

2004 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

Message from the Minnesota Community Action Association

Many Community Action Agencies (CAAs) are celebrating their 40th anniversary this year. What a great time to reflect on the legacy of our work with and for low-income residents in Minnesota. Minnesota can be proud of the strong programming for low-income residents developed through the community action network. Minnesota CAAs are known across the nation for being very innovative, mission driven and well-run organizations.

This legacy is due, in large part, to the commitment and dedication of our grassroots board of directors. The membership of each board of directors reflects the community action service area. Faith-based organizations, other non-profits, public officials, and low-income persons serve on the local board, which governs the local organization. These local boards are working to improve the community in which they live and work. They have a personal investment in their school systems, local governments, and in their local businesses.

Community Action Agencies are true to their mission by making low-income citizens the center of programming decisions. Who can better tell the story or identify the barriers than a person experiencing poverty? Giving a voice to those in need keeps the programming relevant to the needs of the local community and not simply a dream of someone behind a desk in Washington D.C. or St. Paul. CAAs give a face, meaning, and a voice to the low-income experience.

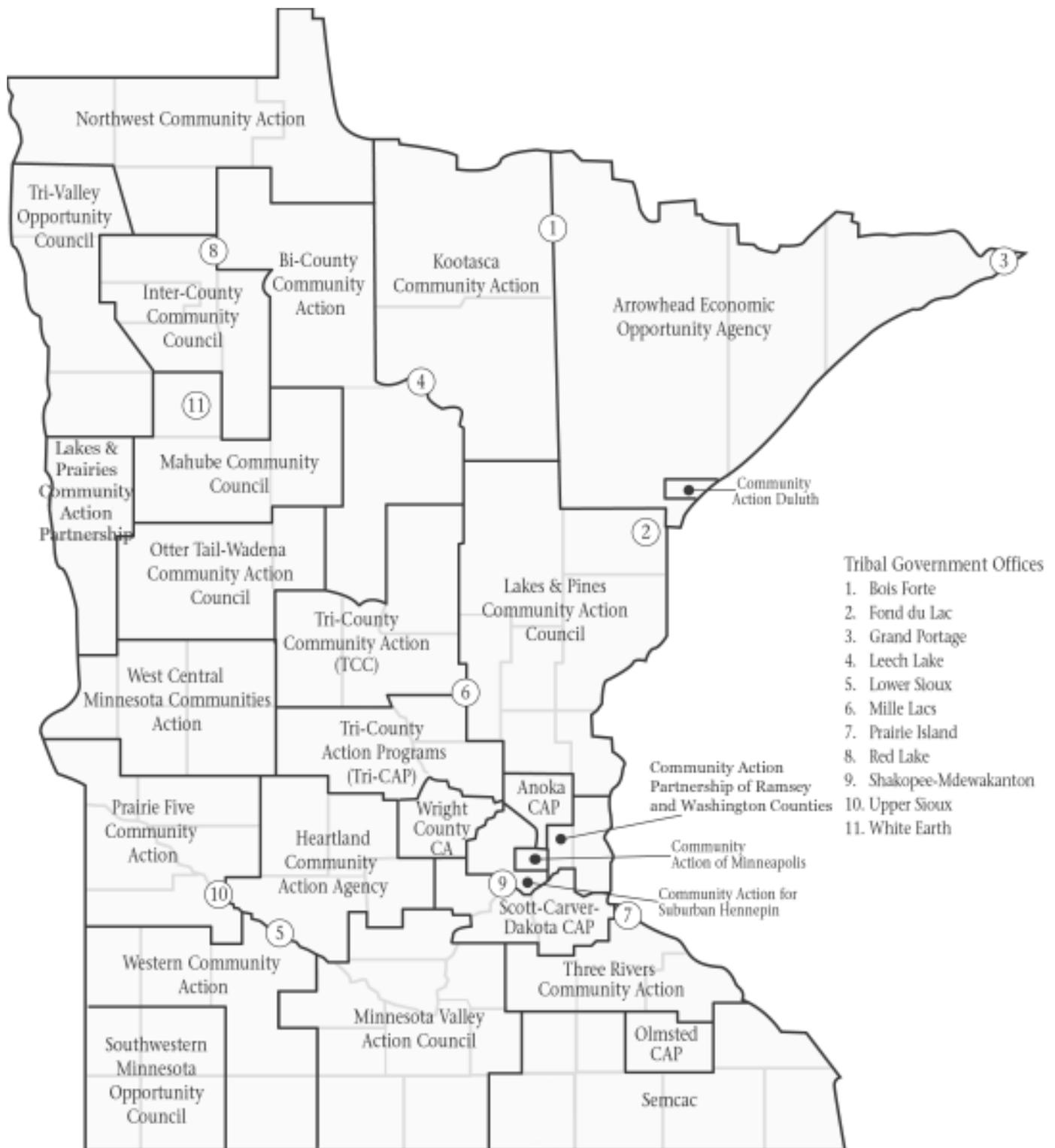
Community Action Agencies were created through the 1964 Economic Opportunity Act “to provide services, assistance, and other activities of sufficient scope and size to give promise of progress toward elimination of poverty or a cause or causes of poverty through developing employment opportunities, improving human performance, motivation, and productivity, or bettering the conditions under which people live, learn, and work.”

CAAs meet this mission of eliminating poverty by providing leadership in Minnesota communities and at the state and federal level. Creating change at any level requires a connection to the needs of people and an awareness and understanding of those system barriers like low wage jobs, transportation, housing, child care, and health care that low-income people struggle with on a daily basis. CAAs bridge this gap between the needs of low-income people and these community systems.

Finally, CAAs help individuals in poverty find hope through education and planning for their future. Lost hope comes from the belief that there are no alternatives. CAAs help people understand the root causes of poverty and give them options and support for making change in their lives. There is poverty with hope and poverty with no hope. We know that those with hope can and will take the steps to make their lives better.

Barbara C. Dorry, Chair
Minnesota Community Action Association

Minnesota's Community Action Agencies



Message from the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council

Minnesota established an Indian Affairs Council 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).

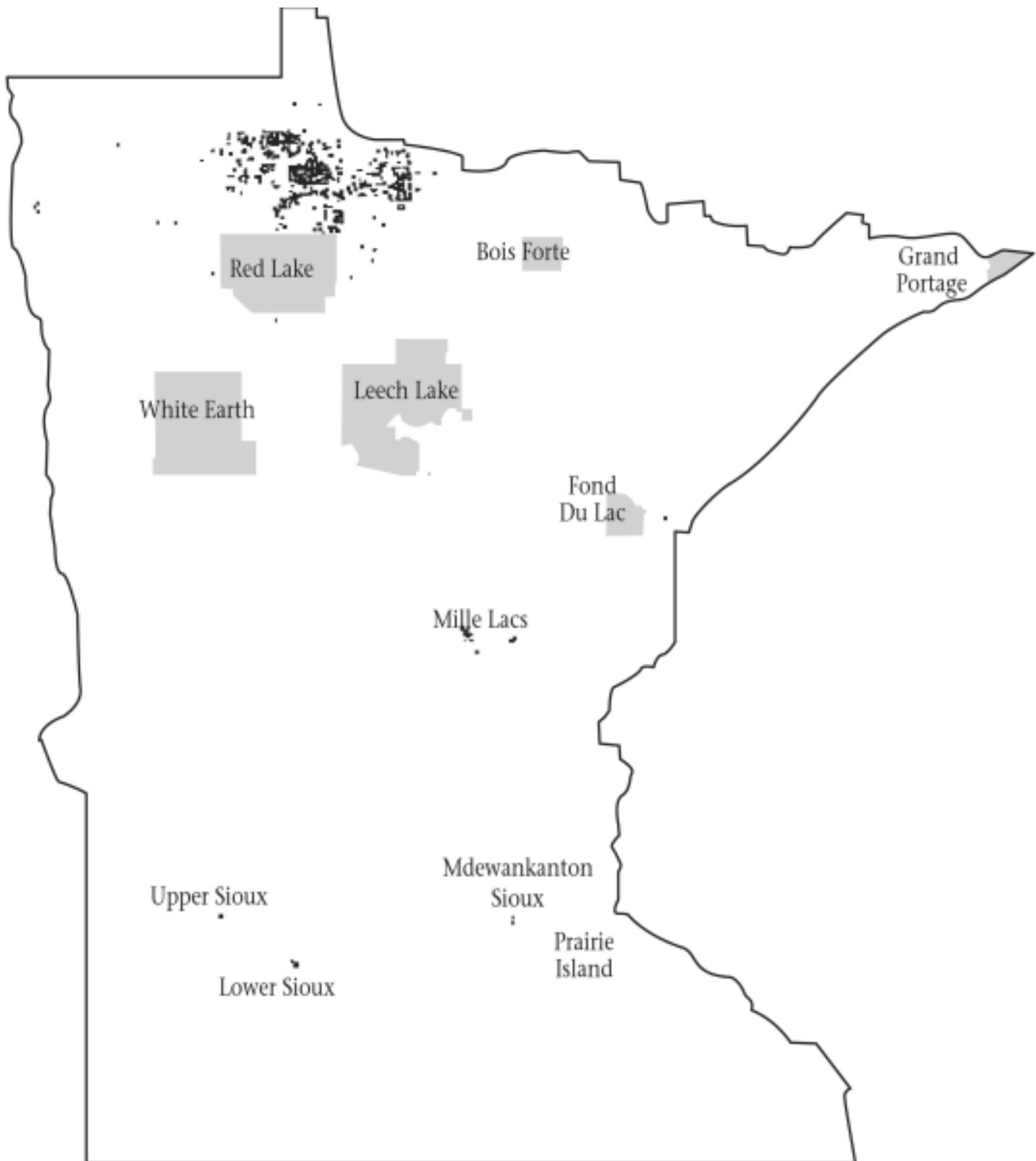
Poverty has, however, disproportionately impacted American Indian people in both our state and across the nation. The U.S. Census indicates that Minnesota's Indian people are worse off than minorities living elsewhere in the state and nation.

The support of Community Action, Head Start, and the Office of Economic Opportunity has greatly benefited Minnesota's eleven tribes. There are seven Chippewa (Ojibwe) and four Dakota (Sioux) reservations that benefit from the Economic Opportunity Grant as documented in this report.

The devolution of federal funds to state policies increases 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 will depend upon adequate funding of these programs.

Joseph B. Day, Executive Director
Minnesota Indian Affairs Council

Minnesota's Tribal Governments



Community Action Overview

Community Action Basics

What Is a Community Action Agency?

Community Action Agencies are private non-profit or public organizations that were created by the federal government in 1964 to combat 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 (CSBG) 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 (For CSBG enabling language see <http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/ocs/csbg/html/ocsfr.pdf>);
- ✓ 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.

Provided by the Community Action Partnership, 2000.



The Community Action Partnership was established in 1972 as the National Association of Community Action Agencies (NACAA). Visit them online at <http://www.communityactionpartnership.com>.

Who Is My Local Community Action Agency?

Many people are more familiar with the names of the programs community action agencies deliver than the name of their local Community Action Agency. Each local Community Action Agency provides a unique combination of programming to meet locally determined objectives. Well known programs include:

- ✓ Energy Assistance, Weatherization, and Energy Conservation
- ✓ Head Start, Child Development Programs and Referrals
- ✓ Congregate Dining and Meals on Wheels
- ✓ Jobs for Youth, Adults, and Seniors
- ✓ Senior Independent Living Services (SAIL)
- ✓ Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)
- ✓ Food Shelves and Family Nutrition Programs
- ✓ Housing Construction, Rehabilitation, and Assistance
- ✓ Family Crisis Services, Case Management, and Asset Development
- ✓ Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing
- ✓ Economic Development Business Start-up
- ✓ Advocacy, Education, and Outreach
- ✓ Transit and Transportation Alternatives

Local community action agencies are constantly changing to provide fast, flexible, local solutions for the increasingly diverse mix of Minnesotans experiencing poverty.

Local citizens govern local Community Action Agencies. Community Action governance embraces the principle of “maximum feasible participation” by 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

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, large fraternal insurance company HR director, local corporation CFO, county commissioner, city council member, school board member, county social services director and a state legislator.

Community Action Statewide

In Minnesota, community action operates as a statewide network of 39 organizations

- ✓ 28 Community Action Agencies; and,
- ✓ 11 Tribal Governments.

Community action is a major segment of nonprofit sector in Minnesota

- ✓ Combined annual budgets in excess of \$300 million;
- ✓ More than 5,000 employees;
- ✓ Nearly 40,000 volunteers;
- ✓ All agencies annually complete an independent audit.

Local partnerships are central to community action. Local Community Action Agencies maintain nearly 1,300 formal collaborative relationships in areas such as:

- ✓ Child Care
- ✓ Child Support
- ✓ Continuum of Care
- ✓ Early Education Programs
- ✓ Emergency Food Programs
- ✓ Energy Assistance/Weatherization
- ✓ Faith-Based Organizations
- ✓ Family Service Collaboratives
- ✓ Head Start
- ✓ Human Service Agencies
- ✓ Surplus Commodity Distribution Programs
- ✓ Transitional Housing Programs
- ✓ Vocational Rehabilitation Programs
- ✓ Workforce Centers

Needs vary significantly for urban, suburban and rural Minnesotans. For example, 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.) Transportation is particularly critical problem in some communities. Housing is a pervasive problem. In urban areas, low-income families may face a dizzying array of disconnected programs and service systems. Conversely, in rural areas services are scarce and far-flung. Suburban areas tend to have limited awareness of the nature and extent of poverty in their communities.

Community Action has diverse funding. In 2004, \$10.9 million of combined Minnesota Economic Opportunity Grant (MEOG) and Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funding enabled Minnesota's Community Action Agencies to leverage:

- ✓ More than \$314 million in other program funding;
- ✓ More than 39,000 volunteers contributed 1.6 million hours of community service with an estimated value of more than \$8.4 million.

Minnesota Community Action Association 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 MCAA 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. 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 (ROMA) in Minnesota and the nation including ROMA related training and technical assistance, staff support to the ROMA team, and ROMA related research and analysis.

Minnesota Economic Opportunity Act

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

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 non-profit 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.

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.

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

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

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 antipoverty 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.

The Experience of Poverty in Minnesota

In a state known for its high standard of living and quality of life, every day many Minnesotans struggle to meet their basic needs. In 2003, 6.9% of Minnesotans, approximately 351,000 people, lived below the poverty line. Census data is helpful in understanding the size of the problem, as well as who experiences poverty.

Measuring Poverty

The Federal government determines the poverty line annually. This measure is used to determine who is living in poverty and to set an eligibility limit for many government assistance programs. In 2004, the Federal Poverty Line for a family of four was \$18,850. Households with incomes at or below this level are defined as living in poverty. However, many families living near the poverty line also struggle. Although not officially living in poverty, generally those with incomes up to 200% of the poverty line are considered “low-income.” A family living at 150% of the poverty line has one and a half times the income of someone living at the poverty line, whereas someone at 200% has twice the income. In 2003, Minnesota’s median family income was \$50,100. Yet, 5.3% of families lived below the poverty line, 9.7% lived below 150% of the poverty line, and 17.0% lived below 200% of the poverty line.

Minnesota Families in Poverty, 2003		
	Number	Percent of Total Families
All Families	1,373,000	
Below 100%	73,000	5.3%
Below 150%	133,000	9.7%
Below 200%	234,000	17.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

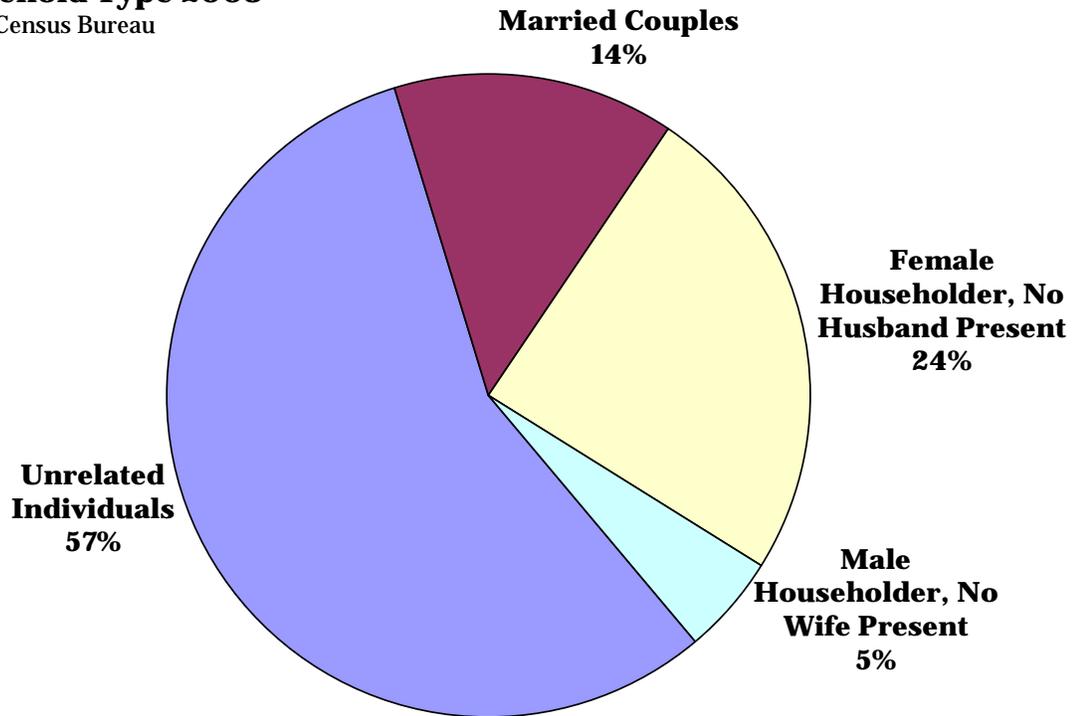
Understanding Who Experiences Poverty

Poverty affects all types of households- married couples, single-parents, and single individuals. In 2003, 57% of Minnesota households with unrelated individuals lived in poverty. A total of 14% of married couple households, 24% of female-headed households with no husband present, and 5% of male-headed households with no wife present, lived in poverty. Overall children experience poverty at higher rates than adults do. Nationwide between 2002 and 2003, the poverty rate of children under 18 years old increased from 16.7% to 17.6%. The number of children in poverty increased from 12.1 million to 12.9 million. The poverty rate of children under 18 remained higher than that of 18-to-64-year olds (10.8%) and that of seniors aged 65 and over (10.2%)

Most families living in poverty are working. Nationwide in 2003, two-thirds of families living in poverty included at least one employed person. In Minnesota, many poor families have an employed adult, but their earned income is insufficient to meet their basic needs. A weak job market makes it difficult for people to improve their jobs and secure employment with livable wages. Despite the official end of the recession in November 2001, by July 2004 Minnesota had regained only 7,900 of the 33,000 jobs that had been lost. For working and non-working households, a tight job market limits opportunities to move out of poverty.

**Poverty Status
by Household Type 2003**

Source: US Census Bureau



Families with Children

In 2000, nearly one in ten, or 121,691 Minnesota children lived in poverty. A total of 17% (217,461) of children lived in households earning up to 150% of the poverty line, and 26% (330,962), lived in households earning less than 200% of the poverty line. Statewide, African-American and American Indian children are nearly six times more likely to be poor than are white children. Asian and Latino children are four times more likely to be poor. A total of 23% of Asian-American children lived below the poverty line and nearly 50% lived in low-income families. The highest percentage was in the Hmong community; 37% lived below the poverty line and 73% were at less than 200% of poverty. Among African-American children, 32% lived below the poverty line and 60% were below 200% of poverty. In comparison, 6% of white children lived in poverty, and 20% were low-income.

Percent of Poverty Line	Number of Children Under Age 18	Percent	Number of Children Under Age 6	Percent
Below 100%	121,691	9.6%	41,403	10.5%
Below 150%	217,451	17.2%	73,617	18.8%
Below 200%	330,962	26.1%	110,911	28.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

2004 Federal Poverty Guidelines

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/>.

For more statistical information on poverty, visit the US Census' website at <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty.html>.

2004 HHS Poverty Guidelines

Size of Family Unit	48 Contiguous States and D.C.	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$9,310	\$11,630	\$10,700
2	12,490	15,610	14,360
3	15,670	19,590	18,020
4	18,850	23,570	21,680
5	22,030	27,550	25,340
6	25,210	31,530	29,000
7	28,390	35,510	32,660
8	31,570	39,490	36,320
For each additional person, add	3,180	3,980	3,660

SOURCE: Federal Register, Vol. 69, No. 30, February 13, 2004, pp. 7336-7338.

Antipoverty Programs Information

Results Oriented Management and Account-

By the mid 1990s, public policy discussions at all levels—federal, state, and local—were focusing on results. In 1996, Community Action in Minnesota began the transition to results-based management and implemented strategies for planning, training and reporting.

In 2000, work on a comprehensive family assessment tool began. The resulting Self-Reliance Achievement Scale (SRAS) was implemented statewide in April 2002. The SRAS tracks the status of people working with Community Action Agencies across a range of key areas in their lives including:

- ✓ Hours of employment
- ✓ Job stability
- ✓ Income
- ✓ Child support
- ✓ Financial credit
- ✓ Housing stability and affordability
- ✓ Health insurance
- ✓ Child Care
- ✓ English proficiency
- ✓ Education
- ✓ Transportation
- ✓ Informal supports

For more information on SRAS visit <http://www.roma1.org/room4a.asp?dstate=MN>.

A Wilder Research Center report in 2004 summarized some early findings, including:

- ✓ 41% of participants who received services related to job stability and retention improved,
- ✓ 38% of participants who received services related to hours of employment improved,
- ✓ 37% of participants who received services related to adequacy of income for food/shelter improved.

Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) is a federal Community Action initiative. Community Action Agencies in Minnesota are in partnership with the 1,000 CAAs nationally to continuously improve management systems for results. ROMA focuses on results in three broad areas: families, agencies and communities. 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 results-oriented management systems:

- a. OEO field staff held ROMA discussions with grantee boards during monitoring visits;
- b. A rudimentary set of common national outcome measures was implemented;
- c. A larger set of common statewide outcome measures was developed;
- d. Statewide implementation of SRAS for case management programming continued; and
- e. Implemented a web-based computer system that will improve agency-wide data management, (see Integrating Information Management Systems for details).

The tables that follow contain selected examples of measurable results. They do not reflect the full scope of Community Action, but rather they are examples of currently available data from management information systems that are rapidly evolving. The tables are organized under the general ROMA categories of Family, Community, and Agency. Within each category, there are examples of results achieved with widespread impact in Minnesota.

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. Due to space limitations, those measures are not published in this report. 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 clumsy, its more important virtue is that Community Action's local uniqueness makes the best possible use of limited resources in each community.

Selected Family Results

Outcome	Measure/Indicator	Achievement
Households achieve an increase in non-employment assets and resource utilization skills	# of individuals who demonstrate the ability to complete a budget	2,684
Households achieve an increase in non-employment assets and resource utilization skills	# of families who received a state or federal tax credit through tax assistance program	70,735
	Estimated amount of tax credits	\$7,369,836
Households achieve an increase in non-employment assets and resource utilization skills	# of households with at least a 10% reduction in energy consumption	2,877
	Estimated annual savings	\$618,558
Barriers to employment faced by low-income individuals are reduced or eliminated	Families who obtained care for child or other dependent in order to acquire or maintain employment	2,177
	Individuals who obtained access to reliable transportation and/or drivers license in order to acquire or maintain employment	3,971
	Individuals who obtained safe and affordable housing in support of employment stability	1,369
Individuals in the community obtain employment	# of individuals who were unemployed who obtained a job	1,673
Individuals in the community obtain higher-paying jobs	# of individuals that obtain an increase in employment income	1,007
Households achieve an increase in non-employment assets and resource utilization skills	# of individuals with a credit repair plan	1,211
Families and individuals facing economic instability will retain their housing with intervention and short-term assistance	# of individual retaining stable housing due to emergency rent payments	3,042
	# of individuals placed in transitional housing	977
	# of individuals averting foreclosure and maintain home	513
Children and youth from low-income families participate in developmental or enrichment programs and achieve program goals	Approximate # of preschool children from low-income families who are ready for school having developed pre-literacy and pre-numeracy skills	6,550
Families have identified medical and dental providers and obtained needed medical, dental and preventive care	# of children who completed medical, dental and mental health exams	10,845
	# of children who received health follow-up services	3,930
	# of families enrolled in Minnesota Care or other health insurance program	4,726
Parents and other adults improve parenting and family functioning skills	# of parents and other adults who learn and exhibit improved parenting skills	6,965
Provide services to promote independence, dignity and well-being of older persons	# of seniors who received rides	6,429
Households receive emergency assistance to resolve crisis and are able to become and remain stable within their communities	# of households referred who received food or vouchers	43,805
The independence, dignity and well-being of vulnerable adults receiving services from community action is maintained	# of times chore services are provided to seniors and individuals with disabilities	104,611
Senior nutrition services promote independence, dignity, good health and nutritional well-being of older person	# of congregate meals served	1,159,643
	# of home delivered meals served	561,304

Selected Community Results

Outcome	Measure/Indicator	Achievement
People learn skills to participate in and advocate for, systems change on behalf of themselves, children and other vulnerable populations within their community	# of people who attend training sessions	6,764
The voices and needs of community members are accurately reflected through participation in community boards or committees	# of individuals who serve on an agency advisory council at least once a year	1,185
Local agencies or community organizations are strengthened in their capacities to serve the community	# of local agencies or community organizations which receive capacity-building services	216
People learn skills to participate in and advocate for, systems change on behalf of themselves, children and other vulnerable populations within their community	# of individuals participating in formal community organizations, government, boards or councils that provide input to decision making and policy setting through community action efforts	1,193
Community Partners and the community at large are better informed about the issues faced by low-income individuals and families and the resources available to low-income people	# of meetings attended to advocate for low-income individuals and families, media appearances, new releases/articles, public speaking engagements, presentations to partners	8,983
Accessible new transportation, preserved transportation, expanded transportation resources are available to low-income families, including public or private transportation	# of rides provided	555,679
There is an increase in or preservation of services for low-income people as a result of community action projects and initiatives, or advocacy with other public and private agencies	# of accessible and affordable childcare or child development placement opportunities for low-income families created or maintained	11,528
Low-income households have the knowledge to budget their finances and determine their ability to purchase a home	# of individuals who purchase a home in their community as a result of community action assistance	731
There is an increase in resources for low-income people as a result of community action projects and initiatives	# of single and/or multifamily housing units created through construction Weatherization or rehabilitation	1,659
There is a preservation of opportunities and resources for low-income people as a result of community action projects and initiatives, or advocacy with other public and private agencies	# of single and/or multifamily housing units preserved or rehabilitated directly by CAAs or through partnerships	7,457
People learn skills to participate in, and advocate for, systems change on behalf of themselves, children and other vulnerable populations within their community	# of people who complete leadership training	464
	# of parents/individuals engaged in advocacy activities	2,150
Services are provided in the community through the aid of volunteers	# of volunteers	39,479
	# of hours volunteered	1,631,980
	Estimated value	\$8,400,000

Selected Agency Results

Outcome	Measure/Indicator	Achievement
Services and programs are efficient, well-integrated, nonduplicative and meet the needs of low-income people in the community	# of formal collaborative agreements that were maintained over the past year	1,282
	# of organizations with whom financial agreements were maintained during the past year	637
	# of organizations with whom informal service delivery agreements were maintained during the past year	1,658
	# of organizations with whom advocacy alliances were maintained over the past year	391
	# of organizations with whom community action agencies work to promote family and community outcomes	1,484
Agency has increased funding to insure smooth program and agency operation in order to serve low-income individuals and families more effectively	Funding leveraged by community action funding	\$312 million
Agencies are regularly evaluated and improved to maximize strengths and deliver sound services to the community	# of monitoring reports with positive results reported by funders and self-evaluations including Head Start Prism reviews	390
	# of staff performance evaluations completed	3,869
	# of training needs assessments completed by staff	2,084
	# of minority staff, board and Policy Council members recruited and/or retained	763
Resources are focused on the highest impact programming	# of strategic planning meetings involving staff & Board	385

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
- ✓ Energy Assistance/Weatherization
- ✓ Head Start
- ✓ Surplus Commodity Distribution Program
- ✓ Vocational rehabilitation
- ✓ Workforce Centers

Minnesota Community Action Best Practice Awards

In February of 2004, the Minnesota Community Action Association (MCAA) collaborated with the Minnesota Department of Human Services' Office of Economic Opportunity, and the University of Minnesota College of Human Ecology to host its first Best Practice Awards Ceremony. This event was created to honor statewide Community Action Agencies that have used proven innovative and creative practices to improve the lives of the low-income families they serve. The Best Practice Awards Ceremony was a resounding success. More than 100 participants, including 14 legislators, joined in celebrating the eight agency award winners and the successes of Community Action Agencies across the state.

Because of the excitement and enthusiasm surrounding the work of Minnesota's Community Action Agencies, the Best Practice Awards were destined to become a Minnesota Tradition. The Best Practice Award also would serve as a time to come together and celebrate what a good dose of fervor and innovation can do for Minnesota communities.

A Best Practice is any program, project, process, procedure or strategy that has increased the capacity of a community to end poverty. For example, a Best Practice could incorporate a short-term project, management strategies, or the creation of new partnerships within community organizations and members. To qualify, each agency that submitted a best practice application had to nominate a program(s) to compete in one of the six national Community Action goal categories. These include:

- ✓ **Goal One:** Low-income people become more self-sufficient.
- ✓ **Goal Two:** The conditions in which low-income people live are improved.
- ✓ **Goal Three:** Low-income people own a stake in their own community.
- ✓ **Goal Four:** Partnerships among supporters and providers of services to low-income people are achieved.
- ✓ **Goal Five:** Agencies increase their capacity to achieve results.
- ✓ **Goal Six:** Low-income people, especially vulnerable populations, achieve their potential by strengthening family and other supportive systems.

The Minnesota Community Action Association is a collaboration of 27 Community Action Agencies that are locally controlled, whose purpose is to reduce poverty by helping low-income people become self-sufficient. More than 1,000 Community Action Agencies throughout our nation have a positive impact on the causes and consequences of poverty by providing a range services and opportunities.

Community Action Agencies are dedicated to ongoing improvement of both direct services and management practices. Through innovative strategies and collaboration, Community Action Agencies will continue to improve the services they provide to low-income citizens and demonstrate measurable outcomes to their communities.

Best Practice Award Recipients and Pro-

Best Practice Award — Goal 1: Low-Income People Become More Self-Sufficient

Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (AEOA), The Adult Scholarship Program

A collaboration among AEOA, human services, employers and Itasca County Community College, The Adult Scholarship Program assists low-income Itasca County residents to acquire education needed to secure good-paying jobs. The program also trains residents for jobs available and needed locally. The Blandin Foundation funds this partnership program. AEOA is located in Virginia, MN.

Best Practice Award — Goal 2: The Conditions in Which Low-Income People Lives Are Improved

West Central Minnesota Communities Action (WCMCA), The Land of Lakes Group Work Camp

The Land of Lakes Group Work Camp recruited 149 youth and 27 adult volunteers to complete repairs on low-income household homes needing health and safety repairs, painting and accessibility ramps in Grant and Stephens Counties. The work was supported by approximately \$70,000 of donated materials and labor. WCMCA is located in Elbow Lake, MN.

Best Practice Award — Goal 5: Agencies Increase Their Capacity to Achieve Results

KOOTASCA Community Action, Inc., The Senior Wheels Program

A collaborative effort among Koochiching County Coordinator on Aging Program, Retired Senior Volunteer Program and Itasca County Eldercircle, engages volunteer drivers to provide safe, timely and affordable transportation for seniors age 65 and older to out of town medical appointments. Since its inception in 2002, 20 volunteer drivers have logged 42,108 miles, providing 391 rides to seniors to access quality medical care. KOOTASCA, Inc. is located in Grand Rapids, MN.

Best Practice Award — Goal 6: Low-Income People, Especially Vulnerable Populations, Achieve their Potential by Strengthening Family and Other Supportive Systems

Three Rivers Community Action, Inc., Family Homeownership Program

This program was established to increase the stability, literacy, education, and health of families by promoting housing opportunities for Head Start-eligible families in Southeastern Minnesota. A full-time housing placement coordinator works with qualified families to explore options and financing opportunities for homeownership. The program collaborates with other agencies to assure that families develop necessary knowledge and skills in money management, credit use, and homeownership. Three Rivers CA, Inc. is located in Zumbrota, MN.

**Honorable Mention Award — Goal 1:
Low-Income People Become More Self-Sufficient**

**Bi-County Community Action Program, Inc. (Bi-CAP),
The YouthBuild Program**

A comprehensive on-site training program for at-risk youth ages 16-24, YouthBuild participants learn construction skills by their involvement in new construction projects as well as maintenance, repair, and rehabilitation of fifteen Bi-CAP owned or managed transitional housing units for people who are homeless. Youth are concurrently pursuing their high school diploma at the Cass Lake Area Learning Center. Bi-County Community Action Program, Inc. is located in Bemidji, MN.

**Honorable Mention Award — Goal 1:
Low-Income People Become More Self-Sufficient**

**Olmsted Community Action Program,
The MFIP Intensive Support Team (MIST)**

A collaboration between Olmsted Community Action Program and the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP), MIST provides intensive family support, case management, and self-sufficiency services. One specific component of MIST targets families with severe disabilities and helps them to apply for appropriate benefits, as well as access to medical and counseling services. This helps them to achieve the goal of economic stability through appropriate program support. Olmsted CAP is located in Rochester, MN.

**Honorable Mention Award — Goal 2:
The Conditions in Which Low-Income People Live Are Improved**

**Community Action Duluth,
Public Relations/Communications Committee**

Community Action Duluth established a Public Relations/Communications Committee to work with local media to educate citizens about Duluth's affordable housing crisis and the need to support development efforts. A series of newspaper articles, written by leaders from non-profit organizations, faith communities, businesses, and government, addressed various aspects of the issue and prompted public dialogue and increased awareness of this critical issue for Duluth residents. CA Duluth is located in Duluth, MN.

