Planning	2,045	2,045	2,045

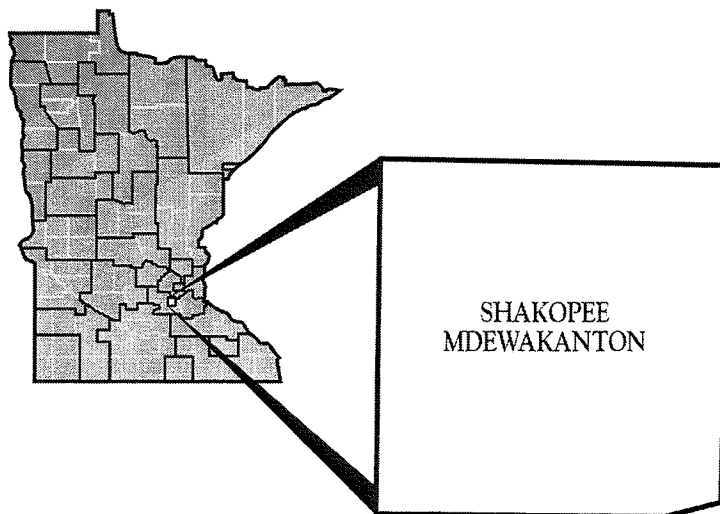
# Shakopee Mdewakanton Community

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## Results Highlight

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### *Education and Health*

The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community offers a wide variety of services for Native Americans living in the service area of Scott County. Overall, our categories include Social Services, Chemical Dependency Services, Mental Health Services, a Networks Employee Assistance Program (Smoking Cessation Groups), an Education Department, a Health Department, Playworks (Child Care and Family Play), and a Membership Fitness Center.

Social Services in Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community provides Information and Referral, case management, parenting education, Adolescent Support Groups, Child Care subsidy Program, Home Visits, Car Seat Loaner Program, Prenatal and New Baby Information Packets, and Emergency Gas Vouchers.

The Education Department leads a program called the JOM program, Tutoring, Student Support Services, Internship Program, Summer Youth Work Program, Higher Education Program, Dakota Language Program, and Young Native Pride Program. The SMSC Health Department offers a Dental Clinic, Nurse Practitioner, and Wellness Educational Programs.

# Protocols for Working with Tribes

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The following list of suggestions is provided to help you develop sound relationships with tribal officials. Thank you to the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council and the Tribes for this information (updated 1/1/1999).

- Meetings between tribal officials and staff should, if possible, be conducted between the same level of officials.
- Respect Tribal council officials as officials of government.
- Tribal council officials expect to be treated in the highest professional manner when conducting business.
- Like all business relationships, honesty and integrity are highly valued. A sense of humor is appreciated, but generally, serious business-like behavior is appropriate.
- Personal interest in tribal political and cultural history is appreciated, but don't let your personal interest interfere with your mission or task. When possible, do your homework ahead of time to help you understand a situation or issue.
- During negotiations, prepare to discuss all aspects of an issue at hand simultaneously, rather than sequentially.
- Understand that there are different ways of communication. Seemingly extraneous data may be reviewed and re-reviewed.
- Always shake hands when introduced, meeting someone, and departing. It is customary to shake hands with everyone in the room.
- For business meetings, dress formally.
- Traditional authorities often do not relate well to written communication and may find face-to-face consultation more appropriate.
- Like most people, American Indians object to being "consulted" by people who have little intention of doing anything in response to their concerns. Be prepared to negotiate — to the extent that you have authority — to find ways to accommodate the group's concerns. And be prepared to respond with reasons why the advice may or may not be followed.
- Do not rely solely on letters or other written materials to notify tribal governments of proposed plans or actions or to seek consultation. Many groups lack the funding or administrative support to receive and respond efficiently to letters. Letters may not reach the people who are most concerned. Follow-up written communication with telephone calls or in-person contacts.
- Tribal Governments usually are not wealthy. It may be difficult for tribal officials to come to meetings or exchange correspondence. In addition, traditional leaders are busy people with responsibilities in the social and cultural life of the community. Be careful how you use their time and avoid causing undue expense. In addition, tribal governments generally do not have large staffs to assign to meetings, follow-up, etc.
- Remember that American Indians may perceive themselves as having a long history of uneven relationships with the U.S. government. They may be suspicious of your proposals. Do not expect a sympathetic attitude to be automatic.
- Be flexible about deadlines, if possible. To be effective, try to follow the most natural schedule. If the mission requires that particular deadlines must be set, be sure to explain what they are and why they must exist. Expect to negotiate about them.
- Those you consult with might not be able to answer questions immediately. They may have to think about it and consult with others. As a result, it may be necessary to pose a question and then go away while they consider and debate the matter.
- Do not assume one American Indian speaks for all American Indians or tribal governments. Take advantage of organizations like the Urban Indian Advisory Council for broad input.

# South Central Community Action Partnerships, Inc.\*

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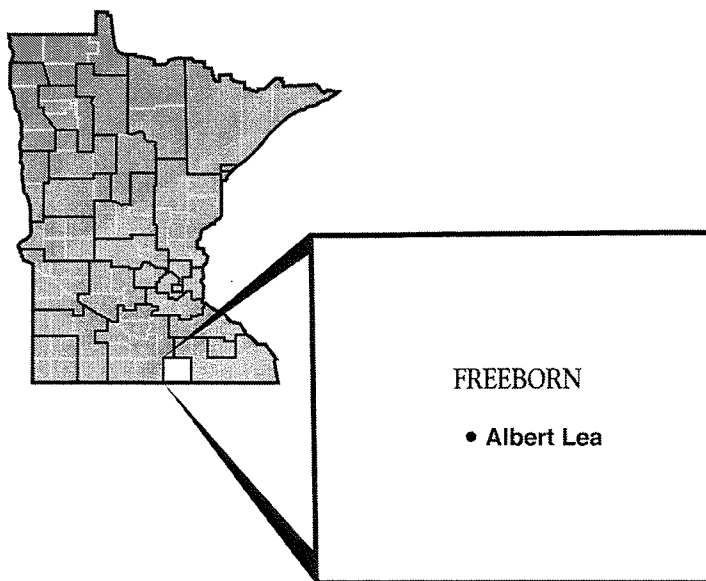
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## Results Highlight

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### *Transitional Housing Services Encourage Planning for Permanency*

South Central Community Action Partnerships, Inc. was pleased to enter into transitional housing services when it opened a site in January 2002. The site is located south of town in Albert Lea. A three-bedroom apartment building was affordable and close to a school. The complex has two 2-bedroom apartments and one 3-bedroom apartment.

Our emergency shelter site previously sheltered all of the families now in the transitional housing site. After staff worked with the families and developed a permanent housing plan with each, the families moved into the transitional sites for skills building, savings, and further planning for permanency. Families participating in the program can now pay affordable rent, escrow a portion of their rent funds for when they leave transitional housing, continue case management and meet neighbors where they barter and make friends.

Rent escrowed funds cover rent deposits, a first month's rent or possibly a down payment on a home purchase. Through case management, each family is invited to our HomeStretch classes where we teach families how to purchase a home and maintain it. Case management also addresses employment and how to set up systems for employment success, such as having a child care back-up plan, transportation and its back up plan, and developing a family budget that is truly workable.

Please note: South Central Community Action Partnerships, Inc. merged with Semcac, Inc. Winter 2004.

<i>Code</i>	<i>Program Activity</i>	<b>Number of People Served</b>	<b>Number of Households Served</b>	<b>Times Service Was Provided</b>
<b>Employment</b>				
D1	Employment and Training Services	217	217	217
<b>Education</b>				
L1	GED and Educational Services	461	203	461
L2	Literacy	200	200	200
<b>Income Management</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	703	223	223
M3	Tax Aid	2	6	2
<b>Housing</b>				
C9	Community Homeownership Education	225	75	75
<b>Emergency Services</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	2,520	835	835
B8	Fuel Fund	169	55	55
C10	Homeless Assistance	1,125	369	1,125
G1	Emergency Family Services	2,324	452	2,324
G8	Crisis Intervention	2,899	837	837
<b>Nutrition</b>				
H1	Food Assistance	44,828	11,207	11,207
H3	Holiday Projects	310	119	119
<b>Linkages</b>				
E1	Transportation System	8,032	8,032	8,032
E3	Transportation Assistance	195	108	108
K1	Information and Referral	8,760	2,946	2,946
K2	Outreach	68	68	68
K3	Advocacy Info/Education	521	521	521
K4	Contract Services	98	51	31
<b>Self Sufficiency</b>				
J8	Parenting Education	162	68	68
M1	Self Sufficiency	859	273	273
<b>Health</b>				
I2	Health Care Aid – Financial	1	1	1

# Southwestern Minnesota Opportunity Council, Inc.

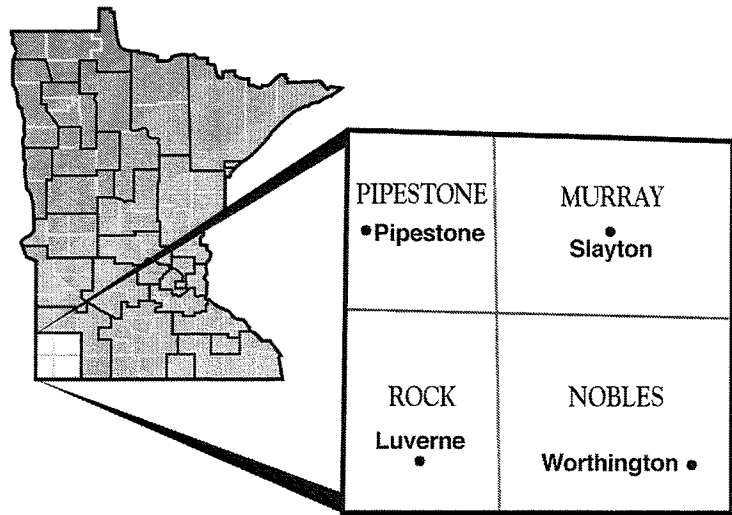
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## Results Highlight

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### *Prairieland Transit System Provides Access for Many*

Prior to January 2002, residents of the city of Worthington, which accounts for half the population of Nobles County, did not have equal access to public transportation supported through state and federal funds. In response to the requests of City of Worthington officials, Nobles County officials, organizations, and the general public, Prairieland Transit System began providing coordinated transportation to county residents. They partnered with a private taxi company and the public transportation program to ensure safe, affordable transportation is available to all residents throughout the county. Prairieland Transit System provides a central dispatch service that offers subsidized transportation for any resident of Nobles County. During its first year of service, Prairieland Transit System provided 38,252 rides to Nobles County residents. This increase in accessibility to public transportation has fostered self-sufficiency for Nobles County residents by providing access to employment, timely medical appointments, and nutrition services.

In addition, we changed the route structure to assure the availability of basic-level transportation services for each Nobles County community. Southwestern Minnesota Opportunity Council, Inc. (SMOC) implemented a North, East, South, and West route service so two Nobles County Heartland Express buses travel through each community in Nobles County five times weekly. This route service connects the communities in Nobles County and allows a greater number of county residents to access public transportation for employment, after school appointments, and medical needs.

Prairieland Transit System is a partnership governed by the Nobles County Joint Powers Transit Authority made up of members from the City of Worthington, Nobles County, and SMOC. This partnership was created to operate, administer, promote, and manage public transportation in Nobles County. SMOC is the only transportation system in Minnesota with this unique design of public, private, and community resources.

