



2005

**Minnesota Community Action Report**

# 2005 Minnesota Community Action Report



## **The Promise of Community Action**

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.

# About this Report

## The Community Action Mission is:

**To remove obstacles and solve problems that block the achievement of self-sufficiency.**

In Minnesota the 27 Community Action Agencies and 11 Tribal Governments of the Community Action network address this challenge every day. This report reflects the efforts and results of Minnesota's Community Action network throughout 2005.

The Community Action network provides varied services to address barriers to self-sufficiency, as well as integrates and coordinates these services. Each organization addresses needs, establishes priorities, determines strategies to address local poverty issues, and delivers a broad range of services to create economic opportunity and strengthen self-reliance. This multi-faceted approach distinguishes Community Action programs from other antipoverty efforts, and maximizes the likelihood that individuals and families assisted will become self-sufficient.

The Community Action Network is funded in part by the federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) and Minnesota Community Action Grants. The Office of Economic Opportunity in the Minnesota Department of Human Services administers this funding. Together the Minnesota Community Action Association and the Office of Economic Opportunity build the capacity of the Community Action network to help Minnesotans achieve economic security.

In 2005, \$10.9 million of combined Minnesota Community Action Grant and Federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funding leveraged:

- More than \$230 million in other program funding.
- More than 34,000 volunteers who contributed nearly two-million hours of community service with an estimated value of more than \$10.4 million.

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# Introduction

# Message from the Minnesota Community Action Association

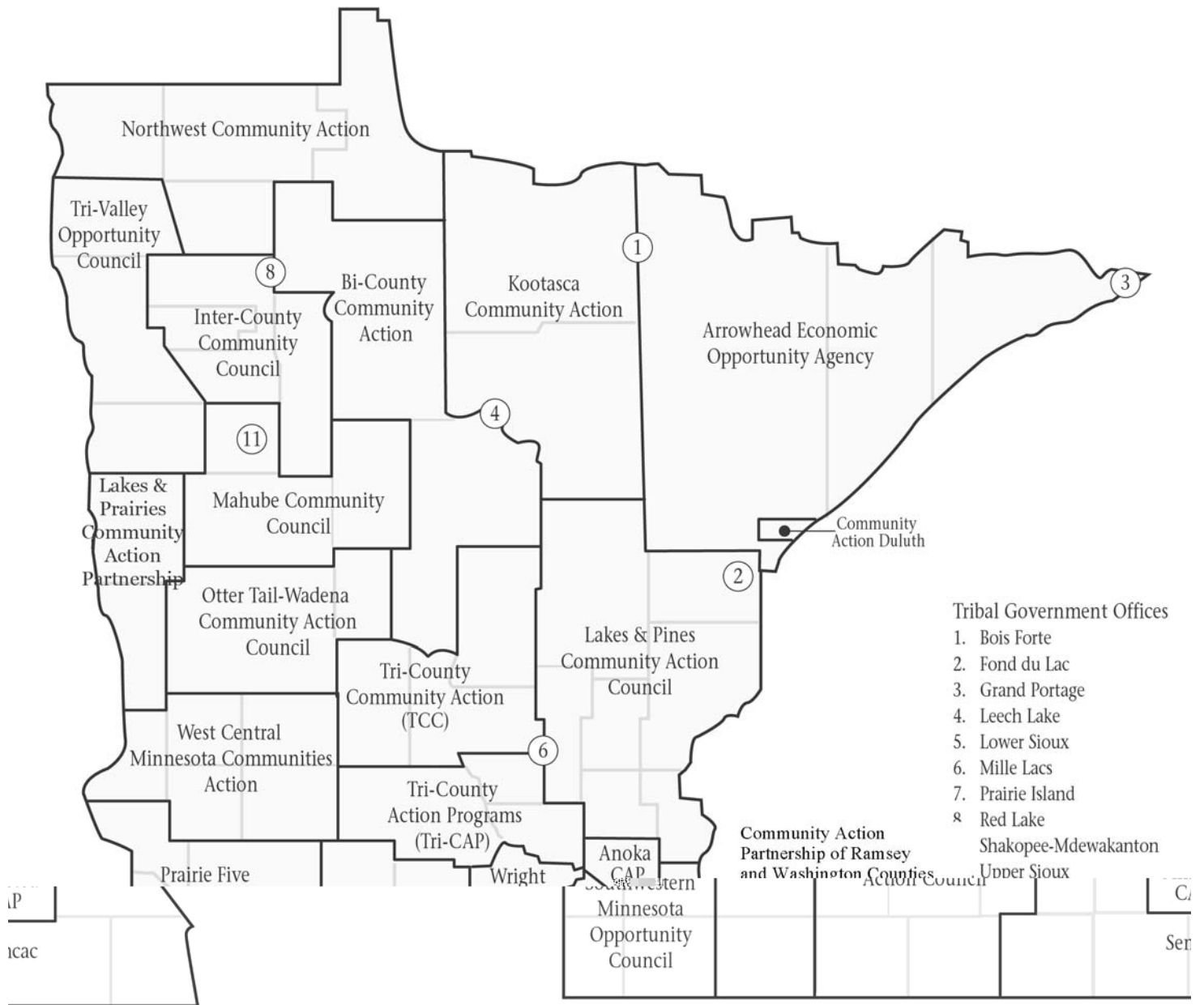
Minnesota community action agencies are celebrating 40 years of dedicated service to ending poverty and strengthening families and communities across Minnesota. Much to the credit of these 27 nonprofit agencies, created in 1965 through President Johnson's "war on poverty" effort, networks of local folks from all sectors have joined together to combat the causes of poverty like low wage jobs, lack of housing, education/training, health care, child care, transportation, and discrimination. A wealth of innovative strategies have been executed to ensure that all families have equal opportunities to participate and contribute in the community, while meeting their very basic needs, of food, shelter and safety.

During the last forty years, we have learned some important lessons to pass on. As the gap widens between the wealthy and poor, healthy communities must embrace its neediest families and ensure that all succeed. Members of a healthy community get personally involved. They build and expand upon existing assets and embrace all families regardless of race or economic status. Diverse voices in governing positions encourage innovative ideas and boldly challenge the systems that are barriers for families. Innovation and learning are embedded in the community culture through a process of continuous improvement. And finally, leadership at all levels of the community educates its members on the realities of poverty and engages them to take action to end poverty in their community.

This report measures the outcomes from these antipoverty strategies executed in 2005 by community action and their partners in business, faith based organizations and government. The impact on communities and individuals is often difficult to measure because there are so many variables involved. However, it is becoming crystal clear that if we reduce the disparities in income and race today, we will build a healthier Minnesota for tomorrow. Community action agencies will continue this "war on poverty" started forty years ago. We may call it by a different name, but our mission remains the same, "ending poverty in Minnesota."