**Honorable Mention Award — Goal 5:
Agencies Increase Their Capacity to Achieve Results**

**Northwest Community Action Agency,
The Business Incubator Project**

A collaborative effort among city officials, a local bank, and regional and federal development foundations, to purchase, rehab, and develop a building that now houses five low-income entrepreneurs who needed commercial space for their businesses. Northwest CAA is located in Badger, MN.

Homelessness in Minnesota

On August 26, 2004, 6,369 homeless persons were sheltered in Minnesota's shelter and transitional housing programs. Almost half of these persons were children who were with their families (40%) or unaccompanied youth (5%). Twenty-six percent of the adults sheltered were men and 29% were women. Another 1,323 requests for shelter or transitional housing could not be met.

The 6,369 includes only those persons who were sheltered on that specific night. The Wilder Research Center estimated that for the night of October 23, 2003, an additional 14,000 persons were staying outside, in other places not meant for human habitation, or in temporarily doubled up situations. Both of these studies were simply a snapshot of one particular night. The total number of persons who are homeless over the course of an entire year is certain to be a much higher number.

Data and information collected for almost 20 years now, tells us that the needs of individuals and families experiencing homelessness can be seen across a continuum of needs. Some people need support services for many years, perhaps forever, and some people 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.

Thirteen regional Continuum of Care Committees are spearheading the effort to address the full spectrum of homelessness in Minnesota. Continuum of Care Committees must assess the nature of the homelessness situation in their area and develop plans to address it. The Continuum of Care process brings together providers, homeless people and government officials for regional coordination and planning. These efforts have resulted in increased access to federal and other resources to assist homeless persons, more efficient use of existing resources, and increased collaboration among existing service providers.

A subset of the homeless population is people who have been homeless for an extended period of time, defined as the long-term homeless. By definition, a person meets the criteria of being long-term homeless if they have been homeless for more than a year, or if they have had four instances of homelessness in the past three years. According to the Chronic Homeless Working Group established by Governor Pawlenty to address the long term homeless situation, an additional 4,000 units of supportive housing will need to be developed by the year 2010 to address the needs of long-term homeless Minnesotans.

Community Action Agencies play a pivotal role in both the provision of homeless services and organizing the Continuum of Care planning efforts. CAAs are the primary recipient of Rural Homeless Assistance and Stability Program funding, which assists homeless households in obtaining housing. They are also the primary administrator of Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program funding, which assists households that are at imminent risk of homelessness to keep their housing. Many CAAs also oversee the distribution of FEMA Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds that address emergency needs and are direct providers of shelter and transitional housing programs.

Food Shelves and Food Support in Minnesota

In 2003, Minnesota's 300 food shelves distributed more than 33 million pounds of food to meet the needs of 1.56 million people. Approximately 50 percent were children and 20 percent were seniors. Food shelf use increased by 10 percent over 2002. In the Twin Cities suburbs, the number of working poor approaches 60 percent of the families served. The working poor is the fastest growing population of food shelf clients. 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.

Almost half of all families who use the food shelf have had to choose between paying their utilities and buying food. More than 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. Three quarters of Minnesota families receiving food are working, retired or disabled, yet their wages and benefits keep 85 percent of them living below the federal poverty guidelines.

Many Minnesotans are utilizing food shelves, but many more Minnesotans, particularly seniors, could take increased advantage of the Food Support Program (formerly the Food Stamp Program) to help meet their nutritional needs. According to the International Council Foundation, malnutrition rates among seniors range from 25-85 percent. This may be due to cost, lack of transportation, diminished interest in food, or inability to operate cooking equipment. Often, a lack of money and a fear of waste lead older people to purchase less nutritional food items, instead of highly nutritious foods, such as fresh fruits, vegetables, and meat that are more expensive. This behavior can adversely affect their health.

Food Support, the federal program designed to help people meet their nutritional needs, provides an average of \$78.00 per person per month. The Minnesota Department of Human Services Office of Economic Opportunity works with counties to administer the program across the state. To find out how to apply for Food Support, Minnesotans may contact their local county human service office or call the Senior Linkage Line at (800) 333-2433.

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 Minnesota Department of Human Services contracts with Hunger Solutions Minnesota to transport and distribute USDA commodity food through Minnesota Food Shelves and America's Second Harvest Food Banks. USDA commodity food is available in all 87 counties for eligible recipients to access.

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. For a listing of food shelves throughout the state, visit <http://www.mnhungerpartners.org>.

Asset Development for Low-Income People

Defining Economic Security

Individuals and families served by Minnesota's Community Action network typically have incomes at or below the poverty level. As a result, long-term self-reliance requires focused attention on improving the family's economic security.

Family economic security can be defined as a family's ability to meet its financial needs in a way that promotes health and well-being both in the short and long term. The first and most basic component of family economic security is income, which provides a means for covering basic needs such as housing, food and clothing. However, improving a family's economic security over the long term requires accumulating assets and building human and social capital as well.

Community Action programs in Minnesota have a unique opportunity and are doing much to reach thousands of families annually, by connecting them to resources and opportunities to improve their economic security and potentially build assets that will help move them out of poverty.

Helping Low-Income People Save and Build Assets

Research from the Individual Development Account (IDA) field suggests that people with very limited incomes can and do save when given incentives and institutional support. IDAs are matched savings accounts that help low-income families to save, build assets, and enter the financial mainstream. IDAs reward the monthly savings of working-poor families who are building towards purchasing a productive asset.

In Minnesota, a small statewide IDA program called Family Assets for Independence in Minnesota (FAIM) was launched in 1999. Account holders are matched at a rate of 3:1. For every \$1 of earned income saved by an account holder up to \$480 per year, \$3 are set aside in a match account for use to purchase an asset. Eligible assets include home purchase, capitalization of a small business, and post-secondary education. FAIM account holders attend general financial literacy education classes along with additional hours of asset-specific training. Eighteen Community Action Agencies, a credit union, a micro-enterprise development organization, and the Leech Lake Tribe currently participate in FAIM.

Results from the initial four-year pilot show that, as of July 2004, 726 account holders have deposited more than \$550,000 into FAIM accounts. During that same period, 119 homes have been purchased, 105 account holders have enrolled in post-secondary education programs, and 111 small businesses have been launched. Six hundred-sixteen account holders completed financial literacy and asset-specific classes. For more information about Minnesota's IDA program, visit <http://www.minnesotafaim.org>.

Accessing Tax Credits – EITC, WFC and Other Tax Credits

Recognized as our country's most effective and efficient antipoverty tool, in 2002 the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) lifted 4.9 million individuals, including 2.8 million children, out of poverty across the country. Minnesota is one of approximately 16 states to provide a state tax credit similar to the federal EITC. In Minnesota, this tax credit is known as the Working Families Credit (WFC). Low wage earners who claim the tax credit can increase their incomes by 50%. Consider the following example:

Single parent of two children	
Full-time minimum wage work 2004	\$10,712
Federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)	\$ 4,290
Minnesota Working Family Credit (WFC)	\$ 1,075
	<u>\$ 5,365</u>
Total Income, Including Tax Credits	\$16,077

For tax year 2004, the EITC was worth up to \$4,300 for workers who earned up to \$34,458 and had two or more qualifying children. The WFC was worth up to \$1,506 for workers who earned up to \$34,458 and had two or more qualifying children. This is money that can help families meet their basic needs, i.e. food, rent, and clothing. It is also money that can support efforts to build assets, and get people on the road to economic self-reliance.

Low-income families may be eligible for other tax credits, such as the federal child tax credit, federal and state child and dependent care credits, state K-12 education credit and more. If 10% more eligible filers in the state had claimed their EITC for tax year 2002, then almost 24,000 more Minnesotans would have claimed another \$27 million in federal funds and more than \$9 million in state funds. However, in order to access the credits they have earned, low wage workers have to claim them by filing income taxes. Free tax assistance preparation helps low-income families to access such credits.

Free Tax Preparation Assistance

Several options exist for free tax assistance in Minnesota. Families earning \$35,000 or less are eligible for assistance. Community Action Agencies are partnering with both AccountAbility Minnesota and AARP's Tax Counseling for the Elderly program to expand access to tax assistance sites. Typically, tax assistance sites are open from February 1 through April 15.

A statewide coalition sponsored by the University of Minnesota Extension called the Tax Education and Assistance Coalition develops materials promoting tax credits and voluntary tax sites. Materials include information in other languages including Croatian, English, Hmong, Khmer, Laotian, Oromo, Russian, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

Support to Non-profit Staff and Organizations Doing this Work

Developing financial literacy, e.g. the ability to speak the language and function well in the culture of the mainstream financial world in the United States, for low-income people is an opportunity that every Community Action Agency has. Through a special federal grant, OEO is sponsoring ongoing statewide trainings on the Four Cornerstones of Financial Literacy curriculum. This curriculum and training is based on the following four cornerstones:

1. Budgeting to create savings;
2. Debt reduction and asset building;
3. Building a good credit rating; and,
4. Consumer protection and financial institutions.

These trainings are aimed at front-line staff working directly with low-income people. They incorporate adult learning principles, and utilize a method known as learning circles to tap into attendees' life experiences by having participants share stories in a circle exercise used in every session.

The Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) and several partners including the Minnesota Community Action Association (MCAA), AccountAbility Minnesota, Darryl Dahlheimer, and the University of Minnesota are involved in an effort to increase support to front-line staff working to help low wage workers build assets and move out of poverty.

In addition to sponsoring training, sharing information, developing tools, and expanding partnerships, the MCAA is partnering with OEO to create a web site that will serve as a clearinghouse for a wide array of resources and information aimed at helping front-line staff work with low wage workers to develop assets and move out of poverty.

Integrating Information Management Sys-

CAP-Integrator Provides Single Point-of-Entry to Services for Minnesota's Low-Income Citizens

Community Action Agencies (CAAs), the Office of Economic Opportunity, and the Minnesota Community Action Association finalized negotiations to cooperatively implement a web-based information management system known as the CAP-Integrator. The CAP-Integrator will provide clients with one-stop entry to numerous low-income assistance programs thereby greatly improving clients' access to services, while simultaneously reducing duplicative intake processes. In addition to improved client services, the CAP-Integrator will make both internal and external reporting more efficient and effective. Lastly, the system will result in an improved ability to operate with both public and non-profit partners who are using other systems.

For years, CAAs have struggled with the complexity of operating multiple databases that are mandated by a variety of public and private funders. CAAs typically operate from three to seven (in one case as many as 24) separate databases. More often than not, client data must be re-entered in each database resulting in fragmented services, costly inefficiencies, and increased data errors.

CAAs will pool their resources via their association's Minnesota Community Action Management Information Systems (CAMIS) 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 strategy will centralize hardware ownership and maintenance and result in improved performance, security, and reliability. The common training strategy will result in consistent high performance standards and reduced total costs of ownership.

Although the CAP-Integrator represents a significant investment in technology for many agencies, other opportunities for cost savings across programs are equally significant and also may reduce the total cost of ownership as many private-sector industries have learned in recent years. In addition to the data entry efficiencies many agencies will realize, the platform-independent web technology of the CAP-Integrator will reduce costly installation, upgrades and troubleshooting on local (or remote) agency desktops. Improved flexibility in data collection and reporting (custom fields, ad-hoc reporting) will also provide a new tool for agency staff to leverage additional resources from funding sources using information that was previously unavailable or difficult to obtain.

Finally, the migration to a web-based system will allow CAAs to efficiently integrate 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 the Energy Assistance and Weatherization eHEAT system and the Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS). With an eye toward the future, the CAP-Integrator 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 in the future.

Features

The CAP-Integrator will provide a wide range of benefits to clients, service providers, funders, and administrators in a cost efficient manner.

- ✓ The single point of data entry for multiple programs will increase staff efficiency and job satisfaction, while reducing duplication of efforts and errors.
- ✓ The central client information system will support more comprehensive, integrated service delivery and program administration. The CAP-Integrator will simultaneously reduce the amount of data gathering and data entry time, while improving the availability of information for real-time service delivery. Community service professionals will have more time for the personal one-on-one activities that make them so effective in helping the citizens of Minnesota.
- ✓ The unique embedded-consent design will safeguard client information. The embedded-consent design also will maintain an audit trail of any actual information sharing. The resulting agency-wide access to client data sharing instructions will provide stronger client protections than current paper systems. At the same time, ready access to release authorizations will make the sharing of approved information simpler and more efficient. It will expedite the use of data sharing for analysis, longitudinal study, determination of best practices, performance measurement, and maximizing return on investment. The audit trail will help to discourage legal action and minimize administrative and legal expense in the event any actions proceed.
- ✓ The CAP-Integrator uses an Application Service Provider (ASP) model. The system will be operated on central servers. This reduces the cost for individual agencies to purchase and maintain hardware. Additionally, The CAP-Integrator is centrally upgraded rather than via software reinstallations and debugging individual staff desktops throughout local agencies. The CAP-Integrator's ASP strategy conserves local agency IT staff time for higher priority functions.
- ✓ The ASP model also provides state-of-the-art security. Access to data is rigorously controlled through sophisticated user clearances. Local agency data is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days per year. An ASP's back-up systems and protocols are generally far more robust than those attainable by individual local agencies.
- ✓ Innovations in software technology make it far simpler for local agency staff to make modifications on their own, saving both time and money. The cooperative model employed by Community Action Agencies in Minnesota assures a cadre of local agency staff will acquire and maintain the knowledge and skills necessary to make "do-it-yourself" changes that have historically required fee-for-service software modifications.
- ✓ The cooperative model employed by Minnesota CAAs also assures cost savings on training. CAMIS trainings, train-the-trainer strategies, and online interactive training will result in even further savings of travel expenses and travel time.

Community Action and Head Start: 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 antipoverty 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.”¹ 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.”²

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.”³ 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.”⁴

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.”⁵ 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)⁶ In fact, Information Memorandum 49⁷ 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 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.”⁸

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.”⁹

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.”¹⁰

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;¹¹ in 2000 there were more than 11 million children living in poverty, or about one in six children.¹²

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 antipoverty 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.

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 antipoverty 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 antipoverty message that is worthy of strengthening families by fighting poverty - a message that inspires confidence that antipoverty 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 antipoverty 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.

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, antipoverty 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.

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 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 antipoverty initiatives as well as practical and on-going 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.

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 antipoverty 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 antipoverty 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....”¹³ 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.

¹ www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1964johnson-warpoverty.html

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

³ *Project Head Start*, page 6.

⁴ 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.

⁵ *Project Head Start*, p. 409.

⁶ *Project Head Start*, p. 409-410.

⁷ 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).

⁸ *Project Head Start*, p. 99.

⁹ *Project Head Start*, p. 92.

¹⁰ *Head Start: The Inside Story of America’s Most Successful Educational Experiment*, p.2.

¹¹ www.census.gov

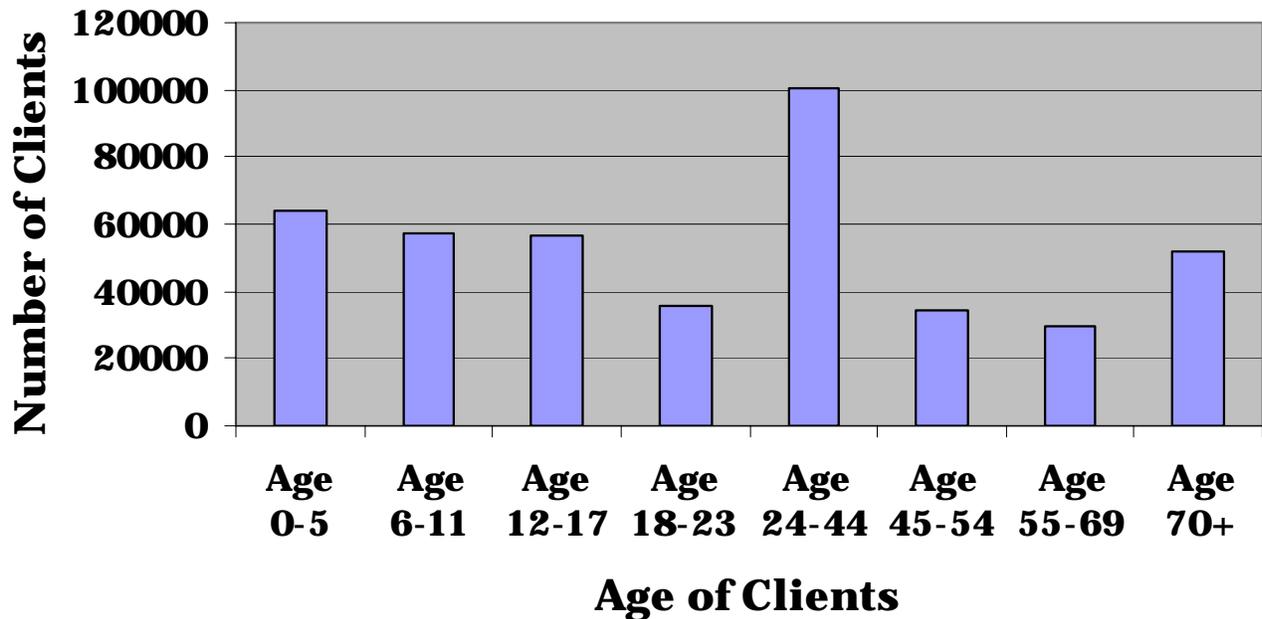
¹² www.childrensdefense.org/fairstart-povstat1.htm

¹³ www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1964johnson-warpoverty.html

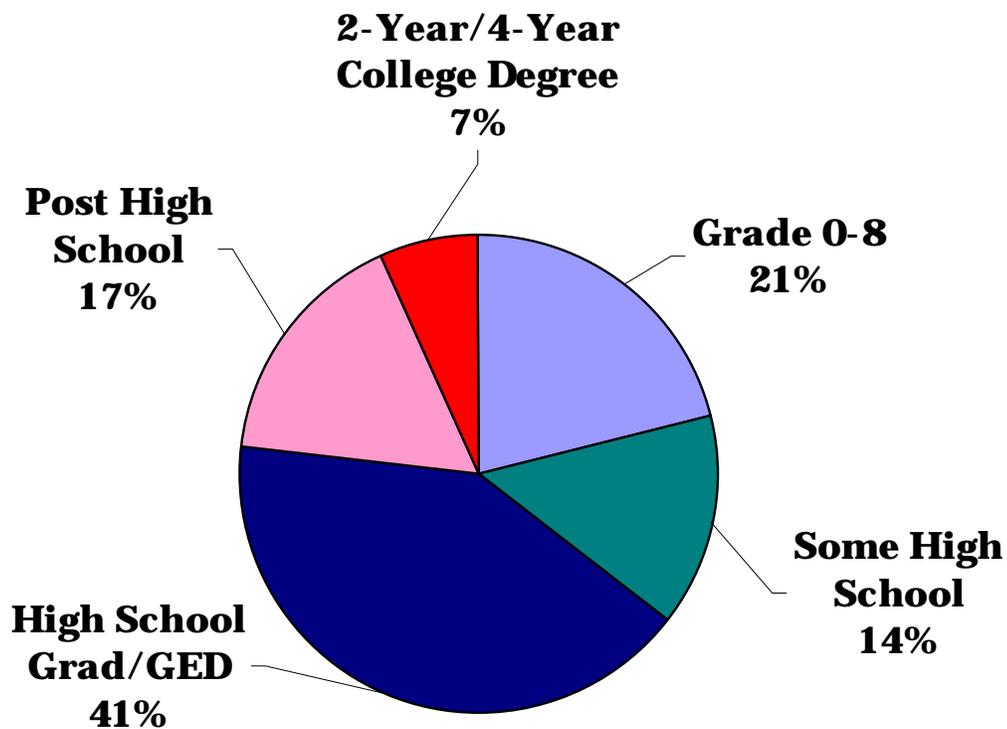
Statewide Overview

2004 Client Characteristics

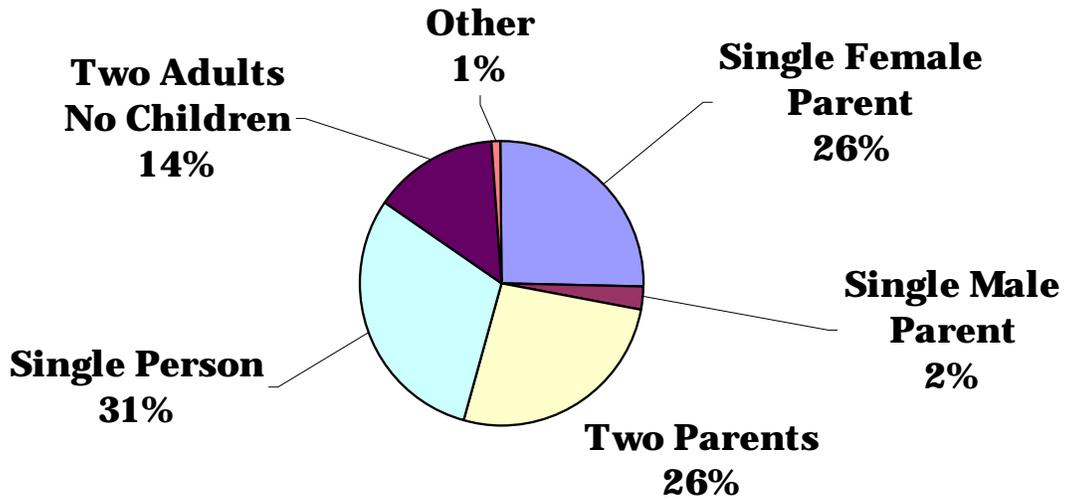
Age Distribution of Clients



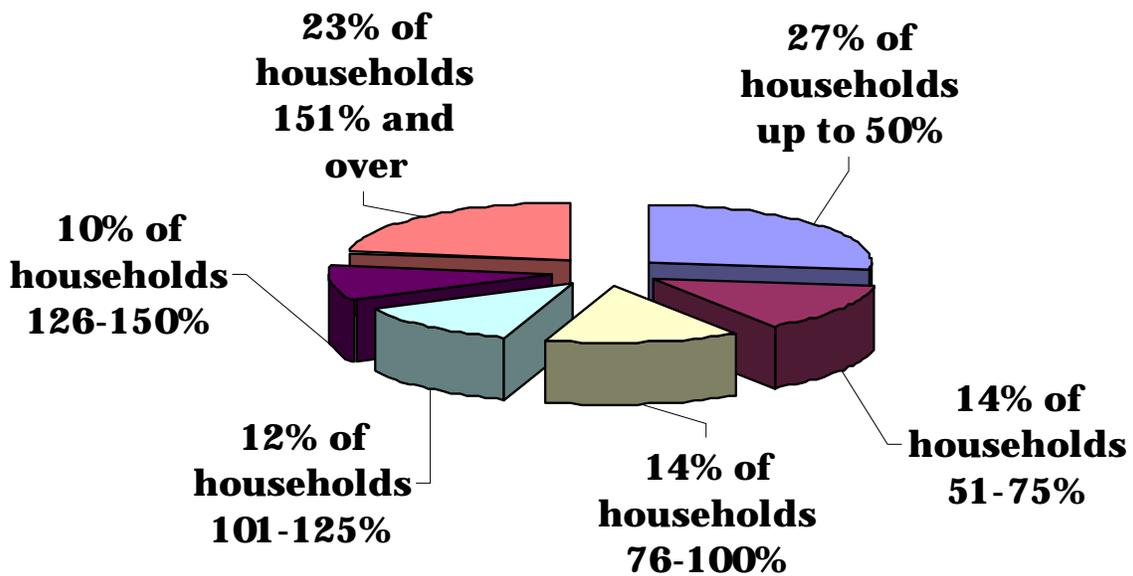
Client Educational Level



Client Household Composition



Percentage of Households Relative to the Federal Poverty Level



Statewide Program Activity Summary

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households	Times Service Provided
Employment				
D1	Employment & Training Services	1,994	1,377	1,400
D3	Youth Employment	1,407	1,085	1,251
D6	Senior Employment Programs	180	164	298
D7	FSET	371	362	371
D8	Displaced Homemakers	762	302	302
Education				
L1	GED & Educational Services	2,194	1,787	2,210
L2	Literacy	2,215	1,277	2,587
L3	English/Second Language (ESL)	121	99	310
L4	Adult Basic Education (ABE)	1,658	1,483	1,658
Income Management				
M2	Financial Education	8,001	3,456	8,123
M3	Tax Aid	169,746	70,735	70,735
M4	Asset Development (FAIM)	969	417	969
Health				
I1	Health Care Aid Non-Financial	5,616	4,986	5,616
I2	Health Care Aid - Financial	1,518	1,469	1,518
I3	Family Planning	4,017	3,992	4,021
Housing				
B1	Weatherization	10,340	4,346	4,253
B3	MECS Audits	4,704	1,677	1,677
B4	Other Conservation Services	3,469	1,504	1,504
B7	Energy-Related Repairs	11,041	3,807	3,798
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	1,600	735	748
C3	Home Repair/Rehabilitation	904	563	792
C5	Small Cities Devel. Grants (SCDG)	1,186	469	469
C6	Rental Housing Assistance	2,213	823	823
C7	Low-Income Housing Development	784	610	615
C8	Community Housing Stabilization	3,026	1,116	1,116
C9	Community Homeownership Ed.	4,008	2,012	2,029
Emergency Services				
B5	Energy Assistance	284,531	104,387	106,695
B6	Energy Crisis	52,095	16,926	17,582
B8	Fuel Fund	3,886	1,413	1,413
C10	Homeless Assistance	12,201	5,093	12,201
C11	Transitional Housing	977	409	977
G1	Emergency Family Services	3,731	3,273	3,731
G3	Abuse and Neglect	904	562	648
G6	Donated Articles	132,604	34,501	34,501
G8	Crisis Intervention	10,951	4,761	4,957

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households	Times Service Provided
Nutrition				
H1	Food Assistance	139,722	52,256	50,622
H2	Community Services Food Pkgs.	1,800	1,421	2,026
H3	Holiday Projects	18,125	6,085	6,085
H4	Women, Infants, Children (WIC)	16,842	10,164	84,071
H5	Gardening	685	447	447
H6	Home-Delivered Meals	4,823	4,245	561,304
H7	Congregate Meals	19,497	15,385	1,159,643
H9	USDA Commodity Assistance	17,692	10,226	10,226
Linkages				
E1	Transportation System	161,374	93,253	598,588
E3	Transportation Assistance	19,321	13,325	44,305
E4	Vehicle Program	381	181	181
F1	Senior-Oriented Services	14,970	9,208	9,208
F3	Chore Services	2,037	1,791	104,611
F5	Retired Senior Volunteer (RSVP)	5,241	4,507	4,784
F6	Senior Companions/Foster Grand.	2,090	1,600	3,991
K1	Information and Referral	592,966	219,786	354,884
K2	Outreach	252,747	97,464	135,388
K3	Advocacy Info./Educ.	1,281,116	508,900	1,077,626
K4	Contract Services	2,991	1,715	1,813
Self-Sufficiency				
J1	Head Start	26,682	11,370	12,713
J2	Child Care	4,277	1,989	2,549
J3	Child Care Administration	5,684	2,092	2,251
J4	At-Risk Youth	2,714	1,312	1,390
J5	Campership	73	64	73
J6	Child Care Resource & Referral	13,357	6,905	8,046
J7	Youth Recreation	2,097	1,462	2,097
J8	Parenting Education	6,885	4,162	5,119
J9	Fatherhood Initiative	1,728	1,324	1,742
J10	Crisis Nursery	663	278	697
M1	Self-Sufficiency	5,869	4,175	4,990
M5	Family Loan Fund	719	301	301
Other				
A1	Community Development	5,204	1,017	24
A5	Cottage Industries	70	43	44
	Visitation Center	263	144	6,470
	School Supplies Dist.	45	45	45
	Coat Drive	173	31	110
	Quilt Give-Away	150	150	150

2004 Community Action Funding Summary

AgencyName	CSBG	MEOG	Other Federal
Anoka	\$216,733	\$123,747	\$16,016,780
Arrowhead	\$209,446	\$119,994	\$5,439,150
Bi-County	\$184,857	\$107,330	\$6,465,314
Bois Forte	\$17,016	\$15,519	\$8,260,300
CA Duluth	\$220,764	\$125,823	\$43,660
CA Minneapolis	\$1,012,647	\$545,785	\$7,497,507
CASH	\$488,627	\$275,903	\$2,845,491
Fond Du Lac	\$22,012	\$18,082	\$11,954,404
Grand Portage	\$15,679	\$14,832	\$439,648
Heartland	\$155,090	\$92,000	\$3,856,844
Inter-County	\$89,092	\$58,009	\$2,593,828
KOOTASCA	\$122,207	\$75,064	\$5,845,622
Lakes & Pines	\$246,096	\$138,870	\$6,927,986
Lakes & Prairies	\$130,998	\$79,591	\$2,443,427
Leech Lake	\$47,624	\$31,225	\$10,995,919
Lower Sioux	\$14,356	\$14,153	
Mahube	\$121,169	\$74,529	\$6,812,971
Mille Lacs	\$26,010	\$20,134	\$6,624,161
MVAC	\$324,405	\$179,200	\$9,682,799
Northwest	\$48,964	\$31,280	\$3,255,787
Olmsted	\$146,021	\$87,328	\$938,660
Otter Tail-Wadena	\$141,525	\$85,013	\$2,739,088
Prairie Five	\$93,991	\$60,532	\$3,506,391
Ramsey Action	\$955,998	\$516,609	\$17,961,149
Red Lake	\$45,383	\$30,075	\$142,899
Scott-Carver-Dakota	\$306,033	\$169,738	\$5,595,266
Semcac	\$319,030	\$182,494	\$6,952,524
Southwestern	\$99,634	\$63,438	\$3,057,543
Three Rivers	\$136,843	\$82,602	\$3,120,745
Tri-CAP	\$276,313	\$154,432	\$3,459,651
TCC	\$209,337	\$119,938	\$3,256,211
Tri-Valley	\$69,894	\$42,059	\$11,146,097
Upper Sioux	\$27,877	\$27,179	\$1,023,110
West Central	\$117,293	\$72,533	\$5,717,176
Western	\$127,944	\$78,018	\$3,583,628
White Earth	\$41,959	\$28,318	\$9,218,360
Wright County	\$90,286	\$58,624	\$4,625,941
TOTAL	\$6,919,153	\$4,000,000	\$204,046,037

Total State	Local	Private	Total Budget
\$1,312,820	\$1,204,511	\$1,612,543	\$20,363,387
\$16,177,848	\$3,070,200	\$1,902,200	\$26,798,844
\$1,291,976		\$316,068	\$8,258,215
\$99,542			\$8,376,858
\$142,093		\$68,060	\$474,577
\$545,785			\$9,055,939
\$419,322	\$15,724	\$44,511	\$3,813,675
\$1,487,152	\$2,451,186	\$334,029	\$16,248,783
\$161,365	\$279,000		\$895,692
\$605,735	\$221,438	\$600,373	\$5,439,480
\$526,845	\$20,110	\$288,586	\$3,518,461
\$785,790	\$148,893	\$1,553,914	\$8,456,426
\$1,124,497	\$84,535	\$55,171	\$8,438,285
\$799,350	\$137,373	\$908,203	\$4,419,351
\$564,162	\$4,887,060		\$16,494,765
			\$28,509
\$794,191		\$1,049,563	\$8,777,894
			\$6,650,171
\$5,255,027	\$166,147	1,235,608	\$16,663,986
\$1,967,274		\$104,964	\$5,376,989
\$122,954	\$39,052	14,582	\$1,261,269
\$1,338,175	\$186,923	\$1,020,819	\$5,426,530
\$813,940	\$107,777	934,236	\$5,456,335
\$2,900,989	\$3,141,132	\$1,553,958	\$26,513,226
\$30,075		\$9,000	\$227,357
\$1,214,594	\$414,514	\$3,043,238	\$10,573,645
\$2,031,158	\$280,498	\$2,257,134	\$11,840,344
\$814,441		\$206,056	\$4,177,674
\$818,794	\$189,712	\$1,115,257	\$5,381,351
\$993,919	\$397,030	\$3,061,907	\$8,188,820
\$690,109	\$29,262	\$208,482	\$4,393,401
\$2,754,865	\$493,141	\$838,361	\$15,302,358
\$241,489			\$1,292,476
\$762,220	\$78,571	\$1,848,614	\$8,523,874
\$2,453,866		\$1,506,790	\$7,672,228
\$1,704,124	\$2,272,170	\$137,488	\$13,374,101
\$822,023		\$574,691	\$6,112,941
\$54,568,509	\$20,315,959	\$28,404,406	\$314,254,064

Funding Source Definitions

Sources of Annual Funding

Minnesota Economic Opportunity Grant (MEOG)

MEOG funding (called Minnesota Community Action Grants as of FY '05) 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)

CSBG 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-CSBG funding appropriated by the Federal Government. Examples include:

- ✓ Weatherization (Wx)
- ✓ Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- ✓ 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 and Community 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
- ✓ State Senior Services
- ✓ State Transportation Programs
- ✓ State Education Programs
- ✓ State Community and Economic Development Programs
- ✓ State Rural Development Programs

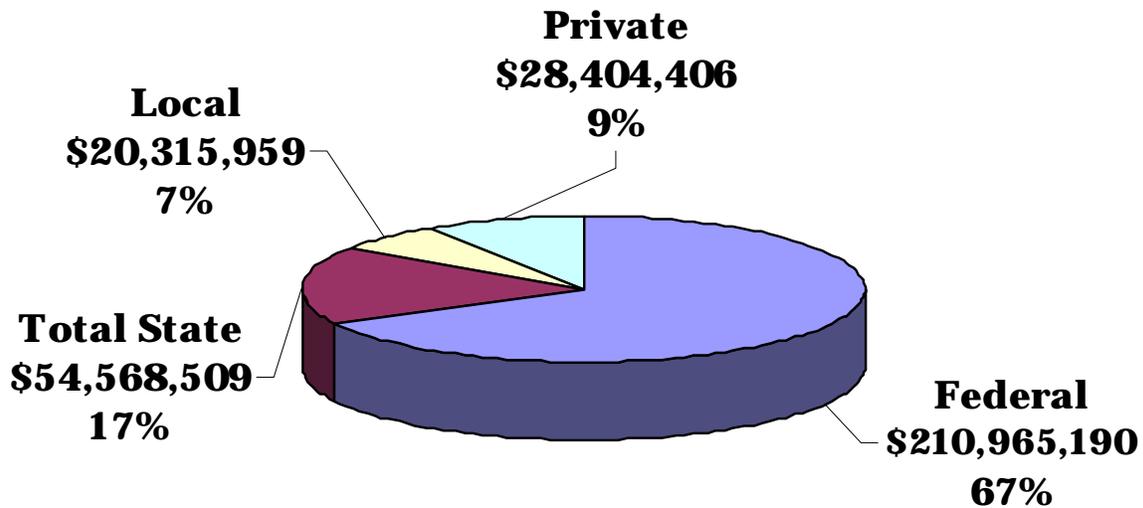
Local Funding

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

Data Definitions

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

- 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 and not reported in L1.
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 and not reported in L1.
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 and not reported in L1.
Times Service Provided: Number of Participants Assisted

INCOME MANAGEMENT

- M2 FINANCIAL EDUCATION:** Programs to provide households with budget counseling and/or financial education. Includes all FAIM participants.
Times Service Provided: Number of Counseling Sessions
- M3 TAX AID:** Tax assistance to low-income individuals including rent tax refunds.
Times Service Provided: Number of Households Assisted

M4 ASSET DEVELOPMENT: Assistance to low-income individuals in building assets to purchase 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

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, eyeglasses, 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

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 or repair a potentially hazardous energy-related situation. (B5 – Energy Assistance also)

Times Service Provided: Number of Households Served

C1 HOUSING GRANTS AND LOANS: Non-emergency 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 STABILIZATION:** 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 of purchasing and selling a home. For example, homebuyer workshops/counseling, escrow accounts, closing, realtor fees etc. Includes FAIM Participants.
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 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
- 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. Does not include loans. (Not also reported under B6 – Energy Crisis.)