<b>Code</b>	<b>Program Activity</b>	<b>Number of People Served</b>	<b>Number of Households</b>	<b>Times Service Was Provided</b>
<b>Employment</b>				
D1	Employment & Training Services	56	48	48
<b>Education</b>				
J1	Head Start	711	237	237
<b>Income Management</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	53	53	53
M3	Tax Aid	14	14	14
M4	Asset Development (FAIM)	6	3	6
<b>Housing</b>				
B1	Weatherization	285	106	106
B7	Energy Related Repairs	182	61	61
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	28	20	20
C5	Small Cities Development Grants (SCDG)	8	6	6
C9	Community Homeownership Education	264	88	88
<b>Emergency Services</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	5,501	2,227	2,227
B6	Energy Crisis	674	149	149
B8	Fuel Fund	665	199	199
C10	Homeless Assistance	101	37	101
G8	Crisis Intervention	63	35	35
<b>Linkages</b>				
E1	Transportation System	19,126	19,126	38,252
F3	Chore Services	89	89	38,844
F6	Senior Companions/Foster Grandparents	8	8	8
K1	Information and Referral	2,265	2,265	2,265
K2	Outreach	964	964	964
K3	Advocacy Info/Education	855	855	855
<b>Self Sufficiency</b>				
J6	Child Care Resource & Referral	3,084	1,022	1,022
<b>Health</b>				
I1	Health Care Aid Non-Financial	32	13	13
I3	Family Planning	1,697	1,697	1,697

# Three Rivers Community Action, Inc.

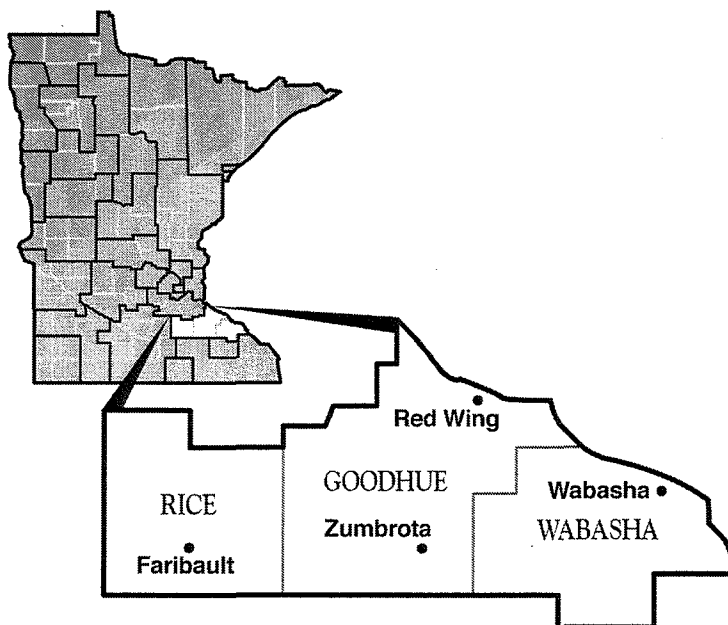
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## Results Highlight

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### *Agency Spearheads Partnerships in Eldercare*

Three Rivers Community Action, Inc. took the lead in collaborations that have resulted in three new services. By assisting with grass roots organizing, grant writing, guidance, and technical assistance, Three Rivers spearheaded Pine Island Home Services' Living At Home Program and the new Community Services to Seniors program in the communities of Wanamingo, Kenyon, Zumbrota, Mazeppa, Bellechester, and Goodhue. In coordination with existing services, these programs provide needed transportation, socialization opportunities, chore services, respite care, and support groups. They focus on the needs of the elderly, disabled, and their caregivers.

In addition, Three Rivers leads the development of a Chore Service program in Rice County to ensure that area seniors are able continue living independently in their own homes. Our actions have brought communities together to assure our citizens have the services needed to keep our elderly out of nursing homes and in their own homes and communities as long as possible.

<b>Code</b>	<b>Program Activity</b>	<b>Number of People Served</b>	<b>Number of Households</b>	<b>Times Service Was Provided</b>
<b>Employment</b>				
D6	Senior Employment Programs	18	18	18
<b>Education</b>				
J1	Head Start	888	208	264
<b>Housing</b>				
B1	Weatherization	227	80	80
B4	Other Conservation Services	171	60	60
B7	Energy Related Repairs	180	64	64
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	27	10	10
C7	Low-Income Housing Development	33	12	12
C8	Community Housing Stabilization	5	1	1
<b>Emergency Services</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	4,785	1,872	1,872
B6	Energy Crisis	1,634	518	518
B8	Fuel Fund	60	16	16
C10	Homeless Assistance	284	104	284
C12	TANF/Transitional Housing	44	13	44
G8	Crisis Intervention	379	122	122
<b>Nutrition</b>				
H6	Home Delivered Meals	359	282	36,664
<b>Linkages</b>				
E1	Transportation System	1,025	683	32,787
E3	Transportation Assistance	74	70	599
F1	Senior Oriented Services	135	111	111
K1	Information and Referral	5,596	2,267	6,801
K2	Outreach	11,192	4,534	4,534
K3	Advocacy Info/Education	12,311	4,987	2,267
<b>Self Sufficiency</b>				
M5	Family Loan Fund	55	15	15

# Tri-County Action Programs, Inc. (Tri-CAP)

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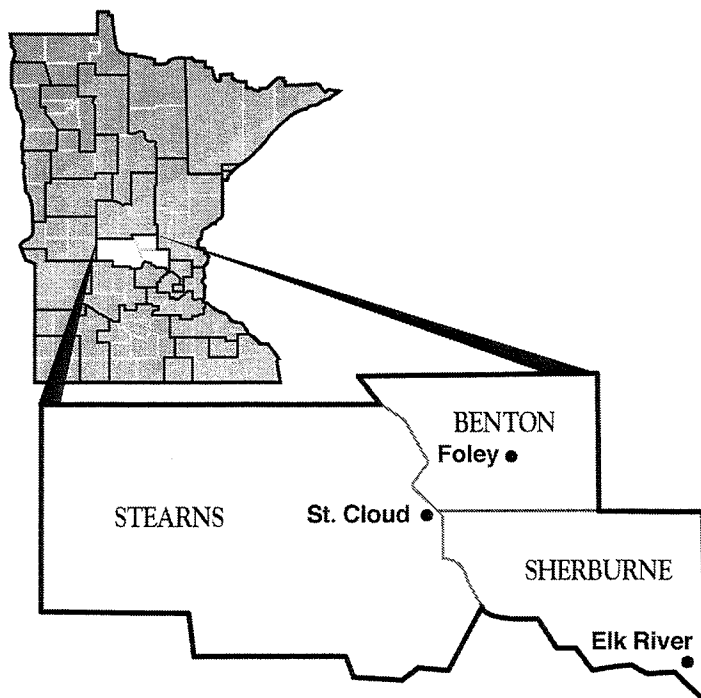
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## Results Highlight

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### *Flexible Transportation Gives Rural Residents Better Access to Jobs and Services*

Declining numbers of passengers using our flexible-fixed route transportation services, along with increasing requests for door-to-door service, led staff and the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) to do a thorough review of current services and brainstorm possible alternative models. The final recommendation from the TAC was to pilot a countywide Dial-A-Ride bus. This bus could potentially operate on a different schedule each day of the week based upon passenger needs. The goal was to create a flexible bus schedule that could accommodate greater number of passenger needs.

As of September 2003, two buses operate as dial-a-rides. This is made possible not only by funding from the Department of Transportation, but also by grants from the Central Minnesota Initiative Foundation, the Department of Human Services and Stearns County Human Services. Coordination with WACOSA, a program providing work opportunities to disabled persons, also placed some of their clients on the Dial-A-Ride bus.

The changing service has done just what the TAC hoped it would. There are now passengers who ride daily to work. Many would not be able to keep their jobs without this service, because Dial-A-Ride is their only means of transportation. There are also passengers who ride to adult day care, to the workforce center and to medical and other appointments. Dial-A-Ride passengers have increased 233% in the past year with this service. We know it is because we were able to design a service that responded to unmet rural transportation needs.

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households	Times Service Was Provided
<b>Employment</b>				
D8	Displaced Homemakers	81	81	81
<b>Income Management</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	534	210	245
M3	Tax Aid	10	10	10
M4	Asset Development (FAIM)	140	48	52
<b>Housing</b>				
B1	Weatherization	432	165	165
B7	Energy Related Repairs	363	157	157
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	24	12	12
C3	Home Repair/Rehabilitation	1	1	1
C6	Rental Housing Assistance	90	34	34
C7	Low-Income Housing Development	40	20	20
C8	Community Housing Stabilization	48	16	16
<b>Emergency Services</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	12,909	5,050	5,050
B6	Energy Crisis	3,237	966	966
B8	Fuel Fund	258	87	87
C10	Homeless Assistance	1,193	346	493
G6	Donated Articles	580	580	580
G8	Crisis Intervention	192	189	189
<b>Nutrition</b>				
H3	Holiday Projects	4	1	1
<b>Linkages</b>				
E1	Transportation System	2,210	1,396	64,199
E3	Transportation Assistance	4	4	4
K1	Information and Referral	131,868	32,995	32,995
K2	Outreach	46,182	13,794	13,794
K3	Advocacy Info/Education	2,775	10,875	3,600
<b>Self Sufficiency</b>				
M1	Self Sufficiency	609	250	261
M5	Family Loan Fund	4	2	2
<b>Other</b>				
A1	Community Development	7	1	1

# Tri-County Community Action, Inc. (TCC)

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Joseph D. Ayers, Executive Director

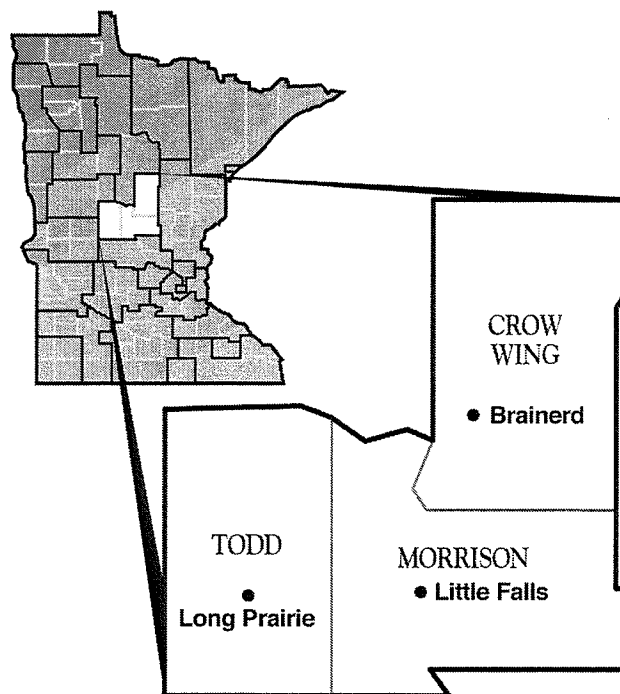
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## Results Highlight

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### *Partnership with School District Leads to More Families Being Served*

Earlier in 2003, the superintendent of the Little Falls school district approached TCC's executive director with an interest in developing services at the elementary school in Randall. TCC had a history of collaborating with the district and the Mid-State (special) Education District, but had not focused its efforts on the Randall community. Grade school children attend school in Randall, but those receiving Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) or School Readiness must travel to Little Falls. TCC's busing of children to a Head Start Center in Little Falls was limited due to the length of the route.

Staff from TCC, the Little Falls School District, and the Mid-State Education District gathered input from parents and others, and met to develop a service plan, which required approval by TCC and the Little Falls School District boards. Once approved, the organizations worked together to make the community aware of the new program.

Services began in September 2003. ECSE children now receive services in an integrated environment along with School Readiness and Head Start children in Randall. Space is shared with the Early Childhood Family Education program. TCC has maintained its enrollment in Little Falls and has tripled the number of families served in the Randall area. Additionally, families receive information about other TCC services, are referred to other services in the area, and information is gathered for Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA). This collaborative venture is helping to increase a sense of community, and TCC is serving families it might not have otherwise reached.

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households	Times Service Was Provided
<b>Education</b>				
J1	Head Start	2,225	503	503
<b>Income Management</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	80	62	62
M4	Asset Development (FAIM)	14	8	8
<b>Housing</b>				
B1	Weatherization	240	100	100
B3	MECS Audits	293	122	122
B4	Other Conservation Services	190	79	70
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	29	12	12
C8	Community Housing Stabilization	11	8	8
<b>Emergency Services</b>				
G3	Abuse and Neglect	94	39	39
G6	Donated Articles	1,800	407	407
G8	Crisis Intervention	348	145	145
<b>Linkages</b>				
K1	Information and Referral	2,225	503	503
K2	Outreach	2,225	503	503
K4	Contract Services	376	157	157
<b>Self Sufficiency</b>				
J2	Child Care	581	242	242
J6	Child Care Resource & Referral	173	72	72
M1	Self Sufficiency	10	5	5
M5	Family Loan Fund	27	19	19
<b>Other</b>				
A1	Community Development	15	8	8

# Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc.

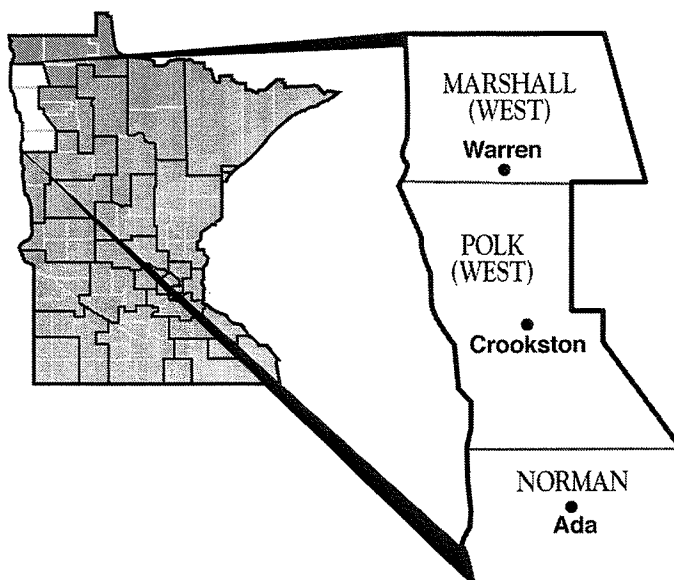
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## Results Highlight

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### *Touching the Lives of Seniors and Children*

Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc., which serves eleven counties in Northwestern Minnesota, is the only community action agency in the state that sponsors a Foster Grandparent Program. Foster grandparents are persons over the age of 60 who meet income guidelines, are in good health, and who have the time and love to give. There are no educational requirements.