Barbara C. Dorry, Chair  
Minnesota Community Action Association

# Community Action Agencies in Minnesota





# Message from the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council

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

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

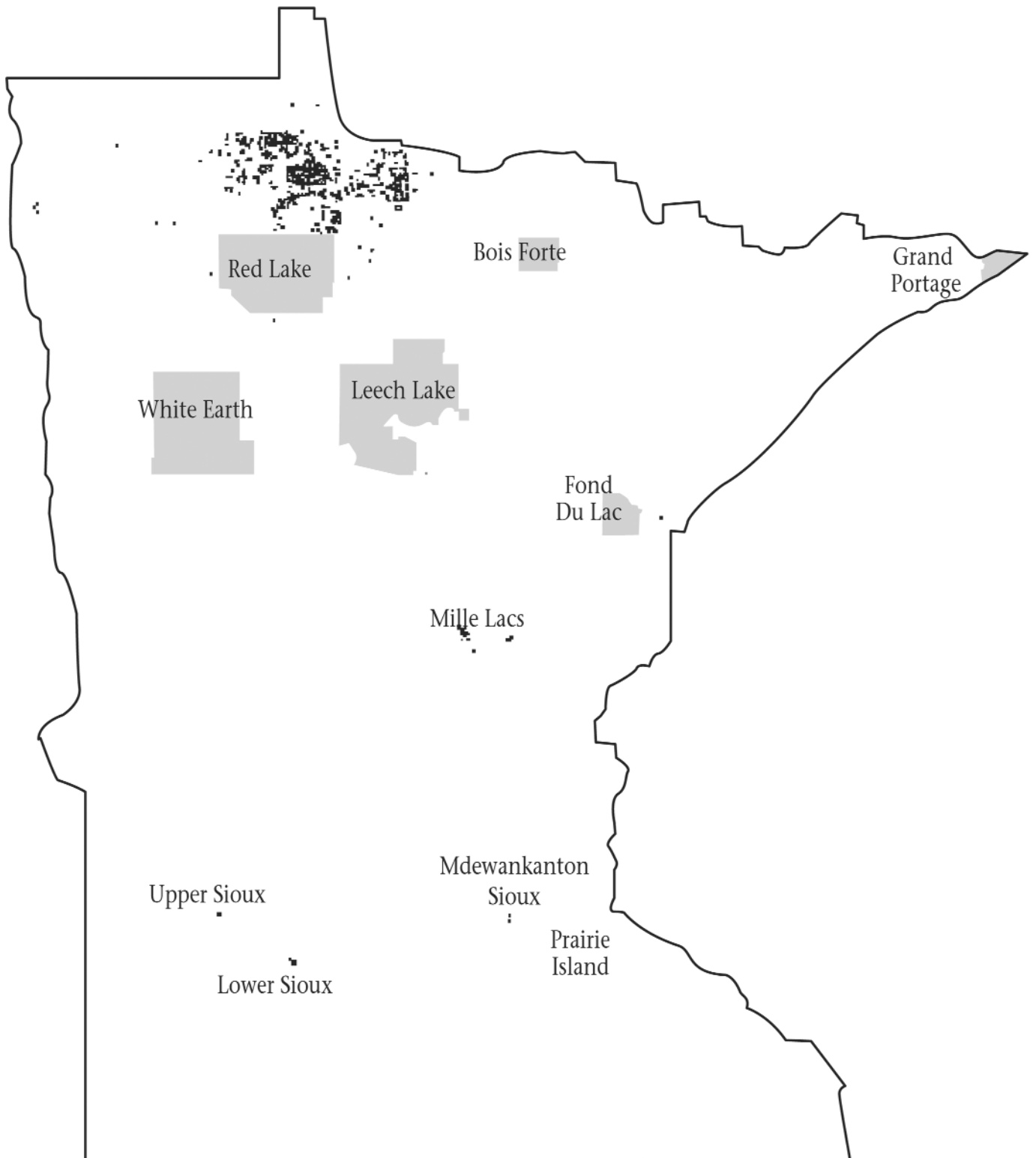
In the thirty-five years since President Lyndon Johnson began the federal War on Poverty, much has changed for Minnesota's Indian Reservation Governments. Until the early 1970s the federal government controlled and managed tribal resources and affairs. Tribal efforts to improve the conditions for American 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.

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

Joseph B. Day, Executive Director  
Minnesota Indian Affairs Council

# Tribal Governments in Minnesota



# Message from the Minnesota Head Start Association

Dear Friends and Partners:

The words on my calendar today say, “If you don’t start, you won’t arrive!” Simple, uncomplicated words. I see the parallel in these words to our work and the work of our families in goal setting. We all want to get somewhere, but we know the hardest part of the journey is to start.

I believe we all help each other in getting started and banding together to get something done. Both Community Action and Head Start have the conviction that people living in poverty must be meaningfully involved in the administration of our programs in order to realize authentic and significant change in our communities. We are true partners: our families, Head Start, Community Action, and the communities we live in.

Head Start is known for helping young children prepare for school and develop social competence; however, the heart of Head Start’s work - and its success - comes through empowering families to increase their competency as a family, as individuals within a family, and as contributors to their communities.

Head Start is often one of the largest programs in a community action agency, and thus is central to providing a coordinated strategy addressing the multifaceted causes and conditions of poverty among low-income people and their communities.

I am grateful for the visionaries over the past 40 years who got us started, and I am even more grateful for those amongst us today who are encouraged to continue the journey.

Sincerely,

Valerie Arnquist, Chair  
Minnesota Head Start Association

# Message from Hunger Solutions Minnesota

This year, Hunger Solutions Minnesota will be releasing the results of our 2005 hunger study: *The State of Hunger in Minnesota*. The report, the only statewide study of hunger in Minnesota, has occurred every five years since 1985. The results of this study show Minnesota as a state with a growing population of people living on the edge of poverty. The study also demonstrates the tremendous work that is done by the hundreds of food shelves and emergency feeding programs serving as a lifeline for those in need.

We've found that many more people are living in poverty or "near poverty" than 5 years ago. Households which were independent in 2000 are now dependent on food shelves and on-site dining programs. The hunger relief infrastructure has changed substantially since the 1985 study. What were considered emergency solutions are now becoming sustaining programs, a fundamental part of a survival strategy for an increasing number of people. Food shelf usage has increased by 45% since 2000.

The need is great - and so must be our response to that need. Hunger Solutions Minnesota provides targeted initiatives to support food shelves, food banks, and emergency feeding programs. We work to provide those agencies with the resources that they need to serve their communities. Collaboration is a core value of our organization, and we work throughout the year to listen to what the needs are and bring together appropriate partners to provide the solutions needed. Our work enables food banks to supply more food to food shelves and emergency feeding programs, and our Food Shelf Capacity Building Program helps food shelves get the equipment, training, and resources needed to serve their communities.