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 (Duplicated) 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 postpartum 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 Households (Duplicated) Assisted

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 One-Way Trips

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 people receiving publications or attending an educational engagement
- K4 CONTRACT SERVICES:** Intake or application services provided to help households access or determine eligibility for programs not directly administered by the agency, i.e. MHFA loan application.
Times Service Provided: Number of Services
- SELF-SUFFICIENCY**
- 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
- 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 TY Child Care) where direct client services are not performed.
Times Service Provided: Number of Children Enrolled
- J4 AT RISK YOUTH:** Drugs, gang, and delinquency education and prevention activity.
Times Service Provided: Number of Individuals Assisted
- J5 CAMBERSHIP:** Low-income children can attend camp via subsidized 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
- M1 SELF-SUFFICIENCY:** Case management to encourage and assist low-income people become economically self-sufficient via 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
- 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

- ✓ **The number of people served** = the number of times a service was delivered to an individual.
- ✓ **The number of households served** = the number of times a service is delivered to a unique address.
- ✓ **The number of times service provided** = 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.

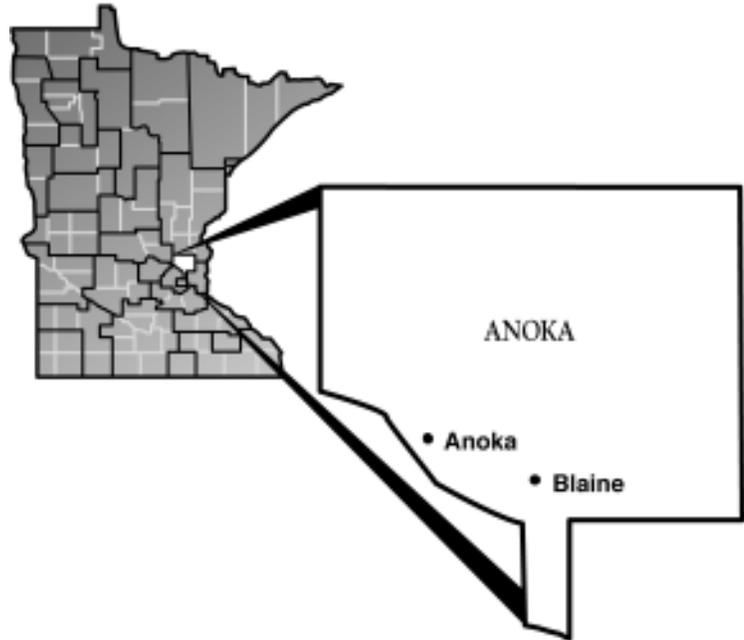
Anoka County Community Action Program,

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Results Highlight

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 \$10,000 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 800 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	# of People Served	# of Households Served	Times Service Provided
Income Management				
M2	Financial Education	344	121	121
M4	Asset Development (FAIM)	136	36	136
Housing				
B1	Weatherization	496	189	189
B4	Other Conservation Services	152	51	51
B7	Energy Related Repairs	150	53	53
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	20	8	8
C6	Rental Housing Assistance	41	41	41
C7	Low-Income Housing Development	335	330	335
C8	Community Housing Stabilization	1	1	1
C9	Community Homeownership ED	502	201	201
Emergency Services				
B5	Energy Assistance	10,464	3,945	3,945
B6	Energy Crisis	830	248	248
B8	Fuel Fund	92	22	22
C10	Homeless Assistance	298	102	298
C11	MN Transitional Housing	60	60	60
G6	Donated Articles	1,190	405	405
G8	Crisis Intervention	648	276	276
Linkages				
F1	Senior Oriented Services	1,253	1,023	1,023
F3	Chore Services	524	388	3,350
F6	Senior Companions/Foster G	84	79	1,898
Self-Sufficiency				
J1	Head Start	952	876	952
J2	Child Care	34	8	8
J3	Child Care Administration	5,398	1,965	1,965
J6	Child Care Resource & Referral	5,201	1,472	2,398

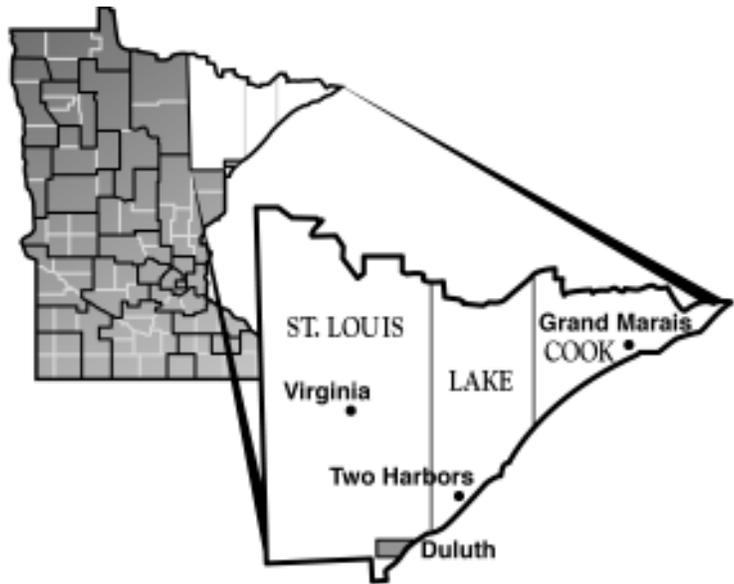
Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency

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Results Highlight

The AEOA FlexWork Program

“No decent job, no money, no car...I was struggling financially and emotionally. AEOA and FlexWork changed that. Last month, I paid all my bills without assistance. I have a new apartment, a car, satellite TV, DSL Internet service, and a cell phone. Last Saturday night, I took my daughters to a movie.”
Jeannine Hatfield, AEOA employment participant and FlexWork graduate.

The Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (AEOA) FlexWork North Shore Clerical Support Training is a twelve-week, 144-hour computer education class. It gives jobseekers a solid skills background in office work as well as training in customer service, office etiquette and job readiness. It also gives them an edge in finding and maintaining an above-average job in an economy characterized by low paying service work.

A great collaborative effort, the North Shore Clerical Support Programs combine resources from multiple partners who share similar missions, including Duluth FlexWork, the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS), Lake County Social Services, and local employers. Over the past year, two sessions for 16 students have been held. Half of the students were AEOA participants and half were from other agencies. Within two weeks following the first session, all AEOA clients had a job – one of them earning \$11.00 per hour. Other students were referred from the Human Development Center (HDC), DRS, and State Services for the Blind.

Code	Program	# of People Served	# of Households Served	Times Service Provided
Employment				
D1	Employment & Training Services	5	5	5
D3	Youth Employment	5	5	5
D6	Senior Employment Programs	19	19	19
D7	FSET	200	200	200
D8	Displaced Homemakers	52	52	52
Education				
L1	GED & Educational Services	370	333	370
L2	Literacy	15	13	15
L3	English / Second Language (ESL)	81	73	81
L4	Adult Basic Education (ABE)	1,536	1,383	1,536
Income Management				
M2	Financial Education	307	205	205
M3	Tax Aid	2,990	1,993	2,990
M4	Asset Development (FAIM)	13	6	13
Housing				
B1	Weatherization	859	375	375
B3	MECS Audits	1,002	347	347
B4	Other Conservation Services	12	4	4
B7	Energy Related Repairs	854	343	343
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	366	177	177
C5	Small Cities Devel. Grants (SCDG)	7	4	4
C6	Rental Housing Assistance	4	1	1
C7	Low-Income Housing Development	4	1	1
C8	Community Housing Stabilization	14	4	4
C9	Community Homeownership Ed.	222	143	143
Emergency Services				
B5	Energy Assistance	18,848	8,345	8,345
B6	Energy Crisis	3,078	1,112	1,112
C10	Homeless Assistance	942	482	942
C11	MN Transitional Housing	61	50	61
G1	Emergency Family Services	14	12	14
G6	Donated Articles	1,974	1,974	1,974
G8	Crisis Intervention	306	126	126
Nutrition				
H1	Food Assistance	13,503	5,716	5,716
H3	Holiday Projects	1,320	669	669
H6	Home-Delivered Meals	1,538	1,492	20,2632
H7	Congregate Meals	3,695	3,510	22,3924
Linkages				
E1	Transportation System	93,395	37,358	93,395
E3	Transportation Assistance	7,457	1,864	6,542
F1	Senior-Oriented Services	920	817	817
F5	Retired Senior Vol (RSVP)	1,716	1,560	1,716
Self-Sufficiency				
J1	Head Start	426	392	426
J4	At-Risk Youth	88	84	88
M1	Self-Sufficiency	1,668	1,418	1,668

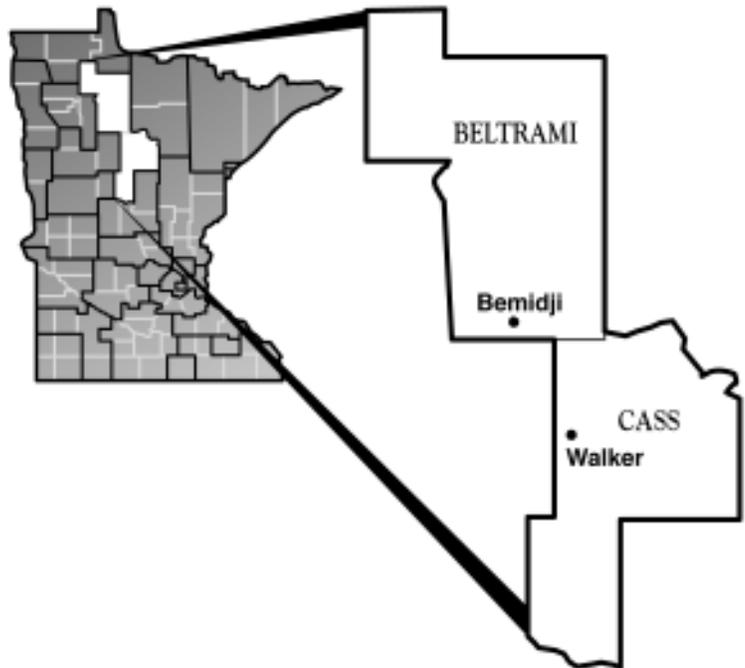
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Results Highlight

Permanent Supportive Housing Program

The Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Program is a new program for Bi-County Community Action Program (Bi-CAP). PSH is a program for homeless individuals and families who have a documented disability, which makes it a great fit for Bi-CAP and its focus is on mental disability. Because of the clear connection between homelessness and mental health, self-sufficiency is a key goal of this program.

Bi-CAP provides close case management services to PSH households and case managers make weekly home visits. The Bi-CAP PSH Program works closely with county human services, legal services, and SSI. They also work with local community-based mental health service providers.

Bi-CAP pays a rent subsidy for PSH participants, therefore making rents affordable. Prior to April 2004, there were no permanent supportive housing services in Beltrami County. Currently, Bi-CAP is the sole PSH provider, and is working to meet an unmet need for low-income citizens in Beltrami County.

One such citizen who has benefited from the PSH Program is Wayne. Wayne is a middle-aged, single, Caucasian man who had lived on the streets for nearly 18 years. He had been diagnosed with social phobia, mild brain impairment, mood instability, and psychosis. His only income was \$203/month General Assistance (GA). Since entering the program, Wayne has become stabilized on his medications and has been working with Legal Services to begin receiving SSI in addition to his GA payments.

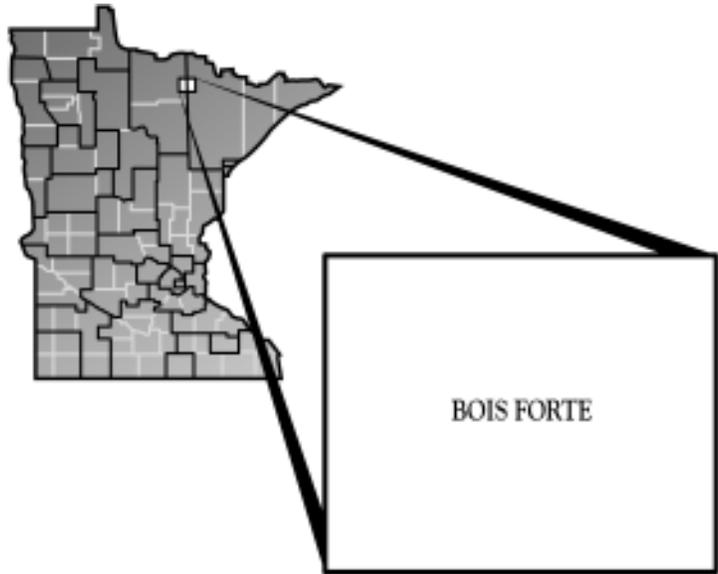
Code	Program	# of People Served	# of Households Served	Times Service Provided
Employment				
D1	Employment & Training Services	22	22	22
D3	Youth Employment	179	50	50
Income Management				
M2	Financial Education	3,140	813	1,219
Housing				
B1	Weatherization	442	171	171
B3	MECS Audits	25	9	9
B4	Other Conservation Services	35	15	15
B7	Energy-Related Repairs	464	175	176
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	15	8	8
C3	Home Repair/Rehabilitation	41	24	24
C5	Small Cities Devel Grnts (SCDG)	101	40	40
C6	Rental Housing Assistance	204	68	68
C8	Community Housing Stabilization	23	6	6
C9	Community Homeownership Ed.	125	53	53
Emergency Services				
B5	Energy Assistance	8,034	3,219	3,219
B6	Energy Crisis	1,921	641	641
B8	Fuel Fund	52	20	20
C10	Homeless Assistance	481	172	481
C11	MN Transitional Housing	77	21	77
G6	Donated Articles	4	2	2
G8	Crisis Intervention	486	177	177
Nutrition				
H2	Community Services Food Pkgs.	165	55	660
H3	Holiday Projects	1,652	551	551
Linkages				
E3	Transportation Assistance	108	88	108
K1	Information and Referral	8,387	3,569	15,505
K2	Outreach	8,387	3,569	15,505
K3	Advocacy Info/Education	25,950	17,300	25,950
Self-Sufficiency				
J1	Head Start	1,158	395	516
J2	Child Care	315	105	105
J4	At-Risk Youth	179	50	50
J7	Youth Recreation	179	50	179
Health				
I2	Health Care Aid - Financial	18	6	18

Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council

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Results Highlight

Community Facilities and New Housing

The Bois Forte Tribal Council continues to improve the living environment of the Bois Forte Reservation. After years of discussion and planning, the Band opened its new Native Hearts Fitness Center in Nett Lake in September 2004. The \$1 million facility houses the latest in fitness and rehabilitation equipment, as well as the first racquetball court to be built on a Minnesota Indian reservation. The Native Hearts Fitness Center has quickly become a center of activity for all ages.

The Bois Forte Tribal Council is nearing completion of its second low-income tax credit program. Ten homes have been constructed in Nett Lake, with another ten in Lake Vermillion. These homes fill a badly needed gap in available, affordable housing. State Community Action program dollars help support the Band's housing efforts by providing modest funding for emergency repairs, assistance with utilities, and emergency food and clothing.

Code	Program	# of People Served	# of Households Served	Times Service Provided
Employment				
D3	Youth Employment	41	20	20
D6	Senior Employment Programs	4	4	4
Education				
L1	GED & Educational Services	4	4	4
Housing				
B1	Weatherization	11	3	3
B4	Other Conservation Services	25	15	15
B7	Energy Related Repairs	10	6	6
C6	Rental Housing Assistance	248	103	103
Emergency Services				
B5	Energy Assistance	334	119	119
B6	Energy Crisis	152	57	57
G1	Emergency Family Services	4	1	4
Nutrition				
H1	Food Assistance	53	25	25
H6	Home-Delivered Meals	7	6	6
H7	Congregate Meals	19	16	4,162
Linkages				
F5	Retired Senior Vol (RSVP)	4	4	4
F6	Senior Companions/Foster Grandparents	2	2	2
Self-Sufficiency				
J1	Head Start	96	50	50
J2	Child Care	25	25	25

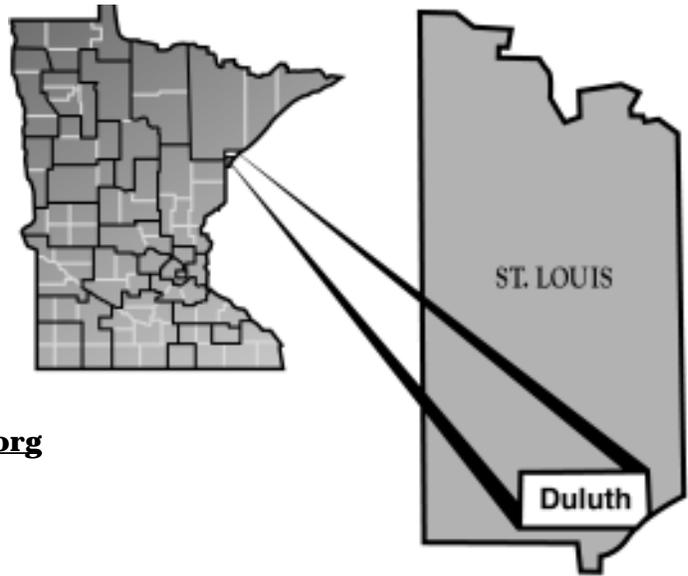
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Results Highlight

Hope VI IDA Program Helps Low-income People Acquire Assets

In 2004, Community Action Duluth initiated an exciting new project that will help up to 20 public housing residents become homeowners in the next few years. They created an Individual Development Account (IDA) matched savings program for residents who want to become homeowners in the next few years.

The project, called the Hope VI IDA Program, is a partnership between the Housing and Redevelopment Authority and the City of Duluth's Community Development Block Grant program. It comes at a time when the largest public housing project in Duluth is being torn down and all of the current tenants must move. The Housing and Redevelopment Authority in Duluth has plans to build brand-new, owner-occupied houses, townhouses, and apartments on the site.

As part of the program, participants must take an 18-hour financial literacy class, receive individual coaching on credit and debt issues, and take Homestretch first-time home buying courses. Every month, program participants deposit \$30 into a savings account. The savings are matched by the partner agencies at a rate of 3:1. The savings accounts will be used for down payments and closing costs. Participants can be in the program for up to four years. Each person will have between \$1,080 and \$5,760 available for their down payment, depending on how long they are in the program.

Acquiring an asset is a proven way to alleviate poverty. The Hope VI IDA Program meets a previously unmet need of low-income individuals and families for long-term, regular housing counseling as well as credit repair counseling. This program will help them achieve their goal of becoming a homeowner.

Code	Program	# of People Served	# of Households Served	Times Service Provided
Employment				
D1	Employment & Training Services	4	4	4
D6	Senior Employment Programs	2	2	2
D8	Displaced Homemakers	7	7	7
Education				
L1	GED & Educational Services	3	3	3
Income Management				
M2	Financial Education	55	55	455
M3	Tax Aid	3	3	3
M4	Asset Development (FAIM)	45	45	45
Housing				
C9	Community Homeownership Ed.	13	13	13
Emergency Services				
G1	Emergency Family Services	30	30	30
G3	Abuse and Neglect	1	1	1
G6	Donated Articles	10	10	10
G8	Crisis Intervention	6	6	6
Nutrition				
H1	Food Assistance	5	5	5
Linkages				
E3	Transportation Assistance	30	30	30
E4	Vehicle Program	6	6	6
K1	Information and Referral	1,130	1,130	1,130
K2	Outreach	1,015	1,015	1,015
K3	Advocacy Info/Educ.	3,250	2,800	2,800
K4	Contract Services	32	32	41
Self-Sufficiency				
J4	At-Risk Youth	15	11	15
J6	Child Care Resource & Referral	18	18	18
J8	Parenting Education	25	25	25
J9	Fatherhood Initiative	5	5	5
M1	Self-Sufficiency	29	29	29
M5	Family Loan Fund	8	8	8
Other				
I1	Health Care Aid Non-Financial	7	7	7

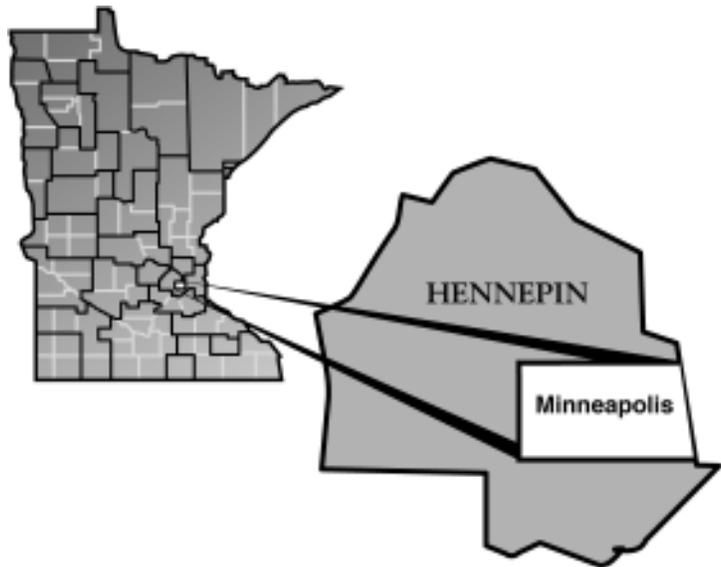
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Results Highlight

Self-Sufficiency Program Helps Families Live Independently

No problem exists in isolation. Lasting solutions must address the entire family system. Community Action of Minneapolis launched its Self-Sufficiency Program in October 2003 using a family development/family support blended model to alleviate poverty in two stages. These stages include:

1. Meeting immediate needs, such as food, clothing, medicine, and/or education; and,
2. Encouraging each participating family to become self-reliant and productive within the context of their local economy.

The Self-Sufficiency Program is designed to help motivate individuals and families to become self-sufficient, and to live independently without public assistance. The program also is designed to strengthen the practical, systematic family development approach to help low-income and welfare families solve the difficult barriers that impede and/or prevent self-reliance. The program helps the participants utilize community resources to overcome barriers that may hinder their self-sufficiency. As part of the program, they develop family action plans to outline goals to decrease barriers to self-sufficiency.

The Self-Sufficiency Program has served 52 families and the youth component has served 37 children and teens. Ten unemployed or underemployed individuals who entered the program have become employed and/or promoted. Forty-one participants have achieved goals in their family action plans. Community Action of Minneapolis' Self-Sufficiency Program is changing lives in Minneapolis.

Code	Program	# of People Served	# of Households Served	Times Service Provided
Employment				
D1	Employment & Training Services	15	15	15
D3	Youth Employment	7	7	7
Education				
L2	Literacy	31	31	31
Income Management				
M2	Financial Education	25	25	310
M3	Tax Aid	20	20	20
M4	Asset Development (FAIM)	10	10	10
Housing				
B1	Weatherization	800	383	383
B3	MECS Audits	2,597	890	890
B7	Energy Related Repairs	597	177	177
Emergency Services				
B5	Energy Assistance	31,587	9,977	9,971
B6	Energy Crisis	3,993	1,137	1,137
B8	Fuel Fund	79	24	24
Linkages				
E3	Transportation Assistance	10	10	10
K1	Information and Referral	15,938	4,500	8,267
K2	Outreach	75	59	59
K3	Advocacy Info/Educ.	275	275	275
Self-Sufficiency				
J4	At-Risk Youth	36	36	35
J7	Youth Recreation	550	550	550
M1	Self-Sufficiency	45	45	10
Health				
I1	Health Care Aid Non-Financial	50	50	50

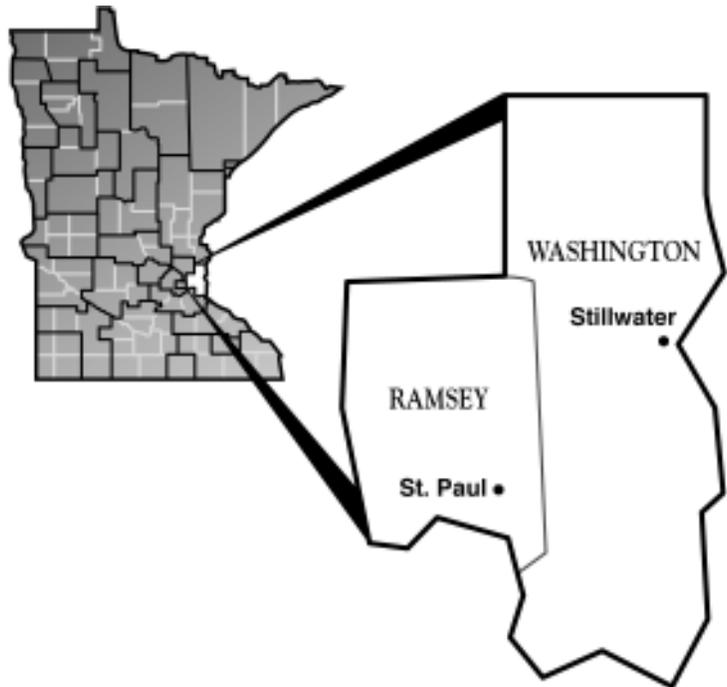
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Results Highlight

The Community Voting Project of St. Paul/East Metro Area

The Community Voting Project of St. Paul/East Metro Area registered more than 1,600 new east metro voters prior to the last election. The Community Voting Project of St. Paul/East Metro Area is a Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties-sponsored, community-based collaborative network dedicated to voter awareness, education, and voter mobilization of lower-income and underrepresented populations. The collaborative shares resources, compiles voter registration lists, mobilizes volunteers, develops collaborative “Get Out the Vote” (G.O.T.V.) strategies, and encourages program participants, residents, staff, and volunteers to engage in the upcoming election.

The purpose of the project was to engage lower-income and underrepresented communities in the electoral process and to greatly increase voter turnout in these communities. Another goal was to create an atmosphere that encourages and supports ongoing civic involvement and leadership, while educating potential new voters about how their involvement makes a difference in their communities.

Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties became involved with the project because the clients and communities it serves feel disenfranchised from the political process. They expressed a lack of knowledge on how to vote, who can vote, who the candidates are, and what they represent. Barriers, such as language, transportation, child care, and welfare-to-work requirements kept many of them from voting. They felt that the issues they cared about never got the attention from elected officials and candidates for office.

More than sixty volunteers called 5,000 constituents with polling place and same-day voter registration information and help with ride setups. The number of community volunteers providing leadership via planning committees, conducting voter registration drives, and becoming G.O.T.V. activity trainers was invaluable. In turn, volunteers developed organizing skills, and most importantly, learned how to speak with family, friends, and neighbors on the importance of voting and simply how to vote.

Code	Program	# of People Served	# of Households Served	Times Service Provided
Income Management				
M2	Financial Education	234	234	234
M3	Tax Aid	480	480	480
M4	Asset Development (FAIM)	34	34	34
Housing				
B1	Weatherization	769	338	341
B4	Other Conservation Services	1,132	495	495
B7	Energy-Related Repairs	1,103	409	409
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	41	27	27
Emergency Services				
B5	Energy Assistance	40,842	12,634	12,634
B6	Energy Crisis	7,592	2,205	2,205
B8	Fuel Fund	81	27	27
G1	Emergency Family Services	406	116	406
G8	Crisis Intervention	281	82	82
Nutrition				
H6	Home-Delivered Meals	312	299	43,696
H7	Congregate Meals	1,423	1,376	293,301
Linkages				
K1	Information and Referral	25,757	25,757	25,757
K2	Outreach	2,205	2,205	2,205
K3	Advocacy Info./Educ.	10,435	10,435	10,435
K4	Contract Services	246	49	49
Self-Sufficiency				
J1	Head Start	1,737	1,554	1,737
M1	Self-Sufficiency	232	200	200
M5	Family Loan Fund	56	49	49

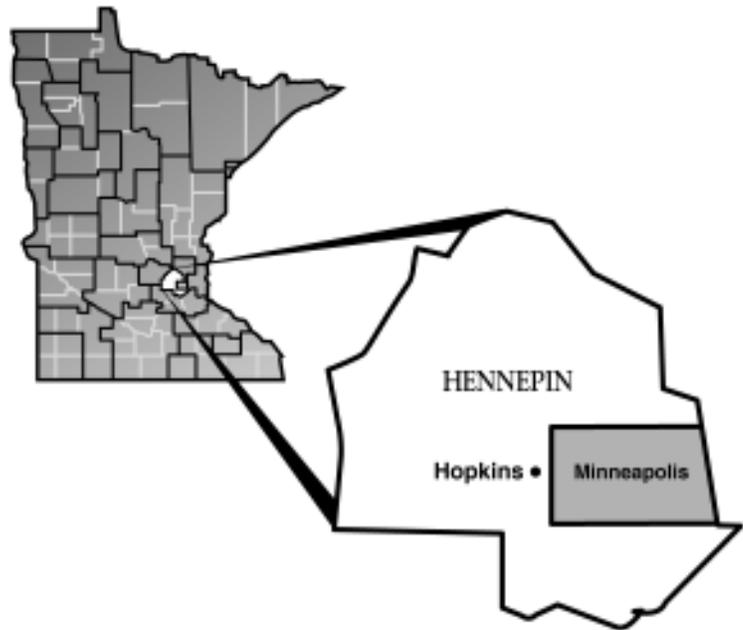
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Results Highlight

CASH's Seed Program Helps New Community Organizations Grow

During 2004, Community Action of Suburban Hennepin (CASH) initiated its Seed Program. The Seed Program is designed to help new community organizations develop and thrive, so they can provide direct services in their communities. CASH provides some start-up funds, and equally as important, it provides an array of operations and technical assistance to help these organizations become stable and fully functional. The operational and technical assistance includes help with corporate and board formation, development and training, marketing and fundraising, reporting and evaluation, strategic planning, and using performance indicators and logic models.

MIRA (Módulo de Recursos Información y Apoyo) is one such agency with which CASH is working. MIRA – Look! In Spanish – is a Richfield-based organization originally started by members of the Latino community. MIRA provides services, information, and referral to Spanish-speaking residents of south Hennepin County. CASH assisted MIRA by giving it a small grant for programming and operations, and also provided help with the formation and development of a board of directors, bylaws, case management documents, and marketing materials. CASH is using its Latino cultural liaison to work with MIRA employees to further develop their English skills.

MIRA and CASH's Seed Program have provided an opportunity for a community-based, grassroots organization to develop and grow, and to be able to provide services to the people and the community.

Code	Program	# of People Served	# of Households Served	Times Service Provided
Employment				
D6	Senior Employment Programs	16		16
Income Management				
M2	Financial Education	600	600	1032
M3	Tax Aid	148	73	73
M4	Asset Development (FAIM)	24	24	24
Housing				
B1	Weatherization	8	2	
B7	Energy-Related Repairs	294	126	126
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	12	4	4
C3	Home Repair/Rehabilitation	381	166	332
C8	Community Housing Stabilization	2,531	926	926
C9	Community Homeownership Ed.	315	199	199
Emergency Services				
B5	Energy Assistance	20,716	7,769	7,769
B6	Energy Crisis	4,849	1,488	1,488
B8	Fuel Fund	309	103	103
C11	MN Transitional Housing	74	26	74
G8	Crisis Intervention	476	476	476
Nutrition				
H1	Food Assistance	29,203	8,779	8,779
Linkages				
F1	Senior-Oriented Services	9,582	5,643	5,643
K1	Information and Referral	1,250	1,250	1,250
K2	Outreach	17,943	3,558	17,943
K3	Advocacy Info/Educ.	300,000	100,000	300,000
Self-Sufficiency				
J5	Campership	50	50	50
J7	Youth Recreation	50	50	50
Other				
A1	Community Development	7	7	7

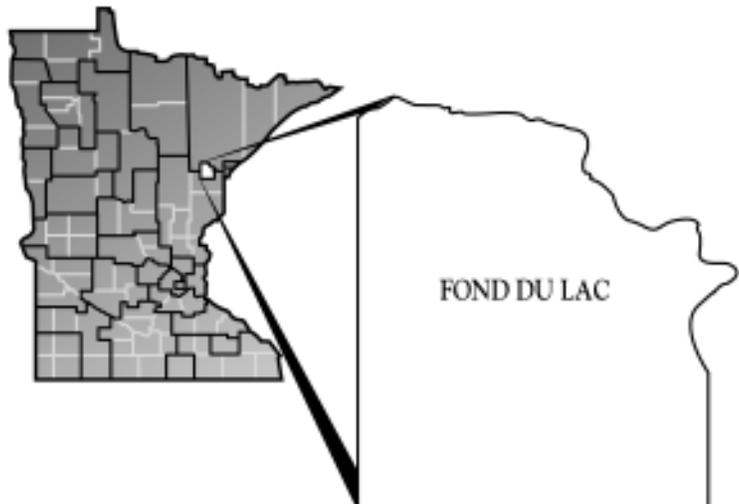
Fond du Lac Reservation

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Results Highlight

Fond du Lac Reservation Benefits from Economic Development

The Fond du Lac Reservation uses Community Action funds as support for a wide variety of projects and programs that assist in the overall development of the Reservation. Some of the funding is used to help cover staff time as they work to assist the Reservation in economic development activities.