Foster grandparents receive a pre-service training and orientation before site placement. In most cases, each grandparent serves four hours per day, five days per week. Foster grandparents are a positive role model and stable influence that help children achieve academic goals and develop healthy attitudes as they become teenagers and adults. The program touches the lives of seniors who have a wealth of wisdom and experience to give back to their communities, and to the lives of children with special needs who benefit from their love and attention.

One elementary Title I teacher had this to say about her foster grandparent. "Having her there enables the students to receive the extra one-on-one attention they need to be successful. They get the immediate feedback necessary for improvement. She provides help and encouragement. She is good at motivating students to work their best. The fact that she is there enables us to have two working groups so that we do more hands-on activities and check their work immediately, eliminating errors being repeated and learned. The students enjoy this and she is enjoying their success."

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households	Times Service Was Provided
<b>Education</b>				
J1	Head Start	6,426	885	2,570
<b>Housing</b>				
B1	Weatherization	321	83	83
B3	MECS Audits	332	83	83
B4	Other Conservation Services	88	22	22
B7	Energy Related Repairs	200	79	79
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	28	12	15
C3	Home Repair/Rehabilitation	9	3	3
C6	Rental Housing Assistance	73	30	30
C9	Community Homeownership Education	40	24	24
<b>Emergency Services</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	5,043	1,933	1,933
B6	Energy Crisis	1,400	518	518
B8	Fuel Fund	76	24	24
C10	Homeless Assistance	132	33	33
C11	MN Transitional Housing	20	11	20
G1	Emergency Family Services	94	47	94
<b>Nutrition</b>				
H1	Food Assistance	4	1	1
<b>Linkages</b>				
E1	Transportation System	6,026	2,345	66,959
E3	Transportation Assistance	6	3	3
F3	Chore Services	750	738	75,275
F6	Senior Companions/Foster Grandparents	1,344	1,344	1,344
K1	Information and Referral	246	233	233
K2	Outreach	700	700	700
K3	Advocacy Info/Education	4,386	1,096	162
<b>Self Sufficiency</b>				
J2	Child Care	115	108	115
J6	Child Care Resource & Referral	340	136	136
M5	Family Loan Fund	7	3	1
<b>Health</b>				
I2	Health Care Aid – Financial	2,876	885	2,876

# Upper Sioux Community

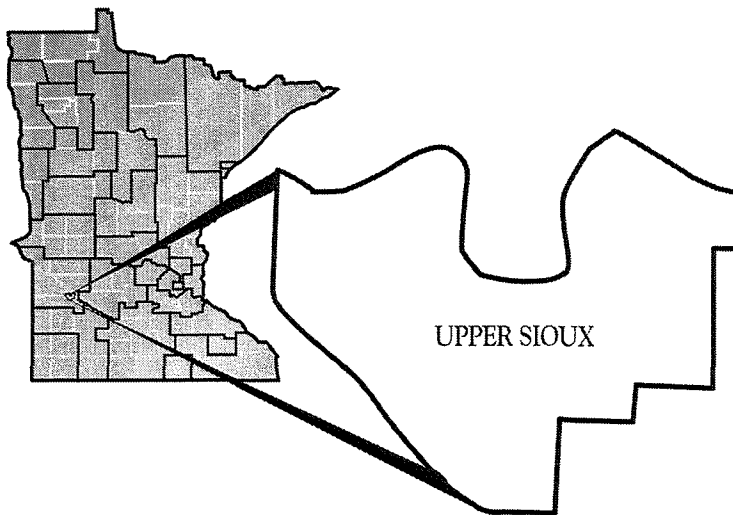
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## Results Highlight

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### *Elders' Meal Site Program Helps the Hungry*

Hunger is hard to detect, even in small communities where everyone knows each other. It's one of the many invisible conditions that plague neighborhoods the world over, and the Upper Sioux Community is no exception.

Since its inception in September 2001, the Elders' Meal Site Program means that elders no longer have to go hungry. Meals are provided on a daily basis in a congregate setting, and for those that are unable to leave their homes, volunteer staff members deliver meals.

Managed by a community elder and funded in part by our CSBG funds, the Meal Site offers much more than a hot meal. It's a place where the few remaining fluent Dakota speakers of our small tribe can visit in their native tongue, as well as gather for an afternoon of crafting, quilting, and socializing. It is also a mechanism that helps our community build bridges to the communities around us, as our meals are cooked at the Prairie Five Senior Nutrition Center some twelve miles from us.

Through the collaborative effort of the Upper Sioux Community's Indian Health and Diabetes Programs, members of our staff routinely visit the Meal Site to monitor blood pressure and blood sugar levels. These staff members also provide transportation services to and from doctor appointments when necessary. The value of these in-kind services is approximately \$350 per month.

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households	Times Service Was Provided
<b>Employment</b>				
D6	Senior Employment Programs	1	1	1
<b>Housing</b>				
B1	Weatherization	11	7	7
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	35	20	18
<b>Emergency Services</b>				
G3	Abuse and Neglect	14	14	14
G8	Crisis Intervention	2	2	2
<b>Nutrition</b>				
H3	Holiday Projects	35	30	30
H6	Home Delivered Meals	4	3	1,025
H7	Congregate Meals	14	10	1,680
<b>Linkages</b>				
E3	Transportation Assistance	14	12	12
F3	Chore Services	3	3	3
K2	Outreach	397	155	155
K3	Advocacy Info/Education	397	155	155
<b>Self Sufficiency</b>				
J4	At Risk Youth	83	69	83
J7	Youth Recreation	77	65	77
J8	Parenting Education	12	8	12
<b>Health</b>				
I1	Health Care Aid Non-Financial	203	148	203

# West Central Minnesota Communities Action, Inc.

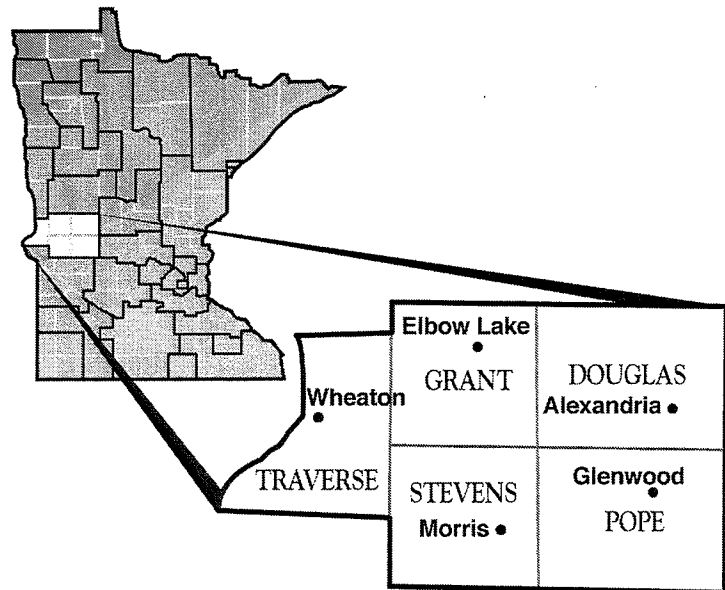
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## Results Highlight

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### *Faith-based Partnership Brings Youth and Seniors Together*

In June 2003, West Central Minnesota Communities Action (WCMCA) was a partner in a project with a faith-based organization called Group Workcamp, Inc. The camp, a weeklong service project, brought youth into the community to do home repairs for West Central clients. Community volunteers, including seniors recruited through the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), provided support services before and during the camp.

Group Workcamp took place the week of June 8<sup>th</sup>. One hundred forty-nine youth and their adult leaders attended from at least five states. During the week they completed 25 projects, including building six wheelchair ramps, doing home repairs, and painting houses. The help of Senior Volunteers was invaluable during the week. They and other local community members assisted with meal preparation and serving, answered phones, and delivered mail. They also picked up and delivered paint, ladders, and other equipment, answered questions, and provided technical assistance at the job sites, helped clean up, and returned excess materials, ladders, etc.

WCMCA raised \$25,000 locally to purchase the building materials used on the project. The donations came from local cities, utilities, and churches. The young people and volunteers donated more than 5,300 hours of volunteer time. Nine RSVP volunteers and an additional seven community volunteers contributed 250 volunteer hours. Enthusiasm ran high among the staff, the volunteers, and the youth participants.

<b>Code</b>	<b>Program Activity</b>	<b>Number of People Served</b>	<b>Number of Households</b>	<b>Times Service Was Provided</b>
<b>Employment</b>				
D8	Displaced Homemakers	258	92	92
<b>Education</b>				
J1	Head Start	852	284	284
<b>Income Management</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	51	20	240
M4	Asset Development (FAIM)	51	20	51
<b>Housing</b>				
B1	Weatherization	821	301	301
B3	MECS Audits	281	102	102
B7	Energy Related Repairs	851	315	315
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	37	18	18
C3	Home Repair/Rehabilitation	63	25	25
C5	Small Cities Development Grants (SCDG)	29	13	13
C7	Low-Income Housing Development	10	6	6
C8	Community Housing Stabilization	6	2	2
<b>Emergency Services</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	12,379	4,903	4,903
B6	Energy Crisis	3,887	1,296	1,296
B8	Fuel Fund	113	32	32
C10	Homeless Assistance	1,048	287	1,048
C11	MN Transitional Housing	12	3	3
G1	Emergency Family Services	2	1	1
<b>Nutrition</b>				
H1	Food Assistance	824	203	203
<b>Linkages</b>				
F1	Senior Oriented Services	107	84	84
F5	Retired Senior Volunteers (RSVP)	997	897	897
K1	Information and Referral	9,861	3,927	14,279
K2	Outreach	3,362	1,339	1,366
K3	Advocacy Info/Education	32,063	21,375	32,063
<b>Self Sufficiency</b>				
M5	Family Loan Fund	77	27	27

# Western Community Action, Inc.

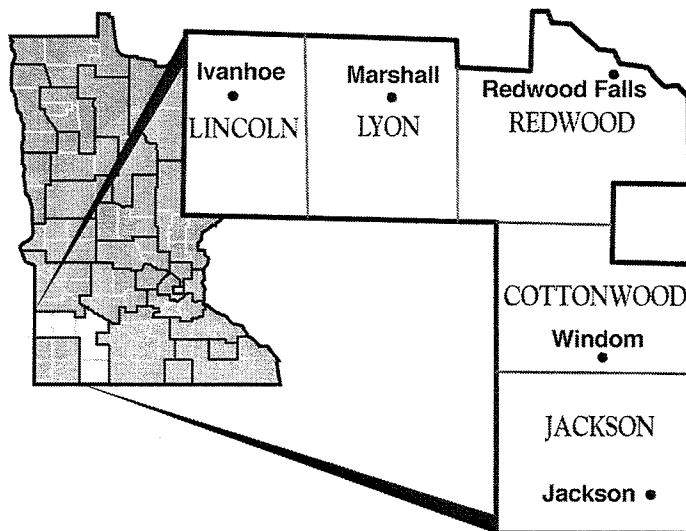
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## Results Highlight

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### *Offering New Options to Parents*

Western Community Action has six new Head Start/Child Care partnerships. Partnerships allow children and families to receive the benefits of Head Start within their existing child care setting. This gives families another enrollment option. They can enroll their children in the classroom or home visiting program, or the children can stay with their child care provider and receive Head Start's comprehensive services. Families access services addressing social and health needs just as they would in classroom or home visiting programs.

In addition to providing greater flexibility for families, this option offers the following benefits:

- It allows children to stay with one provider in one setting, reducing transitions;
- It combines the strengths and skills of the child care system with Head Start's services;
- It teaches providers new skills and helps them connect more closely with families;
- It gives *all* children and families attending Partnership homes added benefits from the training and support their provider receives.

Partnership providers must be currently caring or willing to care for income-eligible children, be committed to providing quality child care and comprehensive Head Start services, and have good management and communication skills. Providers must have or earn a BS or AAS degree in Early Childhood, or a CDA. Head Start assists in the placement of children in the provider's home, provides training, technical assistance, mentoring, necessary equipment and supplies, and pays providers a stipend.