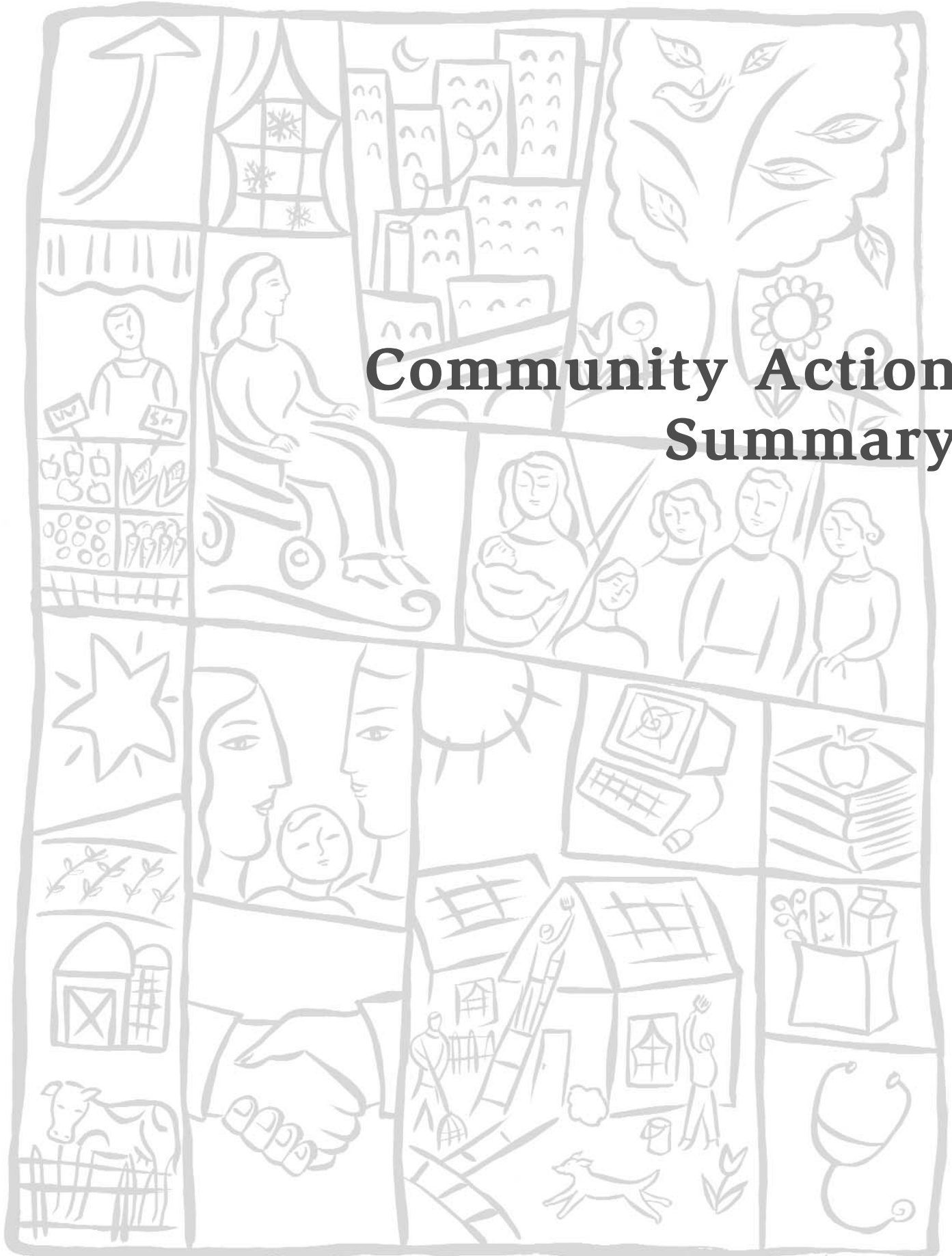
We are confident that our strategies contribute a much-needed positive structure for food shelves in the areas of consultation, food delivery, grants for equipment, education, and advocacy. Our commitment to providing quality services for all our members and partners prompts us to create integrated solutions to the problems faced by low-income individuals. We are continuously working to build communities in which we can all work together towards a better future.

In speaking for those who have no voice, we are determined to create the partnerships necessary to help us move forward in areas of advocacy, nutrition education, statistics, and whatever else is needed to ensure the efficiency and viability of food delivery to those in need. This is a time for innovation, as we move from temporary concepts of emergency food distribution to the larger dream of creating food security in the community.

Colleen Moriarty, Executive Director  
Hunger Solutions Minnesota



# Community Action Summary



# Community Action Basics

## What is a Community Action Agency?

Community Action Agencies are private nonprofit or public organizations that were created by the federal government in 1964 to combat poverty.

## Purpose and Mission

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

## Structure

A community action agency:

- Has received designation as a community action agency either from the local government under the provisions of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, or from the state under the Community Services Block Grant Act of 1981, as amended; (For CSBG enabling language visit: <http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/ocs/csbg/html/ocsfr.pdf> )
- Is recognized as an eligible entity as defined in the CSBG Act and can receive funding from the state under the Community Services Block Grant;
- Has a governing board consisting of at least one-third democratically selected representatives of low-income people, one-third local public officials or their designee, and the remainder are 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.

## 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.

Source: Community Action Partnership, 2000.

Visit the Community Action Partnership on the web at <http://www.communityactionpartnership.com>

# Community Action in Minnesota

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

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

It cannot be overstated that local citizens govern local community action agencies. Community action governance embraces the principle of "maximum feasible participation" by people experiencing poverty. The board of directors of community action agencies have a unique mandate to include:

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

For example, this unique board structure could mean a board composed of a: successful small business owner, debt collection supervisor, retired disabled VA hospital worker, retired community activist and leader, high tech medical device consulting firm president, political activist and full time community volunteer, lay minister, 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.

In Minnesota, community action operates as a statewide network of 38 organizations.

- 27 Community Action Agencies
- 11 Tribal Governments



Community action is a major segment of nonprofit sector in Minnesota

- Combined annual budgets in excess of \$240 million
- More than 5,000 employees
- Nearly 34,000 volunteers
- All agencies annually complete an independent audit

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

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

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 2005, \$10.9 million of combined Community Action Grant (CAG) and Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funding enabled Minnesota's community action agencies to leverage:**

- **More than \$230 million in other program funding.**
- **More than 34,000 volunteers who contributed two-million hours of community service with an estimated value of more than \$10.4 million.**

# 2005 Federal Poverty Guidelines

The federal poverty guidelines are issued each year in the Federal Register by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The guidelines are adjusted for families of different size. The poverty guidelines are used in setting eligibility criteria for a number of federal and state programs. Based on eligibility requirements, some programs use a percentage multiple of the guidelines, such as 125%, 150%, or 185%. Some examples of federal programs that use the guidelines in determining eligibility are:

- Head Start
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance
- Food Support
- Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants & Children (WIC)
- National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs
- Weatherization Assistance

<b>Persons in Family Unit</b>	<b>48 Contiguous States &amp; Washington D.C.</b>	<b>Alaska</b>	<b>Hawaii</b>
1	\$9,570	\$11,950	\$11,010
2	\$12,830	\$16,030	\$14,760
3	\$16,090	\$20,110	\$18,510
4	\$19,350	\$24,190	\$22,260
5	\$22,610	\$28,270	\$26,010
6	\$25,870	\$32,350	\$29,760
7	\$29,130	\$36,430	\$33,510
8	\$32,390	\$40,510	\$37,260
For each additional person, add:	\$3,260	\$4,080	\$3,750

Source: Federal Register, Vol. 70, No. 33, February 18, 2005, pp. 8373-8375.