In the past twelve months, the Fond du Lac Reservation has developed two new businesses on the Reservation. In September of 2003, the Reservation started a propane company, called the Fond du Lac Propane Company. Initially, the company provided propane services to Band members and the HUD housing located on the Reservation. In the Spring of 2004, the Band expanded the company's scope of service to include Band and non-Band members on the Reservation, as well those who live within ten miles of the Fond du Lac Reservation boundary.

Also in September 2004, the Fond du Lac Reservation opened a gas station/convenience store. The store is located on the boundary between Cloquet, Minnesota and the Reservation. This new business provides much needed services, such as: gasoline, diesel fuel, deli, food, drinks, and a car wash. By the beginning of 2005, the facility will include a meat counter. The Fond du Lac Reservation has seen development and growth as a direct result of Community Action funds.

Code	Program	# of People Served	# of Households Served	Times Service Provided
Employment				
D1	Employment & Training Services	77	77	70
D3	Youth Employment	125	114	125
Education				
L3	English / Second Language (ESL)	15	10	50
Housing				
B1	Weatherization	5	5	5
B4	Other Conservation Services	90	90	90
B7	Energy-Related Repairs	11	11	11
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	5	3	5
C3	Home Repair/Rehabilitation	162	130	162
C7	Low-Income Housing Development	67	67	67
Emergency Services				
B5	Energy Assistance	1,570	413	1,570
B6	Energy Crisis	408	92	408
B8	Fuel Fund	14	14	14
Nutrition				
H2	Community Services Food Pkgs.	117	117	117
H5	Gardening	128	128	128
H6	Home-Delivered Meals	163	163	48,900
H7	Congregate Meals	51	51	15,300
Linkages				
E1	Transportation System	15	15	15
F1	Senior-Oriented Services	5	5	5
K1	Information and Referral	3,902	1,000	3,902
Self-Sufficiency				
J1	Head Start	200	195	200
Other				
A1	Community Development	2,500	1,000	7

Grand Portage Reservation Tribal Council

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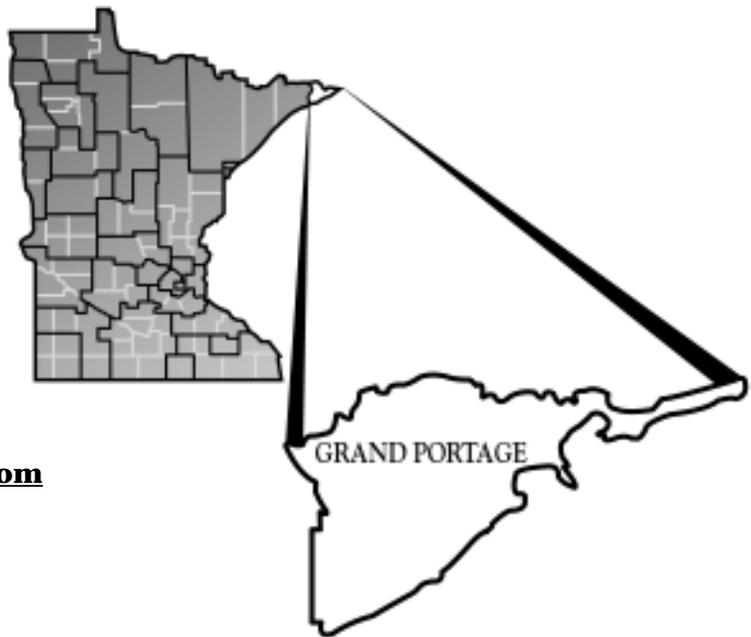
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Results Highlight

Grand Portage Band Touches the Lives of the Community Members

Community Action funds combined with Grand Portage Band funds help the Elderly Assistance Program as well as the Elderly Nutrition Program. These important programs help create 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 many services provided to elders under these funds. These activities promote the safety, security, and health of elders while keeping them active.

The Grand Portage Reservation uses a portion of their Community Action funds for emergency food, temporary shelter, clothing, and utility disconnections. Thirty-eight people were helped in no-heat situations, while sixteen households were assisted in preventing electrical disconnection. A household of five was helped with emergency food and clothing needs.

Community Action funding also is used for training. Individuals have the opportunity to attend classes to improve their capacity in the workplace or to gain adequate skills for job placement. A program has been set up to assist new workers with clothing/uniforms and transportation costs in their new job environment.

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	# of People Served	# of Households Served	Times Service Provided
Employment				
D1	Employment & Training Services	30	26	30
D3	Youth Employment	27	24	27
Housing				
B7	Energy-Related Repairs	7	2	2
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	9	2	2
C6	Rental Housing Assistance	87	60	60
C9	Community Homeownership Ed.	9	2	2
Emergency Services				
B5	Energy Assistance	100	44	44
B6	Energy Crisis	76	31	31
G1	Emergency Family Services	12	5	5
G3	Abuse and Neglect	9	3	3
G6	Donated Articles	7	2	2
G8	Crisis Intervention	12	5	5
Nutrition				
H1	Food Assistance	22	7	7
H2	Community Services Food Pkgs.	15	4	4
H3	Holiday Projects	15	10	10
H4	Women, Infants, Children (WIC)	33	33	33
H5	Gardening	9	7	7
H6	Home-Delivered Meals	10	10	3,333
H7	Congregate Meals	76	57	17,100
H9	USDA Commodity Assistance	42	20	160
Linkages				
E3	Transportation Assistance	13	13	365
F1	Senior-Oriented Services	32	26	26
K1	Information and Referral	7	7	7
K2	Outreach	16	16	16
Self-Sufficiency				
J1	Head Start	12	11	12
J2	Child Care	30	23	23
J3	Child Care Administration	30	23	23
J4	At-Risk Youth	13	13	13
J6	Child Care Resource & Referral	5	5	5
J7	Youth Recreation	89	70	70
M1	Self-Sufficiency	92	50	50
Health				
I1	Health Care Aid (non-financial)	114	80	80
I2	Health Care Aid (financial)	314	186	18
I3	Family Planning	4	4	4

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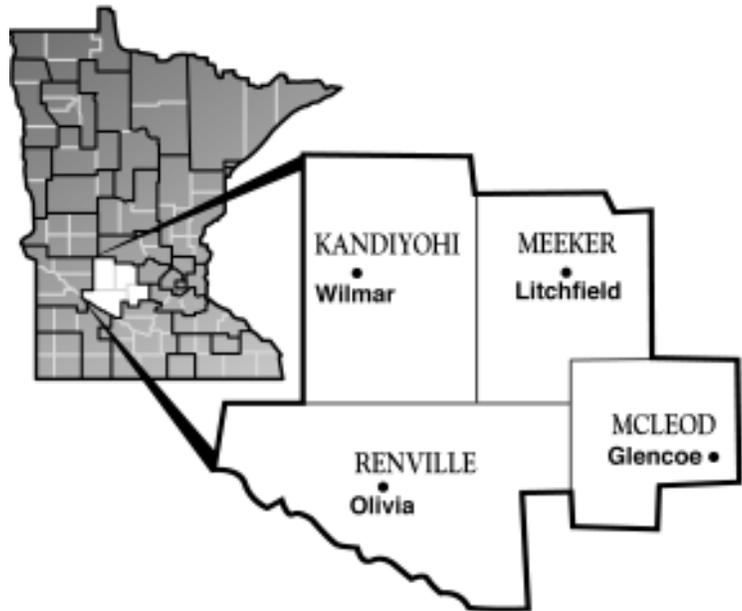
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Results Highlight

Circles of Support

One high-impact strategy identified through Heartland’s transformational plan is to build relationships across class and racial lines. Circles of Support is an approach that supports this strategy. It is based on the simple reality that agencies do not have the capacity to address poverty alone, and that supporting such a proposition contributes to community denial and indifference. It also specifically addresses the hidden conditions that sustain poverty – isolation and powerlessness. Circles of Support was piloted by “Beyond Welfare” in Ames, Iowa.

Circles are formed around families who are trying to move out of poverty. Community volunteers enlist as “allies” to befriend these families. Volunteer allies must demonstrate a genuine desire to help and a willingness to form new relationships. Families and allies are trained around core themes, and Heartland provides the ongoing structure and support for their circles. The relationships built through circles are intentionally reciprocal. Benefits go both ways. Honesty is expected. Superiority is not implied. Everyone learns and has gifts to share.

Families lead their own circle and are joined by three community allies. They meet formally at least once a month to focus on goals regarding income, education, and relationships. Allies can help in any way that makes sense, as long as they and the family are in agreement. That help often comes in very innovative ways, and Heartland plays the role of “broker” instead of “service provider.” Weekly educational meetings also are held, and are open to everyone. Once a month, a “big picture” gathering takes place, and collective responses to systemic barriers are considered.

Heartland is excited about this approach, impressed by its broad impact, and determined to make it grow in our communities. Incredible partnerships are being formed, and creative action is being taken to eliminate poverty and advocate for low-income families.

Code	Program	# of People Served	# of Households Served	Times Service Provided
Income Management				
M2	Financial Education	79	38	185
M4	Asset Development (FAIM)	58	18	58
Housing				
B1	Weatherization	376	129	129
B7	Energy-Related Repairs	173	62	52
C5	Small Cities Devel. Grants (SCDG)	60	20	20
C6	Rental Housing Assistance	1,001	313	313
C8	Community Housing Stabilization	2	2	2
C9	Community Homeownership Ed.	156	108	108
Emergency Services				
B5	Energy Assistance	6,466	2,215	2,215
B6	Energy Crisis	1,340	395	395
B8	Fuel Fund	141	38	38
C10	Homeless Assistance	165	127	165
C11	MN Transitional Housing	1	1	1
G1	Emergency Family Services	80	78	80
G6	Donated Articles	3,470	1,121	1,121
G8	Crisis Intervention	330	256	256
Nutrition				
H3	Holiday Projects	583	223	223
Linkages				
E3	Transportation Assistance	15	15	16
K1	Information and Referral	5,262	2,235	5,872
K2	Outreach	18,641	5,803	5,803
K3	Advocacy Info/Educ.	95,554	32,209	31,596
K4	Contract Services	31	13	13
Self-Sufficiency				
J1	Head Start	1,350	422	438
J8	Parenting Education	456	141	395
M5	Family Loan Fund	9	8	8

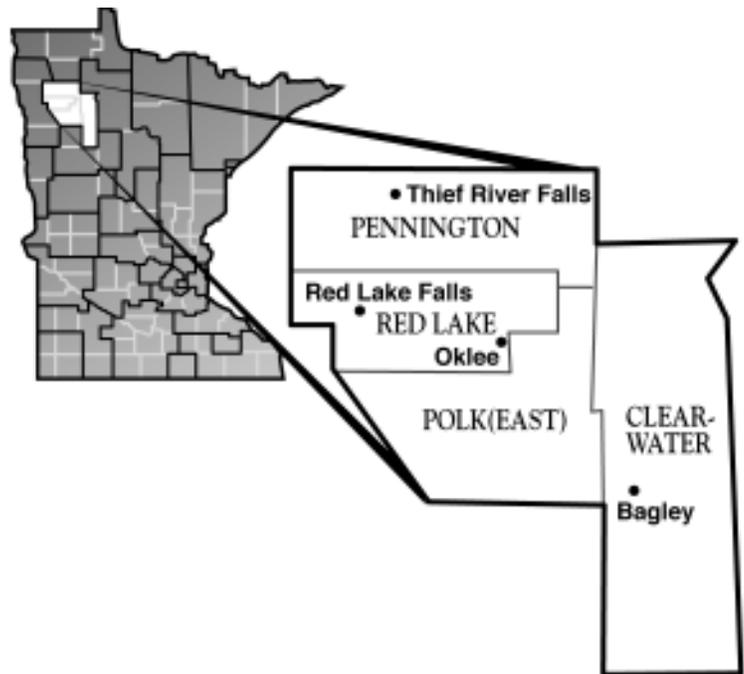
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Results Highlight

A Home of Their Own

Roger and Marlene are married with two children. They are both lower-functioning persons who have moved from community to community for more than twenty years. They also have had difficulty finding work. They have always purchased old mobile homes that are in poor condition because that's what they can afford.

Two years ago, a mobile park owner wanted to clean up his park and forced the family from their home. Their mobile home was in bad condition and they didn't have the money to move it, so they sold it to salvage for \$250.00. Due to a shortage of affordable housing, they were forced to move out of the town they were in. To make matters worse, Roger's car broke down and he lost his job because he couldn't get to work. Social services then helped them move to a number of temporary shelters.

Soon after that they moved to Oklee, Minnesota. Fortunately, the Inter-County Community Council had available for at-risk families, a Minnesota Urban and Rural Homesteading Program (MURL) house. The situation was right for Roger and Marlene and their two children, so they purchased the MURL house from Inter-County. The family also received assistance for home heating and budget counseling, and their 17-year-old son went to work under the agency's Youth Employment and Training Program.

Since that time, they have made regular house payments and voluntarily increased their payments to \$50 in order to assure that they would have enough money for propane to heat their home. Their credit rating is improving because they are paying their bills on time. Roger has taken a job in a neighboring community and the family will soon be self-sufficient. They are very happy to finally have a place they can truly call their own.

Code	Program	# of People Served	# of Households Served	Times Service Provided
Employment				
D3	Youth Employment	276	264	276
D6	Senior Employment Programs	23	23	23
Income Management				
M3	Tax Aid	122	109	109
M4	Asset Development (FAIM)	10	3	10
Housing				
B1	Weatherization	297	120	120
B3	MECS Audits	27	20	20
B4	Other Conservation Services	37	25	25
B7	Energy-Related Repairs	80	80	80
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	22	11	11
C7	Low-Income Housing Development	5	5	5
C8	Community Housing Stabilization	3	3	3
Emergency Services				
B5	Energy Assistance	2,825	1,076	1,076
B6	Energy Crisis	562	187	187
B8	Fuel Fund	4	2	2
C10	Homeless Assistance	183	67	183
G8	Crisis Intervention	266	92	92
Nutrition				
H1	Food Assistance	250	77	168
Linkages				
F1	Senior-Oriented Services	3	3	3
K1	Information and Referral	2,375	2,375	2,375
K2	Outreach	1,950	1,950	1,950
K3	Advocacy Info/Educ.	76	76	76
K4	Contract Services	7	2	2
Self-Sufficiency				
J1	Head Start	218	202	218
M5	Family Loan Fund	41	16	16

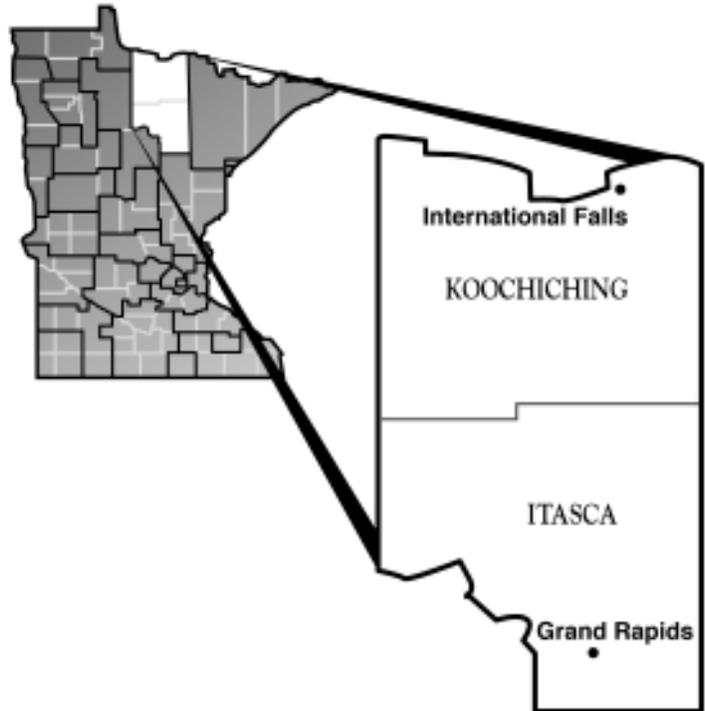
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Results Highlight

Community Allies Help Families Rise from Poverty

KOOTASCA Community Action launched an innovative new program in 2004 called Circles of Support. The Circles of Support program provides a path and the resources for a family to permanently move out of poverty, while also changing the community mindset about poverty and addressing systems barriers that keep poverty in place in our communities.

The Circles of Support Program matches families in poverty with members of the community who volunteer as “allies” to the family. Three allies form a “circle of support” around a family, with each ally taking the lead in one component of the family’s plan to get out of poverty. The three components of each plan are: budgeting and financial planning, education and training, and developing support systems/increasing community involvement.

In addition, a car donation program called Wheels to Work operates within the Circles of Support Program, taking in donated cars from the community and distributing them to Circles of Support participants. Families that receive the vehicles agree to give back to the community to reciprocate for the donation. By providing an opportunity for community members to donate used, reliable vehicles, a major barrier is eliminated for those families working to get out of poverty.

Based on a successful program in Ames, Iowa, Circles of Support engages the community in having a higher impact on poverty, while developing a deeper understanding about why poverty occurs and what is needed by all of us to eliminate it. Circles of Support works to unlock the gifts and potential of all members of the community.

Code	Program	# of People Served	# of Households Served	Times Service Provided
Income Management				
M2	Financial Education	115	49	295
M3	Tax Aid	606	606	606
M4	Asset Development (FAIM)	137	60	137
Housing				
B1	Weatherization	229	91	91
B3	MECS Audits	11	4	4
B4	Other Conservation Services	71	24	24
B7	Energy-Related Repairs	523	209	209
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	26	15	15
C5	Small Cities Devel. Grants (SCDG)	67	22	22
C8	Community Housing Stabilization	10	2	2
C9	Community Homeownership Ed.	187	143	143
Emergency Services				
B5	Energy Assistance	7,403	2,961	2,961
B6	Energy Crisis	1,575	630	630
C10	Homeless Assistance	813	334	813
C11	MN Transitional Housing	40	16	40
G8	Crisis Intervention	142	45	45
Nutrition				
H1	Food Assistance	158	142	1469
H3	Holiday Projects	305	123	123
Linkages				
E3	Transportation Assistance	29	29	316
E4	Vehicle Program	3	2	2
F1	Senior Oriented Services	370	370	370
F6	Senior Companions/Foster Grandparents	41	41	41
K1	Information and Referral	3,097	1,486	4,381
K2	Outreach	236	236	236
K3	Advocacy Info/Educ.	313	311	685
Self-Sufficiency				
J1	Head Start	367	233	241
J10	Crisis Nursery	476	148	264
M1	Self-Sufficiency	117	61	61

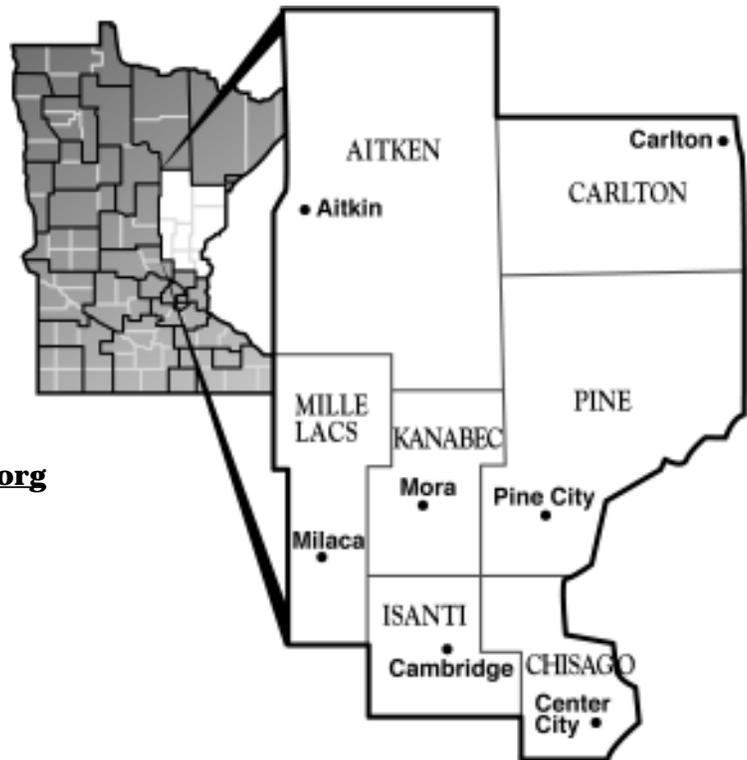
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Results Highlight

Lakes & Pines Creates Fatherhood Program

Lakes & Pines CAC, Inc. received a grant from the Initiative Foundation to establish a Teen Fathers program to serve teen fathers in Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, and Pine Counties. The mission of the Teen Fatherhood Program at Lakes & Pines CAC, Inc., is to aid in the development of the competencies and capacity of teen fathers, which are necessary to grow into healthy, self sustaining, involved, and supportive adults and fathers. This will be accomplished by helping to develop healthy behaviors, increasing successful fathering techniques, increasing achievement in school, and acquiring life skills.

The goal of the Fatherhood Program is to collaborate with local government, education, faith-based, and community organizations, as well as fathers and mothers to ensure the fathers have every opportunity to continue to be involved in every aspect of the child's life. To accomplish this, Lakes & Pines CAC, Inc. has organized a Family Support Group, Donuts with Dad, Daddy Time, Free Law Clinics, Day at the Movies with Dad, and other services to help fathers and mothers understand the importance of a father's involvement in their children's lives. The Lakes & Pines' Father Initiative has been presented statewide both inside and outside the community action arena.

The various components of the fatherhood program have been very successful. The Family Support Group has served 569 participants (fathers, mothers, and children). Daddy Time has included as many as 50 fathers with their children. The four law clinics held thus far served 243 fathers and 46 mothers.

Code	Program	# of People Served	# of Households Served	Times Service Provided
Housing				
B1	Weatherization	509	202	202
B4	Other Conservation Services	192	57	57
B7	Energy Related Repairs	552	237	237
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	32	25	25
C5	Small Cities Devel. Grants (SCDG)	129	38	38
C8	Community Housing Stabilization	2	1	1
Emergency Services				
B5	Energy Assistance	13,912	5,941	5,941
B6	Energy Crisis	2,827	931	931
B8	Fuel Fund	472	167	167
C10	Homeless Assistance	547	274	547
C11	MN Transitional Housing	5	2	5
G8	Crisis Intervention	277	96	96
Nutrition				
H5	Gardening	397	173	173
Linkages				
K1	Information and Referral	2,070	1,548	1,548
K2	Outreach	3,718	1,816	1,816
K3	Advocacy Info./Educ.	47,920	23,960	23,960
Self-Sufficiency				
J1	Head Start	1,483	437	440
J2	Child Care	70	62	70
J9	Fatherhood Initiative	652	652	652
J10	Crisis Nursery	16	16	16
M5	Family Loan Fund	79	25	25

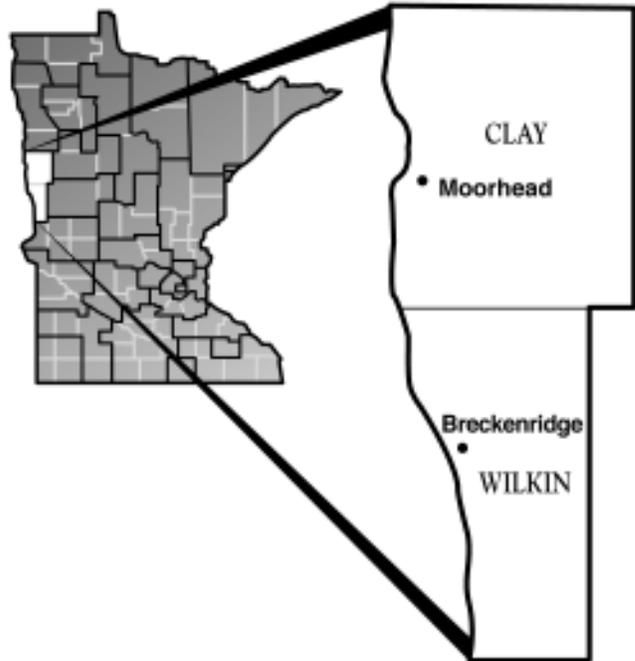
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Results Highlight

Clay-Wilkin Head Start Fatherhood Initiative

Clay-Wilkin Head Start, a program of Lakes & Prairies Community Action Partnership, received funding in 2003 to provide services to low-income fathers living in Clay and Wilkin Counties. About 40 men, including both custodial and non-custodial fathers, grandfathers, and uncles have attended various events, trainings, and groups designed especially for them. Any man who is involved in the growth and development of a child is invited to participate.

In the beginning, the program focused primarily on social events around the community. Men and children ate and played together with the support of staff. They visited the local zoo, attended a baseball game, and baked cookies together. The goal was to identify men raising children and to provide opportunities for them to interact positively with their children and each other. Agency staff gained awareness and appreciation of the powerful role men play in the development of their children. Men have built friendships and social support. Children have had opportunities to work on developmental skills while building stronger relationships with the men in their lives.

In June 2004, two staff returned with much enthusiasm from the National Fatherhood Conference in Dallas, Texas. They shared what they had learned with other staff. Changes were made to further strengthen the local program and to take a more individualized approach within the programming.

We kicked off the program year with an open gym night upon which a number of men expressed an interest in further support. Staff is conducting bi-monthly fatherhood group meetings that are well attended and very inspirational for everyone involved.

The Clay-Wilkin Fatherhood Initiative is made up of a fine group of caring, eager, strong men with respect for their children's education as well as for each other. The program will continue to provide opportunities for them and their children as they play and learn together.

Code	Program	# of People Served	# of Households Served	Times Service Provided
Employment				
D6	Senior Employment Programs	20	20	20
Education				
L1	GED & Educational Services	12	10	12
L2	Literacy	702	266	702
L3	English/Second Language (ESL)	7	5	126
Income Management				
M2	Financial Education	95	46	90
Housing				
C8	Community Housing Stabilization	14	4	4
C9	Community Homeownership Ed.	24	7	7
Emergency Services				
C10	Homeless Assistance	321	140	321
C11	MN Transitional Housing	13	4	13
G1	Emergency Family Services	32	10	32
G6	Donated Articles	35	11	11
Nutrition				
H1	Food Assistance	3,528	360	853
Linkages				
E1	Transportation System	160	157	43,537
E3	Transportation Assistance	23	10	46
K1	Information and Referral	2,173	2,096	14,065
K2	Outreach	23	10	10
Self-Sufficiency				
J1	Head Start	317	315	317
J2	Child Care	246	202	90
J3	Child Care Administration	22	16	22
J6	Child Care Resource & Referral	1,823	1,823	2,036
J8	Parenting Education	690	317	690
J9	Fatherhood Initiative	90	90	90
Other				
	Visitation Center	263	144	6,470

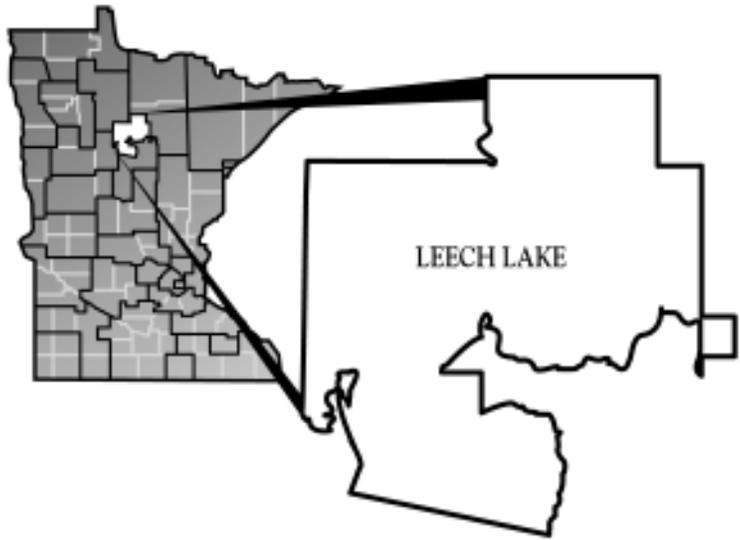
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Results Highlight

Focusing on Homeless Prevention and Health

The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe's Tribal Council considers the priority needs of low-income reservation residents when determining the funding allocations of antipoverty service programs. For many years, the Tribal Council has made it a priority to help the low-income reservation residents achieve an adequate living environment, which provides for the health and basic needs of the Reservation. In support of that goal, the Council has directed that Community Action funding be used toward health supplements, medical equipment, and homelessness prevention.

Leech Lake's Health Division administers the Nutritional Supplement Program, which provides nutritional supplements to individuals who under the care of a doctor for conditions that impair their health, such as cancer, diabetes, arthritis, and malnutrition. In addition, Reservation residents who need live-saving medical equipment that is not provided by medical insurance, Medical Assistance, or Medicare are provided this essential equipment, as well as some job search assistance.

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 burn-outs. Staff members help clients search for housing by providing advocacy and referral services to housing programs and area landlords.

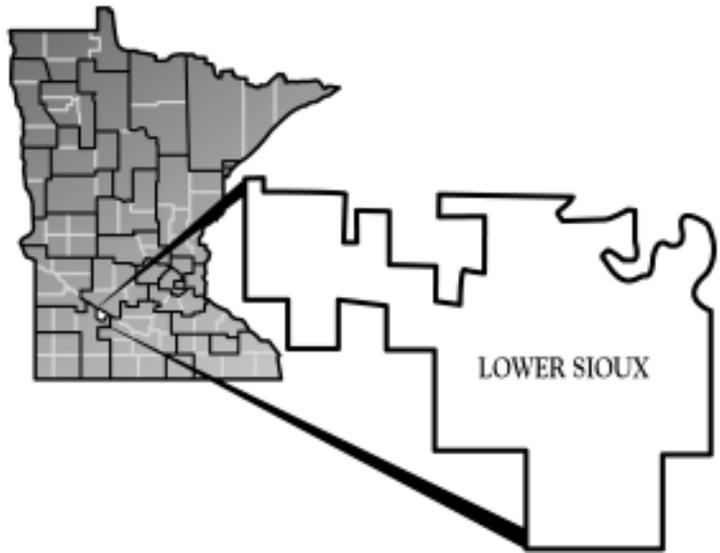
Code	Program	# of People Served	# of Households Served	Times Service Provided
Employment				
D1	Employment & Training Services	328	296	328
D3	Youth Employment	75	35	75
Education				
L1	GED & Educational Services	123	123	123
L2	Literacy	200	150	200
Income Management				
M2	Financial Education	92	77	92
Housing				
B1	Weatherization	1	1	1
B7	Energy-Related Repairs	54	54	54
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	1	1	1
C3	Home Repair/Rehabilitation	21	21	21
C7	Low-Income Housing Development	46	20	20
C9	Community Homeownership Ed.	4	2	2
Emergency Services				
B5	Energy Assistance	3,053	973	973
B6	Energy Crisis	401	401	401
C10	Homeless Assistance	515	395	515
G3	Abuse and Neglect	85	85	85
G8	Crisis Intervention	675	515	675
Nutrition				
H1	Food Assistance	96	96	224
H4	Women, Infants, Children (WIC)	8,400	5,232	30,000
H6	Home-Delivered Meals	60	52	250
H7	Congregate Meals	193	180	250
H9	USDA Commodity Assistance	4,480	3,328	3,328
Linkages				
E3	Transportation Assistance	870	630	870
E4	Vehicle Program	48	46	46
F1	Senior-Oriented Services	45	45	45
F3	Chore Services	97	92	11,088
Self-Sufficiency				
J1	Head Start	231	231	231
J2	Child Care	271	73	271
J3	Child Care Administration	15	15	15
J4	At-Risk Youth	473	300	300
J6	Child Care Resource & Referral	139	37	37
J7	Youth Recreation	525	315	525
Health				
I1	Health Care Aid Non-Financial	18	18	18

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Results Highlight

The New Lower Sioux Community Center Serves the People

There was a time when the youth of the Lower Sioux Community had nowhere to congregate after school. That's not the case anymore. Now the children have a new community center, which features a teen room, a basketball court, classroom, multi-purpose room, and a lounge area where they can spend time after school. Many new programs and activities have taken place in the new center. Some of the children have played kickball, while some of the older kids have used the lounge area to do homework.

It's not just the kids utilizing the new center. The multi-purpose room has held baby showers, birthday parties, and other types of family gatherings. There's even a new fitness center being built for adults to exercise and live a healthy lifestyle. The future possibilities are limitless. There's already been talk of holding adult education courses, and currently GED classes are being held. The Lower Sioux Community sees the new center as a vital home for improving the overall quality of life for all its members.