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households	Times Service Was Provided
<b>Education</b>				
J1	Head Start	276	253	276
<b>Income Management</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	81	23	92
<b>Housing</b>				
B1	Weatherization	163	58	58
B7	Energy Related Repairs	48	48	48
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	176	44	44
C3	Home Repair/Rehabilitation	343	147	147
C5	Small Cities Development Grants (SCDG)	144	36	36
C6	Rental Housing Assistance	72	30	30
C8	Community Housing Stabilization	32	4	4
C9	Community Homeownership Education	316	129	129
<b>Emergency Services</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	5,021	2,072	2,072
B6	Energy Crisis	244	244	244
B8	Fuel Fund	39	12	12
C10	Homeless Assistance	437	123	437
C11	MN Transitional Housing	41	17	41
G1	Emergency Family Services	10	3	10
G6	Donated Articles	19,096	5,909	5,909
G8	Crisis Intervention	15	6	6
<b>Nutrition</b>				
H1	Food Assistance	3,828	1,212	1,212
H6	Home Delivered Meals	716	625	51,185
H7	Congregate Meals	2,963	2,412	151,180
<b>Linkages</b>				
E1	Transportation System	2,594	2,594	108,320
K1	Information and Referral	14	7	58,790
K2	Outreach	9,419	9,419	9,419
K3	Advocacy Info/Education			20,581
K4	Contract Services			63
<b>Self Sufficiency</b>				
J2	Child Care	241	93	113
J4	At Risk Youth	429	181	230
J6	Child Care Resource & Referral	154	45	45
M5	Family Loan Fund	21	8	8

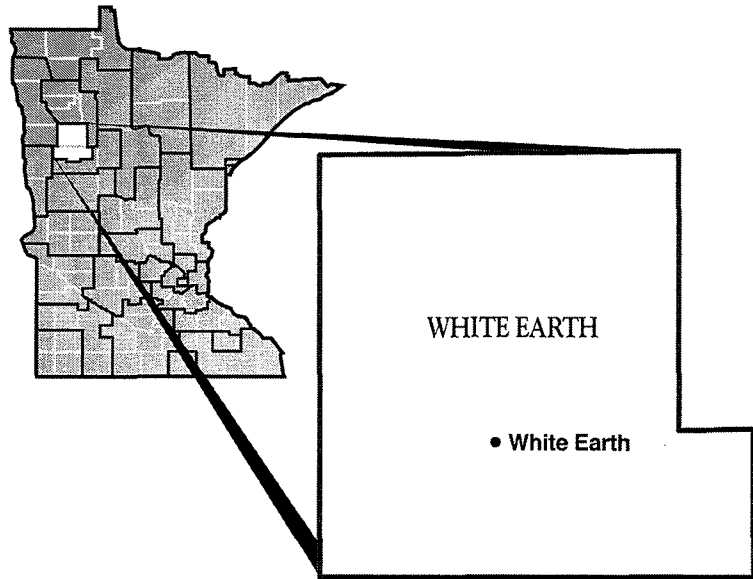
# White Earth Tribal Council

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Doyle Turner, Tribal Chairman

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## Results Highlight

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### *Elderly Nutrition Isn't Just About Eating*

For 29 years, the White Earth Elderly Nutrition Program has served congregate and home-delivered meals to elders living on the White Earth Indian Reservation. However, services don't stop there. Staff partners with the White Earth Diabetes Project, White Earth Health Education, White Earth Home Health Agency, county extension services and others to provide nutrition education, counseling, along with physical fitness and exercise sessions to our elders.

Nutrition education has been exciting this past year and included hands-on projects such as, Reduced Sugar Jam Making at the nutrition sites. Elders gathered together, chopping and preparing fruits for the jams and jellies and were able to take home jars of the finished product. Perhaps most important, was the opportunity for these elders to reminisce and visit with old friends.

We also held many informational presentations including: Phone Services for Low-Income Seniors, Cancer Awareness, and Macular Degeneration. A large number of reservation elders continue to experience difficulty with transportation needs. While community health representatives and Indian Health Services are able to provide transportation for medical appointments, socialization is often limited for many of the elder population residing in remote areas. The Chevrolet van, purchased in 2002 with CSBG funds, is used daily to provide home-delivered meals to many elders who, due to health or transportation difficulties, are unable to come to congregate. Activities such as grocery shopping, meetings, field trips, and picnics assist in the prevention of social isolation and depression among our elder population.

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households	Times Service Was Provided
<b>Employment</b>				
D1	Employment and Training Services	93	93	93
D3	Youth Employment	137	128	137
<b>Education</b>				
J1	Head Start	932	209	233
L1	GED and Educational Services	57	57	57
L2	Literacy	31	31	31
L3	English as a Second Language (ESL)	3	3	3
L4	Adult Basic Education (ABE)	144	144	144
<b>Income Management</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	48	46	86
M3	Tax Aid	18	15	15
<b>Housing</b>				
B1	Weatherization	47	20	20
B7	Energy Related Repairs	536	135	135
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	9	8	12
C3	Home Repair/Rehabilitation	30	13	13
C7	Low-Income Housing Development	9	8	6
<b>Emergency Services</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	2,558	640	640
B6	Energy Crisis	536	223	223
B8	Fuel Fund	3	1	1
C10	Homeless Assistance	358	101	358
G1	Emergency Family Services	93	90	93
G3	Abuse and Neglect	512	489	680
G6	Donated Articles	12	12	12
G8	Crisis Intervention	156	142	142
<b>Nutrition</b>				
H1	Food Assistance	7	3	3
H3	Holiday Projects	2,475	869	869
H4	Women, Infants, Children (WIC)	865	500	9,900
H6	Home Delivered Meals	100	85	14,535
H7	Congregate Meals	636	541	25,105
H9	USDA Commodity Assistance	12,990	6,380	6,380
<b>Linkages</b>				
E3	Transportation Assistance	941	527	312
K1	Information and Referral	1,072	964	2,777
K2	Outreach	3,098	2,210	2,210
K3	Advocacy Info/Education	38,535	12,912	13,505
<b>Self Sufficiency</b>				
J2	Child Care	633	384	633
J3	Child Care Administration	111	53	111
J4	At Risk Youth	295	163	295
J6	Child Care Resource & Referral	429	325	325
J7	Youth Recreation	20	15	20
J8	Parenting Education	449	296	449
J9	Fatherhood Initiative	3	3	3
J10	Crisis Nursery	74	32	74
M1	Self Sufficiency	486	331	110
<b>Health</b>				
I1	Health Care Aid Non-Financial	162	98	162
I2	Health Care Aid - Financial	36	12	12
I3	Family Planning	31	28	31
<b>Other</b>				
A1	Community Development	100	100	3

# Wright County Community Action, Inc.

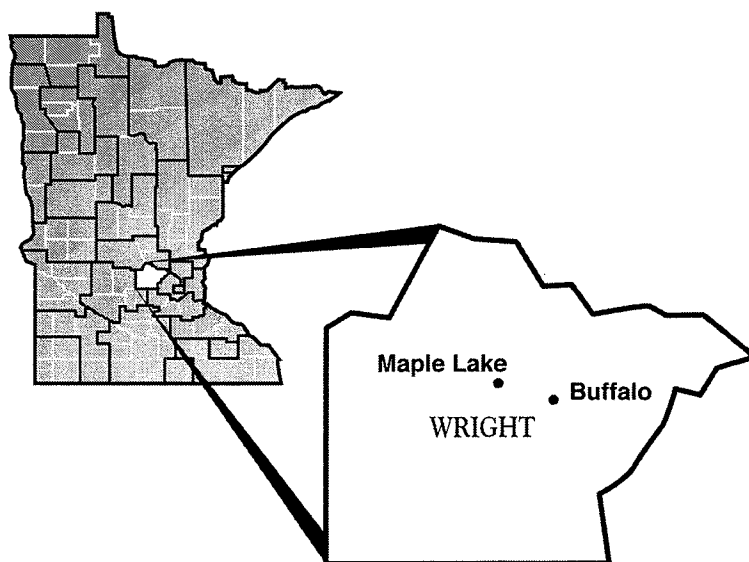
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## Results Highlight

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### *Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention*

In response to a growing number of inquiries for foreclosure assistance, Wright County Community Action (WCCA) established a Mortgage Foreclosure Assistance Program. The Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Assistance Program is designed to help homeowners maintain stable housing, establish financial stability, and teach homeowners strategies to avoid similar situations in the future.

Many times, WCCA is successful in negotiating agreements, debt repayment plans, or loan modification plans with mortgage lenders on participants' behalf, without making additional loans. In cases where this does not solve the crisis, WCCA provides the participants with a loan. In 2001, WCCA had 61 contacts from Wright County residents facing foreclosure due to a temporary financial crisis. This past year, due to the current downturn of the economy, that number has increased to 81.

In addition to the economic downturn, it is becoming much more difficult to find jobs, since most companies are decreasing their work force. An example of this is Mary, a single mom with a fourteen-year-old son. Mary purchased her home in 1991 and had no problem with her mortgage expenses, until she was laid off after seven years with her company. Mary looked for assistance from many local agencies to avoid a foreclosure, however was repeatedly denied. She was also denied the opportunity of completing a forbearance agreement since she could not find full-time employment and could not make the payments with just her child support alone. When Mary came to WCCA for assistance, she was 6 months behind on her mortgage and a sheriff's sale was scheduled to take place in less than 60 days. WCCA's Economic Resource Specialist worked with Mary in securing full-time employment and provided family budgeting sessions, linked her with other community resources, and worked with the attorney processing her foreclosure to resolve her crisis. This effort stopped the sheriff's sale and saved her home. Six months later, Mary continues to be fully employed, current on the mortgage and is maintaining the family's budget.

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households	Times Service Was Provided
<b>Education</b>				
J1	Head Start	1,246	313	326
L1	GED & Educational Services	1,127	796	1,127
L2	Literacy	548	245	548
<b>Income Management</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	157	53	105
M3	Tax Aid	227	149	149
<b>Housing</b>				
B1	Weatherization	140	51	51
B4	Other Conservation Services	28	10	10
B7	Energy Related Repairs	128	46	46
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	25	11	11
C5	Small Cities Devel Grnts (SCDG)	35	10	10
C9	Community Homeownership ED	287	125	125
<b>Emergency Services</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	4,433	1,545	1,545
B6	Energy Crisis	1,611	497	497
C10	Homeless Assistance	137	39	137
C11	MN Transitional Housing	26	9	26
G6	Donated Articles	21,043	5,925	5,925
<b>Nutrition</b>				
H1	Food Assistance	905	284	284
H3	Holiday Projects	289	102	102
H4	Women, Infants, Children (WIC)	3,218	1,640	23,108
<b>Linkages</b>				
F6	Senior Companions/Foster G	128	125	128
K1	Information and Referral	54,351	18,117	54,351
K2	Outreach	13,410	4,470	13,410
K3	Advocacy Info / Educ	30,394	10,131	30,394
<b>Self Sufficiency</b>				
M5	Family Loan Fund	2	1	2
<b>Health</b>				
I3	Family Planning	232	232	232

# Data Definitions

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## PROGRAM ACTIVITY CATEGORIES

### Number of People Served

The number of people served counts the number of times a service was delivered to an individual.

### Number of Households Served

The number of households served counts the number of times a service is delivered to a unique address.

### Number of Times Service Provided

The number of times service provided is the number of times service was provided to a household or a household member. Depending on the activity, service may be provided more than once for a household or household member, such as the number of one-way trips supplied by a transportation program or the number of meals delivered under a nutrition program.

## REPORTING CODES AND ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

### EMPLOYMENT

- D1 EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING SERVICES:** Adult placement, training and education services including Workers Investment Act (WIA), job training and placement assistance to income eligible adults and youths through employment services, OJT contracts and subsidized employment including industry specific grants to assist in relocating workers.

*Times Service Provided: Number of Participants Assisted*

- D3 YOUTH EMPLOYMENT:** Assistance to economically disadvantaged youth. Includes training, career counseling, remedial education and employment. For example: Summer Youth Employment Program, Minnesota Youth Program, Youth Builder program.

*Times Service Provided: Number of Youth Served*

- D6 SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICES EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (SCSEP):** Title V of the Older Americans Act, provides work experience through part time public service employment for individuals 55 years old or older. Employment occurs at senior citizen centers, in schools, hospitals, libraries, social service projects and other community projects. For example, State funded Hospitality Host Program.

*Times Service Provided: Number of Participants Assisted*

- D7 FOOD STAMP EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAM (FSET):** Mandatory program for Food Stamp recipients to improve employability. Participants receive financial assistance for two or six months and a variety of job-seeking services to help them find permanent employment.

*Times Service Provided: Number of Participants Assisted*

- 
- D8 DISPLACED HOMEMAKERS:** Counseling and support for low-income homemakers toward job-readiness, may include referral to training services or aid with educational expenses.

*Times Service Provided: Number of Households Assisted*

## EDUCATION

- J1 HEAD START:** Head Start assists low income families break the cycle of poverty by improving the health and social competence of children age birth to five and pregnant women, and promoting economic self-sufficiency for parents. Includes Early Head Start.

*Times Service Provided: Number of Children Enrolled*

- L1 GED AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES:** Educational services provided to low-income adults, including driver's education when these services are not part of another program.

*Times Service Provided: Number of Participants Assisted*

- L2 LITERACY:** Educational services provided to low income adults or children, when these services are not part of another program.

*Times Service Provided: Number of Individuals Assisted*

- L3 ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE:** Educational services provided to low income adults, when these services are not part of another program.

*Times Service Provided: Number of Participants Assisted*

- L4 ADULT BASIC EDUCATION:** Educational services provided to low income adults, when these services are not part of another program.

*Times Service Provided: Number of Participants Assisted*

## INCOME MANAGEMENT

- M2 BUDGET COUNSELING:** Programs to provide households with budget and financial counseling.

*Times Service Provided: Number of Counseling Sessions*

- M3 TAX AID:** Assistance to low-income individuals in filing taxes, including applications for rent tax refunds.

*Times Service Provided: Number of Households Assisted*

- M4 ASSET DEVELOPMENT:** Assistance to low income individuals in building assets to purchase of a home, further their education, or start a business through a combination of matched savings and financial education and training. Includes Family Assets for Independence in Minnesota (FAIM).