Major means-tested programs that do not use the poverty guidelines in determining eligibility include Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Supplemental Security Income, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's means-tested housing assistance programs.

# Community Action Participants

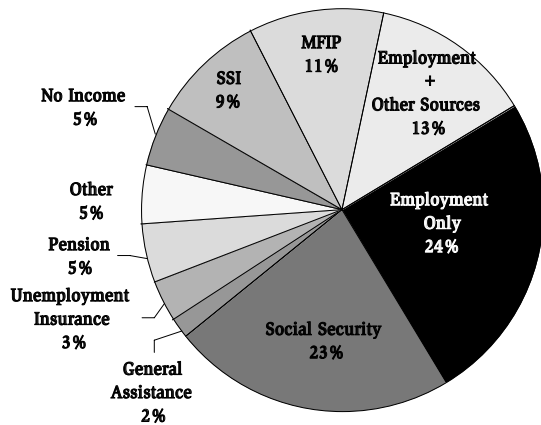
In 2004, the most recent year poverty data is available, 8.3% of Minnesotans lived below the poverty line. With nearly 425,000 of Minnesota's 5.1 million residents living in poverty, community action provides critical opportunities for participants to reduce barriers to economic self-sufficiency.

Community action assisted more than 325,000 individuals in 2005. Participant's characteristics reflect community action's mission of helping people and changing lives.

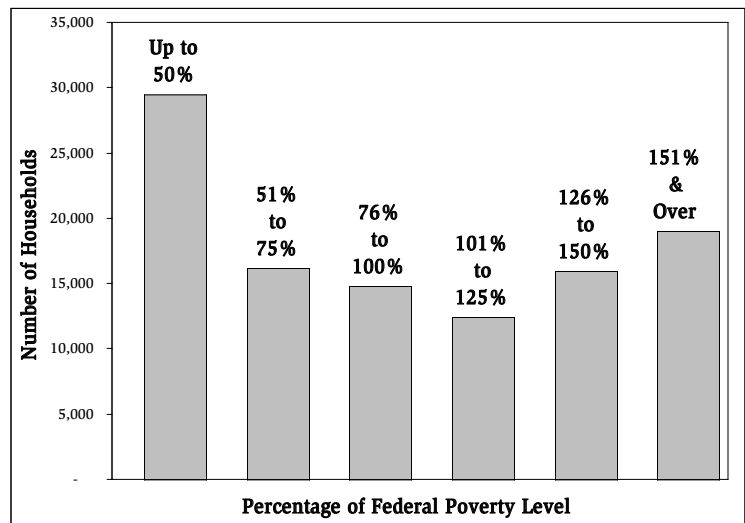
## Poverty & Income

- 82% of households are poor or near poor with household incomes less than 1.5 times the federal poverty line.
- 25% of participants only had income from employment.
- An additional 13% had income from employment and other sources.
- 5% of participants did not have a source of income.

## Source of Family Income

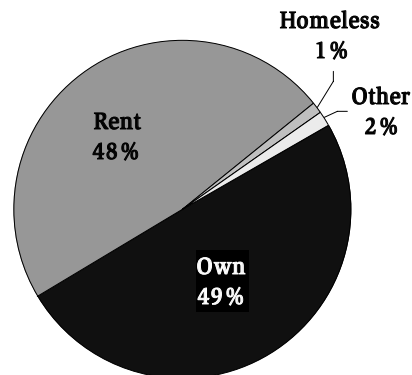


## Family Income by Percentage of Federal Poverty Level



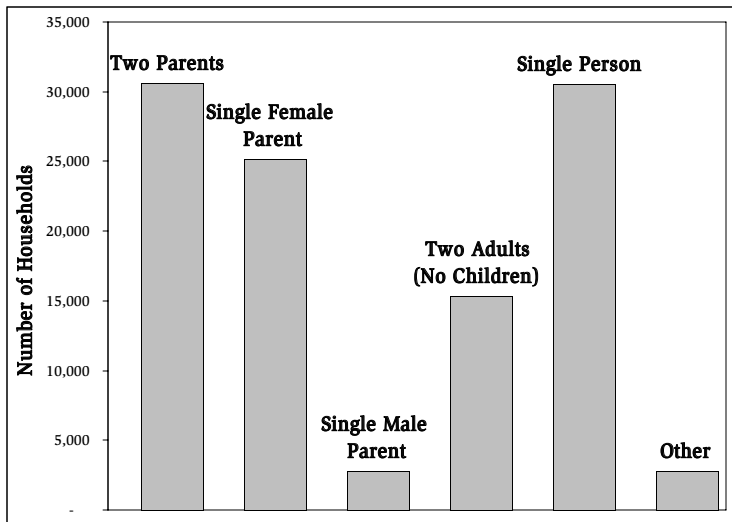
## Housing Status of Participants

- 49% own their own homes.



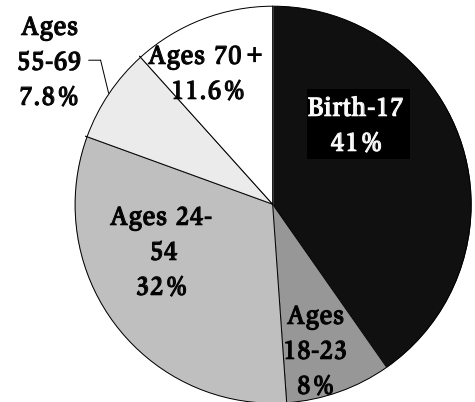
## Family Composition

- 29% of families have two parents.
- 26% are headed by a single parent.
- 15% of families have 5 or more children.



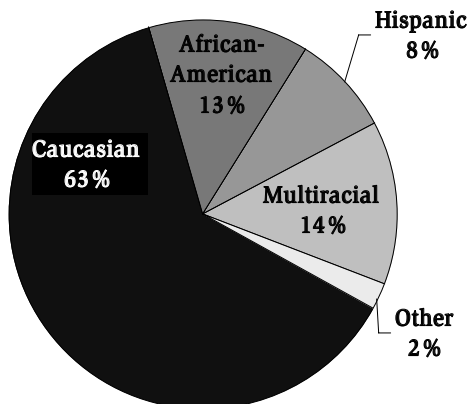
## Participants by Age

- 41% of participants are children younger than 18, 40% are adults and 19% are seniors age 55 or older.