Code	Program	# of People Served	# of Households Served	Times Service Provided
Employment				
D1	Employment & Training Services	18	8	2
D3	Youth Employment	7	4	4
D6	Senior Employment Programs	3	3	3
Education				
L1	GED & Educational Services	6	6	12
L4	Adult Basic Education (ABE)	4	4	4
Income Management				
M3	Tax Aid	332	332	332
Housing				
B1	Weatherization	22	8	8
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	21	21	21
C3	Home Repair/Rehabilitation	15	15	15
C6	Rental Housing Assistance	18	6	6
C7	Low-Income Housing Development	4	4	4
C9	Community Homeownership Ed.	35	21	21
Emergency Services				
B5	Energy Assistance	14	6	6
B6	Energy Crisis	9	3	3
B8	Fuel Fund	14	6	6
C10	Homeless Assistance	8	3	8
C11	MN Transitional Housing	6	4	6
G1	Emergency Family Services	16	3	16
G3	Abuse and Neglect	23	7	7
G8	Crisis Intervention	37	12	37
Nutrition				
H1	Food Assistance	194	62	50
H3	Holiday Projects	640	170	170
H4	Women, Infants, Children (WIC)	90	46	46
H6	Home-Delivered Meals	41	41	10,660
H7	Congregate Meals	31	31	8,060
Linkages				
E1	Transportation System	503	353	330
E3	Transportation Assistance	36	36	598
Self-Sufficiency				
J2	Child Care	21	10	60
J3	Child Care Administration	63	46	63
J4	At-Risk Youth	23	18	30
J5	Campership	23	14	23
J6	Child Care Resource & Referral	10	3	5
J7	Youth Recreation	150	55	150
J8	Parenting Education	11	10	42
M1	Self-Sufficiency	67	32	67
Health				
I1	Health Care Aid Non-Financial	173	96	173
I2	Health Care Aid - Financial	150	150	150
I3	Family Planning	8	8	12
Other				
A1	Community Development	1	1	1
A5	Cottage Industries	6	6	6

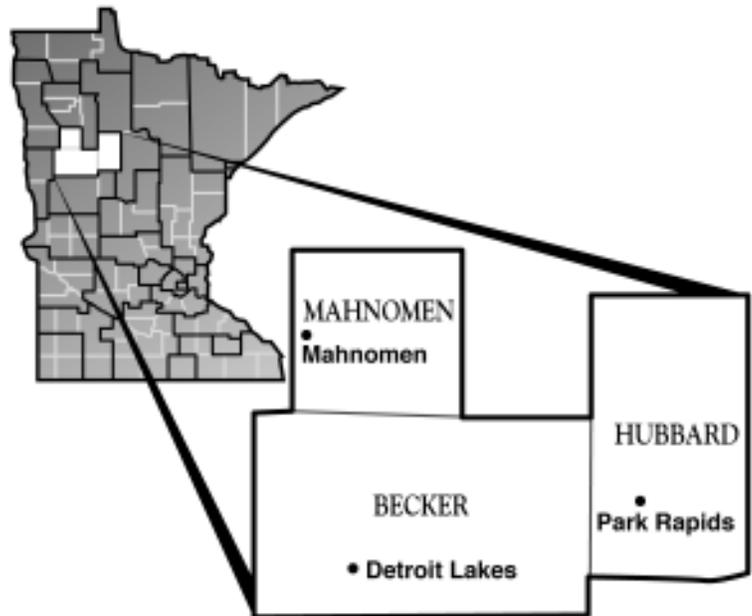
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Results Highlight

Weatherization Program Helps Those in Need Save Money

Mahube Community Council's Weatherization Program provides cost-effective energy conservation services to low-income households. These services result in lower energy bills for participating households, thus freeing up cash to pay for other household necessities. Energy savings calculations on a 13 percent sampling of homes weatherized in 2002-2003 showed an energy savings of 36.4%. The PRISM method was used to determine the savings.

Mahube's Weatherization Program cooperates with local housing authorities including, the White Earth Reservation, Rural Development, Aquila Natural Gas, and Detroit Lakes Public Utilities in order to expand and maximize the services available to low-income households. Mahube's program is the only resource available that specifically targets low-income energy conservation issues and provides these services at no cost or obligation to the households served. Other area programs available to low-income households are low-interest or deferred loans that emphasize housing rehabilitation or accessibility modifications to accommodate handicap issues. Energy conservation measures are peripheral to these programs.

Mahube's weatherization services are the only help available to improve and preserve mobile homes. Other housing rehabilitation programs do not deal with mobile homes because they are not considered good collateral for securing the rehabilitation loans. Mobile homes are often the only truly "affordable housing" available for purchase or rental by low-income people. However, the affordable initial cost is often offset by the high maintenance and energy costs. Mahube's Weatherization Program staff assesses the energy loss areas in these mobile homes and provides the cost-effective measures needed to make mobile homes into truly affordable housing.

Code	Program	# of People Served	# of Households Served	Times Service Provided
Education				
L1	GED & Educational Services	307	307	307
Income Management				
M2	Financial Education	69	40	145
M3	Tax Aid	1,977	1,977	1,977
M4	Asset Development (FAIM)	21	13	21
Housing				
B1	Weatherization	209	91	91
B4	Other Conservation Services	235	96	96
B7	Energy Related Repairs	461	183	183
C3	Home Repair/Rehabilitation	29	29	29
Emergency Services				
B5	Energy Assistance	7,652	3,050	3,050
B6	Energy Crisis	2,092	834	834
B8	Fuel Fund	49	20	20
C10	Homeless Assistance	474	188	474
C11	MN Transitional Housing	33	13	33
G1	Emergency Family Services	57	32	57
G3	Abuse and Neglect	25	25	25
G6	Donated Articles	123	50	50
G8	Crisis Intervention	168	57	57
Nutrition				
H1	Food Assistance	15,627	7,800	7,800
H3	Holiday Projects	1,527	525	525
H6	Home-Delivered Meals	12	12	528
Linkages				
E1	Transportation System	84	84	490
F1	Senior-Oriented Services	156	116	116
F3	Chore Services	89	89	2,300
F5	Retired Senior Vol. (RSVP)	352	352	352
K1	Information and Referral	95,695	33,078	33,078
K2	Outreach	5,627	1,876	1,876
Self-Sufficiency				
J1	Head Start	1,173	421	421
J2	Child Care	149	142	142
J6	Child Care Resource & Referral	809	259	259
J8	Parenting Education	652	652	652
J9	Fatherhood Initiative	233	233	233
J10	Crisis Nursery	67	34	52
M1	Self-Sufficiency	97	25	25

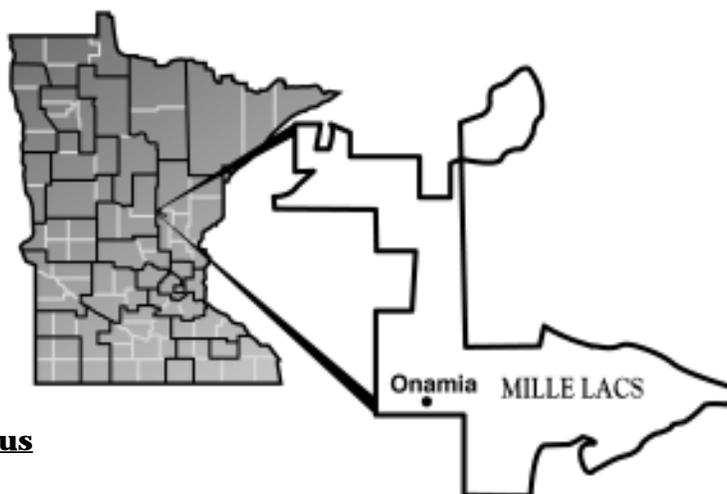
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Results Highlight

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 Anishinaabe enrichment, life skills, recreation, and an umbrella of education, mentoring, and youth programs. 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	# of People Served	# of Households Served	Times Service Provided
Employment				
D1	Employment & Training Services	210	170	210
D3	Youth Employment	90	60	90
Education				
L1	GED & Educational Services	96	75	96
Income Management				
M2	Financial Education	47	30	720
M3	Tax Aid	235	167	167
Housing				
B1	Weatherization	54	27	27
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	114	57	57
C3	Home Repair/Rehabilitation	17	10	10
C7	Low-Income Housing Development	52	26	26
C9	Community Homeownership Ed.	57	37	54
Emergency Services				
B5	Energy Assistance	876	438	438
B6	Energy Crisis	70	35	70
C10	Homeless Assistance	40	25	40
G8	Crisis Intervention	151	67	67
Nutrition				
H1	Food Assistance	430	365	2,190
H4	Women, Infants, Children (WIC)	180	110	1,320
H6	Home-Delivered Meals	65	40	16,900
H7	Congregate Meals	430	365	22,360
Linkages				
E1	Transportation System	120	60	15,600
F3	Chore Services	180	120	1,200
Self-Sufficiency				
J1	Head Start	125	69	125
J4	At-Risk Youth	108	72	108
J7	Youth Recreation	108	72	108
J8	Parenting Education	325	276	325
J9	Fatherhood Initiative	108	78	108
M1	Self-Sufficiency	100	40	40
M5	Family Loan Fund	120	60	60
Health				
I3	Family Planning	60	35	60

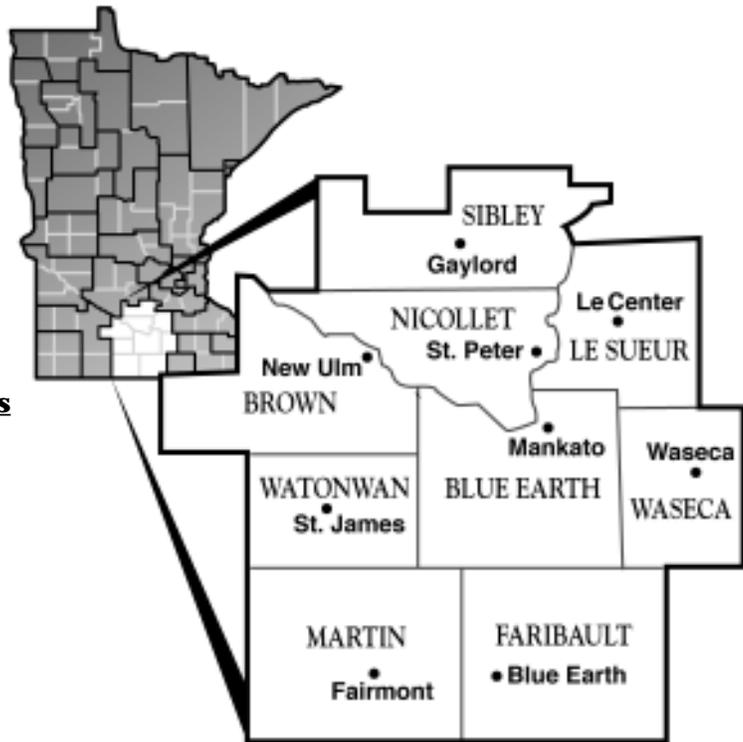
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Results Highlight

Award-Winning Wheel Get There Program Helps with Transportation Needs

Minnesota Valley Action Council, Inc.'s (MVAC) Wheel Get There (WGT) Program helps low-income people purchase reliable, low-cost vehicles. WGT provides budget counseling to teach people how to manage the costs associated with car ownership, on-going education about car maintenance, and assistance with care repairs. WGT is a high-impact strategy that empowers people by eliminating the transportation barrier. This allows them to make positive changes in their lives, and continue their journey toward self-reliance.

MVAC has developed partnerships with county human services, businesses, faith-based organizations, and others that continue to benefit everyone and provide services to a broader population. MVAC has gained a reputation throughout the area for providing advice about purchasing inexpensive vehicles and obtaining affordable repairs. They also are known as a place to donate used vehicles. Referrals have come from community members, car dealers, South Central Technical College, faith-based organizations, other service providers, etc.

MVAC found that a lot of people wanted to help low-income people, but didn't know how to help. MVAC has worked to create a greater awareness of the issues facing low-income people within the greater community. Donating to the WGT Program appeals to a broad range of people, because almost everyone can relate to the need for reliable transportation and the hassles associated with car repairs. WGT participants are empowered by making choices about car purchases, being held accountable for making payments, and being taught about necessary maintenance.

Recently, MVAC was awarded first place in the national Peter F. Drucker Award for Non-profit Innovation for the Wheel Get There Program. WGT was chosen over 229 other applicants from around the nation and received a \$20,000 cash award.

Code	Program	# of People Served	# of Households Served	Times Service Provided
Employment				
D1	Employment & Training Services	427	405	427
D3	Youth Employment	278	270	278
D6	Senior Employment Programs	90	90	90
D7	FSET	171	162	171
Income Management				
M2	Financial Education	64	20	20
M4	Asset Development (FAIM)	64	20	64
Housing				
B1	Weatherization	909	303	303
B7	Energy-Related Repairs	443	177	177
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	348	139	139
C6	Rental Housing Assistance	428	171	171
Emergency Services				
B5	Energy Assistance	13,550	5,420	5,420
B6	Energy Crisis	1,570	628	628
B8	Fuel Fund	121	34	34
C10	Homeless Assistance	231	110	231
Nutrition				
H4	Women, Infants, Children (WIC)	1,112	741	4,889
Linkages				
E1	Transportation System	1,167	1,167	11,271
E4	Vehicle Program	245	98	98
K1	Information and Referral	179,264	71,706	71,706
K2	Outreach	15,205	6,082	6,082
K3	Advocacy Info./Educ.	4,040	1,616	1,616
Self-Sufficiency				
J1	Head Start	723	664	723
M1	Self-Sufficiency	1,462	1,392	1,392

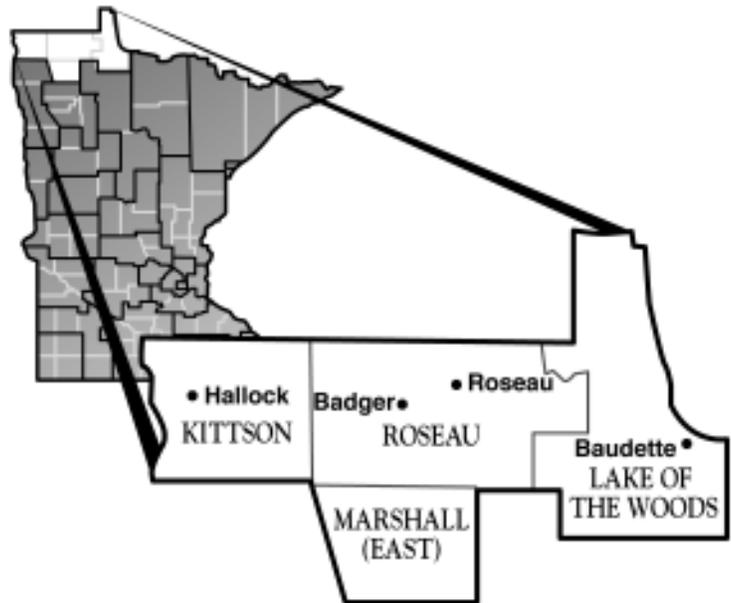
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Results Highlight

Affordable Homes for Those in Need

Over the past 10 years, Northwest Community Action, Inc. (NWCAA) has administered the Minnesota Urban and Rural Homestead Program (MURL) under which 20 houses have been purchased and rehabilitated. The MURL program provides home ownership opportunities to first-time homebuyers, while stabilizing declining neighborhoods by eliminating blight. During the past year, the guidelines were modified to allow for new construction, if the rehabilitation costs were deemed too excessive.

NWCAA presently is constructing four homes in the city of Roseau on lots that were provided by the city. These lots were made available when the previous homes were demolished following the flood of 2002. While there are other homes in Roseau currently being constructed, these are the only ones that allow for low-income (Section 8) qualifiers. These homes will be purchased on a zero percent contract for deed for the appraised value, and no closing costs, with payments that are income-based (25% of their gross income).

NWCAA's relationship with the city of Roseau has been beneficial, not only to NWCAA, but to prospective homebuyers. Having the leverage of free lots makes the newly constructed, single-family home more affordable to the low-income buyers. These buyers usually are making the transition from rental properties, and deserve the opportunity to access good quality, energy-efficient housing. This collaborative effort makes that possible.

Code	Program	# of People Served	# of Households Served	Times Service Provided
Income Management				
M2	Financial Education	345	122	280
M4	Asset Development (FAIM)	23	9	162
Housing				
B1	Weatherization	142	61	61
B4	Other Conservation Services	35	13	13
B7	Energy-Related Repairs	236	99	99
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	185	66	66
C8	Community Housing Stabilization	199	73	73
C9	Community Homeownership Ed.	79	31	31
Emergency Services				
B5	Energy Assistance	2,586	979	979
B6	Energy Crisis	493	175	175
C10	Homeless Assistance	150	47	47
G6	Donated Articles	143	60	60
G8	Crisis Intervention	213	75	75
Nutrition				
H2	Community Services Food Pkgs.	218	87	87
H3	Holiday Projects	472	135	135
Linkages				
K1	Information and Referral	925	365	588
K2	Outreach	610	252	432
K3	Advocacy Info./Educ.	955	295	566
Self-Sufficiency				
J1	Head Start	1,198	295	341
J4	At-Risk Youth	64	41	64
J7	Youth Recreation	64	41	64
Health				
I2	Health Care Aid - Financial	26	9	10

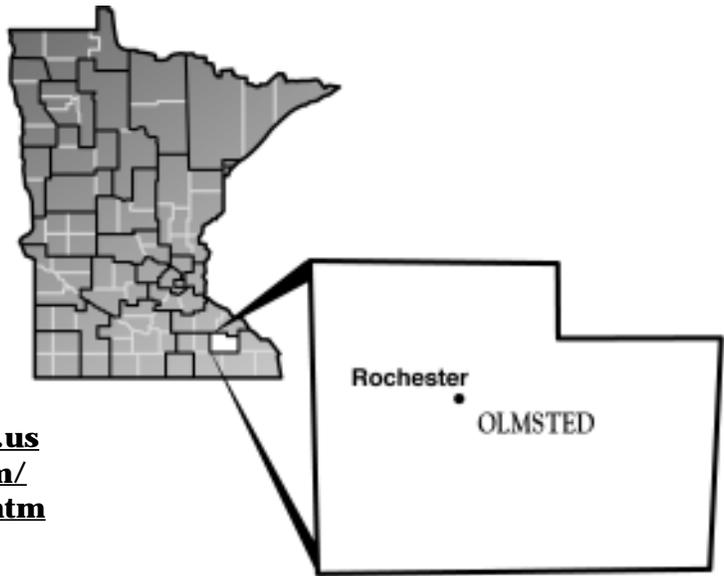
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communityservices/familysupport/cap.htm](http://www.olmstedcounty.com/communityservices/familysupport/cap.htm)**



Results Highlight

Beyond Women's Work Takes Women Beyond the Basics

Beyond Women's Work is an advanced training and education program created to go beyond basic job training skills for women. In Olmsted CAP's many efforts to work with MFIP women entering the workforce, they observed that there were more issues than learning job skills that kept women from obtaining and maintaining employment. Olmsted CAP took a personal, cognitive approach to address the balance the women needed between their employment and family life. It was imperative that they were prepared for obstacles that arise within the family while still being successful in their jobs.

Beyond Women's Work is an effort to address the changing roles of women today. It also is an effort to make women more marketable in the employment arena and become self-sufficient. Olmsted CAP was looking for women who wanted to learn more about presenting a professional image. They also wanted to address the issue that women need to expand their ability to balance the demands of working and parenting.

We approached several agencies for consensus as to whether there was a need in the community for this type of education. Four agencies collaborated on this project. They included: Olmsted CAP, Workforce Development, Inc., Community Corrections, and Express Personnel. The trainings that were agreed upon were: interviewing skills and tips; personal finance (budgeting, working with financial institutions, and managing credit); managing stress, coping strategies and personal awareness; appearance, presence and etiquette; ongoing job search, getting a promotion, setting and reaching career goals.

Code	Program	# of People Served	# of Households Served	Times Service Provided
Income Management				
M2	Financial Education	56	23	148
M4	Asset Development (FAIM)	32	11	32
Housing				
B7	Energy-Related Repairs	114	45	45
Emergency Services				
B5	Energy Assistance	6,001	2,153	2,153
B6	Energy Crisis	219	78	78
C10	Homeless Assistance	141	50	141
G6	Donated Articles	15	15	15
G8	Crisis Intervention	78	26	26
Linkages				
K1	Information and Referral	9,739	3,243	3,243
K2	Outreach	444	148	148
K3	Advocacy Info./Educ.	2,900	2,900	34,800
Self-Sufficiency				
M1	Self-Sufficiency	156	52	52

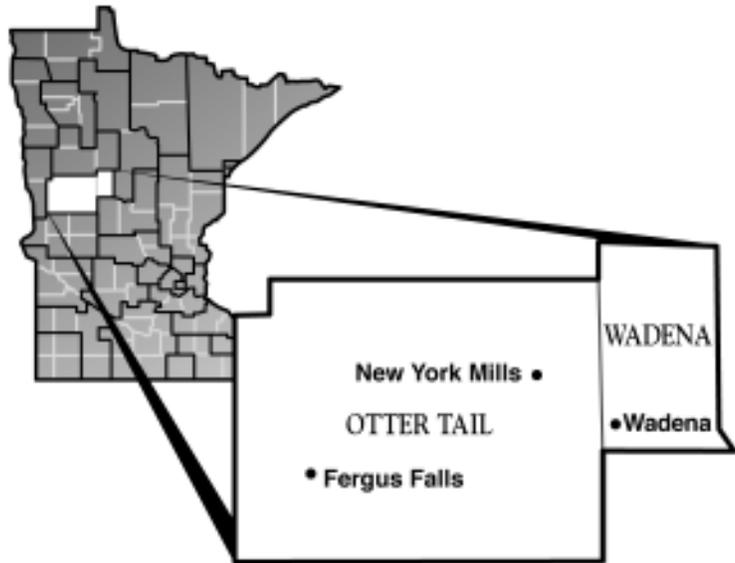
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Results Highlight

Faith in Action Program Helps the Disabled

Faith in Action built its first handicapped accessibility ramp in June 2004. The ramp was for a young man with mobility problems who was confined to his wheelchair for as long as a week at a time and unable to get out of his mobile home. Since then, Faith in Action has built four more ramps for the elderly and disabled. They also built a set of steps that allowed an older woman to safely get from her car in the driveway, to her house without slipping and sliding down an incline. Faith in Action has three more ramps scheduled in the very near future as well.

The ramps are built by the Sentence-to-Serve crews as well as by volunteers recruited from local churches. They have included men and women, doctors, retired bankers, carpenters, and individuals simply willing to help their neighbors. The materials for the ramps have been paid for by individual and community donations including funds from Thrivent, and the Veterans' Administration, a grant from the Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative, and family contributions. The requests for ramps have come from the families and from county social service and public health referrals.

The Faith in Action project has been a true community effort.

Code	Program	# of People Served	# of Households Served	Times Service Provided
Employment				
D3	Youth Employment	7	7	7
D8	Displaced Homemakers	12	12	12
Education				
L1	GED & Educational Services	2	2	2
L2	Literacy	2	2	2
L4	Adult Basic Education (ABE)	2	2	2
Income Management				
M2	Financial Education	640	252	377
M3	Tax Aid	169,746	70,735	70,735
M4	Asset Development (FAIM)	40	21	40
Housing				
B1	Weatherization	306	206	206
B4	Other Conservation Services	148	67	67
B7	Energy-Related Repairs	255	106	106
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	12	4	4
C3	Home Repair/Rehabilitation	36	18	17
C8	Community Housing Stabilization	25	14	14
C9	Community Homeownership Ed.	1,604	617	617
Emergency Services				
B5	Energy Assistance	2,332	945	945
B6	Energy Crisis	390	158	158
B8	Fuel Fund	6	3	3
C10	Homeless Assistance	2,555	913	2,555
G3	Abuse and Neglect	2	1	2
G6	Donated Articles	59	49	49
G8	Crisis Intervention	99	49	61
Nutrition				
H1	Food Assistance	1,840	678	1,934
H2	Community Services Food Pkgs .	388	239	239
H3	Holiday Projects	233	133	133
Linkages				
E1	Transportation System	2,803	2,803	3,793
E3	Transportation Assistance	9	9	9
F3	Chore Services	98	69	415
F5	Retired Senior Vol. (RSVP)	473	473	473
K1	Information and Referral	15,305	5,944	32,024
K2	Outreach	7,194	2,767	2,767
K3	Advocacy Info./Educ.	23,013	8,637	23,013
K4	Contract Services	1,099	423	507
Self-Sufficiency				
J1	Head Start	689	271	271
J2	Child Care	55	55	55
J6	Child Care Resource & Referral	488	488	488
J7	Youth Recreation	62	40	62
J8	Parenting Education	615	492	612
J9	Fatherhood Initiative	551	184	551
M1	Self-Sufficiency	33	13	20
M5	Family Loan Fund	63	26	26
Health				
I1	Health Care Aid Non-Financial	4,613	4,117	4,613
I2	Health Care Aid - Financial	70	50	70
I3	Family Planning	897	897	897

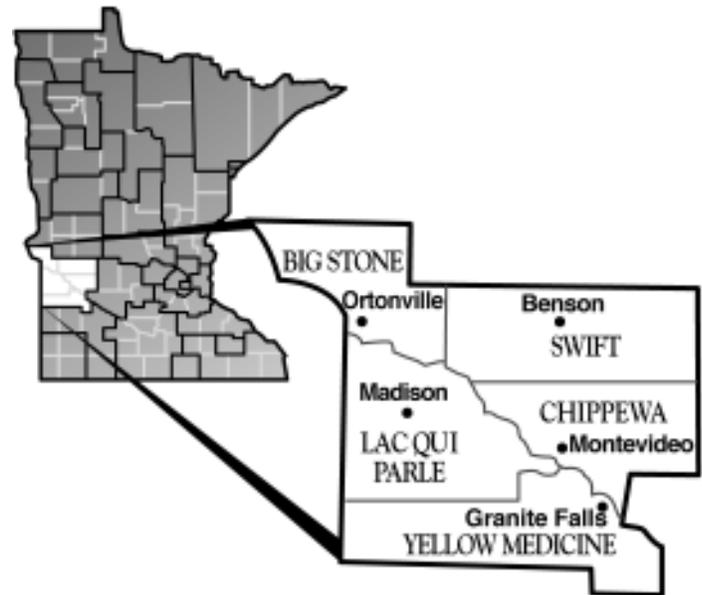
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Results Highlight

The CARE Program Focuses on Caregiver and Care Receiver

The purpose of the Care and Respite Education Program (CARE) is to work with individuals whose need for services compromises their ability to live independently. The CARE Program is focused on both the caregiver and care receiver. The program is available to caregivers who are concerned about their loved one's health, housing, income, medical expenses, and independent living skills.

With the CARE Program, staff helps individuals and families to solve problems, mobilize resources, and develop the abilities needed to cope with changing circumstances. The Family Caregiver Support Program also serves as an advocate, assisting individuals to obtain services that they are unable to do independently.

CARE staff has the resources available to arrange for appropriate and economical services to meet an individual's needs working with family members and service providers. They adjust the level of services to accommodate changes in an individual's situation.

Prairie Five Community Action Council's CARE staff is working in collaboration with county social service agencies, community education programs, and Countryside Public Health. A committee consisting of family services, Prairie Five, community education, and Countryside Public Health meet on a monthly basis to discuss aspects of the program and talk about possible changes and/or improvements and needs.

Because of the success of CARE, there are plans for the program's second year to expand to involve friends and neighbors, employers, physicians, health professionals, public officials, clergy, family, and anyone involved with the care of a loved one.

Code	Program	# of People Served	# of Households Served	Times Service Provided
Education				
L2	Literacy	503	305	305
Income Management				
M2	Financial Education	16	5	5
M3	Tax Aid	399	338	340
Housing				
B1	Weatherization	234	89	89
B3	MECS Audits	26	9	9
B4	Other Conservation Services	26	9	9
B7	Energy-Related Repairs	323	129	129
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	26	16	16
C5	Small Cities Devel. Grants (SCDG)	27	22	22
C9	Community Homeownership Ed.	38	32	32
Emergency Services				
B5	Energy Assistance	5,543	2,094	2,094
B6	Energy Crisis	1,177	405	405
B8	Fuel Fund	442	157	157
C10	Homeless Assistance	50	26	26
G6	Donated Articles	86,505	15,828	26,606
G8	Crisis Intervention	536	391	391
Nutrition				
H1	Food Assistance	4,735	1,656	1,656
H2	Community Services Food Pkgs.	795	806	806
H3	Holiday Projects	1,735	601	601
H5	Gardening	19	8	8
H6	Home-Delivered Meals	649	426	47,783
H7	Congregate Meals	3,555	1,339	112,729
Linkages				
E1	Transportation System	10,538	8,496	69,997
E3	Transportation Assistance	8,608	8,608	8,608
F1	Senior Oriented Services	1,401	656	656
K1	Information and Referral	6,513	4,770	1,269
K2	Outreach	11,349	6,097	4,326
K3	Advocacy Info./Educ.	16,459	12,231	256
Self-Sufficiency				
J1	Head Start	320	305	305
J2	Child Care	320	137	137
J6	Child Care Resource & Referral	947	743	743
J8	Parenting Education	503	305	305
Other				
A5	Cottage Industries	64	37	38
	School Supplies Distribution	45	45	45
	Coat Drive	173	31	110
	Quilt Give-Away	150	150	150

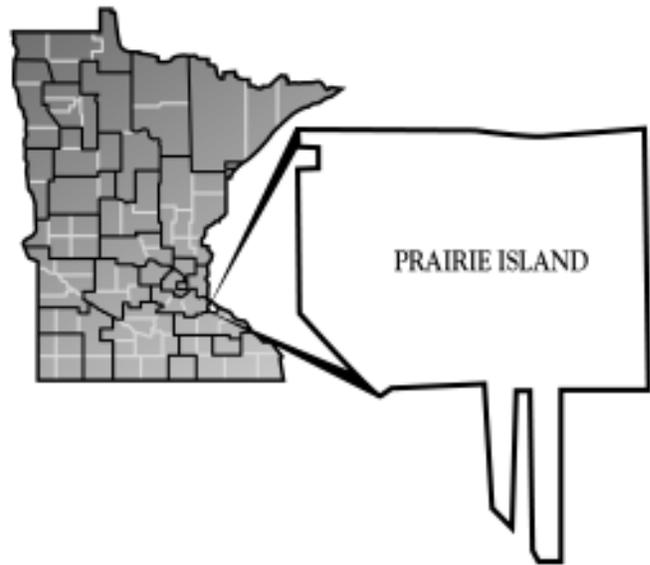
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Results Highlight

Improving the Health and Well-Being of Others

For many years, the Prairie Island Indian Community received Community Action Grants from the State of Minnesota. Due to the income generated from their tribal gaming operation in rural Minnesota, the tribe no longer accepts these grants and hopes that the money can be directed to other tribes. Now, the Prairie Island Indian Community is able to donate money to improve the health and well-being of others.

An example of this type of giving can be found in the tribe's \$125,000 contribution to the City of Kenyon's Mayo Family Clinic. The donation provides \$25,000 for five years to the clinic for capital improvements. The project was completed in December 2004 and it includes separate exam rooms, a procedure room, laboratory, office space and a small conference room. The clinic serves the residents of Kenyon, the surrounding areas and the residents of the adjacent assisted living center, Kenyon Sunset Homes.

Before the Prairie Island Indian Community's donation, the City of Kenyon had promised \$125,000 in gap funding to this project. According to Aaron Reeves, Kenyon City Administrator and Clerk, the city had just received a cut in Local Government Aid when the tribe made their donation. The \$25,000 per year donation is approximately a 10% levy reduction for the city, which resulted in a tax savings for everyone. Moreover, the city was able to redirect this money into their Park and Recreation department for a municipal swimming pool and ice skating rink.

Helping Others End the Cycle of Poverty

For many years the Prairie Island Indian Community received economic opportunity grants to help provide for their people. As their tribal casino grew, the ability of the Prairie Island Indian Community to provide for itself also has grown. Tribal gaming has resulted in economic self-sufficiency for the tribe.

In turn, this has allowed the tribe to supply quality health care, paved roads, sanitary water and sewer, educational opportunities and employment to tribal members. In addition, the tribe provides their members with support from many of the same programs that the economic opportunity grants were designed.

As the tribe became more self-sufficient, the economic opportunity grants were primarily used for American Indians from other tribes living in the area. During the last grant cycle, the tribe provided child care for families who are working and/or attending school. In addition, the Prairie Island Indian Community offered free parenting and family budgeting classes, well-baby clinic visits and immunizations at their clinic, and emergency shelter and food. This assistance still exists.

During the 2004 – 2005 budget, the Prairie Island Indian Community would have been eligible for \$51,280. The tribe turned down the grant because they are now able to provide for themselves and help others. Moreover, the tribe hopes that in turning down the grant that those monies would be made available to other tribes.

The Prairie Island Indian Community employs more than 1,600 people in rural Minnesota, with an annual payroll of \$45 million. Employees receive benefits, which include: comprehensive health and dental, 401(k), life insurance and employee assistance programs. Each year the tribe pays out more than \$6.5 million in benefits.

The positive impact of the tribe's economic development is evident throughout Minnesota. The tribe's casino, Treasure Island Resort & Casino, is credited with reducing welfare by 67% in Goodhue County alone.

Moreover, the Prairie Island Indian Community is once again able to share with others. For years, the tribe lived in abject poverty and as such they understand need. Now, the tribe regularly makes donations to area food shelves, senior dining programs, homeless shelters, transitional housing agencies and many others.

Most recently, the tribe donated \$25,000 to the Salvation Army to help people in extreme need. This donation marks \$75,000 in assistance over the past three years to this agency from the Prairie Island Indian Community.

The purpose of economic opportunity grants is to help eliminate the cycle of poverty. The tribe shares this goal and is now able to help others do the same.