*Times Service Provided: Number of Individuals Assisted*

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## HOUSING

- B1 WEATHERIZATION:** Weatherization of homes of low-income households to reduce heat loss and increase heating efficiency. Funding sources includes DOE, EAP/WX and oil overcharge monies.  
*Times Service Provided: Number of Units Weatherized*
- B3 MINNESOTA ENERGY CONSERVATION SERVICES (MECS):** Energy audit services on low-income residences indicating areas needing conservation measures, funded by utility companies.  
*Times Service Provided: Number of Audits*
- B4 OTHER ENERGY CONSERVATION SERVICES:** Activities to reduce energy consumption not elsewhere classified such as utility funded energy conservation programs.  
*Times Service Provided: Number of Households Served*
- B7 ENERGY RELATED REPAIR:** Energy related repairs to EAP households to maintain heat in the dwelling or repair a potentially hazardous energy-related situation. (Also served in B5)  
*Times Service Provided: Number of Households Served*
- C1 HOUSING GRANTS AND LOANS:** Housing loans and grants for repair or energy conservation activity to low-income families, such as MHFA, FHA, HUD-CDBG.  
*Times Service Provided: Number of Grants and Loans Issued*
- C3 HOME REPAIR/REHABILITATION:** Housing repair/rehabilitation services for low-income households not elsewhere categorized.  
*Times Service Provided: Number of Units Repaired or Rehabilitated*
- C5 SMALL CITIES DEVELOPMENT GRANTS (SCDG):** Neighborhood/community grants used to assist low-income households with housing rehabilitation and utility installations.  
*Times Service Provided: Number of Loans and Grants Issued*
- C6 RENTAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE:** Non-emergency assistance to households by providing rental subsidies One example is the HUD Rental Assistance Program (section 8), RAFS.  
*Times Service Provided: Number of Households Assisted*
- C7 LOW-INCOME HOUSING DEVELOPMENT:** Development of long-term low-income housing, including the rehabilitation of unoccupied housing.  
*Times Service Provided: Number of Units Made Available*
- C8 COMMUNITY HOUSING STABLIZATION:** Increase and stabilize urban and rural housing stock utilizing revolving loan pools or other funding sources. Activities could include acquisition, rehabilitation and resale of homes. Programs that would be included are MURAL.  
*Times Service Provided: Number of Households served*

- 
- C9 COMMUNITY HOMEOWNERSHIP EDUCATION:** Educate households on the process and steps of purchasing and selling a residential home. For example, homebuyer workshops/counseling, escrow accounts, closing, realtor fees etc.

*Times Service Provided: Number of Households served*

## **EMERGENCY SERVICES**

- B5 ENERGY ASSISTANCE (EAP):** Assistance toward energy bills to applicant households

*Times Service Provided: Number of Households Served*

- B6 ENERGY CRISIS:** Assistance to EAP households with energy payment crises. Services include budget counseling and direct assistance. (Also served in B5)

*Times Service Provided: Number of Households Served*

- B8 FUEL FUND:** Assistance toward energy bills to applicant households. Includes state and locally funded programs.

*Times Service Provided: Number of Households Served*

- C10 HOMELESSNESS ASSISTANCE:** Assistance to households or individuals who are at risk of being homeless, currently homeless or who were previously homeless and are receiving follow-up services. Programs to be included in this category are FEMA, FHPAP, ESGP, SHP and ESP. Types of activities to include are prevention, emergency shelter, Transitional housing and permanent housing placement assistance.

*Times Service Provided: Number of Individuals Assisted*

- C11 MN TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM:** Provide housing and case management to homeless households in an effort to regain permanent housing. Length of participation is at least sixty days, but no longer than two years.

*Times Service Provided: Number of Individuals Assisted*

- C12 TANF/TRANSITIONAL HOUSING:** Provide housing and services to TANF/TH eligible households. Length of service provided with TANF/TH funds is limited to four months and must be for families with a child under age 18 and at least one caretaker.

*Times Service Provided: Number of Individuals Assisted*

- G1 EMERGENCY FAMILY SERVICES:** Services such as complaint resolution, insurance advocacy, judicare-tenant rights, farm mediation services, share a home, and other non-financial assistance to families.

*Times Service Provided: Number of Individuals Assisted*

- G3 ABUSE AND NEGLECT:** Assistance to abused and neglected individuals (battered spouse, sexual abuse, and child abuse).

*Times Service Provided: Number of Cases Aided During the Reporting Period*

- G6 DONATED ARTICLES - CLOTHING/OTHER:** Collection and distribution of donated clothing, furniture or household products to low-income households.

*Times Service Provided: Number of Households Assisted*

- 
- G8 CRISIS INTERVENTION:** Monetary assistance to households in emergency situations. Examples include: rent, heat and utilities, food, medical, emergency transportation and other crisis situations when the agency does not record separately these activities by category of assistance. These services are often funded through the use of flexible monies obtained from churches, foundations, gifts and grants with flexible uses such as CSBG/MEOG. Not reported under B6.

*Times Service Provided: Number of Households Assisted*

## **NUTRITION**

- H1 FOOD ASSISTANCE:** Food for households experiencing emergencies and anti-hunger efforts including food shelves or pantries, food vouchers, and food co-op projects.

*Times Service Provided: Number of Households (Duplicative) Assisted*

- H2 COMMUNITY SERVICES FOOD PACKAGES:** People performing community and volunteer services can obtain food packages at reduced costs. One example is Fare Share.

*Times Service Provided: Number of shares Provided (Duplicative)*

- H3 HOLIDAY PROJECTS:** Food baskets and gifts to low-income individuals and families during the holidays.

*Times Service Provided: Number of Households Assisted*

- H4 WOMEN, INFANTS, and CHILDREN FOOD PROGRAM (WIC):** Nutrition education and supplemental foods for pregnant, breast-feeding and post-partum women and infants and children under age 5.

*Times Service Provided: Number of Vouchers Issued*

- H5 GARDENING:** Garden projects and other related activities including canning, seed distribution, food dehydration and tool loans.

*Times Service Provided: Number of Households Assisted*

- H6 HOME DELIVERED MEALS:** Home delivered meals to senior citizens and disabled individuals.

*Times Service Provided: Number of Delivered Meals*

- H7 CONGREGATE MEALS:** Meals for senior citizens in a group setting.

*Times Service Provided: Number of Meals*

- H9 USDA COMMODITY ASSISTANCE:** Distribution of government commodities to Indian Reservation Governments.

*Times Service Provided: Number of Household (Duplicative) Assisted*

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## LINKAGES

- E1 TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM:** A program that administers a local transportation system regardless of income eligibility.  
*Times Service Provided: Number of One Way Trips*
- E3 TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE:** Bus passes, tokens or rides are provided to low-income people by utilizing agency vehicles, volunteer vehicles or contract services.  
*Times Service Provided: Number of Households Assisted*
- E4 VEHICLE PROGRAM:** Vehicles are given or repaired for low income individuals to assist them in becoming self-sufficient.  
*Times Service Provided: Number of Households Assisted*
- F1 SENIOR ORIENTED SERVICES:** Program services exclusively oriented toward serving senior citizens, such as senior insurance and advocacy.  
*Times Service Provided: Number of Households Assisted*
- F3 CHORE SERVICES:** Seniors and disabled individuals receiving assistance in minor home repair, yard maintenance and general housekeeping activities.  
*Times Service Provided: Number of Tasks Performed*
- F5 RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM (RSVP):** A volunteer placement service in which volunteers are placed with community programs.  
*Times Service Provided: Number of Volunteers Placed*
- F6 SENIOR COMPANIONS/FOSTER GRANDPARENTS:** Volunteer seniors helping children and/or other senior individuals including peer counseling.  
*Times Service Provided: Number of Individuals Assisted*
- K1 INFORMATION AND REFERRAL:** Information and direction on services available at other agencies through intake, outreach and other efforts to individuals seeking assistance.  
*Times Service Provided: Number of Referrals*
- K2 OUTREACH:** Direct contact with low-income individuals aimed at identifying and reaching low-income households in order to assist them in participating in agency and community services.  
*Times Service Provided: Number of Households Contacted*
- K3 ADVOCATE INFORMATION AND EDUCATION:** Efforts toward educating the public on the services provided and the need for the services. For example: publication of newspapers providing information on issues affecting low-income people, and voter registration.  
*Times Service Provided: Number of Informational and Educational Engagements, an edition of a publication.*

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- K4 CONTRACT SERVICES:** Intake or application services provided to help households access or determine eligibility for programs not directly administered by the agency, ie: MHFA loan application.  
*Times Service Provided: Number of Services*

## **SELF SUFFICIENCY**

- J2 CHILD CARE:** The care of a child by someone other than a parent or legal guardian in or outside the child's home.  
*Times Service Provided: Number of Children Enrolled*
- J3 CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE:** The administration of a county child care program (Basic Sliding Fee, MFIP, Child Care or Transitional Year Child Care) where direct client services are not performed.  
*Times Service Provided: Number of Children Enrolled*
- J4 AT RISK YOUTH:** Education and prevention activity relating to drugs, gangs and delinquency.  
*Times Service Provided: Number of Individuals Assisted*
- J5 CAMPERSHIP:** Low-income children are given chance to attend camp by subsidizing camp costs.  
*Times Service Provided: Number of Children Assisted*
- J6 CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL (CCR&R):** Referral of families to licensed child care providers (family and center care) with current openings for type of care needed and assistance to households in becoming licensed child care providers.  
*Times Service Provided: Number of Families Referred*
- J7 YOUTH RECREATION:** Sport skill instructions, good health practices and recreation to disadvantaged youth.  
*Times Service Provided: Number of Youth Served*
- J8 PARENTING EDUCATION:** Direct provision of support to parents in their child rearing roles. Includes providing information on expectations for each stage of their child's development and offering practical ideas to encourage learning and develop positive parent-child relationships, when these services are not part of another program. Does not include referrals to other organizations (such as ECFE) that provide these services.  
*Times Service Provided: Number of Individuals Assisted*
- J9 FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE:** Activities and assistance to promote and strengthen the role of fathers in families, when these services are not part of another program.  
*Times Service Provided: Number of Individuals Assisted*
- J10 CRISIS NURSERY:** Temporary care for children who are at risk of abuse and neglect or who have experienced abuse or neglect. Includes provision of or referral to support services.  
*Times Service Provided: Number of Children Assisted*

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- M1 SELF-SUFFICIENCY:** Case management to encourage and assist low-income people to become economically self-sufficient through education and employment. MFIP case management.

*Times Service Provided: Number of Participants completing the program that have achieved or partially achieved economic self-sufficiency.*

- M5 FAMILY LOAN PROGRAM:** Loans provided to low-income families.

*Times Service Provided: Number of Households Assisted*

## HEALTH

- I1 HEALTH CARE AID - NON-FINANCIAL:** Health counseling programs, chemical dependency, planned parenthood, teen pregnancy, STD clinic and other health advocacy activities. (See I2 for financial aid for health care services)

*Times Service Provided: Number of Individuals Assisted*

- I2 HEALTH CARE AID - FINANCIAL:** Financial aid for medical costs, i.e. Rural Emergency Medical Assistance. Payment for health services of outpatient visits, eye examinations, eye glasses, prescription medicine or mental health.

*Times Service Provided: Number of Individuals Assisted*

- I3 FAMILY PLANNING:** Confidential family planning services including physical exams, screening, testing, education, and counseling which are provided on a sliding fee schedule.

*Times Service Provided: Number of Individuals Assisted*

## OTHER

- A1 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:** Subsidized business ventures to increase the employment opportunities for all individuals in the community including the economically disadvantaged.

*Times Service Provided: Number of Ventures Subsidized*

- A5 COTTAGE INDUSTRIES:** An outlet for homemade products of low-income individuals including financial support for equipment and supplies. Formation of networks for the production of items for sale.

*Times Service Provided: Number of Participants*



# **Examples and Success Stories**

## Poverty weaves though the lives of many Americans

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About 40 years ago, University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks was a poor teenager working alongside migrant workers in the fields.

Thirty years ago, state Sen. Linda Berglin was a newly divorced graphic artist surviving on eggs and bread.

Twenty years ago, Franklin Bank CEO Dorothy Bridges was a poor single mother trying to finish college.

Their bouts with poverty reflect findings from a surprising study, which found that about 42 percent of Americans will have fallen into poverty for at least one year by the time they reach age 50. Sixty percent will have by the time they reach 75.

The study was based on data from nearly 8,000 families that have been tracked for three decades. It complements recent poverty numbers from the U.S. Census Bureau, which showed 12 percent of Americans living in poverty in 2002.

"For most people, the words poverty and welfare conjure up images of people on the fringes of society," said Prof. Mark Rank of Washington University in St. Louis, whose findings recently appeared in a publication of the American Sociological Association.

"But most of us will experience poverty in our lifetimes," he said. "Losing a job, a family splitting up, health problems . . . are big reasons people fall into poverty during the working years."

Rank's findings are drawn from data running from 1968 to 1992, but the conclusions hold true today, he said. For one thing, national poverty rates were the same during that period as in the past decade. Plus the results are consistent with newer government studies, he said.

For example, a federal study found that about 25 percent of Americans, including 34 percent of children, had experienced poverty from 1987 to 1996.