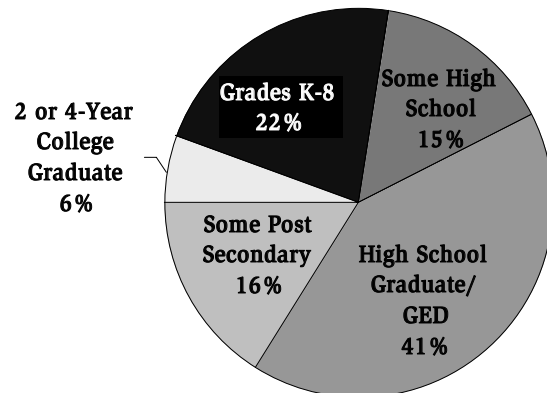
## Race/Ethnicity & Gender of Participants

- 38% are a racial or ethnic minority.
- 62% are female and 38% are male.



## Education Level of Participants

- 37% did not complete high school.
- 41% have a high school diploma/GED.



# Community Action Statewide

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households Served	Times Services Provided
<b>EMPLOYMENT</b>				
D1	Employment & Training Services	2,634	1,988	1,793
D3	Youth Employment	1,340	981	1,159
D6	Senior Employment Programs	173	145	259
D7	FSET	335	335	335
D8	Displaced Homemakers	256	256	256
<b>EDUCATION</b>				
L1	GED & Educational Services	2,202	1,811	3,895
L2	Literacy	4,258	2,942	4,115
L3	English as a Second Language (ESL)	265	188	257
L4	Adult Basic Education (ABE)	1,841	1,758	1,817
<b>INCOME MANAGEMENT</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	8,710	4,271	9,545
M3	Tax Aid	194,811	87,683	87,680
M4	Family Assets for Independence in MN	1,251	661	1,956
<b>HOUSING</b>				
B1	Weatherization	11,174	4,079	4,065
B3	MECS Audits	3,227	1,482	1,482
B4	Other Conservation Services	3,415	1,458	1,458
B7	Energy Related Repairs	13,400	4,767	4,276
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	2,356	5,959	1,665
C3	Home Repair/Rehabilitation	2,010	1,263	1,876
C5	Small Cities Development Grnts (SCDG)	1,380	595	595
C6	Rental Housing Assistance	1,392	571	571
C7	Low-Income Housing Develop	1,178	709	714
C8	Community Housing Stabilization	4,254	1,639	1,809
C9	Community Homeownership ED	3,294	1,871	1,600
<b>EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	289,950	108,109	108,550
B6	Energy Crisis	85,985	30,049	29,780
B8	Fuel Fund	3,821	1,379	1,379
C10	Homeless Assistance	13,061	5,340	11,264
C11	Transitional Housing	995	471	995
G1	Emergency Family Services	6,262	3,873	2,328
G3	Abuse and Neglect	1,008	612	750
G6	Donated Articles	164,192	47,504	88,036
G8	Crisis Intervention	13,120	5,091	5,224

# Program Activity Results

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households Served	Times Services Provided
<b>NUTRITION</b>				
H1	Food Assistance	74,009	27,505	416,127
H2	Community Services Food Pkgs	2,418	923	1,972
H3	Holiday Projects	20,212	6,065	4,874
H4	Women, Infants, Children (WIC)	8,285	4,660	66,446
H5	Gardening	954	373	373
H6	Home Delivered Meals	4,201	3,305	618,535
H7	Congregate Meals	23,943	17,907	1,222,507
H9	USDA Commodity Assistance	20,446	11,260	15,406
<b>LINKAGES</b>				
E1	Transportation System	170,355	100,769	860,102
E3	Transportation Assistance	17,195	7,567	127,122
E4	Vehicle Program	343	172	175
F1	Senior Oriented Services	4,824	3,727	8,996
F3	Chore Services	2,171	1,946	99,615
F5	Retired Senior Vol (RSVP)	3,406	2,242	2,953
F6	Senior Companions/Foster Grandparents	2,865	2,204	4,272
K1	Information and Referral	799,916	300,790	527,077
K2	Outreach	270,637	135,627	144,798
K3	Advocacy Information/Education	1,035,641	621,465	452,002
K4	Contract Services	3,898	2,324	3,584
<b>SELF SUFFICIENCY</b>				
J1	Head Start	28,418	13,614	17,466
J2	Child Care	2,395	1,672	2,036
J3	Child Care Administration	6,013	2,245	5,899
J4	At Risk Youth	3,089	1,521	2,700
J5	Campership	54	12	17
J6	Child Care Resource Referral	17,002	7,118	7,577
J7	Youth Recreation	4,895	1,772	7,161
J8	Parenting	6,196	3,183	4,387
J9	Fatherhood Initiative	3,112	1,879	2,122
J10	Crisis Nursery	545	250	438
M1	Self Sufficiency	5,535	3,491	4,924
M5	Family Loan Fund	674	314	318
<b>HEALTH</b>				
I1	Health Care Aid (Non-Financial)	7,168	5,956	8,371
I2	Health Care Aid (Financial )	1,581	862	1,228
I3	Family Planning	4,206	4,149	4,468
<b>OTHER</b>				
A1	Community Development	2,726	54	43
A5	Cottage Industries	47	31	31
	Visitation/Safe Exchange Center	399	248	3,510
	School Supplies Distribution	64	45	45
	Quilt Give Away	150	150	150

# Community Action Funding Sources

Minnesota's community action network is supported by varied funding sources. In 2005, \$10.9 million of combined Community Action Grant (CAG) and Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funding enabled Minnesota's community action agencies to leverage more than \$230 million in other program funding.

## Minnesota Community Action Grant (CAG)

Minnesota Community Action Grants (CAG) are appropriated through the Minnesota state legislature and are used for the same purpose as federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funding. The grant period is the state fiscal year (July 1-June 30).

## Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

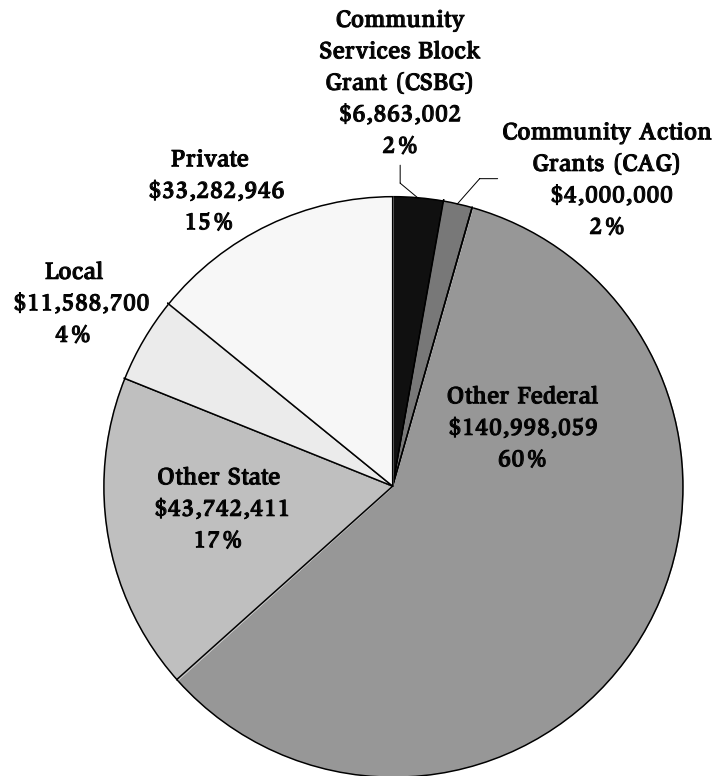
CSBG funding is appropriated through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The grant period is the federal fiscal year (October 1-September 30).

## Other Federal Funding

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

- Assets for Independence Act (AFIA)
- Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG)
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
- Community Food & Nutrition
- Corporation for National and Community Service Programs
- Early Head Start
- Employment and Training Programs
- Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA)

Total Community Action Funding



- Head Start
- HUD Housing Programs
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Medicare/Medicaid
- Older Americans Act
- Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
- Transportation
- USDA food and non-food programs
- Weatherization (Wx)
- Women, Infants & Children Nutrition Program (WIC)

## Other State Funding

Includes non-Minnesota Community Action Grant (CAG) funding appropriated through the Minnesota state legislature. Some examples of Other State Funding are:

- Family Assets for Independence in Minnesota (FAIM) Program
- State Child Care and Early Childhood Programs
- State Community and Economic Development Programs
- State Education Programs
- State Energy Programs
- State Head Start Programs
- State Health Programs
- State Housing and Homeless Programs
- State Nutrition Programs
- State Rural Development Programs
- State Senior Services
- State Transportation Programs
- State Youth 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.



# 2005 Community Action

<b>Community Action/Tribal Government</b>	<b>CSBG</b>	<b>CAG</b>
Anoka Community Action Program	\$214,943	\$123,747
Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency	\$207,725	\$119,994
Bi-County Community Action Program	\$183,366	\$107,330
Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council	\$16,987	\$15,519
Community Action Duluth	\$218,938	\$125,823
Community Action of Minneapolis	\$1,003,665	\$545,785
Community Action Partnership of Ramsey & Washington Counties	\$947,546	\$516,609
Community Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin County	\$484,536	\$275,903
Fond du Lac Reservation Business Committee	\$21,936	\$18,082
Grand Portage Reservation Tribal Council	\$15,663	\$14,832
Heartland Community Action Agency	\$153,877	\$92,000
Inter-County Community Council	\$88,494	\$58,009
KOOTASCA Community Action	\$121,301	\$75,064
Lakes & Pines Community Action Council	\$244,034	\$138,870
Lakes & Prairies Community Action Partnership	\$130,009	\$79,591
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	\$47,308	\$31,225
Lower Sioux Indian Community	\$14,351	\$14,153
Mahube Community Council	\$120,271	\$74,529
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians	\$25,899	\$20,134
Minnesota Valley Action Council	\$321,612	\$179,200
Northwest Community Action	\$48,624	\$31,280
Olmsted Community Action Program	\$144,892	\$87,328
Otter Tail-Wadena Community Action Council	\$140,437	\$85,013
Prairie Five Community Action Council	\$93,347	\$60,532
Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians	\$45,090	\$30,075
Scott Carver Dakota Community Action Program Agency	\$303,412	\$169,738
Semcac	\$316,404	\$182,494
Southwestern Minnesota Opportunity Council	\$98,938	\$63,438
Three Rivers Community Action	\$135,800	\$82,602
Tri-County Action Programs	\$273,968	\$154,432
Tri-County Community Action	\$207,618	\$119,938
Tri-Valley Opportunity Council	\$69,359	\$42,059
Upper Sioux Community	\$27,864	\$27,179
West Central Minnesota Communities Action	\$116,432	\$72,533
Western Community Action	\$126,983	\$78,018
White Earth Tribal Council	\$41,697	\$28,318
Wright County Community Action	\$89,677	\$58,624
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,863,002</b>	<b>\$4,000,000</b>

# Funding Summary

Other Federal	Other State	Local	Private	Total Budget
\$17,370,572	\$1,197,400	\$1,412,613	\$694,328	\$21,013,603
\$5,991,216	\$10,016,947	\$3,529,807	\$1,890,174	\$21,755,863
\$4,840,345	\$3,781,668		\$260,980	\$9,173,689
\$621,556	\$84,023			\$738,085
\$84,633	\$34,505		\$68,885	\$532,784
\$2,626,839			\$1,628,945	\$5,805,234
\$12,692,358	\$2,616,195	\$670,122	\$4,108,737	\$21,551,567
\$1,233,027	\$139,857	\$165,681	\$55,168	\$2,354,172
\$3,141,964	\$1,067,433		\$404,082	\$4,653,497
\$433,031		\$266,437		\$729,963
\$2,590,735	\$619,230	\$497,830	\$385,260	\$4,338,932
\$2,081,668	\$512,876	\$70,820	\$251,799	\$3,063,666
\$3,566,013	\$715,981	\$102,911	\$1,441,174	\$6,022,444
\$6,574,784	\$1,306,237	\$102,242	\$124,854	\$8,491,021
\$2,873,164	\$557,146	\$118,991	\$965,441	\$4,724,342
\$3,510,630	\$1,817,556	\$655,348	\$454,450	\$6,516,517
				\$28,504
\$4,264,210	\$660,240		\$1,143,103	\$6,262,353
\$100,000	\$62,602	\$701,341		\$909,976
\$9,028,248	\$3,887,640	\$156,617	\$1,317,542	\$14,890,859
\$3,124,197	\$1,028,517		\$999,022	\$5,231,640
\$309,395	\$48,305	\$31,847	\$14,446	\$636,213
\$2,295,092	\$1,663,944	\$472,463	\$1,331,932	\$5,988,881
\$3,256,825	\$836,289	\$166,574	\$934,327	\$5,347,894
\$1,142,899	\$30,075		\$9,000	\$1,257,139
\$6,947,346	\$1,418,963	\$372,187	\$2,229,814	\$11,441,460
\$4,624,652	\$1,611,811	\$338,789	\$2,290,910	\$9,365,060
\$2,362,358	\$860,810		\$113,435	\$3,498,979
\$2,668,370	\$1,042,232	\$222,274	\$1,577,891	\$5,729,169
\$1,291,291	\$810,553	\$470,913	\$3,024,958	\$6,026,115
\$3,504,753	\$602,966	\$2,688	\$215,187	\$4,653,150
\$9,846,635	\$3,121,109	\$956,537	\$754,096	\$14,789,795
\$1,050,987	\$214,310			\$1,320,340
\$3,455,332	\$643,004	\$103,668	\$2,610,322	\$7,001,291
\$2,826,749			\$1,207,448	\$4,239,198
\$4,008,329	\$37,380		\$226,443	\$4,342,167
\$4,657,856	\$694,607		\$548,793	\$6,049,557
<b>\$140,998,059</b>	<b>\$43,742,411</b>	<b>\$11,588,700</b>	<b>\$33,282,946</b>	<b>\$240,475,118</b>

# Community Action: Helping People Become Self-Sufficient

## Middle Eastern New American Strives for Midwest Success

The Minnesota Head Start Association selected Maisa Mabrouk as the state winner of the Ann Phipps Scholarship for Head Start parents.