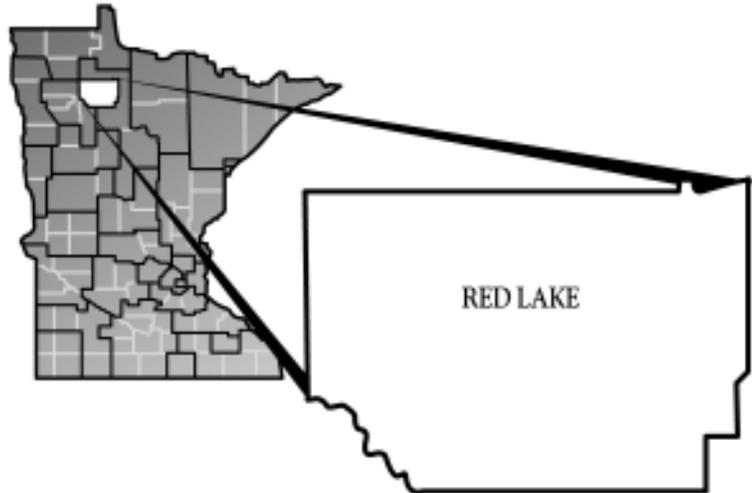
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Results Highlight

Feasibility of New Energy Sources Being Explored

The Red Lake Reservation has been looking into the possibility of making use of sources of renewable energy on the Reservation. The sources currently being considered are wind power and bioenergy.

Bioenergy is one of America's most promising renewable energy resources. Organic materials such as grasses, weeds and other quick-growing plants (biomass) can be converted in to electricity or clean-burning fuels in an environmentally-friendly and sustainable way.

The Department of Energy (DOE) provided funds to study the feasibility of producing electricity on the Reservation with logging waste. McNeil Technologies, an energy consulting firm who has performed other tribal biomass feasibility studies, will complete the study in late fall. While a full-scale biomass power plant probably is not viable, smaller-scale options may exist for replacing systems that burn fuel oil. In addition, Red Lake could become a biomass supplier, if a biomass plant is constructed in the area. At least one such bio-diesel refinery project and one biomass power plant are currently under consideration. A biomass generating system will be installed to heat the Red Lake DNR greenhouse.

Wind speeds and frequency are currently being measured via three anemometers mounted in two locations on Reservation land. The DOC loaned the Tribe two anemometers and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) loaned the Tribe the third. DOC and NREL will assist with data analysis and recommend feasibility options that the Tribe may pursue.

Employment and training remains a top priority on the Reservation as our unemployment rate is 70% or higher.

Code	Program	# of People Served	# of Households Served	Times Service Provided
Employment				
D1	Employment & Training Services	684	171	120
D3	Youth Employment	63	14	60
D6	Senior Employment Programs	2	2	120
Education				
L1	GED & Educational Services	103	23	120
Housing				
B1	Weatherization	204	51	51
B7	Energy-Related Repairs	807	179	179
C3	Home Repair/Rehabilitation	1	1	1
Emergency Services				
B5	Energy Assistance	4,991	1,109	1,109
B6	Energy Crisis	2,777	617	617
G8	Crisis Intervention	2,979	662	662
Nutrition				
H6	Home-Delivered Meals	185	179	15,227
H7	Congregate Meals	352	341	21,585
Linkages				
E1	Transportation System	411	341	20,500
F1	Senior Oriented Services	62	55	55
F3	Chore Services	73	70	105
K1	Information and Referral	389	375	375
K2	Outreach	75	75	75
Self-Sufficiency				
J1	Head Start	772	193	193
J4	At-Risk Youth	1,120	280	280
J7	Youth Recreation	400	280	400
J8	Parenting Education	60	15	120
J9	Fatherhood Initiative	5	2	60

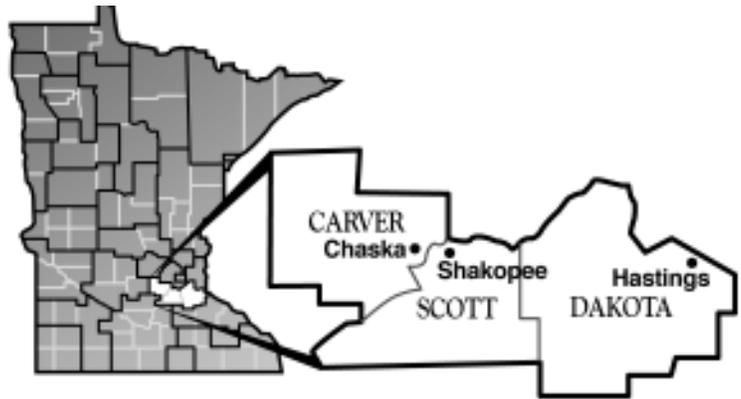
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Results Highlight

Meeting the Critical Needs of the Community

The Scott Carver Dakota CAP Agency, Inc. Community Services Department provides services that address a wide variety of needs for families living in poverty. Basic needs, such as food and clothing, are met through the Scott Carver Dakota CAP food shelf and thrift store. The food shelf serves approximately 900 families each month. The thrift shop sells high-quality merchandise at very low prices and provides nearly \$50,000 in clothing vouchers to CAP clients.

Each fall, the Scott Carver Dakota CAP Agency also conducts coat and school supply distribution projects. This year, they combined the two projects to assist families in assuring that their children were ready for school and ready to learn. Through the efforts of volunteers, the community came together to help families meet these critical needs. The CAP Agency collected more than 2,100 winter coats, as well as 1,500 backpacks—complete with school supplies. Volunteers then sorted, packaged, and assisted with the distribution at a local church.

The CAP Agency's seasonal outreach projects provided 6,321 individuals from 1,538 families with school supplies, coats, and holiday gifts.

Code	Program	# of People Served	# of Households Served	Times Service Provided
Income Management				
M2	Financial Education	35	10	180
M4	Asset Development (FAIM)	35	10	35
Housing				
B1	Weatherization	162	52	52
B4	Other Conservation Services	132	46	46
B7	Energy-Related Repairs	97	32	32
C6	Rental Housing Assistance	135	40	40
Emergency Services				
B5	Energy Assistance	10,530	3,508	3,508
B6	Energy Crisis	1,930	569	569
B8	Fuel Fund	263	87	87
C10	Homeless Assistance	211	66	211
C11	MN Transitional Housing	69	15	69
G6	Donated Articles	3,951	1,056	1,056
G8	Crisis Intervention	1,240	397	397
Nutrition				
H1	Food Assistance	7,072	2,093	7,156
H3	Holiday Projects	3,896	882	882
H4	Women, Infants, Children (WIC)	2,658	1,407	13,446
H6	Home-Delivered Meals	326	297	23,412
H7	Congregate Meals	951	875	46,073
Linkages				
E4	Vehicle Program	3	1	1
F1	Senior Oriented Services	63	34	34
F3	Chore Services	92	84	1,815
K1	Information and Referral	28,054	9,425	9,425
K2	Outreach	28,054	9,425	9,425
K3	Advocacy Info./Educ.	28,054	9,425	1,485
Self-Sufficiency				
J1	Head Start	554	515	554
J6	Child Care Resource & Referral	625	310	310
J8	Parenting Education	204	78	83
J9	Fatherhood Initiative	8	4	4
J10	Crisis Nursery	65	41	326
M1	Self-Sufficiency	600	143	600

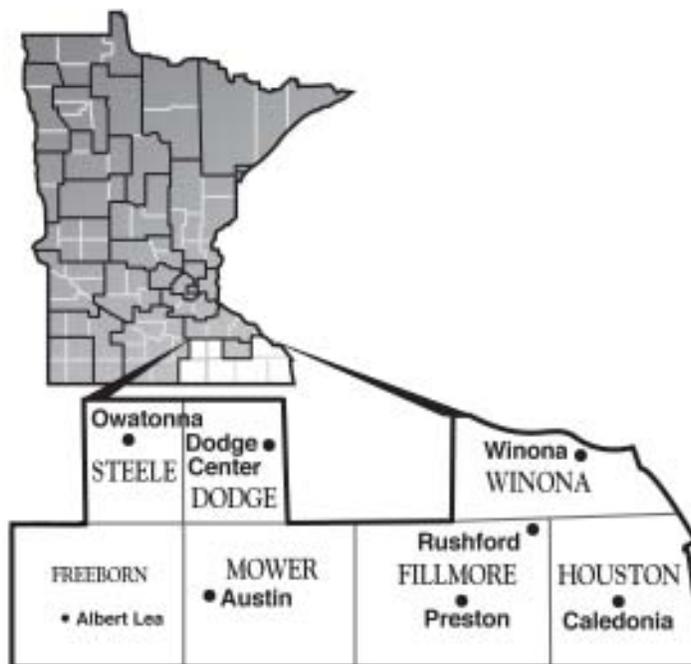
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Results Highlight

Contact Centers Provide Administrative Leadership for Needed Services

Community Action funding makes it possible for Semcac to have field services staff in contact centers in each of the agency's seven service-area counties. The field services staff directly administers Semcac programs, provides support to other Semcac programs, and provides a personal connection between low-income households and community resources and services. During the past reporting period, field services staff in the counties of Winona, Houston, and Fillmore has been able to offer a new program, made possible with a grant from the Winona Community Foundation (WCF). Community Action funding makes it possible for staff to administer the WCF Emergency Assistance Fund, which is solely dedicated for emergency funding for individuals and families experiencing a crisis situation. A total of nine agencies in the three counties received WCF funds beginning April 2004. The WCF has brought the recipient agencies together for meetings to ensure communication and coordination with the use of the grant funds.

Semcac staff meets with the individual or family to learn more about their emergency situation. Staff looks at income and expenses to determine why the crisis occurred and to ensure there are no other resources available. Staff also provides information about and referrals to other community resources.

Since the project began, 150 people in 54 households have received help from the WCF Emergency Assistance Fund. Individuals and families who would have otherwise fallen through the cracks have maintained their housing with emergency rent or security deposit payments. People with disabilities have increased access within their homes with accommodations, such as wheelchair ramps. Low-income families have been given a way to get to work, by having vehicles repaired or purchasing a car. Vital home repairs, such as fixing a shattered window, have improved the safety and security of low-income families' homes. Households experiencing medical emergencies have avoided further complications by receiving prescription medications or medical supplies.

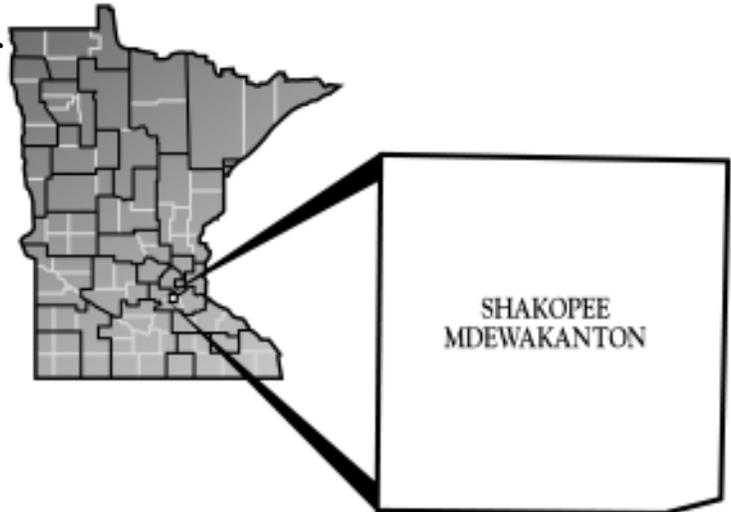
Code	Program	# of People Served	# of Households Served	Times Service Provided
Income Management				
M2	Financial Education	234	117	117
Housing				
B1	Weatherization	820	337	337
B4	Other Conservation Services	510	228	228
B7	Energy-Related Repairs	464	173	173
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	56	30	20
C7	Low-Income Housing Development	50	26	26
C8	Community Housing Stabilization	5	1	1
C9	Community Homeownership Ed.	59	59	59
Emergency Services				
B5	Energy Assistance	13,735	5,839	5,839
B6	Energy Crisis	2,644	806	806
B8	Fuel Fund	470	182	182
C10	Homeless Assistance	577	219	577
G1	Emergency Family Services	2,973	2,919	2,973
G6	Donated Articles	3,333	1,282	1,282
G8	Crisis Intervention	355	112	112
Nutrition				
H1	Food Assistance	58,636	22,920	9,696
H3	Holiday Projects	2,365	821	821
H6	Home Delivered Meals	515	422	72,106
H7	Congregate Meals	6,391	5,309	337,506
Linkages				
E1	Transportation System	249	238	30,512
E3	Transportation Assistance	605	605	17,472
F1	Senior-Oriented Services	150	133	133
F3	Chore Services	33	33	133
F5	Retired Senior Vol. (RSVP)	1,325	1,204	1,325
K1	Information and Referral	17,798	6,846	9,651
K2	Outreach	54,424	20,933	20,933
K3	Advocacy Info./Educ.	431,410	166,201	431,410
K4	Contract Services	1,065	324	329
Self-Sufficiency				
J1	Head Start	1,460	365	385
Health				
I1	Health Care Aid Non-Financial	546	546	546
I3	Family Planning	1,451	1,451	1,451

Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community

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Results Highlight

Education and Health

The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC) offers a variety of services for more than 4,500 staff members, as well as Native Americans living in Scott County. Services provided include: Children and Family Services, Mental Health, Employee Assistance, Education, and Dental and Health Services.

The SMSC has a health and dental clinic that provides services at no charge to those eligible. The Health Department also provides a hepatitis clinic, flu shots, diabetes assistance, and other wellness programs in addition to thousands of patient visits each year. The SMSC Networks and Mental Health programs provide mental health care, employee assistance, smoking cessation classes, support groups, counseling, referral, and chemical dependency services.

The Children and Family Services Department provides information, referral, case management, parenting education, support groups, a child care subsidy program, home visits, a car seat loaner program, prenatal and new baby information packets, a Giving Tree program, and emergency gas vouchers. They also give winter clothing to families in need.

The SMSC Education Department conducts tutoring, student support services, an internship program, a summer youth work program, a higher education program, Dakota Language, and Young Native Pride programs. The Department also runs the Johnson O'Malley program, a federal program that provides educational support to schools impacted by Native American youth.

The SMSC also sponsors annually a heart and diabetes conferences, a cancer conference, and a health fair. The free conferences attract participants from across the region to learn about the diseases, treatment, and traditional approaches to wellness.

The SMSC charitable giving program gives millions of dollars to area service organizations, tribes, Native American organizations, schools, and other charitable organizations each year.

SMSC Donates \$10 Million to Help Others

Out of a cultural and social tradition to help those who are less fortunate, the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community has a charitable giving program, which awarded \$10 million in grants in fiscal year 2004 to organizations and Indian Tribes.

Of that \$10 million, the SMSC gave \$7.8 million to Indian Tribes in four states for economic development, housing, wellness centers, dialysis and diabetes programs, a nursing home for elders, and community development.

The education of youth is important to the SMSC. Of the \$1.1 million in education donations, \$100,000 went to the American Indian OIC in Minneapolis for education and technical training programs towards employment. The SMSC supported educational enrichment activities at the Flandreau Indian School in South Dakota by donating \$106,426 to the school for a behavior enrichment program and for after school activities.

Locally, the SMSC donated Automated External Defibrillators to several schools in an ongoing program. Each year the SMSC also awards more than \$10,000 in grants to support alcohol and chemical-free graduation celebrations at area high schools. Other SMSC donations include 300 Native American books for a Shakopee elementary school library and support of local athletic programs.

The SMSC provided \$594,824 in funding to Native American organizations. Some of these donations were for social services, community development, mental health programs, youth activities, tilling of gardens, seeds, and seedlings, and HIV/AIDS prevention.

The SMSC donated \$242,791 to charitable organizations for a variety of uses including medical research, hospice care, library construction, health education, social services, emergency assistance, museum access for low-income families, and care of a snow leopard at the Como Park Zoo.

The SMSC encourages the continuation of cultural activities through gifts to tribal and social events. In 2004 the SMSC donated \$107,600 to 56 different Pow Wows across Indian Country.

In addition to the \$10 million in fiscal year 2004, the SMSC made \$180,250 in holiday donations for the 2004 holiday season. The donations, which went to 33 social service organizations mostly in the Twin Cities area provided toys, clothing, food, and other gifts for families this holiday season. The largest amount given to one organization was \$20,000 to the CAP Agency serving children, families, and senior citizens in Scott, Dakota, and Carver counties. The money was used for their annual Thanksgiving and Christmas programs for families needing assistance.

Over the past several years the SMSC has donated more than \$42 million to charitable organizations and Indian Tribes. The SMSC utilizes its financial resources from gaming and non-gaming enterprises to pay for all of the internal infrastructure of the Tribe, including but not limited to housing, roads, water and sewer systems, emergency services, and essential services to its tribal members in education, health, and welfare. The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, a federally recognized Indian Tribe in Minnesota is the owner and operator of Mystic Lake Casino Hotel, Little Six Casino, Playworks, Dakotah! Sport and Fitness, and other enterprises on the reservation south of the Twin Cities.

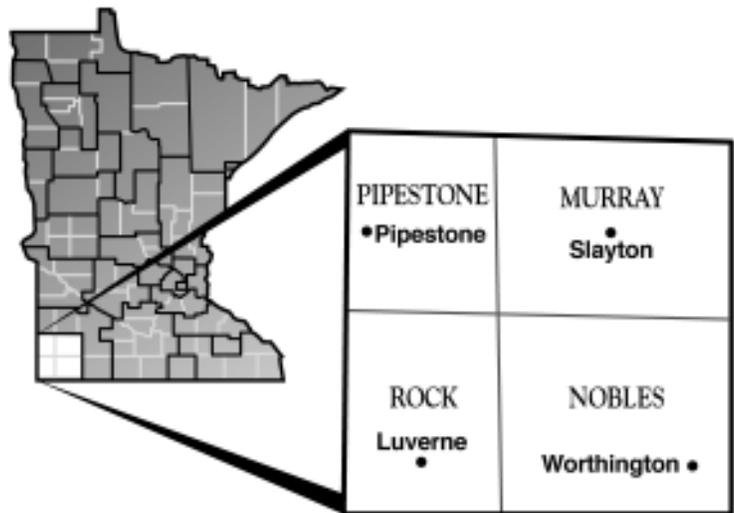
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Results Highlight

Home Stretch — Spanish

Feliciano, his wife Jacqueline, and their three young children were recent immigrants from Central America. They were anxious to buy a home and had a strong desire to become part of the community. However, they didn't know how to accomplish this goal. Feliciano read a flier advertising Southwestern Minnesota Opportunity Council, Inc.'s (SMOC) Home Stretch Program and attended the next workshop. At the same time, Feliciano and Jacqueline were accepted into the Family Assets for Independence in Minnesota (FAIM) Program to learn how to save toward a down payment on a house.

After completing the Home Stretch workshop, SMOC's housing counselor introduced Feliciano to local lenders and helped him apply for the loan product best suited to the family's needs. At the request of Feliciano and Jacqueline, the counselor accompanied the family on their housing search, which entailed working with three different real estate agencies to eventually find the right house. Feliciano made an offer and subsequently was able to negotiate successfully with the owner through the realtor. The counselor also assisted Feliciano to find a reputable housing inspector and was present when the inspector reported the results. Feliciano was savvy-enough to purchase a hazard insurance policy with his current insurance agent and received a discount for having multiple policies with the same insurer.

The counselor was invited to the closing and saw them receive the keys to their first home. Feliciano, his wife Jacqueline, and their three young children moved into their first home, an attractive three bedroom housed on a tree-lined street in a safe neighborhood and are now part of the community.

Through the Home Stretch Program, SMOC provides a resource to non-English speakers to learn about the home buying process. Knowledge of the process is empowering and provides the confidence necessary to work with realtors, lenders, insurance agents, and other professionals to find and purchase safe, affordable housing. Ultimately, homeownership stabilizes families, increases the local tax roles, and brings diversity to neighborhoods.

Code	Program	# of People Served	# of Households Served	Times Service Provided
Employment				
D1	Employment & Training Services	34	34	34
Income Management				
M2	Financial Education	71	23	23
M4	Asset Development (FAIM)	9	2	9
Housing				
B1	Weatherization	65	159	65
B7	Energy-Related Repairs	162	62	62
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	66	21	21
C5	Small Cities Devel. Grants (SCDG)	35	9	9
C9	Community Homeownership Ed.	93	67	67
Emergency Services				
B5	Energy Assistance	4,942	1,952	1,952
B6	Energy Crisis	522	196	196
B8	Fuel Fund	35	114	114
C10	Homeless Assistance	31	10	31
Linkages				
E1	Transportation System	36,258	36,258	36,258
F3	Chore Services	145	145	7,540
F6	Senior Companions/Foster Grandparents	6	6	476
K1	Information and Referral	6,200	3,090	3,090
K2	Outreach	5,086	2,032	2,032
K3	Advocacy Info./Educ.			
Self-Sufficiency				
J1	Head Start	561	187	187
J6	Child Care Resource & Referral	526	337	337
Health				
I3	Family Planning	1,317	1,317	1,317

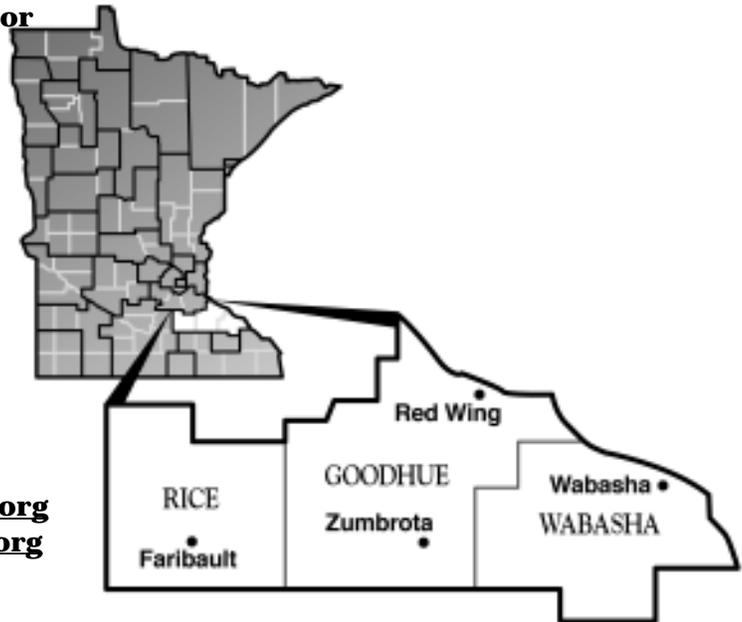
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Results Highlight

Eagle Ridge, Red Wing

Three Rivers Community Action, Inc. is developing a unique rental housing project in Red Wing, Minnesota called Eagle Ridge. With a goal of increasing the supply of safe and decent housing for the local workforce, the 48-unit development is a mix of two- and three-bedroom apartments that are affordable to a variety of families in the community.

The project site is located near local jobs, transportation, and services. Five of the units are targeted to the lowest income populations and are being developed through the state's Minnesota Families Affordable Rental Investment Fund (MARIF) program. These units will be set aside to assist families who are currently working their way off of public assistance and working toward self-sufficiency. The rents for the MARIF units will not exceed \$400 for a two-bedroom or \$450 for a three-bedroom. The rents on the balance of the units will range from \$574 to \$699 per month.

Eagle Ridge is a unique collaboration of a variety of partners including large funders like the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, Greater Minnesota Housing Fund, National Development Council, and Associated Bank of Red Wing. The \$5 million project has also attracted the support of local contributors like the Red Wing Housing and Redevelopment Authority, the Goodhue County Family Services Collaborative, Red Wing resident Carol Duff, Xcel Energy, and the Xcel Energy Foundation. The project is under construction and will be complete in late spring of 2005.

Code	Program	# of People Served	# of Households Served	Times Service Provided
Housing				
B1	Weatherization	220	85	85
B4	Other Conservation Services	178	68	68
B7	Energy-Related Repairs	177	61	61
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	17	5	5
C7	Low-Income Housing Development	39	18	18
C8	Community Housing Stabilization	8	2	2
C9	Community Homeownership Ed.	42	19	19
Emergency Services				
B5	Energy Assistance	3,918	1,630	1,630
B6	Energy Crisis	872	288	288
B8	Fuel Fund	64	17	17
C10	Homeless Assistance	240	85	240
C11	MN Transitional Housing	46	15	46
G8	Crisis Intervention	295	87	87
Nutrition				
H6	Home-Delivered Meals	356	283	36,208
Linkages				
E1	Transportation System	1,493	597	28,636
E3	Transportation Assistance	72	67	507
F1	Senior-Oriented Services	854	236	236
K1	Information and Referral	5,528	2,212	6,636
K2	Outreach	11,056	4,424	4,424
K3	Advocacy Info./Educ.	12,162	4,866	12,162
Self-Sufficiency				
J1	Head Start	1,032	238	254
M5	Family Loan Fund	78	23	23

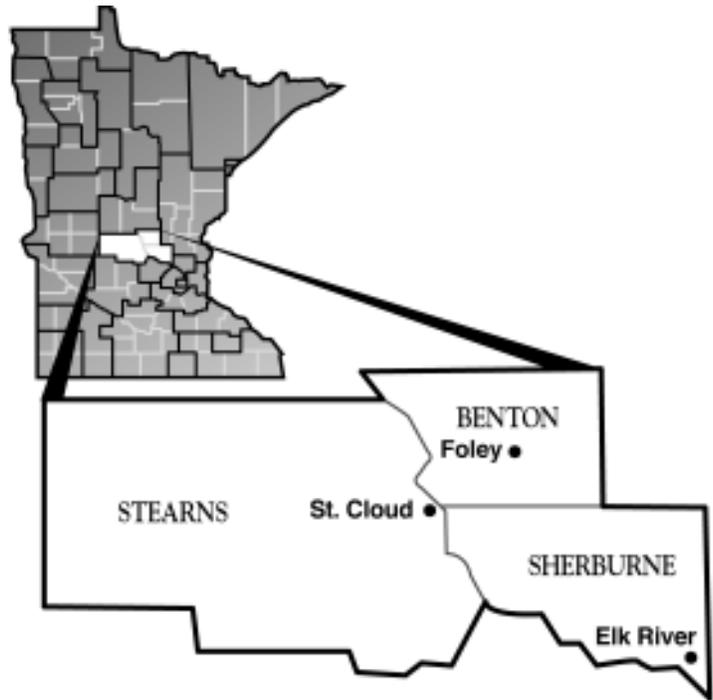
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Results Highlight

Tri-Cap Builds 100 New Homes

In the summer of 1997, Tri-County Action began a new program in which new single-family homes were constructed. These homes were constructed by existing crews and sold to first-time homebuyers. One home was completed and sold in 1997. Two were sold in 1998. The third year, 13 new homes were sold. In November 2004, Tri-Cap sold its 100th new home!

Homes have been constructed in Albany, Belgrade, Melrose, Paynesville, St. Cloud, Sauk Rapids, and Sauk Centre. Buyers obtain mortgages for these homes through the lender of their choice and are able to qualify for low-interest mortgages and down payment assistance programs.

Tri-Cap is a Minnesota state-licensed general contractor. Sub-contractors are used for excavating, masonry, plumbing, heating, electrical, and landscaping. Lots are purchased from land developers and listed through local real estate agencies. Many of the local communities collaborate by providing tax increment financing for the land developer or by providing homebuyers with down payment assistance funds. Along with its own reserve of construction financing, Tri-Cap has received interim construction financing through the Greater Minnesota Housing Fund, the Central Minnesota Initiative Foundation, and Minnesota Housing Finance Agency.

Homeownership allows buyers to build equity and self-esteem, which is a great resource to get them through tough economic situations. It also provides a stable home for the families, which is an important criterion for self-sufficiency. Tri-Cap's Community Development Department continues to provide safe, decent, and affordable homes to low- to moderate-income households in a region of high growth and increasing home prices. One hundred homes in this region have generated more than eleven million dollars in revenue to local communities and businesses, which provides new jobs for many people within the industry.

Code	Program	# of People Served	# of Households Served	Times Service Provided
Employment				
D8	Displaced Homemakers	691	231	231
Income Management				
M2	Financial Education	467	199	698
M3	Tax Aid	1,419	473	473
M4	Asset Development (FAIM)	93	30	93
Housing				
B1	Weatherization	422	177	177
B3	MECS Audits	118	49	49
B7	Energy-Related Repairs	329	125	125
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	36	12	12
C6	Rental Housing Assistance	117	65	65
C7	Low-Income Housing Development	83	31	31
C8	Community Housing Stabilization	147	49	49
Emergency Services				
B5	Energy Assistance	11,314	4,501	4,501
B6	Energy Crisis	1,520	446	446
B8	Fuel Fund	526	160	160
C10	Homeless Assistance	644	292	644
C11	MN Transitional Housing	390	130	390
G8	Crisis Intervention	478	511	511
Nutrition				
H1	Food Assistance	50	17	17
H3	Holiday Projects	19	6	6
Linkages				
E1	Transportation System	2,471	1,647	69,016
E3	Transportation Assistance	246	210	2,100
E4	Vehicle Program	72	24	24
K1	Information and Referral	72,084	24,028	24,028
K2	Outreach	36,588	12,196	12,196
K3	Advocacy Info./Educ.	100,169	56,339	100,169
Self-Sufficiency				
M1	Self-Sufficiency	654	351	700
Health				
I2	Health Care Aid - Financial	51	51	51

Tri-County Community Action, Inc. (TCC)

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Results Highlight

A Woman's Move to Self-Sufficiency

A little more than two years ago, Mary was receiving MFIP benefits and looking for work. Mary's children had been enrolled in Head Start when she learned of and applied for a job opening at Tri-County Community Action, Inc. (TCC) where she could use her clerical training and skills. Mary is now employed at TCC in a full-time job with benefits and is on the road to self-sufficiency.

Mary enrolled in Saving Assets, Valuing Independence (SAVI), a matched-savings individual development account (IDA) operated by TCC. Her goal was to save for a down payment and buy a home. While she was saving, Mary heard about a self-help housing program being started up by USDA's Rural Development Program and the Region 5 Development Commission. Mary has been accepted as one of an initial group of families who are building homes in a neighborhood near TCC's office and its Head Start and child care centers. Rural Development helped with loan funds to acquire the lot, building materials, and subcontractors. The Regional Development Commission is providing technical assistance for the project that will help twelve families build homes over a two-year period. Mary closed on her construction loan and is, with the help of community volunteers, building a home of her own and working full-time for TCC.

TCC also has helped other families to reach the goal of homeownership and self-employment. Additional families are saving for higher education as well. In addition, TCC hopes to be able to involve future interested families in the statewide Family Assets for Independence Minnesota (FAIM) Program.

Code	Program	# of People Served	# of Households Served	Times Service Provided
Income Management				
M2	Financial Education	58	37	114
M4	Asset Development (FAIM)	12	7	12
Housing				
B1	Weatherization	245	102	102
B3	MECS Audits	274	114	114
B4	Other Conservation Services	204	85	85
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	9	5	5
C9	Community Homeownership Ed.	10	7	7
Emergency Services				
G3	Abuse and Neglect	84	35	35
G6	Donated Articles	977	407	407
G8	Crisis Intervention	101	42	42
Linkages				
K1	Information and Referral	2,213	503	503
K2	Outreach	2,213	503	503
K3	Advocacy Info./Educ.	5	5	5
K4	Contract Services	178	75	75
Self-Sufficiency				
J1	Head Start	2,213	503	503
J2	Child Care	530	221	221
J6	Child Care Resource & Referral	257	107	107
M1	Self-Sufficiency	5	3	3
M5	Family Loan Fund	17	13	13
Other				
A1	Community Development	11	6	6

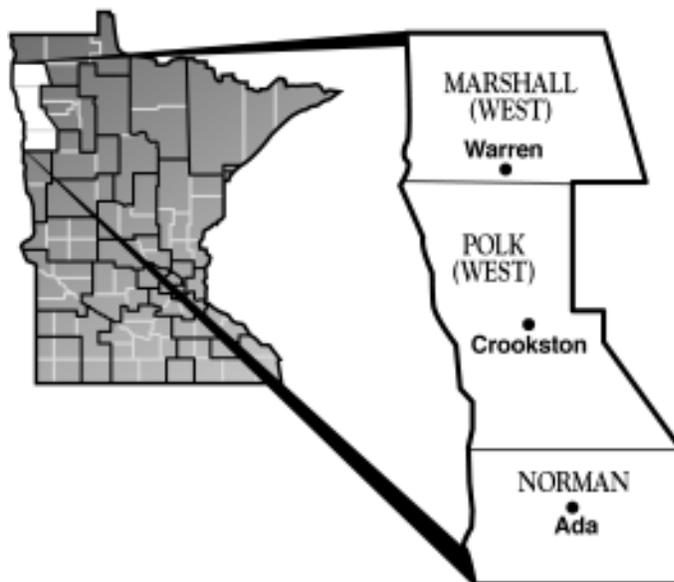
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Results Highlight

Heartland Express Transportation Program

Since 1976, Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc. has sponsored the Heartland Express Transportation Program to provide public transportation services for five northwestern Minnesota counties. The funding for this program is provided via the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) with match-funding coming from each of the five county governments as well as client fees.

Clients from each of the service counties are provided safe, affordable, and handicapped-accessible transportation to get to work, health appointments, shopping, and to attend social events. Each year, more than 6,500 individuals are provided these services with more than 71,340 rides provided by ten buses traveling 207,964 miles.

Added to this vital transportation service is the Rural Transportation Collaborative. This multi-county, volunteer-driver program provides a computerized matching of the needs identified by clients to those volunteer drivers who have the capacity to get them to their destinations on a more one-to-one basis. This becomes a crucial linkage between clients and numerous health providers throughout the state of Minnesota each year and has been a strongly supported program by the participating county governments.

Recently, Tri-Valley was awarded a MnDOT grant to purchase and renovate a facility in Crookston, Minnesota that will evolve into a state-of-the-art office, training room, and vehicle maintenance/storage complex. Along with several partners including the local public school, developmental achievement center, hospital, Head Start, and others, this building will bring together multiple agencies in a collaborative endeavor that will reduce redundancies and make transportation in northwestern Minnesota more efficient and effective.