The results don't surprise Sen. Berglin, DFL-Minneapolis, who grew up in a house without plumbing. She was a self-employed graphic designer with not much work when she was divorced in the early 1970s. She drove a junker car, used free health clinics and didn't go grocery shopping very often.

Berglin likens the study's findings to her observations about the lower-income neighborhood she represents. Many people move in, often during hard times, then move out with little fanfare as they're able to afford it, she said.

"I'm always running into people who tell me, 'I lived in your district once,' " Berglin said. "I like to say everyone has, or will, live here," she joked. "I guess that correlates with the study."

### Driving forces

The two biggest reasons people fall into poverty are loss of earnings (43 percent) and change in family structure (40 percent), said Rebecca Blank, a University of Michigan public policy professor who studies poverty trends. Such events as a divorce, death of a spouse or birth of a child frequently upset financial stability, she said.

"You never think it's going to happen to you, or someone that you know," said former Minnesota Secretary of State Joan Growe, who fell into poverty after a divorce years back. "But it can."

Job layoffs and family changes hit thousands of Minnesotans each year. Michael and Rene Blaisdell had a comfortable middle-class life in Hoyt Lakes until their world blew up two years ago. Blaisdell lost his job of 25-plus years as a heavy-equipment operator at LTV Steel Mining Co. at the same time that Rene unexpectedly needed a lung transplant.

The Blaisdells were forced to cash out their 401(k) plan and life insurance benefits to cover their living expenses, including a three-month stay in Rochester as Rene underwent treatment at the Mayo Clinic. "It was a year I never want to repeat," said Michael Blaisdell, 49, who now has a new job, albeit with considerably lower wages. "We just weren't prepared for it. And we're not out of the water yet."

Renee's surgery was successful, but she is taking 16 medications.

### **Bouncing back**

When Franklin Bank CEO Bridges moved to Montana in the late 1970s to attend college, she was a single parent with a young child. She was lucky, she says, because she was able to get child care and housing subsidies, as well as welfare, while she attended classes.

"We lived in subsidized housing when I was growing up," said Bridges, who grew up poor in Louisiana. "But I viewed poverty as a condition you can overcome. I saw this [help in Montana] as tools to assist you at a point in life."

While rising from poverty to become a bank executive may be rare, many poor people do land on their feet. Mickey Mikeworth, for example, was on welfare until several years ago. When she landed a part-time job at a financial planning office, she realized, "I can do that."

Mikeworth, 37, now has a financial planning business in Edina. She also works with nonprofit groups, helping low-income parents learn to manage budgets and increase their savings. Getting out of poverty is one thing, she said. Climbing into the middle class is another.

"The most difficult part is the emotional baggage, the shame and blame," said Mikeworth of Minneapolis. "Transitioning out of a survival mentality into a growth mentality is difficult. There wasn't any money six months from now, so people didn't plan out that far."

Rank says his research underscores that poverty is not a perpetual state for most Americans. Of those who had fallen into poverty by the time they reached age 50, 42 percent were poor for one to two years and 31 percent for two to three years. Sixteen percent were poor for five years or more.

Similarly, the Census Bureau looked at poverty from 1996 to 1999, and found that about half of the people who were poor in 1996 no longer were in 1999.

Details of Rank's study will be published in the next few months in his book "One Nation, Underprivileged, Why Poverty Affects Us All."

"This is a different way of thinking about the risk of poverty," Rank said. "It looks at poverty across adulthood. And it fills out the story behind the census numbers" recently released.

# Community Action: Senior Successes

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## Senior Outreach

The Anoka County Community Action Program (ACCAP) Senior Outreach Workers link seniors and disabled adults in Anoka County to supportive services that help them to continue living in their own homes.

One ACCAP outreach worker was called to help a 57-year-old woman who was suffering with multiple disabilities. Despite a number of issues, the woman was able to continue to work for a while. In June she no longer could work. After her unemployment ran out and her physician told her she would be unable to return to work, she applied for and was denied Social Security Disability. With no income, she lived off savings bonds that had been given to her. She was down to her last \$400 when she called for help the following January.

The outreach worker noted that the woman had no heat in her mobile home due to a faulty furnace. The worker completed an Energy Assistance application and was able to secure funds from the Energy Repair Program to repair the furnace. The worker then filled out an application for GA, MA and Food Stamps. She also applied for the Telephone Assistance Plan. In addition, the worker contacted the Social Security Administration to file an appeal of her Social Security Disability denial.

The woman was also behind in her lot rent of \$415 per month. The worker went secured rent assistance for her for the month of January. In February, the worker went to Salvation Army and First Call for Help for rent assistance, as there was no word from Social Security regarding the appeal. Next the worker completed an application for the Mobile Home Buyout Program, which paid the client \$2,500 for her home. She then moved in with a friend while waiting for an opening in a subsidized senior building.

In mid-March, she received notification that her Social Security Disability had been approved and the woman received a back payment of \$14,000. With that payment, she was no longer eligible for MA. So the worker helped her enroll in MN Care. Her monthly income is now \$1,021 and she has paid all her medical bills and is living independently within her means.

## 55+ Speed Into Action

55+ Speed Into Action is an initiative designed to engage the power of seniors and restore the vitality of senior centers and clubs across the Arrowhead region. For years, senior centers and clubs across northeastern Minnesota have struggled to fill leadership positions, have lost appeal among younger seniors, and have become disconnected to the broader community. 55+ Speed Into Action was created to reverse these trends. 55+ Speed Into Action is a senior leader initiative consisting of a skill-building conference and on-going leadership assistance. This initiative was more than two years in the making and included support from Minnesota Power, the Northland Foundation, the Senior Federation, Virginia and Chisholm Community Foundations, and numerous area banks and businesses. More than 30 senior leaders from across the region participated.

Early in May, the 55+ Speed Into Action conference was held in Grand Rapids. 90+ older adults representing 32 senior centers and clubs attended from across the Northland. Nine out of ten respondents lauded the conference as very good or excellent in their conference evaluations. Eighty-eight percent said they interacted with new people and 80% said they learned new skills that they would take back to their centers and clubs. Here are some the things they had to say:

"I learned so many things. Where do I begin? Basically, I will try to become a better leader!"

"I realized that young seniors don't want the same things that older ones do. We need to ask what people want."

"We need to reach out in the community and make everyone feel welcome."

"I learned to look for the greatness in other people!"

# Community Action: Youth on the Move

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## YouthBuild Program

Bi-CAP's YouthBuild Program, a comprehensive, hands-on construction training program that includes education and leadership development components, serves 20 at-risk youth each year. Orientation sessions are held twice a year and approximately ten youth per orientation are accepted. Bi-CAP's YouthBuild Program is diploma-based, rather than GED-based. The construction projects, which serve as a vehicle for job readiness, are single family homes for low-income buyers. YouthBuild also provides maintenance, repair, and in some cases, rehabilitation on Bi-CAP's transitional housing units for homeless people.

Bi-CAP serves Beltrami and Cass counties, two large, rural, high poverty counties in northern Minnesota. Parts of the Leech Lake and Red Lake Indian Reservations are encompassed in the two counties. Positive outcomes from the YouthBuild program are numerous. The past two years Bi-CAP's Youthbuild has enjoyed a 75% Native American participation rate. The program has consistently maintained at least 50% Native American participation rate over the past five years. Currently, the program's retention rate is 85%, with 40% of graduates going on to post-secondary education. More than 50% of the participants complete their high school diplomas while they are in the program, and the majority of the others complete within the following year.

These results are highly significant in the world of high-risk youth, especially among minority populations. Achieving a high school diploma, learning construction trade skills and leadership development activities all foster self-sufficiency, fend-off poverty, and integrate youth into their communities.

## Roll-up Your Sleeves

West Central Minnesota Communities Action partnered with a faith-based organization called, Group Workcamp, Inc. The camp, a weeklong service project, brought youth into the community to do home repairs for West Central clients. Community volunteers, including seniors from the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), provided support services before, during, and after the camp.

Prior to the camp, volunteers learned how to assist staff, write-up work orders, and prepare a list of supplies needed. Five seniors donated their time. During set-up week, tjeu helped deliver paint to locations where camp volunteers would use it. They also helped stuff bags with welcome items for the youth.

Group Workcamp took place in June 2003. Youth and their adult leaders came from at least five states. During the week, 149 youth completed 25 projects, including building wheelchair ramps, doing home repairs, and painting houses. The senior volunteers were invaluable during the week. They and other local community members prepared and served meals, picked-up and delivered paint, ladders and other equipment, answered questions, provided technical assistance, cleaned-up and returned excess materials.

The young people and volunteers donated more than 5,300 hours of time worth \$30,000+. Nine RSVP volunteers and seven community volunteers worked an additional 250 hours.

West Central MN Communities Action raised \$25,000 locally to purchase the building materials. The donations came from local cities, utilities, and churches. West Central Area Schools donated the use of their building to house the 200 students and adult leaders. Valspar Company donated 200 gallons of paint to the cause.

Enthusiasm ran high among the staff, the volunteers, and the youth participants. Friendships were forged and both the youth and the volunteers developed a greater understanding of the needs of low-income homeowners. Preliminary planning for the next Group Workcamp has already begun for June of 2005.

# Minnesota: Project helps needy buy their own homes

By Toni Coleman, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*

January 28, 2004

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Adelita Garcia-Paul thinks her mom is pretty amazing. Bonita Garcia promised her two daughters Adelita, 10, and Lydia, 7, she would get them a home before Christmas and she did just that, moving her family into their Vadnais Heights townhouse last summer.

She fulfilled the home-buying promise through the Family Assets for Independence in Minnesota (FAIM) program, which provides a 3-to-1 match on funds that low-income families save toward the purchase of a home, tuition payments or seed money for a small business and financial literacy education.

Minnesota is one of 34 states to support "individual development accounts" as a strategy to move more folks out of poverty. Such programs began with the recognition that the working poor don't have access to asset-building subsidies available to middle- and upper-class families, such as employersubsidized 401(k) plans and tax incentives.

"The beauty of this program is that it helps some of the poorest residents in our area acquire wealth, and I think it's important we all have an equal opportunity to do that," said Tene Wells, executive director of WomenVenture, which helps women develop careers and start their own businesses. The organization is one of two dozen agencies that administers the FAIM project, which is now beginning Phase 2.

Garcia, 42, found it hard to save the required \$30 a month and support her two daughters with income from her \$10-an-hour job, but after 3½ years she accumulated \$990, which entitled her to \$2,970 in matching funds, equally split between the state and federal government.

"We really had to buckle down and figure out what we truly needed and what we could get away with," Garcia said, referring to fewer trips to McDonald's and less participation in extracurricular activities. "We had to make sure it was in the budget." Now the Bethesda Hospital employee wants to open a day-care program for sick children.

FAIM is a state-wide collaboration between 24 Community Action Agencies, two tribal governments, and financial institutions that couple the financial literacy education and matching grants with services to keep families on track.

Families make monthly deposits into their "Family Assets" savings accounts at Bremer Bank, the program's primary banking partner.

Officials announced Tuesday that the program is entering its second phase, following a successful four-year pilot in which families saved more than \$566,718. More than 500 people have enrolled in Minnesota's program since it began in 1998.

In that time, 85 participants bought homes, 43 started small businesses and 56 are using the savings to attend school. An additional 144 people are slated to buy homes this summer, 101 will complete higher education plans and 119 more will launch small businesses. About 37 percent of the participants were minorities.

State and federal Health and Human Services departments have contributed \$1 million for the second phase of the project, and the federal government has earmarked another \$500,000 for the 2006-07 program. The program also requires participants to take 28 hours of financial literacy classes on topics such as creating and living within a budget, and additional asset-specific classes such as how to buy a home and develop a business.

Under the revamped program, families would save \$40 a month, or \$960 over two years, instead of \$30 a month for four years, and draw \$2,880 in federal and state matching funds for a total of \$3,840. Only families making below 200 percent of poverty level qualify, so a family of three could make no more than \$30,520 to participate.

Researchers from the University of Minnesota studied the effectiveness of a program that challenges people of meager means to save when many middle-income people don't save. All of the 25 randomly selected families faced challenges from unemployment to unexpected expenses, such as costly car repairs, but 19 held on. "They continued to save that \$30 in spite of unemployment, divorce, car breakdown. It's just a story to behold. Whatever they could do to get the money, they did it. They were persistent, they just didn't give up," said Janice Hogan, a professor at the University of Minnesota's Family Social Science Department in the College of Human Ecology.

The structure of the program, the 3-1 savings match and the desire to provide a better life for their children were the main incentives, Hogan said, noting one homeless metro family never missed a \$30 payment.

"The participants want out of poverty," Hogan said.

# Community Action: Advocacy Is Powerful

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Advocacy is a unique function of community action. In community action, it takes many forms: advocacy on behalf of individuals and families, advocacy to improve knowledge and erode stereotypes about poverty in Minnesota, as well as advocacy for improved systems. Here a few examples.

## The Power of Education

With today's tight budgets, businesses are closing down and high unemployment rates make it difficult for some people to find jobs with affordable wages. To dispel the myth of those receiving public assistance and increase awareness that people are working, but not able to make ends meet, one local agency purchased a copy the video *Wage Slaves: Not Getting By In America*. The program chronicles the jobs and lives of several low-income parents struggling to support their families. It looks at how the change to a service economy impacts jobs and livable wage opportunities.