The mother of three young boys, she is studying Elementary Education at Minnesota State University-Moorhead. Maisa has maintained a 4.0 GPA and expects to finish her degree in two years. She dreams of teaching elementary education and passing on her love of learning to children. Maisa and her husband also own and operate *Café Aladdin*, a small, busy café in downtown Fargo, North Dakota.

Maisa is a valued volunteer in Clay-Wilkin's Head Start program serving as a Policy Council Representative and on a self-assessment team to monitor classroom quality. She has served on hiring teams and contributed to classroom literacy projects.

As a new American from the Middle East, Maisa and her family have overcome many barriers. Learning English, starting a business, enrolling in college and becoming self-sufficient while immersed in a new culture was challenging. Maisa has set and achieved her dreams.

## Young Parent Achieves Academic Goals

Written by Rebecca Gerhardson, a 23-year-old participant in Partners in Parenting.

Partners in Parenting (PIP) has played an important role in my life. I have been a member of PIP for 5 years. I joined PIP when my daughter was 5 months old. I became pregnant at the age of 17. I wasn't enrolled in school and I had no hope of ever going back. I didn't think I could ever make it.

Joining PIP gave me the confidence and support that I needed to believe in myself. The director of the program encouraged me to go back and get my education. I did. It was a long and hard road. However, with all the support from PIP it gave me the strength to continue and finally finish. I graduated from High School when I was 20 years old. After graduating with the help from PIP, I was able to enroll myself into college. I attended the Fergus Falls Community College for 2 years and received my AA degree.

PIP is a wonderful program and I have been given the chance now to work for this wonderful program. PIP has helped so many young people. The support from PIP is so powerful. It helps people realize that their dreams and hopes are not out of reach. A person can accomplish many things with the help and support of such a wonderful organization like Partners in Parenting. Thank you.

## Positive Attitudes Go a Long Way

After her husband suffered a heart attack and was temporarily unable to work, Tina needed to make a living for her family. MVAC's Diversionary Work Program helped her achieve her employment goals and move her family quickly from a difficult financial situation towards self-sufficiency. Tina left school where she was pursuing a degree as a registered nurse and began working as a Personal Care Attendant. Through the WIA Adult program, she quickly gained her LPN license and became employed at the New Ulm Medical Center. Both Tina and Michael are models of what a positive attitude can accomplish. Tina was recognized at MVAC's 39th Annual Meeting for her achievement.

## Youth Employment and Training Program Leads to Economic Independence

Born a triplet, Justin's mother died in childbirth leaving 13 children. Growing up in a family with limited income in a remote part of Marshall County, he faced many challenges. While in high school, Justin enrolled in Inter-County Community Council's Youth Employment and Training Program.

The program provided varied job experiences, positive reinforcement and guidance along with greatly needed money for school clothes, supplies and spending money. Because he had learning problems and school retention issues, he also received academic assistance during the summer to enhance his math and reading skills. Justin also participated in the program's leadership activities. His participation in the program helped him to graduate from high school and to secure a full-time job with benefits at a local business. Justin is rightfully proud that he is independent and self-sufficient.

## Transitioning to Self-Sufficiency

A young lady came into the Prairie Five office looking for help with her heating. She had one child and had been laid off from her job. She had also recently left an abusive relationship.

Prairie Five was able to help her through Energy Assistance. The Clothing Center also assisted her with clothing for herself and her child. Outreach Workers knew that one of Prairie Five's programs was looking for a part-time employee for the Central Kitchen the Senior Dining Program. She applied, was hired and did a wonderful job. When a similar full-time position became available at a local nursing home she applied and was hired.

Prairie Five received thanks for helping her get back on her feet and being supportive of her as a client and an employee. She said it rebuilt her self-confidence and she is now much more willing and ready to try new things. She continues to do well in her new job. What's her next challenge? She's looking to purchase a home!

## Charting a Course for Better Life

Nadine, a 24-year-old mother of 3 young children, is working to secure a better future for her family with the support of community action programs.

In her second year of Head Start, she has become very active in her children's lives, attending school activities and events, volunteering in the classroom, participating in Head Start training, and on the Head Start Parent Committee. Every month she establishes and works on goals with her Family Service Worker. For example, she needed to learn budgeting skills, so she attended a Financial Literacy class. Nadine completed her GED in only 5 months, graduating in May 2005. With her GED, she has secured a job at the Nursing Center in her community. She has now set a goal to apply to the local community college and earn a two-year degree in nursing. She has also applied to the Rural Development Program with a hope of owning a home someday.

Nadine has strong motivation and dedication in all aspects of her life and is an inspiration to other young parents. Community action helped her to identify her goals and find a path to follow; she has done the rest on her own.

# Leveraging Resources to Strengthen Families & Communities

## Heartland Weaves Threads of Hope with Meeker County Partnerships

With a goal to have "higher impact" in meeting community needs, Heartland's long-standing thrift store experienced a creative and energetic transformation this past year. Through a variety of new partnerships and coordinated activities, Heartland Threads of Hope is now involving more of the community in achieving the goal of improving the conditions in which low-income people live.

During the last year, Heartland Community Action led a creative and energetic transformation of its thrift store. To increase community ownership of the store, a local advisory board was formed comprised of a diverse group of business, faith, nonprofit, social services and consumer representatives. The board increased the value of the store by renaming it Threads of Hope, re-introducing it to the community, providing education about the broader mission of Heartland and recruiting new volunteers, partners and donors to share in its mission. Community action funds supported planning and management costs of Threads of Hope activities.

Meeker County and the City of Litchfield joined the partnership by purchasing a downtown building for \$130,000 and providing the attractive retail space rent-free. Deliberations of the County Commission and City Council during this process resulted in a new understanding of the local conditions of poverty and the responsibility of the greater community to address those conditions. These successes encouraged more organizations to collaborate. The Meeker County Food shelf joined the partnership by sharing space, maintenance and remodeling costs. Local sentence-to-serve crews provided more than 1,000 hours of demolition and reconstruction work.