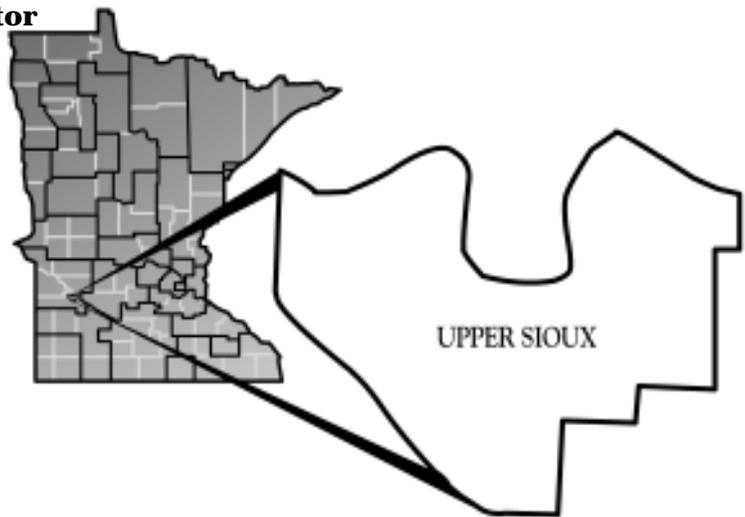
Code	Program	# of People Served	# of Households Served	Times Service Provided
Education				
L1	GED & Educational Services	8	8	1
Housing				
B1	Weatherization	220	88	88
B3	MECS Audits	303	121	121
B4	Other Conservation Services	96	35	35
B7	Energy-Related Repairs	123	49	49
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	14	6	6
C9	Community Homeownership Ed.	75	30	30
Emergency Services				
B5	Energy Assistance	4,558	1,817	1,817
B6	Energy Crisis	655	262	262
B8	Fuel Fund	192	59	59
C10	Homeless Assistance	340	76	340
C11	MN Transitional Housing	28	9	28
G6	Donated Articles	1,153	457	457
Linkages				
E1	Transportation System	8,853	2,051	66,982
E3	Transportation Assistance	490	460	6,376
F3	Chore Services	701	696	76,660
F6	Senior Companions/Foster Grandparents	1,222	1,222	1,222
K1	Information and Referral	318	281	286
K2	Outreach	835	827	827
K3	Advocacy Info./Educ.	6,207	2,682	4,524
Self-Sufficiency				
J1	Head Start	4,619	1,073	1,576
J2	Child Care	105	105	135
J6	Child Care Resource & Referral	615	205	205
J8	Parenting Education	2,146	1,073	1,073
J9	Fatherhood Initiative	49	49	49
Health				
I2	Health Care Aid - Financial	1,203	1,203	2,249

Upper Sioux Community

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Results Highlight

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 Community Action 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	# of People Served	# of Households Served	Times Service Provided
Employment				
D6	Senior Employment Programs	1	1	1
Nutrition				
H3	Holiday Projects	40	35	35
H6	Home-Delivered Meals	46	46	12,500
H7	Congregate Meals	14	12	1,460
Linkages				
E3	Transportation Assistance	20	18	18
F3	Chore Services	5	5	5
K2	Outreach	399	156	156
K3	Advocacy Info./Educ.	399	156	156
Self-Sufficiency				
J8	Parenting Education	15	12	15
Health				
I1	Health Care Aid Non-Financial	209	152	209

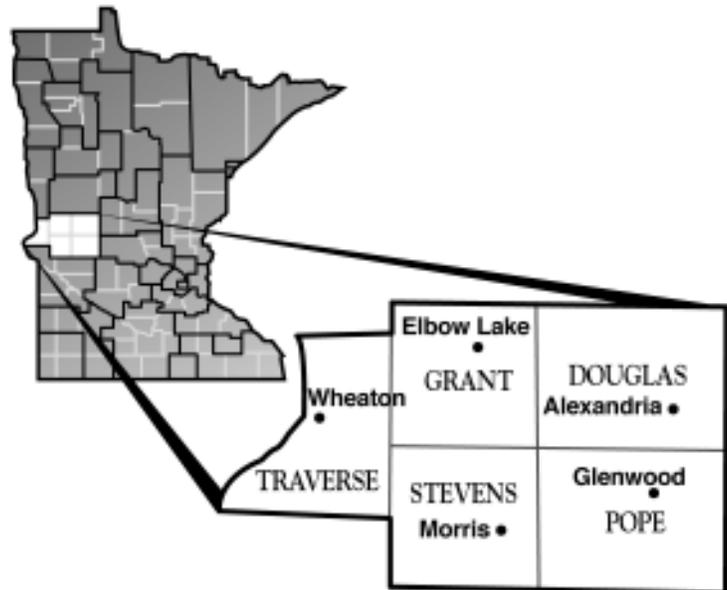
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Results Highlight

JumpStart™ Program Meets the Transportation Needs of Low-Income Families

In rural Minnesota, a car is necessary to get to work and provide for a family's needs. A reliable car improves access to better jobs, good child care, and needed medical services. West Central Minnesota Communities Action (WCMCA), Inc. has partnered with WestCAP in Glenwood City, Wisconsin to replicate a successful program that helps low-income families affordably meet their transportation needs. WestCAP is a licensed car dealer that buys late model, low-mileage, fuel-efficient cars after an extensive mechanical overview. The cars are no more than three years old, have less than 30,000 miles, and get greater than 32 miles/gallon.

WCMCA, Inc. offers its client base the opportunity to purchase these vehicles. Down payment assistance is available to families at or below 200% of poverty. The Bremer Foundation, Northwest Area Foundation, and WCMCA, Inc. collaboratively fund this program. WCMCA, Inc. also has collaborated with Bremer Bank and the Bank of Ogema to provide its families loans at a competitive rate of interest.

JumpStart™ is a WCMCA program in Douglas, Grant, Pope, Stevens, and Traverse Counties that helps eligible, low-income families to buy cars that meet their transportation needs. Any low-income family at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines that needs a reliable car to get to work, child care services, or medical services can apply. To qualify, households must have a valid driver's license, the ability to make car loan and insurance payments, and no recent history of DWI or DUI violations.

Once the applicants qualify, a JumpStart™ family self-sufficiency counselor assists families with understanding their credit history, including credit repair. The counselor then submits the application to a financial institution for approval and assist with that process. Applicants must agree:

- to make car and insurance payments on-time;
- to properly maintain the vehicle;
- to operate the vehicle safely; and,
- to not allow others (besides a spouse) to drive the car.

Code	Program	# of People Served	# of Households Served	Times Service Provided
Income Management				
M2	Financial Education	428	140	809
M3	Tax Aid	1,283	513	513
M4	Asset Development (FAIM)	153	43	153
Housing				
B1	Weatherization	792	285	285
B3	MECS Audits	321	114	114
B7	Energy-Related Repairs	831	277	277
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	16	12	12
C5	Small Cities Devel. Grants (SCDG)	102	36	36
C7	Low-Income Housing Development	32	15	15
C8	Community Housing Stabilization	18	5	5
C9	Community Homeownership Ed.	15	7	7
Emergency Services				
B5	Energy Assistance	11,423	4,569	4,569
B6	Energy Crisis	2,798	947	947
B8	Fuel Fund	88	27	27
C10	Homeless Assistance	1,052	397	1,052
C11	MN Transitional Housing	12	4	12
Nutrition				
H1	Food Assistance	1,036	259	259
Linkages				
F1	Senior-Oriented Services	101	67	67
F5	Retired Senior Vol. (RSVP)	1,371	914	914
F6	Senior Companions/Foster Grandparents	206	103	206
K1	Information and Referral	18,140	6,297	6,297
K2	Outreach	2,478	845	845
K3	Advocacy Info./Educ.	8,265	2,755	8,265
K4	Contract Services	6	2	2
Self-Sufficiency				
J1	Head Start	852	274	284
M5	Family Loan Fund	221	65	65

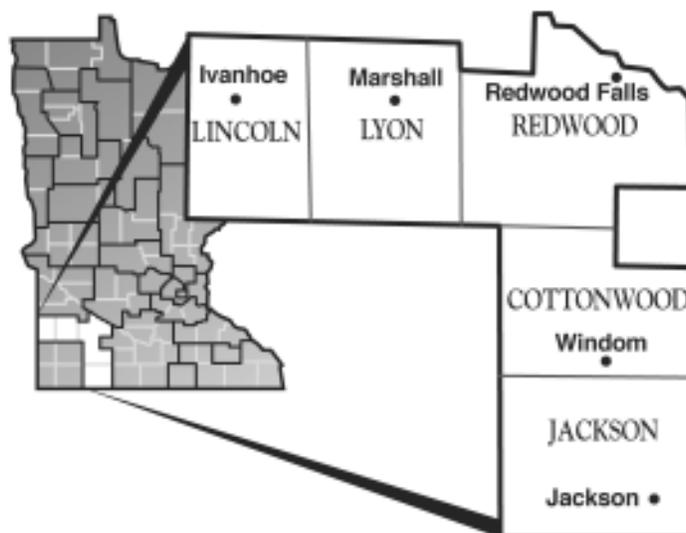
Western Community Action, Inc.

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Results Highlight

Support Group for Grandparents (or other relatives) Raising Grandchildren

The Lyon County Raising Our Children's Kids (R.O.C.K.) Support Group for kinship care providers began holding monthly meetings in January of 2004. The work began as a result of Western Community Action's acceptance of \$5,000.00 in funding from the Minnesota Kinship Caregivers Association to provide services in support of caregivers. Through interaction with clients of Head Start, child care services, and self-sufficiency/family development programs, Western Community Action became aware of a growing number of relative caregivers. They also learned of the burden this group carries – emotionally, physically, and financially, and in some instances, legally, as they care for the children.

Often, grandparents are forced into very difficult financial situations as they deal with the cost of caring for a child(ren) at a time in their lives when they may be living on a fixed income or hoping to move into retirement. Children also face problems as they enter into these new relationships. A support/education group focused on kinship caregivers provides an opportunity to share experiences, support each other, and receive information with a goal of averting crisis situations for their families. Each meeting had a primary focus and a trained facilitator led discussions/trainings on topics such as: You Are Not Alone, Issues at School, Keeping Children Safe, and Grandchildren's and Grandparents' Emotional Issues.

While the initial funding for this program has ended and the group has redrawn its service areas into very large, multi-county areas, Western Community Action, Inc. hopes and intends to continue to provide this important support group. Western Community Action currently receives funding from the SW Minnesota United Way and intends to seek additional funds, as appropriate. They also hope to continue to collaborate with the Minnesota Kinship Caregivers Association and/or with their regional service agency to provide support for relative caregivers.

Code	Program	# of People Served	# of Households Served	Times Service Provided
Income Management				
M2	Financial Education	53	31	152
M4	Asset Development (FAIM)	20	15	20
Housing				
B1	Weatherization	350	147	147
B4	Other Conservation Services	158	80	80
B7	Energy-Related Repairs	41	41	41
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	105	47	70
C5	Small Cities Devel. Grants (SCDG)	621	266	266
C6	Rental Housing Assistance	4	3	3
C8	Community Housing Stabilization	16	16	16
C9	Community Homeownership Ed.	181	132	132
Emergency Services				
B5	Energy Assistance	5,557	2,089	2,089
B6	Energy Crisis	219	219	219
B8	Fuel Fund	35	11	11
C10	Homeless Assistance	282	137	282
C11	MN Transitional Housing	35	16	35
G6	Donated Articles	12,308	6,550	6,550
G8	Crisis Intervention	12	6	6
Nutrition				
H1	Food Assistance	2,007	826	2,245
H6	Home-Delivered Meals	445	401	10,526
H7	Congregate Meals	2,045	1,709	35,267
Linkages				
E1	Transportation System	2,839	1,613	108,241
K1	Information and Referral	2,416	5,736	5,636
K2	Outreach	2,408	5,850	5,850
K3	Advocacy Info./Educ.	5,090	12,347	12,347
K4	Contract Services	327	795	795
Self-Sufficiency				
J1	Head Start	296	287	296
J2	Child Care	1,720	708	814
J4	At-Risk Youth	306	272	272
J6	Child Care Resource & Referral	411	411	411
J8	Parenting Education	37	37	37
M1	Self-Sufficiency	140	60	60
M5	Family Loan Fund	16	5	5

White Earth Reservation Tribal Council

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Results Highlight

Elderly Nutrition Isn't Just About Eating

For 30 years, the White Earth Nutrition Program has provided congregate and home-delivered meals to Indian and non-Indian elders residing on the White Earth Indian Reservation. Currently, there are five nutrition sites, including Big Elbow Lake, Naytahwaush, Pine Point, Rice Lake, and White Earth. While these meals are very important, especially to those homebound, services don't stop there. Staff partners with the White Earth Diabetes Project, White Earth Health Education, White Earth Home Health, county extension services, and others to provide nutrition education, counseling, support groups, information and referral, and physical fitness education and exercise sessions.

Dining with Diabetes, a program designed for people with diabetes and their families, has been a great addition to the nutrition sites this year. This collaborative program consists of a three-class series that includes learning, demonstrations, and tasting healthy foods. Nutrition intervention is an important component of preventative health care that allows elders to acquire and maintain quality of life and independence. The White Earth Elderly Nutrition Program has reintroduced many traditional healthy foods to the menu, including buffalo meat, wild rice, whole grains, and fresh produce.

Other healthy food activities included container planting this spring. Elders who are unable to maintain a large garden were able to plant vegetables in containers to take home and enjoy. Making Reduced Sugar Jams and Jellies was another hands-on activity offered. Elders gathered together, 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.

The White Earth also held many health presentations and activities. Two elder groups, Senior Citizens of White Earth and Minnesota Indian Council of Elders remain active with fundraisers and volunteer projects.

Code	Program	# of People Served	# of Households Served	Times Service Provided
Employment				
D1	Employment & Training Services	93	93	93
D3	Youth Employment	129	121	129
Education				
L1	GED & Educational Services	41	41	41
L2	Literacy	22	9	22
L3	English/Second Language (ESL)	3	1	3
L4	Adult Basic Education (ABE)	116	94	116
Income Management				
M2	Financial Education	63	58	94
M3	Tax Aid	112	9	9
Housing				
B1	Weatherization	39	20	20
B7	Energy-Related Repairs	304	76	76
C3	Home Repair/Rehabilitation	39	19	19
C6	Rental Housing Assistance	13	12	12
C8	Community Housing Stabilization	8	7	7
Emergency Services				
B5	Energy Assistance	2,738	685	685
B6	Energy Crisis	1,080	286	286
C10	Homeless Assistance	718	302	718
C11	MN Transitional Housing	13	13	13
G1	Emergency Family Services	119	72	119
G3	Abuse and Neglect	684	493	493
G6	Donated Articles	12	11	11
G8	Crisis Intervention	316	119	119
Nutrition				
H1	Food Assistance	23	23	23
H3	Holiday Projects	2,912	1,089	1,089
H4	Women, Infants, Children (WIC)	890	525	9,925
H5	Gardening	13	10	10
H6	Home-Delivered Meals	87	70	15,080
H7	Congregate Meals	296	220	22,366
H9	USDA Commodity Assistance	13212	6898	6898
Linkages				
E3	Transportation Assistance	693	636	679
E4	Vehicle Program	4	4	4
K1	Information and Referral	1,178	1,043	3,131
K2	Outreach	353	241	1,795
K3	Advocacy Info./Educ.	71,973	23,833	33
Self-Sufficiency				
J1	Head Start	237	163	237
J2	Child Care	416	136	416
J3	Child Care Administration	186	50	186
J4	At-Risk Youth	302	148	148
J6	Child Care Resource & Referral	1,488	692	692
J7	Youth Recreation	9	9	9
J8	Parenting Education	1,146	729	1,146
J9	Fatherhood Initiative	27	27	27
J10	Crisis Nursery	39	39	39
M1	Self-Sufficiency	464	311	131

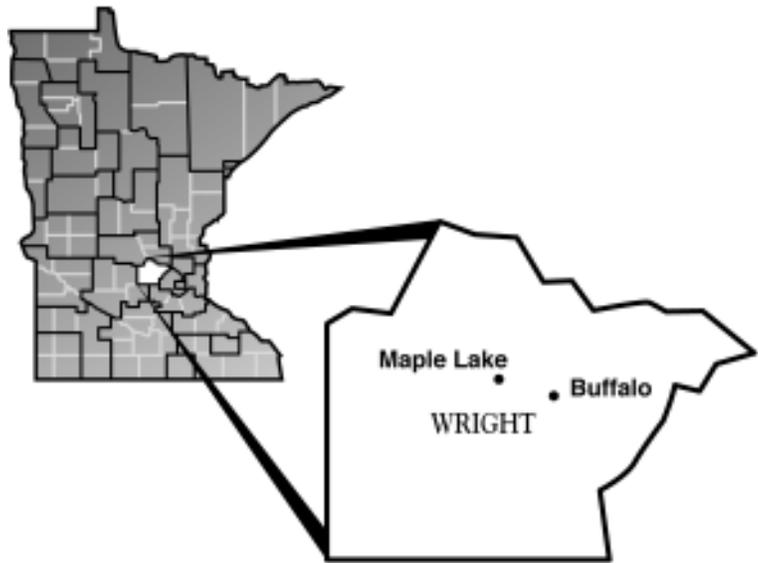
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Results Highlight

Extended-Day Head Start Programs

The Wright County Community Action Head Start Extended-Day Programs provide continuous service from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. for families working on becoming economically self-sufficient. Extended day programs are offered in Monticello, off of the Interstate 94 corridor; Montrose, off of the Highway 12 corridor; and in Buffalo, off of the Highway 55 corridor. These programs help families become self-sufficient by allowing parents to work full-time or continue their education.

Head Start focuses on preparing young children ages three to five years, and their families, for a successful future. The Buffalo Extended-Day Program, located at the Wright Technical Center, provides unique opportunities for students to work with the children as “buddies.” This is an exemplary model that provides valuable work experience to youth in the community who are considering child development careers.

Enrolled families must be employed or enrolled in an education program that will lead to employment. Activities are designed to strengthen the ability of children to learn and succeed in school. Essential information, training, and services are provided to parents to assist them to build a better life for their children and to fulfill their role as the primary educator of their children. Parents support and participate in the process through literacy activities, home visits, parent training, committees, classroom activities, the Head Start Policy Council, antiviolence activities, and family activity days.

Code	Program	# of People Served	# of Households Served	Times Service Provided
Education				
L1	GED & Educational Services	1,119	852	1,119
L2	Literacy	740	501	1,310
Income Management				
M2	Financial Education	269	86	269
M3	Tax Aid	270	169	169
Housing				
B1	Weatherization	118	44	44
B7	Energy Related Repairs	116	40	40
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	30	12	12
C5	Small Cities Devel. Grants (SCDG)	37	12	12
C9	Community Homeownership Ed.	172	84	84
Emergency Services				
B5	Energy Assistance	4,647	1,603	1,603
B6	Energy Crisis	1,122	347	347
B8	Fuel Fund	323	105	105
C10	Homeless Assistance	192	54	192
C11	MN Transitional Housing	24	10	24
G6	Donated Articles	1,9331	5,213	5,213
Nutrition				
H1	Food Assistance	1,276	357	357
H3	Holiday Projects	426	122	122
H4	Women, Infants, Children (WIC)	3,314	1,905	24,276
Linkages				
F6	Senior Companions/Foster Grandparents	529	147	147
K1	Information and Referral	55,964	18,655	55,964
K2	Outreach	14,156	4,719	14,156
K3	Advocacy Info./Educ.	35,042	11,681	35,042
Self-Sufficiency				
J1	Head Start	1,397	329	376
M5	Family Loan Fund	11	3	3
Health				
I3	Family Planning	284	284	284
Other				
A1	Community Development	2,684	2	2

Examples and Success Stories

Living on the Edge in Itasca County

Jeremy Schultz, 24, Courtney Billings, 25, Kole Billings, 7, and Jayden Schultz, 8 months, live in a rental house in Deer River but have dreams of one day owning their own home. "Our goal is to find something which is rent-to-own or contract for deed or be able to flat out buy something someday," said Courtney. A home of their own would be a long way from where they were last winter living in a fifth wheel camper. Jeremy was still going through intensive rehabilitation on both knees after a truck hit his motorcycle and left him out of work for two years. The two were in the process of getting Kole to come live with them and Courtney was pregnant with her second child.

There has been a great cost for Jeremy's rehabilitation, and a lawsuit ensued. Courtney also has been involved in a lawsuit in the past year with the cosmetology school which expelled her with only 15 hours left to go. She won the lawsuit but the school still has not let her return to finish. Now that three years have passed she said she would have to take the entire 1,550 hour course over again. Courtney, too, needed surgery this year on her wrist for something known as scapholunate.

"In the last year we have had quite a few ups and downs and things just seem to even themselves out and you just keep going otherwise nothing is going to happen," said Courtney. "I know there's a lot of milestones out ahead of us, but we have come a long way ... we are not in the camper anymore. We got our bills paid and food on the table."

Part of the changes started when the family joined Circles of Support in June.

Circles of Support is a program sponsored by KOOTASCA Community Action and funded by the Blandin Foundation. It is a program which matches families or individuals living in poverty with volunteers from the community, known as allies. Participants are ready and willing to make a change in order to lift themselves out of poverty and allies must be willing to become friends and mentors with those participants. Becky Maunu, Drew Prochazka and Tom Kinnunen are the community allies who form the circle of support around Courtney and Jeremy and their children.

Courtney said, "I have always dreamed of having a friend in my mother. And now I have that in Becky." Courtney said that she had always dreamed of having this type of relationship because, "It is important to have someone to talk to you and listen to you and tell you when you are wrong, too, and to support you and guide you and to be a mentor. And that's not something that I had before." Having male role models like Drew Prochazka, the financial ally, and Tom Kinnunen, the educational ally, has been beneficial for both Courtney and Jeremy as well. Prochazka has sprinkled Courtney and Jeremy with his entrepreneurial spirit and has been helping Jeremy earn his commercial drivers license by letting him practice on some of his company vehicles.

Someday Jeremy, a Greenway High School graduate, dreams of attending the Motorcycle Mechanics Institute in Arizona and opening up his own shop where he can work on small engines. Courtney, talks of getting training in management or a degree in accounting so that she can work with him. After Drew put in a good recommendation for him, Jeremy interviewed last week for a job which would put his passion for small engines and skills at repair to work. Jeremy stated that the interview went well but he has yet to hear back about a job offer.

In the meantime, Courtney is a waitress at a restaurant in Deer River. She only works 20 to 35 hours a week and waitresses in general only earn a little more than \$5 an hour.

"What I make doesn't make ends meet," said Courtney. The two rely partly on the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) which provides a cash grant including food to families with children. There are 269 cases including 328 adults and 457 children on MFIB in Itasca County as of June in Itasca County.

The family wants to get off assistance.

“I don’t think anybody likes to be on MFIP,” said Courtney. “That is probably one of the most embarrassing things to say ... We are still in poverty, but we are trying to do something about it. It can take a long time.” When the barriers seem like too much to overcome how does the family maintain hope? “We pray together every night,” said Courtney. “And we support each other when we are up and when we are down. And now we have three other people who help with that ...”

Kinnunen a retired teacher, principal and college professor said, “I always went under that adage even when I was teaching, that God gives each of us special gifts, but we open them at different times. All these people have gifts and we just have to find what they are and open them. And then they open things for us too.”

This year has offered up several gifts to the family: a house to live in, new friends, a new baby. But there are bigger dreams -a job that pays enough, better money management skills, funds to finally get married, a house of their own. Courtney said, “I am grateful that Becky and Drew and Tom take time out of their busy schedules to make time for us, because it makes us feel important and it lets us know that people do care.”

While Courtney and Jeramy are thankful for how far they have come in the last year, they have a long way to go, and perhaps so, too, does a society in which so many people are forced to live in poverty.

Community Action: Senior Successes

New Systems for Older Problems

The Care and Respite Education Program (CARE) targets long-term care system change to help communities keep persons 65 and older in their homes and communities and supports their families. Rural elderly are very diverse in their characteristics and needs and live in a variety of communities with unique resources and problems. Many aging people do not have adult children living near, but increasingly need many services. The challenges underlying many rural service network problems are compounded by distance, low population densities, and funding cuts.

These systems changes bring a fundamental challenge for the aging network in Region 6W to transition from an emphasis on service delivery to longer-term capacity building efforts for creating and integrating systems to support caregivers. Because of limited funding, the ability to effectively reach and serve the caregiver population must be tied to partnerships with other agencies and organizations to leverage and coordinate resources for creating positive outcomes for families.

Prairie Five Community Action Council provides resources and solutions. Prairie Five has expanded their services by 20% for the aging population over the past three years. They collaborate with the public and private sector to meet local needs. Prairie Five serves as the fiscal agent and commits staff resources to facilitate grant objectives, processes, etc.

Prairie Five partners include Chippewa, Lac qui Parle, Big Stone, and Yellow Medicine Counties, as well as with the Regional Development Commission, Countryside Public Health, community education, nursing facilities, housing, hospitals, clinics, homecare providers, Woodland Centers, and the Upper Sioux Reservation.

This effort has increased communication and coordination among the community's health care, long-term care, and supportive services providers. The CARE Program has helped 949 seniors with education, assistance, and respite. In a number of these cases, people have been able to stay in their homes, delaying nursing home placement while saving the individuals as well as taxpayers thousands of dollars.

Partnering for Seniors' Initiatives

Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties' Independent Living, Senior Nutrition Program includes two programs that have a strong emphasis on seniors' nutritional needs and a third that increases intergenerational social relationships between seniors and youth.

First, Community Action Partnership has developed a partnership with Second Harvest Heartland on the Produce for Seniors Program. This program provides fresh produce to the 312 seniors on the Meals On Wheels Program. More than 95% of these clients are at or below the poverty level and confined to their homes. They do not have the mobility or financial means to obtain fresh produce, which is an integral part of their nutritional needs. Second Harvest provides, packages, and delivers produce at no cost to the seniors through its Meal On Wheels delivery system.

Second, in collaboration with Wingspan Resources 2, Community Action Partnership procures a culturally appropriate noon meal for their Hmong Adult Day Service. These are Hmong elders that attend the day service primarily to alleviate isolation. Since the Hmong elders' lifestyle has changed dramatically since immigrating to the United State, it is imperative for general health reasons that they have a culturally appropriate meal. Menus are developed with input from the Hmong elders and prepared by an appropriate provider. Presently, there are more than six hundred of these meals being served monthly.

Third, the Intergenerational Program allows seniors from the north end of St. Paul and sixth grade students from St. Paul North Elementary School to work together on craft projects for the North End/Como Park Meals on Wheels Program. With support from the St. Paul Parks and Recreation Department and the St. Paul School District, the groups work together on crafts that are distributed to approximately eighty-five clients four to five times during the school year. A bond of respect and understanding as developed between the seniors, the students, and the craft recipients.

Community Action: Youth on the Move

Perseverance Pays Off

Jake began working with Minnesota Valley Action Council's Summer Youth Program in May 2000. At the time, he was going through some personal difficulties and was not able to complete the program.

Jake got the help he needed and started attending school at day treatment. In June 2002, he began the Summer Youth Program again and was successful. Jake participated in the year-round WIA Youth Program in September 2002.

In January 2003, Jake successfully transitioned from the Day Treatment Alternative Learning Center. Jake was overcoming his difficulties and doing better at home and in school. Jake worked in the maintenance department of the local county courthouse from January 2003 until May 2004.

Jake worked hard and got better at his job. He took more initiative and became more motivated. He rarely missed a day of work and was always on time. His supervisor described Jake's improvement over the two years as "remarkable." Jake is now more outgoing and talkative and gets along well with all his co-workers. His supervisor said that Jake has a lot of potential, is very patient, and has abilities that will make him successful.

Jake graduated from high school in June 2004. He plans to attend a two-year college to complete his general education credits and then transfer to a four-year college to get his degree. Jake loves animals and would like to become a police officer and work in the K-9 unit.

YouthBuild's Record of Success

There are many special YouthBuild success stories. One of which is that of a young man who completed the YouthBuild Program, earned his diploma, qualified for Rural Development (USDA) financing, and bought the house his YouthBuild team had built!

The Bi-CAP YouthBuild program is a comprehensive youth development program for young people ages 16 to 24 who have dropped out of high school. The program focuses on high school completion and job-readiness. It is the only program of this nature in the two-county service area that is so comprehensive. Bi-CAP serves 20-30 youth in a 12-month period. The youth are paid \$6.00/hour for the 32 hours/week they participate in YouthBuild. Bi-CAP's YouthBuild components include construction education, leadership development, counseling, and graduate resources. The job readiness/training vehicle used is construction. Bi-CAP YouthBuild constructs one new, single-family house a year. This is in turn sold to an eligible low-income homebuyer.

Last May, for example, seven YouthBuilders graduated with high school diplomas. Five became employed and the other two went on to post-secondary training. All of the YouthBuilders gained at least two grade-levels in literacy and numeracy.

Many YouthBuilders have criminal records or have been adjudicated. Although YouthBuild is not an inexpensive program, the investment is well worth it, when compared with jail or prison costs. The YouthBuild Program actually increases the number of wage earners in the community, as well as the number of taxpayers. The youth involved learn the importance of giving back to their community as well.

Community Action: Advocacy Is Powerful

A Home of Her Own

Lori had been a single parent for eighteen years. She had always wanted a single-family home that would allow her family to have a sense of stability. Lori learned about the FAIM program that assists account holders with matched savings that can be used for a down payment on a home. She was one of the first to enroll and immediately begin saving.

Lori took the Home Stretch class and learned many useful things, among them, the possibility of obtaining a mortgage through Rural Development through USDA. At first, Lori was turned down for a mortgage, but staff from two agencies helped her determine what she needed to do to repair her credit to qualify for a mortgage. Lori worked hard and in the next year was able to qualify.

Lori was thrilled to begin the process of choosing a new home. She soon discovered that most of the homes in her price range were older and would require substantial updating. Then she saw a sign for new homes. Lori chose a floor plan that would work well for her and, because it was not yet complete, was able to choose carpeting, tile, and counter tops. "Never my wildest dreams did I imagine myself in this situation. I am on cloud nine," she said.

West Central Communities Action, Inc. using Department of Correction's crews constructed Lori's wonderful new home. The coordination of each of these programs to meet Lori's needs gave her, "an awesome feeling of pride and a real sense of stability and roots."

Back in Business

Topa, his wife, and three children had recently escaped their war-torn country and wanted to start a new life in America. Topa's MFIP financial worker referred him to Olmsted County's Community Action Program last October. Topa was not able to work because he was very ill with Hepatitis and pneumonia. He was hoping that he would regain weight so the doctors would let him find employment. He was highly educated and successful back in his country, but in the United States, he had to begin his education all over again.

The Olmsted Community Action Program was able to help the family secure stable housing. They also were able to set them up with referrals to furnish their apartment, get school supplies for their children, and food for the family. A local Christmas program supplied gifts for the holidays. Topa was always very grateful for the assistance.

When his health improved, he was able to find employment with a local restaurant and his wife learned English. After working at the restaurant for several months, he saved enough money to buy a franchise in a local business. His wife now works with him and they are no longer on public assistance and are paying their own way as part of the community.

Working Together for Wanamingo

In Southeastern Minnesota, there have been a number of home healthcare and hospice programs that have closed. As a result, there is confusion about the availability of services. The Three Rivers Family Caregiver Advocacy Program, Meals-On-Wheels, and Goodhue County Collaboration have come together to help people in Wanamingo. As caregiver advocates, we can look at the needs of clients and locate alternate services for them.

For one family in need of hospice care, we contacted four hospice providers in Red Wing, Faribault, and Rochester and finally found one, Seasons Hospice that is willing to serve the Wanamingo area. This partnership was able to set-up the service for the family.

This partnership also has been working with families to provide elderly family members with meals in their homes. They arranged Meals-On-Wheels for one family. Once that started, the family said they also needed home healthcare. Again, because a number of providers are now closed, a search was required. After many calls, staff was able to find a home healthcare aide who could service Wanamingo. There are two new non-medical home health agencies in the area, but they do not yet have staff to cover Wanamingo.

Two sisters in their late 80s need transportation from their home to get groceries and household supplies. Their cousin has been busy with farming and they would like to get out. Through the Goodhue County Collaboration grant, a grant was written for the City of Wanamingo. They received a grant to provide transportation, using a van, a donated school bus, and volunteers. These services nicely complement the Goodhue County Public Health Volunteer Driver Program.

In addition, Three River's Caregiver Program has been able to develop a caregiver library, obtain a new digital camera, and portable microphone system. The program is developing expertise in discount prescription drug programs and will have a wonderful ad in the Today Magazine. The Caregiver Program is working very well as a complement to Three River's meal program.

Slicing through the Red Tape

Robert, a single dad who worked a part-time job for a rural city, was struggling to fix up his house. This rural city received a Small Cities Development Housing Grant, but Robert did not apply. He said that he had heard bad things about the program and wasn't interested. But, he still wanted to fix up his house.

Everyone kept talking. With help from the city staff, Prairie Five Community Action Council's staff discovered that Robert had ownership issues on the house, which would keep him from being eligible for the program. Prairie Five's staff and Robert were able to get the ownership issues resolved, through the assistance of a pro-bono attorney. This enabled this single dad to apply for the housing grant and get the assistance he needed to fix his home.

Community Action: Helping Clients Succeed

Finding their Way

Through their services, Semcac field services staff strives to help people achieve or maintain their independence and self-reliance through their own and community resources.

In February, Jack visited his local Semcac Contact Center and explained that the apartment he, his partner Diane, and their two-year-old child were living in was about to be leveled for a city project. His landlord said that Jack's family had to be out in less than three weeks.

Jack was working 25 hours/week at Pizza Hut and 35 hours/week in a local foundry. Diane was close to completing a Licensed Nurse Practitioner program. The couple had their first month's rent for a new apartment and money to switch the utilities, but they did not have the required security deposit. Semcac was able to pay Jack and Diane's deposit with funds from the Rural Housing Assistance and Stability Program, and staff provided referrals to meet their other needs.