The agency scheduled brown bag sessions over lunch times and played the tape of the program at various locations in the community that were open to the public. The result was a high turnout by local citizens, as well as service providers that had much discussion afterwards.

The book Nickeled and Dimed was the *Rochester Reads* book selection. The public library asked our agency to show the video at the library for their patrons. The public library also did a month-long project on the working poor.

In addition, several local organizations worked together to offer the Ruby Payne Framework for Understanding Poverty Conference in Rochester. The sponsors for this conference were the local CAP agency, Work Force Development Incorporated, the Initiative Fund, the Mayo Clinic, and Express Personnel Services. Financial donations from the sponsors equaled \$3,658 with a CSBG donation of \$296, plus the administrative support.

Many local providers were brought together to enrich our understanding of the culture of poverty and how we can best meet the needs of our participants with respect, understanding and realistic expectations. We are hoping to bring the community together for another conference next year.

## The Power of Support

Andy and Bobbe and their three children were on MFIP for 10 months. Andy had physical, mental, and chemical issues that deterred him from being cooperative with the Employment and Training staff. Consequently, both Andy and Bobbe were referred to the agency's Local Intervention Grants for Self-Sufficiency (LIGSS) program.

Shortly after enrolling, Andy was arrested and sent to inpatient chemical dependency treatment. After completing treatment, he became very cooperative. Andy worked closely with the LIGSS advocate to overcome his barriers to employment. However, he had difficulty obtaining employment within the community, as a result of his poor work history. He was also overlooked for several jobs because of his criminal record. Andy finally got a job offer after a lot of hard work by himself and his LIGSS advocate's part.

After a short time, his sobriety was jeopardized in his work environment. But, he stayed with the job until he had another job in place. After submitting his two-week notice, Andy and Bobbe relocated. With the help available through supportive service funds within the LIGSS program, Andy was able to move his family and have a chance to "start over" in a new community. Andy currently works for Marvin Windows.

It has been two months now and Andy is still employed. Bobbe is also working part-time at a local motel. Though Andy and Bobbe did not have the support of friends or family, they did have the support of the LIGSS advocate. They all worked together and are on the road to self-sufficiency.

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### **The Power of Knowledge**

An elderly woman came into a local agency's Family Outreach Office with a bag full of medical and prescription bills. Our outreach workers had worked with this woman in the past through a number of agency services. As a result, this woman knew about our Health Insurance Counseling Program and was hoping to get some assistance in going through her bag of medical bills.

She had paid everything, but wanted help in sorting things through. To everyone's surprise, the outreach worker determined that this woman was improperly insured. She had two supplemental insurance policies and AARP, in addition to Medicare, despite the fact that it is illegal to sell someone more than one Medicare supplement policy.

After sorting through everything and making a number of calls to Medicare, AARP, and the insurance companies, the outreach worker was able to obtain reimbursements totaling \$2,246 to this woman and assure proper insurance coverage for the future.

### **Bridging Cultural Gaps to Increase Renter and Landlord Competencies**

In recent years, suburban Northwest Hennepin County communities have experienced a dramatic increase in immigrant and refugee populations. Securing suitable housing for these families was challenging, with a significant number moving into apartments. However, once families obtained housing, staying in their new homes became another issue. Many immigrant and refugee families do not understand the American rental culture. Property managers, city governments and the police were frustrated because of the numbers of evictions, police calls and general lack of understanding and trust between these interested groups. Unfortunately, frustration and demands from all sides created an environment which required assistance to resolve. In search of a fair compromise, the Northwest Hennepin Family Service Collaborative, tenants, property managers and community partners joined with Community Action for Suburban Hennepin (CASH) to seek part of the solution through education.

CASH revised its Minnesota Renters' Guide to meet the needs of these varied groups within the community. The guide is a practical learning tool, which provides tenants with information needed to remain in suitable housing. It teaches American rental culture and serves to bridge the gap between landlords/property managers and tenants by fostering communication and understanding on all sides. In the end, tenants become competent, self-reliant renters.

As part of this effort, CASH is also conducting train-the-trainer sessions, which have included property managers and community leaders. Such training improves the ability of renters and increases property managers' responsiveness. CASH is proud to be a part of partnerships that strengthens community.

# Community Action: Helping Clients Succeed

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## A Light in the Window

Meet Jane Smith. Jane was referred and accompanied to a local agency office by a local social service partner, Crime Victim's Crisis Center. Jane had visible marks about the face from an altercation with her sister days before. Jane has two young daughters ages 9 and 12. She and the two girls are now homeless and cannot communicate with her only family support, her sister.

Luckily, the shelter was open. Case management included assessing the family's needs in regard to clothing, school supplies, hygiene items, food, county social services, and transportation.

The 12-year old is dressing and acting like she is 16. Jane has her hands full and she lost her job during the crisis period. The agency assisted her in obtaining full-time employment at a restaurant. The director of the agency interceded at the girls' school about bullying issues and not wanting to go to school. The director helped arrange after school activities as well as the necessary transportation.

Jane's family quickly bonded with the staff, as most shelter families do. Staff arranged transportation through public transit with donated tokens. The family moved into subsidized housing, and advocacy work was a part of that too. Jane called the agency staff to come visit her new home that she is so proud of.

Eight months later, Jane is at the same job. She walks to work or uses public transit. The girls are with her and are having all the usual teenage difficulties. Jane smiles when she runs into agency staff. She is so grateful to the staff for their hard work and encouragement.

## Community Voices

The Community Voices of Duluth (CVoD) program moves families into economic self-sufficiency. The Romero Family is one such family who has benefited from this program.

The Romeros, a family of five in search of steady work and a better life for their family, left gang life in California for Duluth. They beat drug addiction, gangs, and many other obstacles that are associated with generational poverty and city life. Their biggest concerns were isolation, lack of adequate livable wage jobs, affordable housing, childcare, and reliable transportation.

CVoD staff realized how important it was for this family to receive support services that would help them realize that if they worked hard and believed in themselves, they could reach their goals. Along with a comprehensive assessment of the family, individualized self-sufficiency plans were completed describing their personal history, skills, strengths, financial circumstances, and future goals. The CVoD program offered one-on-one meetings, women's and men's support groups, and a relationship of trust and a belief in the family. They provided the Romeros with a feeling of hope that they could move toward their goals, which included getting married, having a home, getting a higher education, owning a business, gaining a strong and solid relationship to keep their family together, and having a better quality of life.

With a lot of hard work and determination, Michelle and Eric Romero were married and are now homeowners. Michelle is employed full-time and has a goal of becoming an R.N. Eric opened his own business in lawn care and snow removal.

For the Romeros, poverty was not the end-of-the-road, but rather a source for new beginnings. To give back to the community, the Romeros have participated in Poverty Theatre and the Walk-A-Mile project – a way of crossing socio-economic lines and bridging social capital. They also do public speaking engagements and have shared their story with the greater Duluth community.

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### **Back on Track**

By age 15, Joe had made a number of bad choices that were leading him down a dead end road. He was regularly skipping classes and had fallen a year behind in high school. He applied for and was enrolled in the Youth Employment Program operated by Inter-County Community Council. Working with agency staff, as well as others who were trying to help him get back on track, Joe began to get his life straightened out. He was put in contact with the Area Learning Center to develop a plan that would assist him in his goal to graduate with his class. The plan involved both going to regular high school and the Area Learning Center after school.

While Joe worked on the Employment and Training program, he applied for a special part of the training program that involved working at the Minnesota Conservation Corps Residential Camp. While living and working at the camp, Joe was awarded an "Outstanding Performance Award" for going above and beyond all expectations. According to his camp supervisor, he volunteered for each and every task that needed to be completed. He assisted fellow corpsmen who were having difficulties or being left out. He was always polite, friendly, and extremely helpful. In a letter to the Inter-County Employment and Training director, Joe's supervisor wrote that Joe should be considered a "poster child" for the program.

Joe is now on schedule to graduate on time. He is doing well in school and continues to do very well at his new job at a senior apartment complex. By all indications, Joe has straightened his life out and will almost certainly be a positive contributing member of society for years to come.

### **Giving Credit Where Credit's Due**

In 1999, a Head Start parent attended a training session on budgeting called Dollar Works. Following the session, she contacted the Mahube Family Development Director for a private family budget counseling session.

The client was married with four young children. Prior to their marriage, her husband had accumulated bad credit. Their dream was to own their own home someday. But that dream would never become a reality, unless they could restore a good credit rating.

With the assistance of the family development director, the family went to work improving their credit. They made telephone calls and wrote letters to creditors. They negotiated payment plans with creditors. The client was determined and persevered with her plan to clear-up their credit.

In October 2001, with an improved credit report, the family enrolled in the Family Assets for Independence in Minnesota Program – Housing Track. The couple attended Home Stretch classes and completed the required hours of financial literacy classes. They were able to use their savings and the savings match as a down payment on a new home. They moved into their home on July 15, 2003.

The family is so appreciative of the guidance they received from Mahube Community Council, Inc. that she has offered to become a mentor for others going through the same credit restoration process. At Mahube's Annual Meeting, she spoke about her family's struggles and successes and how the agency helped them.

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### **Who Would Have Known?**

A young family with children living in a two-story home was the next name on their local agency's weatherization priority list. During the client interview, the agency discovered the family could not keep warm in their home and all members were experiencing headaches.

During the audit, the agency discovered a number of serious issues. The house had a blower door reading of 6000 CFM, no insulation in the walls or attic, major air leaks, a propane wall furnace on an inside wall in the living room that was badly rusted, lots of soot, no blower, no duct work, and a carbon monoxide reading of 400 PPM. The family huddled in the living room where they could only get the area around the wall furnace to 60 degrees. The other rooms were colder with very little heat upstairs where the children slept. The furnace ran 24 hours a day, and in several months time, the homeowner had run-up a propane bill of \$1200.

Agency propane funds paid for a new high-efficiency propane furnace, along with ductwork to all rooms. The furnace vendor had to jack hammer through a rock wall into a crawl space to get the ductwork installed. Weatherization procedures closed all major air leaks. The walls and attic were insulated. The blower door reading was cut in half. The home is now warm throughout and the energy burden at the home has been reduced. The comfort and health of each household member is assured. The indoor air quality was improved – perhaps saving lives.

### **Affordable Housing Project**

The West Central Minnesota Communities Action, Inc. (WCMCA) Affordable Housing Project sold six new homes to low-income families during the program year. The project is a cooperative effort between WCMCA, the Minnesota Department of Corrections, Douglas County Sheriff's Department, and local cities.

State inmates who are housed in the Douglas County jail build the homes. A loan pool from the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency and the Department of Corrections funds the project. The six homes have an average market value of \$88,000, with annual sales of \$528,000 during the program year. The project was developed and is managed by the CSBG/MEOG effort of WCMCA. The project employs two full-time staff members and contracts for a full-time carpentry training supervisor and nine inmate trainees. In addition, the project has partnered with two local community Small Cities Developments to secure building sites for low-income families. During the past year the project leveraged \$150,000 from the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency Loan Fund, \$250,000 from the Minnesota Department of Corrections Loan Fund, \$100,000 from the Small Cities Building Sites, and received two donated building lots with a combined value of \$25,000. The total amount leveraged was \$425,000.

# Community Action: Leveraging Help for Success

Part of the community action mission is to seek out additional federal, state, and local resources that can help meet the needs of low-income families and communities. Here are a few examples.

## Permanent Supportive Housing

The Bryant Place Project of the Dakota County Permanent Supportive Housing Program is for the acquisition, renovation, and operation of an eight unit apartment building for use as rental units for disabled individuals or families where the head of the household has a disability.

The role of the CAP Agency includes pre-development and development, including financing packages and general contractor for rehabilitation and property manager. CSBG funds are used in this project for a portion of the housing director's salary and associated costs with the business and legal aspects of the financing and acquisition process.

Partners in the acquisition of the project include:

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)	\$108,000
Community Development Housing Organization (CHDO) Funds	\$123,740
Bridging Loan from Corporation of Supportive Housing	\$100,000
Seller Financed Purchase Money Mortgage for Bridge Funding	\$108,860
United Way Housing Production Grant	Staff salaries

Partners in the rehabilitation of the building include:

Dakota County Community Development Authority (CDA)	\$160,000
Dakota County Sentence-to-Serve Program (labor)	\$15,000

Partners in operations include:

Dakota County Social Services	Gap Funding for Rent
Mental Health Resources	Rent Subsidies
Dakota County CDA Section 8 Voucher Program	Rent Subsidies
South St. Paul CDA Section 8 Voucher Program	Rent Subsidies
Mainstream Section 8 Voucher Program	Rent Subsidies
Dakota County Shelter Plus Care	Rent Subsidies
Dakota County Social Services and Supportive Housing	Intake, Assessment, Selection, and Placement

The result of this project will be safe, affordable, accessible housing for eight individuals and/or families who currently are homeless. These people will be able to live in the units as long as they fit the eligibility criteria, thus providing a stable housing environment that will contribute to the overall health and well being of the residents and the community.