Jack continued to stay in contact with Semcac's field services staff, and in May, he met with staff for a three-month follow-up visit. Jack had been permanently laid-off from the foundry, but he had been promoted at Pizza Hut and now worked 40 hours/week and received benefits. The family was current on all their bills and Jack was able to leave Medical Assistance.

In July, Jack and Diane attended Semcac's Rent Smart course. In August, Jack called Semcac staff to say that Diane now was employed at a local hospice during the day and he was still working evenings as Pizza Hut's night manager. Their work schedules made it possible to avoid full-time childcare expenses for their child. The entire family was now off Medical Assistance and Jack had received another raise. Jack's family had reached economic self-reliance, had maintained housing, and had achieved stability.

When Having a Job Just Isn't Enough

Head Start/Early Head Start parents are working minimum wage or just above minimum wage jobs. The average hourly wage for new employment for these parents range from \$6.77 to \$8.22/hour. These hourly wages are not sufficient to raise a family and provide for their basic needs. How can they make ends meet?

Mahube Community Action's Head Start/Early Head Start Program staff referred these parents to the West Central Initiative—Career Advancement Program in the hopes of increasing their earning potential. Staff also provided case management as needed and helped the parents with transportation and child care needs, so parents could attend scheduled career advancement appointments.

In partnering with the Career Advancement Program, this agency provided Head Start/Early Head Start parents the opportunity to receive individualized job training services. Job training services included: establishing goals and training needs, developing a training program to increase skills, working one-on-one as needed throughout the training period, and assisting clients financially with child care and transportation expenses.

Impact and Results

Mahube Head Start staff referred 40 individuals to the Career Advancement Program. Services provided included career assessment and career exploration opportunities, such as informational interviews and Internet research. Individuals also received assistance and support to begin school, an apprenticeship, and/or training programs. Support included receiving financial assistance to cover portions of child care mileage, tuition, registration fees, and other barriers that individuals faced. Twenty-five Head Start individuals received financial assistance of up to \$500.

The Career Advancement Program Coordinator reported that the average wage increase for the 25 participants was \$2.00/hour.

Hope for Melissa

This is the story of a little girl whose name is Melissa. Her parents were focused on their many problems and responsibilities. There was little attention left for Melissa. Melissa's mother was remarried and struggling with chemical dependency. Melissa's father was raising her, but he also struggled with his own drug problems, which forced him to place Melissa in the care of her uncle.

Thanks to Western Community Action Agency's Big Buddies Program, a mentor named Sara entered into Melissa's life. Sara had the time and resources to focus special attention on Melissa.

Sara made and kept a commitment to Melissa, supporting her through many life and family transitions. During their time together, Melissa had been shuffled between four different foster parents, numerous relatives, and was finally reunited with her father. In the midst of all this, Melissa has found stability, friendship, encouragement, and new found self-esteem with Sara's help. Now, in addition to her father, Melissa has another caring adult in her life and is on the path to a bright future.

A Constant Struggle

John and Barb are the adult members of a rural, central Minnesota family of four. Both John and Barb work, but regularly struggle to pay child support and rent on their apartment each month.

In 2003, John was the primary wage earner. Barb began working in September. Near the end of December, they both got very sick. John was out of work for two weeks and Barb was out for a week. When John returned to work, his hours were cut. He didn't know that he could apply for unemployment benefits. When he did apply in January, he had to wait a week until he could receive his first check. They had enough money to buy groceries and pay the electric bill, but they could not afford to pay rent.

John and Barb paid their January rental payment late. On February 12, they received a notice to pay the February rent or vacate the premises. The county had previously assisted them so they couldn't get additional county assistance for 18 months. As a result, the county financial worker referred them to Lakes and Pines.

By the time Lakes and Pines had worked with John and Barb to complete their Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance (FHPAP) application and negotiated with the landlord, it was already the last week in February. John had started back to work, but was still waiting for his paycheck. FHPAP helped stop an eviction by paying \$625 for February rent and another \$625 for March rent. Assistance was coordinated with the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program funds.

Barb regularly has kept in touch with Lakes and Pines. She informed them that although things are moving forward, they still struggle. Their monthly income is about \$1850 and their monthly expenses are about \$2246. These numbers don't jive. They have looked for a less expensive place to live, but moving is costly. Their landlord is willing to work with them and even lowered the rent. This family is exceptional. John, Barb and their family really try hard. They refuse to give up. But for this family, it truly is a constant struggle to survive.

Looking Strong and Standing Proud

During the busy energy assistance season, a man entered Heartland Community Action looking strong and standing proud. He sat in a chair in an intake room, broke down and wept. He said he was unable to pay his heat and electric bills, and his utilities had just been disconnected.

He has generally been employed for the past fifteen years, but all his jobs had been low-paying, and interrupted by periodic lay-offs. He said that he is "sick and tired" of needing assistance...again. He said he wished he had gone to "something like technical school" so that he could at least put food on the table, and keep his wife and children warm.

The worker asked, "If you woke up tomorrow and had the job you wanted, what would it be?" He replied, "I would be a truck driver." They talked about reaching such a goal. The worker and the man talked about trucking schools, loans, relocation, temporary sacrifices, and support of friends. Phone numbers were shared, the utilities were turned back on, and they developed a plan.

Motivated by both despair and new-found hope, the man took charge of his plan. He relied heavily on friends. His wife got a job while he attended technical training. The couple set-up a network of volunteer babysitters to watch their three kids while Mom worked and Dad studied. The worker watched and supported the family as she could, but as time passed, she lost track of them.

A couple of years later, it was energy assistance season again. A man entered Heartland and asked for this same worker. When he saw her, he hugged her and said, "Thanks for making a difference in my life. If you had not encouraged me, I might be in the same situation as before. I wouldn't be the truck-driving man I am today. I am on top of the world. Thank you very much...and I won't be needing energy assistance this year!"

The worker contemplated her power to help those in crisis. She realized that her work could help change peoples lives, and that felt good.

The next day, a man entered Heartland Community Action looking strong and standing proud...

Testimonial from the Heart

At fifteen, I was a pregnant high school dropout. By seventeen, I was divorced with two small children and on Welfare, with no skills and very little education. I had very low self-esteem and lived in an environment that was extremely negative and oppressive. With emotional support from Bi-County Community Action Program's (Bi-CAP) staff, I got up my courage and started college. I went on to complete my bachelor's degree and become a probation officer. I am now completing a masters program with plans for possible Ph.D. work.

This experience had a direct and lasting effect on the lives of my children, because I have truly directed, guided, and helped to shape my children's lives. Our cycle of violence and poverty was broken. We were able to learn a healthier, fuller way of being in the world and with each other. We believe that one person can make a difference and overcome barriers, such as race, class, and culture to reach out and give that special something that allows others to believe in themselves.

Bi-CAP helped my family, but more than that, it was my relationship with Bi-CAP staff that changed my life and my children's lives. My children attended Head Start and I become involved as a parent. When people go in for counseling to help them make changes in their lives, it is well known that it is not the theory or technique that gives the client what they need, but the therapeutic relationship. Having someone who respects us, listens, cares, and believes in the best in us allows people to develop trust and feel respect. It is what heals and transforms and allows ideas and way of living more fully. People begin to have hopes and dreams, and because someone outside of our world believed in them, they begin to have courage.

We are grateful to the Bi-CAP staff that worked to make a difference. As with many human services, it is hard to measure or point to success or change immediately. So much of what you do is based on faith and the best part of the staff reaching out to the best part of someone else. When you reached out to the best part of me, I reached out to do the same thing with my children. That is truly powerful.

Community Action: Leveraging Help for Success

Circles of Support

KOOTASCA Community Action launched Circles of Support in 2004 so community members could work directly with families in poverty and help them become self-sufficient. Through their involvement, community members get to know the face of poverty first hand, leading them to become involved in changing systems that keep poverty in place.

A Circle of Support includes a low-income family and three allies. An ally is a community volunteer who typically has sufficient economic well-being that they are able to help the family move out of poverty through their knowledge, personal resources, and local connections. Together the allies help the family come up with plans to meet their short- and long-term needs. They focus primarily on social, economic, and educational needs.

Community Action funding leveraged resources from: the Blandin Foundation, Northland Foundation, Otto Bremer Foundation, Bush Foundation and the United Way to make this program possible. Community Action funds have leveraged the resources of 36 community volunteers, who have become allies to families working to move out of poverty. Additionally, a car donation component of the program allows community members to donate their vehicles. These vehicles are inspected at no cost by local mechanics, and distributed to families who meet program requirements. This program, Wheels to Work, eliminates a major barrier for families unable to afford the up-front purchase of a quality vehicle.

During the first nine months of 2004, foundations have donated \$357,500. Community allies have donated more than 500 hours to help families create and implement plans to get out of poverty. In addition, 12 cars have been donated.

The Circles of Support Program is having a high impact on poverty because it changes the mindset of the community through the development of relationships across class and race lines. By working together to address systems barriers, the program helps change the rules of society-created systems that keep poverty in place. This program also helps to empower and build the leadership skills of families in poverty to advocate on their own behalf.

Getting to the Root of the Problem

Many low-income families face dental access issues. In response, the Scott Carver Dakota CAP Agency, Inc. Development Department worked with its Head Start program and local professionals to create a Dental Partnership. The CAP Agency Development Director initiated contact with three local dentists who each agreed to screen and treat Head Start children, who had no access to dental care. In the first year, these dentists have treated approximately 40 Head Start children.

One Head Start child was identified with severe dental decay and infection, which was causing significant pain. A local physician and friend of CAP contacted an oral surgeon who agreed to see the child and later performed \$5-7,000 of oral surgery at no charge. One of the partner dentists coordinated with the oral surgeon to complete all the necessary treatments.

Prior to receiving this dental care, the child had scored well below average on the preschool screening inventory conducted by the Head Start program. His score indicated developmental delays significant-enough to follow-up for a potential disability. Following his dental treatment, this child scored 38 of 40 points on the same tests.

This highlights not only the critical need for all children to have access to dental care, but also the results of the community working together at the local level to solve local problems. The Development Department has worked hard to raise the public profile of the CAP Agency and has been successful in creating many community partnerships.

Giving Credit Where Credit's

Due

This past year, the Ottertail-Wadena Community Action Agency's Tax Aide Program prepared tax returns for 70,735 participants. They also prepared and submitted Earned Income and Child Care Tax Credit applications for 5,647 families. As a result, low-income and senior taxpayers received more than \$7,369,836 in tax refunds. The Earned Income Tax Credit portion of those refunds was \$5,371,675. The report has not yet been received from the Department of Revenue for the amount of Property Tax or Rent refunds that will be given to the low-income and senior families who use our Tax Aide program, but that too will be very substantial.

Ottertail-Wadena Community Action Agency's Tax Aide program is carried out in cooperation with the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) and covers the State of Minnesota. By partnering with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, the Minnesota Department of Revenue, AARP, libraries, senior centers, and Community Action Agencies across the state, the Tax Aide program is able to provide income tax preparation and filing assistance to low-income families and seniors.

Ottertail-Wadena Community Action's Family Services Department used \$10,000 of Community Action funding to match a \$21,000 Department of Revenue grant to purchase 18 laptop computers to be used by our tax assistance volunteers to prepare and submit tax returns for low-income and senior families. There were more than 428 tax preparation sites and 1,092 volunteers involved in the program. What other investment of \$10,000 will leverage a \$7,369,836 return for low income and senior families?

Caring for Our Elders

The White Earth Elderly Nutrition Program has provided a vital service to the White Earth Elders for the past 29 years in the five villages of the White Earth Reservation. It provides a source of good nutrition to elders who may not otherwise get a well-balanced meal. In addition, it provides meals to homebound elders who are unable to travel to the congregate site to receive a meal. The Elderly Nutrition Program also provides a place for elders to socialize or daily contacts for elderly who are homebound.

The elderly nutrition programs coordinates with many other tribal and non-tribal agencies to provide services to elders including: the White Earth Diabetes Project, White Earth Health Education, White Earth Home Health Agency, and county extension services. Services include: nutrition education, diabetes education, exercise, health education, and some on-site health care. The White Earth Tribal Council supplements the program by providing space, staff, supplies, etc.

Community Action funding enables the elderly nutrition program to hire cooking assistants to help prepare and deliver the hot and nutritious meals to the elders. If the Community Action funds were not available, some of the villages would not be able to serve the elders. If the elders do not receive balanced meals, serious health issues could result. Depression issues also arise if there is not socialization and daily contact available to the elders. The Elderly Nutrition Program is both the right thing to do and the smart thing to do.

Making the Best of a Bad Situation

The heating situation during this 2004-5 heating season is shaping-up to be particularly dire because:

- ✓ Predictions are that households may be facing some of the highest heating costs they have ever experienced.
- ✓ The economy is worse for low-wage earners.
- ✓ There is an increase in the number of households applying for limited Energy Assistance.
- ✓ Energy Assistance grants are smaller this year than previous years.

Taken together: record high heating costs + stagnant wages + more families applying for Energy Assistance + smaller Energy Assistance grants = more households facing disconnects or no fuel deliveries.

To make some attempt to address this challenge, Northwest Community Action has focused their attention on raising local funds for the Reach Out for Warmth (ROFW) program to capitalize on the availability of a 2 to 1 match by federal funds. ROFW is a special fund that helps families with limited resources who are facing an electric disconnect, or are in a no heat situation, and are unable to purchase fuel to heat their homes. NWCA uses 100% of ROFW funds to assist families experiencing a crisis who live within its service area.

NWCA contacted local fuel vendors, electric companies, banks, and large employers in their community. These are neighbors who know how bitter winters are in the vast open expanses of northwestern Minnesota. NWCA explained both the ROFW program as well as the tremendous need by these families in need. They assured each potential donor that 100% of their contributions will go directly to help households in crisis. To date, Northwest has raised \$5,150 in donations for this year's ROFW program. The \$5,150 combined with the match of \$10,300 will yield \$15,450 to assist families experiencing a heat or electric crisis this winter.

BMX - Their Path to Self-Sufficiency

When their community recognized the need for a youth recreation facility, Inter-County Community Action lead the way to better results than they had ever hoped for. An Inter-County Job Training Specialist worked in collaboration with the Pathfinder program, the Northwest Mental Health Center, and the Thief River Falls School District to develop a BMX bike and skateboard recreational area.

The workers came from Pathfinders, a group home for youth, ages 14-17 with ongoing behavior problems. They were also enrolled in the Inter-County Employment and Training Program, which provided funds for wages and leadership in project direction. The Inter-County Youth Employment and Training Program helps low-income, disadvantaged and troubled youth to overcome barriers and to develop job skills that will carry-over after graduation from high school. The program uses Community Action funds as support for program operation, which has become increasingly difficult following server cuts at both the State and Federal levels.

The Youth workers were involved throughout all phases of project development – from initial planning, to building, to final implementation. In addition to the job development skills, the participants received credit for community service time and were given academic credit for their participation from the school district. The completed project extended to include a bicycle repair and bait shop (the only ones in town!) and continues to provide a positive work site for troubled youth.

Boosting Achievement

The Noble County Family Service Collaborative developed the Community Connector Program after conducting a community assessment. Organizers identified barriers that would prevent achievement for children of families among the burgeoning diverse populations in the county. The most critical barriers are language and cultural differences, especially in a community with a preschool and elementary population that is 40% non-Caucasian.

The Community Connector Program consists of four bilingual staff that provides outreach and referral services to the families including bridging the gap between the families and social service providers in the county. Southwest Minnesota Opportunity Council, Inc. (SMOC) is the fiscal agent for the collaborative, as well as the employer of the Community Connector Program staff. SMOC uses \$4,000 annually in Community Action funds to pay for agency staff time and space dedicated to collaborative planning, fiscal services and time and services relative to the employment of the Connector staff and oversight on the Connector advisory committee. The Community Action funds leverage an additional \$5,000 in annual United Way contributions, \$8,000 in fees for services from the county public health department, and \$70,000 in Local Collaborative Time Study funds.

Last year, the Community Connectors made 1400 contacts with families with Limited English Proficiency in the county. Those contacts resulted in referrals between families and service providers including schools, public health, mental health, and social service providers that reduce the negative consequences that can result from cultural and language differences.

Everybody Pitches In

Lakes and Prairies Community Action Partnership, Inc. created a partnership with the Second Harvest Food Bank in St. Paul to get badly needed boxes of goods to eligible low-income senior citizens and non-WIC-eligible families in Clay County. As a result, Second Harvest delivers 300-500 food boxes each month to the Moorhead National Guard Armory.

From there, everybody pitches in. The Minnesota National Guard allows the use of the facility and is another partner in this collaborative effort that is coordinated by Lakes and Prairies staff. The Clay County Sentenced-to-Serve team helps Lakes and Prairies staff unload the truck and get the food boxes into the armory. Volunteers also are recruited and utilized for food box distribution. They help the senior citizens and families get the boxes from the armory into their vehicles. The hours that the volunteers put in are used as in-kind contributions for the program.

Efforts are under way to secure financial support from local businesses and service agencies to help defray administrative costs. In the meantime, Lakes and Prairies Community Action Partnership, Inc. uses Community Action funds to help support the Mothers and Children Program (MAC) and Nutrition Assistance Program for Seniors (NAPS) by covering essential administrative costs. Without these programs, many senior citizens and families in Clay County would go hungry.

Helping Us Grow (HUG)

This community needed to fill a gap in a continuum of preventive services for families with young children, and fill it in a way that avoided stigma. The result was Helping Us Grow (HUG), a targeted home visiting program that provides education, services, and referral to parents with children from birth to five years old.

A consortium in the community offered broad, primary prevention services to families. A small group of families with specific abuse and neglect issues received tertiary prevention services. The community recognized an opportunity to invest in a “middle” group of at-risk families. HUG was created to serve families with young and/or single parents with low-incomes who were asking for some guidance.

A critical partnership developed between Heartland Community Action and Kandiyohi County Public Health. Resources were combined to obtain a Family Home Visiting Grant through the Department of Health, and HUG became a pilot project. In its implementation, other key connections and partnerships developed among Head Start, Transitional Housing, Lutheran Social, Services and several community volunteer groups.

Because of its nonthreatening access to targeted families utilized by Heartland staff, Heartland became the primary home visitor in the program. Relationships developed around community connections, life management skills, parenting strategies, and specific referrals for critical needs. Public health nurses eventually joined with the families to provide medical education and intervention. Community Action funds were used to supplement Heartland’s administrative costs.

Last year, HUG served 37 Kandiyohi County families. All partners have recognized its success in accessing and serving a particular at-risk group, and preventing higher-cost interventions. Young families can learn and practice healthy parenting, discover connections to advocate for themselves, and experience genuine community support. They also share their satisfaction and excitement. Partnerships grow and HUG continues today.

Southeastern Minnesota Continuum of Care

The Southeast Minnesota Continuum of Care (SE CoC) is a 20-county participatory planning process that regionally coordinates and organizes resources to meet the needs of homeless and near-homeless individuals and families. They assemble information about homeless services and housing options in a region, identify gaps in housing and services, and develop strategies to fill those gaps

The focus of the SE CoC is to increase the capacity and efficiency of the existing homeless service delivery system, to offer a complete continuum of homelessness prevention, outreach and assessment, emergency shelter, transitional housing, permanent housing (both supportive and affordable), and support services in all communities within the region. They also develop, implement, and continue to evaluate a comprehensive plan for coordinating and maximizing resources to end homelessness.

The CoC is a very good example of leveraging and combining resources. Since 1996 when Three Rivers submitted the first SE CoC application, by spending between \$25,000 and \$40,000 per year on planning, the region secured more than \$3.5 million in homeless assistance. The pending 2004 request to HUD for an additional \$1,708,332 will fund nine projects. Resource uses include new construction, operating and leasing costs of transitional and permanent supportive housing projects, support services, and rental assistance.

The CoC uses the existing homeless response system resources to leverage HUD funds. The ratio of other project resources to the requested amount is a scoring factor in the HUD competition. Written commitments to the nine projects at the time of the 2004 HUD submission were for cash and in-kind contributions of \$1,359,831. Additional homeless and mainstream resources used to prevent and reverse homelessness within the 20-county region over the previous two years also factored into the competition. These resources totaled \$4,977,262, including \$57,828 in Community Action funds used to serve homeless families and individuals by Minnesota Valley Action Council, Olmsted County Community Action Program, Semcac, South Central Community Action Partnership, and Three Rivers Community Action.

Reference and Contact Information

Legislative Directory

State and Congressional Representatives by Community Action Program Provider

Anoka County Community Action Program

Representatives: 17A-Rob Eastlund, 47A-Denise R. Dittrich, 47B-Melissa Hortman, 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 Prettner-Solon, 8-Becky Lourey

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

Bi-County Community Action Program

Representatives: 2B-Brita Sailor, 4A-Frank Moe, 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

Senators: 23-John Hottinger, 24-Julie Rosen

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

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 Prettner-Solon, 8-Becky Lourey

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

Community Action Duluth

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

Senators: 6-Tom Bakk, 7-Becky Lourey

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

Community Action of Minneapolis

Representatives: 19B-Tom Emmer, 58A-Joe Mullery, 58B-Keith Ellison, 59A-Diane Loeffler, 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: 19B-Tom Emmer, 32A-Joyce Peppin, 32B-Rich Stanek, 33A-Steve Smith, 33B-Barb Sykora, 34B-Joe Hoppe, 40B-Ann Lenczewski, 41A-Ron Erhardt, 41B-Neil Peterson, 42A-Maria Ruud, 42B-Erik Paulsen, 43A-Jeff Johnson, 43B-Ron Abrams, 44A-Steve Simon, 44B-Ron Latz, 45A-Sandra Peterson, 45B-Lyndon R. Carlson, 46A-Mike Nelson, 46B-Debra Hilstrom, 47A-Denise R. Dittrich, 47B-Melissa Hortman, 54A-Mindy Greiling, 63A-Paul Thissen, 63B-Dan Larson

Senators: 32-Warrne 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

Congressional: 2-John Kline, 3-Jim Ramstad, 6-Mark Kennedy, Senators Mark Dayton and Norm Coleman

Duluth Head Start

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

Senators: 6-Tom Bakk, 7-Becky Lourey

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

Fond du Lac Reservation Business Committee

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 Prettner-Solon, 8-Becky Lourey

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

Grand Portage Reservation

Representative: 6A-David Dill

Senator: 6-Tom Bakk

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

Heartland Community Action Agency

Representatives: 13A-Bud Heidgerken, 13B-Al Juhnke, 18A-Scott Newman, 18B-Dean Urdahl, 20B-Lyle J. Koenen

Senators: 13-Dean Johnson, 18-Steve Dille, 20-Gary Kubly

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

Inter-County Community Council

Representatives: 1A-Maxine Penas, 1B-Bernie Lieder, 2A-Kent Eken, 2B-Brita Sailer

Senators: 1-LeRoy Stumpf, 2-Rod Skoe

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

KOOTASCA Community Action

Representatives: 3A-Irv Anderson, 3B-Loren Solberg, 4A- Frank Moe

Senators: 3-Tom Saxhaug, 4-Carrie Ruud

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

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

Lakes & Prairies Community Action Partnership

Representatives: 9A-Morrie Lanning, 9B-Paul Marquart

Senators: 9-Keith Langseth

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

Leech Lake Reservation Tribal Council

Representatives: 2B-Doug Lindgren, 3A-Irv Anderson, 3B-Loren Solberg, 4A-Doug Fuller, 4B-Larry Howes

Senators: 2-Rod Skoe, 3-Tom Saxhuag, 4-Carrie Ruud

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

Lower Sioux Community Council

Representatives: 21A-Mary Seifert, 21B-Brad Finstad

Senators: 21-Dennis Frederickson

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

Mahube Community Council

Representatives: 2A-Kent Eken, 2B- Brita Sailer, 4B-Larry Howes, 9B-Paul Marquart, 10B-Dean Simpson

Senators: 2-Rod Skoe, 4-Carrie Ruud, 9-Keith Langseth, 10-Cal Larson

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

Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa Indians

Representatives: 3B-Loren Solberg, 8A-Bill Hilty, 8B-Judy Soderstrom, 16A-Sondra Erickson

Senators: 3-Tom Saxhuag, 8-Becky Lourey, 16-Betsy Wergin

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

Minnesota Valley Action Council

Representatives: 21B-Brad Finstad, 23A-Ruth Johnson, 23B-John Dorn, 24A-Bob Gunther, 24B-Tony Cornish, 25A-Laura Brod, 26A-Connie Ruth

Senators: 21-Dennis Frederickson, 23-John Hottinger, 24-Julie Rosen, 25-Tom Neuville, 26-Dick Day

Congressional: 1-Gil Gutknecht, 2-John Kline, 7-Collin Peterson, Senators Mark Dayton and Norm Coleman

Morrison County

Representatives: 12B-Greg Blaine, 16A-Sondra Erickson

Senators: 12-Paul Koering, 16-Betsy Wergin

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

Northwest Community Action

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

Senators: 1-LeRoy Stumpf, 3-Tom Saxhaug

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

Olmsted Community Action Program

Representatives: 29A-Randy Demmer, 29B-Fran Bradley, 30A-Tina Liebling, 30B-Andy Welti

Senators: 29-Dave Senjem, 30-Sheila Kiscaden

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

Otter Tail-Wadena Community Action Council

Representatives: 10A-Bud Nornes, 10B-Dean Simpson

Senators: 10-Cal Larson

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

Parents In Community Action (PICA)

Representatives: 19B-Tom Emmer, 32A-Joyce Peppin, 32B-Rich Stanek, 33A-Steve Smith, 33B-Barb Sykora, 34B-Joe Hoppe, 40B-Ann Lenczewski, 41A-Ron Erhardt, 41B-Neil Peterson, 42A-Maria Ruud, 42B-Erik Paulsen, 43A-Jeff Johnson, 43B-Ron Abrams, 44A-Steve Simon, 44B-Ron Latz, 45A-Sandra Peterson, 45B-Lyndon R. Carlson, 46A-Mike Nelson, 46B-Debra Hilstrom, 47A-Denise R. Dittrich, 47B-Melissa Hortman, 54A-Mindy Greiling, 58A-Joe Mullery, 58B-Keith Ellison, 59A-Diane Loeffler, 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, 63B-Dan Larson

Senators: 19-Mark Ourada, 32-Warrne 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, 58-Linda Higgins, 59-Larry Pogemiller, 60-Scott Dibble, 61-Linda Berglin, 62-Wes Skoglund, 63-Jane Ranum

Congressional: 2-John Kline, 3-Jim Ramstad, 5-Martin Olav Sabo, 6-Mark Kennedy, Senators Mark Dayton and Norm Coleman

Prairie Five Community Action Council

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

Senators: 20-Gary Kubly

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

Prairie Island Tribal Council

Representatives: 28A-Jerry Dempsey, 28B-Steve Sviggum, 36B-Pat Garofalo

Senators: 28-Steve Murphy, 36-Pat Pariseau

Congressional: 2-John Kline, Senators Mark Dayton and Norm Coleman

Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties, Inc.

Representatives: 50A-Barb Goodwin, 50B-Char Samuelson, 51B-Connie Bernardy, 52A-Ray Vandever, 52B-Matt Dean, 53A-Phil Krinkie, 53B-Doug Meslow, 54A-Mindy Greiling, 54B-Bev Scalze, 55A-Leon Lillie, 55B-Nora Slawik, 56A-Mike Charron, 56B-Karen Klinzing, 57A-Katie Sieben, 57B-Denny McNamara, 64A-Matt Entenza, 64B-Michael Paymar, 65A-Cy Thao, 65B-Carlos Mariani, 66A-John Lesch, 66B-Alice Hausman, 67A-Tim Mahoney, 67B-Sheldon Johnson

Senators: 50-Satveer Chaudhary, 51-Don Betzold, 52-Michele Bachmann, 53-Mady Reiter, 54-John Marty, 55-Chuck Wiger, 56-Brian LeClair, 57-Sharon Marko, 64-Dick Cohen, 65-Sandy Pappas, 66-Ellen Anderson, 67-Mee Moua

Congressional: 2-John Kline, 4-Betty McCollum, 5-Martin Olav Sabo, 6-Mark Kennedy, Senators Mark Dayton and Norm Coleman

Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians

Representatives: 2A-Kent Eken, 2B-Doug Lindren, 4A-Doug Fuller

Senators: 2-Rod Skoe, 4-Carrie Ruud

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

Reach Up Head Start

Representatives: 13A-Bud Heidgerken, 14A-Dan Severson, 14B-Larry Hosch, 15A-Jim Knoblach, 15B-Joe Opatz, 16A-Sondra Erickson, 16B-Mark Olson, 48A-Tom Hackbarth

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

Renville County

Representatives: 20B-Lyle J. Koenen

Senators: 20-Gary Kubly

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

Rochester Head Start

Representatives: 27A-Dan Dorman, 29A-Randy Demmer, 29B-Fran Bradley, 30A-Tina Liebling, 30B-Andy Welti

Senators: 27-Dan Sparks, 29-Dave Senjem, 30-Sheila Kiscaden

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

Scott-Carver-Dakota CAP Agency

Representatives: 25A-Laura Brod, 25B-Ray Cox, 34A-Paul Kohls, 34B-Joe Hoppe, 35A-Michael Beard, 35B-Mark Buesgens, 36A-Mary Liz Holberg, 36B-Pat Garofalo, 37A-Lloyd Cybart, 37B-Dennis Ozment, 38A-Tim Wilkin, 38B-Lynn Wardlow, 39A-Rick Hanson, 39B-Joe Atkins, 40A-Dan McElroy, 40B-Ann Lenczewski, 57A-Katie Sieben, 57B-Denny McNamara

Senators: 25-Tom Neuville, 34-Julianne Ortman, 35-Claire Robling, 36-Pat Pariseau, 37-David Knutson, 38-Mike McGinn, 39-James Metzen, 40-Bill Belanger, 57-Sharon Marko

Congressional: 2-John Kline, 4-Betty McCollum, Senators Mark Dayton and Norm Coleman

Semcac

Representatives: 26A-Connie Ruth, 26B-Patti Fritz, 27A-Dan Dorman, 27B-Jeanne Poppe, 28B-Steve Sviggum, 31A-Gene Pelowski, Jr., 31B-Greg Davids, 29A-Randy Demmer

Senators: 26-Dick Day, 27-Dan Sparks, 28-Steve Murphy, 31-Bob Kierlin, 29-David Senjem

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

Shakopee-Mdewakanton Sioux Community

Representatives: 34A-Paul Kohls, 34B-Joe Hoppe

Senators: 34-Julianne Ortman

Congressional: 2-John Kline, Senators Mark Dayton and Norm Coleman

Southwestern Minnesota Opportunity Council

Representatives: 22A-Doug Magnus, 22B-Rod Hamilton

Senators: 22-Jim Vickerman

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

Three Rivers Community Action

Representatives: 25B-Ray Cox, 26B-Patti Fritz, 28A-Jerry Dempsey, 28B-Steve Sviggum, 30B-Andy Welti, 36B-Pat Garofalo

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

Congressional: 1-Gil Gutknecht, 2-John Kline, Senators Mark Dayton and Norm Coleman

Tri-County Action Program

Representatives: 13A-Bud Heidgerken, 14A-Dan Severson, 14B-Larry Hosch, 15A-Jim Knoblach, 15B-Joe Opatz, 16A-Sondra Erickson, 16B-Mark Olson, 48A-Tom Hackbarth

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-Paul Gazelka, 12B-Greg Blaine, 16A-Sondra Erickson

Senators: 4-Carrie Ruud, 11-Dallas Sams, 12-Paul Koering, 16-Betsy Wergin

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-Brita Sailer

Senators: 1-LeRoy Stumpf, 2-Rod Skoe

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

Upper Sioux Community

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

Senators: 20-Gary Kubly

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

West Central Minnesota Communities Action

Representatives: 9B-Paul Marquart, 11A-Torrey Westrom, 11B-Mary Ellen Otremba, 13A-Bud Heidgerken

Senators: 9-Keith Langseth, 11-Dallas Sams, 13-Dean Johnson

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

Western Community Action

Representatives: 20A-Aaron Peterson, 21A-Mary Seifert, 21B-Brad Finstad, 22B-Rod Hamilton

Senators: 20-Gary Kubly, 21-Dennis Frederickson, 22-Jim Vickerman

Congressional: 1-Gil Gutknecht, 7-Collin Peterson, Senators Mark Dayton and Norm Coleman

White Earth Reservation Tribal Council

Representatives: 2A-Kent Eken, 2B-Doug Lindren, 9B-Paul Marquart, 10B-Dean Simpson

Senators: 2-Rod Skoe, 9-Keith Langseth, 10-Cal Larson

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

Wright County Community Action

Representatives: 18B-Dean Urdahl, 19A-Bruce Anderson, 19B-Tom Emmer, 32A-Joyce Peppin

Senators: 18-Steve Dille, 19-Mark Ourada, 32-Warren Limmer

Congressional: 6-Mark Kennedy, Senators Mark Dayton and Norm Coleman

Commonly Used Acronyms

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
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	Temporary 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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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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Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless

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Minnesota Indian Affairs Council

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[html/intro_headstart.htm](http://education.state.mn.us/html/intro_headstart.htm)

The Three Faces of Poverty

“Most of us are very familiar with the chronically homeless and the unemployed, which we refer to as the traditional face of poverty.

Second there is the contemporary face, the working poor, those who work full time and still remain at or below the poverty line. For the most part, whenever the poor are discussed, those two faces come to mind.

There is rarely any mention of the third face – the future of poverty – America’s middle class families who have no accumulated assets. These are the people who are doing o.k. by most standards, but if one unexpected job loss, illness, or injury occurs, they are in danger of slipping into poverty.

This is an issue that affects us all in some way, shape, or form. There are close to 100 million Americans living in, near, or a few paychecks away from poverty.”

— Derrick Len Span, President,
National Community Action Partnership