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### **Local Policing**

In 1996, the Fond du Lac Reservation Planning Division was approached by the Tribal Council to look for grant funding to form a police department. The Planning Division began this process using CSBG/MEOG funding to provide staff time.

Since 1996, the Fond du Lac Planning Division has written grants to the United States Department of Justice under the Community Policing Services (COPS) program. Within the COPS Program, the Reservation has applied for grants under: COPS-Universal Hiring Program, COPS-More, and COPS-Tribal Resources Grant Program. The Fond du Lac Planning Division has written ten grants to the Department of Justice and has had nine funded for a total of \$1,552,565.

The funding helps the Reservation support an eleven-officer police force that provides law enforcement coverage 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The Reservation also has entered into cross-deputization agreements with local sheriffs departments to create a more efficient police force. With the addition of the local police force, crime rates have decreased since 1998.

### **Rainbow Bridge**

The Rainbow Bridge Safe Exchange and Visitation Center provides a positive, safe, child-friendly, and neutral location where divorced, separated, or single parent families can receive an exchange or supervised visit that is safe and conflict free. The center provides an average of 200 exchanges and 125 supervised visits to more than 100 children every month.

Rainbow Bridge is the only center of its kind within a 50-mile radius. The agency supports Rainbow Bridge with \$45,000 in CSBG/MEOG funding to supplement funding for staff and administration. Several partners collaborate to make this program successful. Clay-Wilkin Head Start provides free use of classroom and gym space and referrals to the program. Clay County Social Services contracts with Rainbow Bridge to provide supervised visitations in the amount of \$30,000. The Clay County Local Collaborative has made Rainbow Bridge a priority and funds an annual donation of \$70,419. Several foundations also realize the need for these services and the value of Rainbow Bridge by providing \$12,900. Individual donations provide an additional \$5,500. Parent fees total just over \$9,000 annually. Several other organizations such as the YWCA, local crisis centers, police departments and governmental agencies also value Rainbow Bridge and provide referrals and other non-financial support. The agency's use of MEOG/CSBG dollars leveraged an additional \$127,819.

One parent said, "Using Rainbow Bridge means that I can see my children. It's been four months since I have seen them and its killing me. In the meantime, I have lost my job, my apartment and my court fees are piling up. Now, I have a reason to get up in the morning and get my life back on track. My kids are that important to me."

Rainbow Bridge has this kind of impact on more than 75 families and 100 children with incredible results.



# **Reference & Contact Information**

# Legislative Directory

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## 2003-2004 STATE AND CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES BY COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM PROVIDER

### **Anoka County Community Action Program**

*Representatives:* 17A-Rob Eastlund, 48A-Tom Hackbarth, 48B-Jim Abeler, 49A-Chris Delaforest, 49B-Kathy Tingelstad, 50A-Barb Goodwin, 51A-Andy Westerberg, 51B-Connie Bernardy, 52A-Ray Vandever, 53A-Phil Krinkie

*Senators:* 17-Sean Nienow, 48-Mike Jungbauer, 49-Debbie Johnson, 50-Satveer Chaudhary, 51-Don Betzold, 52-Michele Bachmann, 53-Mady Reiter

*Congressional:* 3- Jim Ramstad, 5-Martin Olav Sabo, 6-Mark Kennedy, Senators Mark Dayton and Norm Coleman

### **Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency**

*Representatives:* 5A-Tom Rukavina, 5B-Tony Sertich, 6A-David Dill, 6B-Mary Murphy, 7A-Tom Huntley, 7B-Mike Jaros, 8A-Bill Hilty

*Senators:* 5-David Tomassoni, 6-Tom Bakk, 7-Yvonne Prettnier-Solon, 8-Becky Lourey

*Congressional:* 8-James Oberstar, Senators Mark Dayton and Norm Coleman

### **Bi-County Community Action Program**

*Representatives:* 2B-Doug Lindgren, 4A-Doug Fuller, 4B-Larry Howes

*Senators:* 2-Rod Skoe, 4-Carrie Ruud

*Congressional:* 7-Collin Peterson, 8-James Oberstar, Senators Mark Dayton and Norm Coleman

### **Blue Earth County**

*Representatives:* 23B-John Dorn, 24B-Tony Cornish

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### **Bois Forte Reservation Business Committee**

*Representatives:* 3A-Irv Anderson, 5A-Tom Rukavina, 5B-Tony Sertich, 6A-David Dill, 6B-Mary Murphy, 7A-Tom Huntley, 7B-Mike Jaros, 8A-Bill Hilty,

*Senators:* 3-Tom Saxhaug, 5-David Tomassoni, 6-Tom Bakk, 7-Yvonne Prettnier-Solon, 8-Becky Lourey

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### **Community Action Duluth**

*Representatives:* 6B-Mary Murphy, 7A-Tom Huntley, 7B-Mike Jaros

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*Congressional:* 8-James Oberstar, Senators Mark Dayton and Norm Coleman

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### **Community Action of Minneapolis**

*Representatives:* 58A-Joe Mullery, 58B-Keith Ellison, 59A-Len Biernat, 59B-Phyllis Kahn, 60A-M.A. Kelliher, 60B-Frank Hornstein, 61A-Karen Clark, 61B-Neva Walker, 62A-Jim Davnie, 62B-Jean Wagenius, 63A-Paul Thissen

*Senators:* 58-Linda Higgins, 59-Larry Pogemiller, 60-Scott Dibble, 61-Linda Berglin, 62-Wes Skoglund, 63-Jane Ranum

*Congressional:* 5-Martin Olav Sabo, Senators Mark Dayton and Norm Coleman

### **Community Action for Suburban Hennepin**

*Representatives:* 32A-Arlon Lindner, 32B-Rich Stanek, 33A-Steve Smith, 33B-Barb Sykora, 34B-Joe Hoppe, 40B-Ann Lenczewski, 41A-Ron Erhardt, 41B-Alice Seagren, 42A-David Hann, 42B-Erik Paulsen, 43A-Jeff Johnson, 43B-Ron Abrams, 44A-Jim Rhodes, 44B-Ron Latz, 45A-Lynne Osterman, 45B-Lyndon R. Carlson, 46A-Mike Nelson, 46B-Debra Hilstrom, 47A-Bill Haas, 47B-Stephanie Olsen, 54A-Mindy Greiling, 63B-Dan Larson

*Senators:* 32-Warren Limmer, 33-Gen Olson, 34-Julianne Ortman, 40-Bill Belanger, 41-Geoff Michel, 42-David Hann, 43-David Gaither, 44-Steve Kelley, 45-Ann Rest, 46-Linda Scheid, 47-Leo Foley, 54-John Marty, 63-Jane Ranum

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### **Duluth Head Start**

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### **Fond du Lac Reservation Business Committee**

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### **Heartland Community Action Agency**

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### **Inter-County Community Council**

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### **KOOTASCA Community Action**

*Representatives:* 3A-Irv Anderson, 3B-Loren Solberg, 4A-Doug Fuller

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*Congressional:* 8-James Oberstar, Senators Mark Dayton and Norm Coleman

### **Lakes & Pines Community Action Council**

*Representatives:* 3B-Loren Solberg, 6B-Mary Murphy, 8A-Bill Hilty, 8B-Judy Soderstrom, 16A-Sondra Erickson, 17A-Rob Eastlund, 17B-Pete Nelson

*Senators:* 3-Tom Saxhuag, 6-Tom Bakk, 8-Becky Lourey, 16-Betsy Wergin, 17-Sean Nienow

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### **Lakes and Prairies Community Action Partnership**

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*Senators:* 9-Keith Langseth

*Congressional:* 7-Collin Peterson, Senators Mark Dayton and Norm Coleman

### **Leech Lake Reservation Tribal Council**

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### **Lower Sioux Community Council**

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**Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa Indians**

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**Minnesota Valley Action Council**

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**Morrison County**

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**Northwest Community Action**

*Representatives:* 1A-Maxine Penas, 1B-Bernie Lieder, 3A-Irv Anderson

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**Olmsted Community Action Program**

*Representatives:* 29A-Randy Demmer, 29B-Fran Bradley, 30A-Carla Nelson, 30B-Bill Kuisle

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**Otter Tail-Wadena Community Action Council**

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### **Parents In Community Action (PICA)**

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### **Prairie Five Community Action Council**

*Representatives:* 20A-Aaron Peterson, 20B-Lyle J. Koenen

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### **Prairie Island Tribal Council**

*Representatives:* 28A-Jerry Dempsey, 28B-Steve Sviggum, 36B-Steve Strachan

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### **Ramsey Action Programs**

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### **Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians**

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**Reach Up Head Start**

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**Rochester Head Start**

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### **South Central Community Action Partnerships**

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*Congressional:* 1-Gil Gutknecht, Senators Mark Dayton and Norm Coleman

### **Southwestern Minnesota Opportunity Council**

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*Senators:* 22-Jim Vickerman

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### **Three Rivers Community Action**

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*Senators:* 25-Tom Neuville, 26-Dick Day, 28-Steve Murphy, 30-Sheila Kiscaden, 36-Pat Pariseau

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### **Tri-County Action Program (Tri-CAP)**

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*Senators:* 13-Dean Johnson, 14-Michelle Fischbach, 15-Dave Kleis, 16-Betsy Wergin, 48-Mike Jungbauer

*Congressional:* 6-Mark Kennedy, 7-Collin Peterson, Senators Mark Dayton and Norm Coleman

### **Tri-County Community Action Programs (TCC)**

*Representatives:* 4B-Larry Howes, 11B-Mary Ellen Otremba, 12A-Dale Walz, 12B-Greg Blaine, 16A-Sondra Erickson

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*Congressional:* 7-Collin Peterson, 8-James Oberstar, Senators Mark Dayton and Norm Coleman

### **Tri-Valley Opportunity Council**

*Representatives:* 1A-Maxine Penas, 1B-Bernie Lieder, 2A-Kent Eken, 2B-Doug Lindgren

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### **Upper Sioux Community**

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**West Central Minnesota Communities Action**

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**Western Community Action**

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**White Earth Reservation Tribal Council**

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**Wright County Community Action**

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## Commonly Used Acronyms

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ABE	Adult Basic Education
ACYF	Administration for Children, Youth & Families
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
AMC	Association of Minnesota Counties
CAA	Community Action Agency
CAC	Community Action Council
CAP	Community Action Program
CAMIS	Community Action Management Information System
CCC	Community Clinic Consortium
CCR&R	Child Care Resource & Referral (also CCRR & C2R2)
CDA	Community Development Account
CDC	Community Development Council
CDF	Children's Defense Fund
CH.	Chapter
CIP	Conservation Improvement Program
CISN	Community Integrated Services Network
COLA	Cost of Living Adjustment
CSBG	Community Services Block Grant
CWF	Community Worker's Fund
DES	MN Department of Economic Security
DHS	MN Department of Human Services
DOE	U.S. Department of Energy
DOF	MN Department of Finance
DOL	U.S. Department of Labor
DOT	MN Department of Transportation
EACA	Energy Assistance Coordinators Association
EAP	Energy Assistance Program
ECFE	Early Childhood & Family Education
FAIM	Family Assets for Independence in Minnesota
FFY	Federal Fiscal Year
FHA	Farmers Home Administration
FHA	Federal Housing Authority
FICA	Federal Insurance Contribution Act (Social Security)
FSC	Family Service Center
FY	Fiscal Year
GA	General Assistance
GAWR	General Assistance Work Readiness
GPO	Government Printing Office
H.F.	House File
H.R.	House Register
HH	Household

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HHS	Health & Human Services
HRA	Housing and Redevelopment Authority
HUD	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
ICAP	Indian Community Action Program
ISN	Integrated Service Network
LIHEAP	Low-Income Home and Energy Assistance Program
MA	Medical Assistance
MAPA	Minnesota Alliance for Progressive Action
MCAA	Minnesota Community Action Association
MCADS	Minnesota Community Action Data System
MCIT	Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust
MDE	Minnesota Department of Education
MEOG	Minnesota Economic Opportunity Grant
MFIP	Minnesota Family Investment Program
MHFA	Minnesota Housing Finance Agency
MHSA	Minnesota Head Start Association
MNAEYC	Minnesota Association for the Education of Young Children
MWAG	Minnesota Weatherization Advisory Group
NCAF	National Community Action Foundation
OCD	Office of Child Development
OEO	Office of Economic Opportunity
OHD	Office of Human Development
OMB	Office of Management and Budget
PAC	Political Action Committee
PC	Policy Council
PUC	Public Utilities Commission
S.F.	Senate File
SFY	State Fiscal Year
SOB	State Office Building
SR	Senate Register
SSI	Supplemental Security Income
T&TA	Training and Technical Assistance
TEFAP	Temporay Emergency Food Assistance Program
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
VISTA	Volunteers in Service to America
WAP	Weatherization Assistance Program
WIC	Women, Infants and Children Program
WX	Weatherization

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## Minnesota Community Action Association (MCAA) Staff Directory

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Upon request, this information will be made available in other formats, including Braille, large print, audiotape, and computer disk.

# Key Community Action Partners

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## Hunger Solutions Minnesota (HSM)

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## Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless

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## Minnesota Indian Affairs Council

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