Threads of Hope continues its core purpose of providing families in need with used clothing and household items at a nominal cost, but now has greater community impact. In addition to the food shelf, Heartland's Outreach Workers have a new, accessible office space for respectful and holistic information and referral services. Other local outreach efforts have a base to coordinate other activities such as Coats for Community, Children's Holiday Project and the Back-to-School Supplies Drive.

New community involvement and leveraged resources have resulted in the Threads of Hope store serving more people. Sales have increased almost 100% from \$3,500 to \$7,000 per month. Volunteer hours more than doubled to 140 hours per month. Outreach staff are serving an average of 300 families per month. Equally important, Meeker County and the City of Litchfield are now stronger partners in Heartland's antipoverty mission.

## Nailing Down Workforce Housing

Four years ago Bi-CAP identified an urgent need for affordable housing in Blackduck, Minnesota. Anderson Fabrics, an area manufacturing company employing 350-400 people, struggled with many of its employees commuting from surrounding communities an average one-way distance of 40 to 60 miles.

With a population of 750 and no new housing starts for nearly three years, Blackduck desperately needed workforce housing. Leveraging federal, state and local funds, Bi-CAP launched an ambitious four-year project to build a 21-unit subdivision. Community action staff played a critical role in managing all aspects of the project including the planning process, grant writing, advocacy to secure funds and development of the housing units. A \$500,000 HUD Rural Housing and Economic Development grant was secured for acquisition and infrastructure, as well as a \$220,000 revolving construction loan from Greater Minnesota Housing Fund, \$279,000 from Minnesota Housing Finance Agency's Community Revitalization Challenge Fund and \$79,000 from the City of Blackduck. For four years, participants of Bi-CAP's YouthBuild Program gained valuable work experience and training providing labor to build four of the units, one of which is accessible to people with disabilities.

To assist homebuyers, Bi-CAP linked with Mid-Minnesota Development Corporation for financial packaging of individual mortgages. The Greater Minnesota Housing Fund provided up to \$15,000 per homeowner in gap financing based on financial need and Anderson Fabrics contributed a generous \$4,000 to their employees in down payment assistance. Qualifying homebuyers were also linked with MHFA first time homebuyer programs such as the Housing Assistance Fund and Community Activity Set Aside funds.

In 2005, Bi-CAP celebrated completion and sale of the last housing unit. This innovative project met the needs of 21 working families, stabilized the community's workforce and supported an area business in retaining its workforce. Equally important, the local economy was strengthened with an expansion of the tax base, infusion of federal and state funds in Beltrami County and work for local contractors and suppliers.

## Preserving Vital Housing Stock

Southwest Minnesota Opportunity Council (SMOC) leveraged \$497,038 through the Murray County Small Cities Development Program to rehabilitate the housing of low and moderate income people and to prevent the deterioration of housing stock. SMOC collaborates with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development and the Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership to manage the program. Every rehabilitation project is unique and requires varied resources. For example, one home needed a new roof, new siding, new doors, a new septic system, electrical upgrades, insulation, a new furnace and new water lines. Once the project began, while removing the old siding workers discovered the framing and sill plates had completely rotted. To complete the necessary work, \$49,725 from 6 funding sources was combined: \$24,000 in SCDP funds, \$8,950 from MHFA CFUF, \$5,000 from AHP, \$5,000 from GMHF, \$3,095 in DOE WX and \$3,680 in DOE WX. Through the Murray County grant, 16 homes were rehabilitated immediately benefiting 57 people. For many years to come these homes will provide safe, quality housing for subsequent owners and tenants.

## Helping Low-Income People To Access Earned Tax Credits

In recent years, low-income Duluthians have spent over \$260,000 in tax preparation fees and an additional \$134,000 on high-interest Refund Anticipation Loans (RALs). To help people retain these funds to meet their own needs, during the last tax season Community Action Duluth launched a free tax preparation service for low-income individuals and families available on Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings. Not only were participants able to access free tax preparation, but also equally important federal and state tax credits they had earned. These sites not only provided a critical service helping people to avoid commercial preparation fees and RAL interest fees, but also access to federal and state tax credits about which they may have been unaware. Participants were also encouraged to use their tax refunds to build assets and volunteers from a bank were on-site to assist unbanked people to open savings accounts.

To deliver this service, CA Duluth formed a highly successful coalition to promote free tax sites and access to tax credits. Leveraging \$5,000 in community action funding, CA Duluth secured \$1,000 from the Northland Foundation, \$5,000 from AccountAbility MN through a grant from Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation and \$300 from U.S. Bank. These funds supported a billboard and bus advertisements about the availability of tax credits and free tax preparation sites.

Along with raised funding, volunteers were an essential component of this successful program. A University of Minnesota Duluth Tax Accounting Professor provided 12 hours of free training to tax volunteers. Over 12 weeks, 27 volunteers provided 2,500 hours of service preparing tax returns 5-10 hours per week. Volunteers included retired tax preparers, community action Board members, low-income participants and many people who were previously not involved with the agency.

Prior to this program, over 33% of all Earned Income Tax Credit claimants took out a RAL in the neighborhood where CA Duluth is located. With the availability of free tax preparation, 300 people were served claiming over \$365,400 in state and federal tax refunds. Customers saved over \$28,310 in tax preparation charges and a significant amount in high interest fees for RALs.

## We Work Better Together

Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency has partnered with the quad cities area Ministerial Association to create a community-wide emergency needs fund. The fund helps area citizens with basic emergency needs through direct financial support. Faith communities subsidize the fund and community action funding supports staffing and management of the fund by AEOA. Churches refer needy individuals to AEOA for a one-stop application process and essential items such as gas, food, diapers and prescription drugs.

Monthly AEOA provides information about services supported by the fund to contributing churches who re-capitalize the fund as needed. In the fund's first three months of operation, AEOA leveraged \$1,200 from the faith community to meet people's emergency needs.

## A Great Big Deal for This Small Business

Tri-County Community Action (TCC) developed a Self Employment Program to assist low-income individuals with business planning and financing as a means of achieving greater self-sufficiency. Due to barriers associated with qualification for traditional small business financing, a loan pool was established to meet the needs of low-income people.

The story of John, who has cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair, provides an example of how TCC leveraged resources to support John's independence. When his tractor required repairs and maintenance, financial problems prevented him from paying his mounting bills and reclaiming his tractor. A member of the TCC board alerted the agency to John's situation and he was referred for assistance in developing a business plan to allow him to work under the Social Security Plan for Achieving Self-Support (PASS).

However, before he could develop his plan, John needed to regain possession of his specially equipped tractor. John had a number of people willing to donate funds, but needed an agency to act as a depository for the donations. TCC mobilized and collaborated with United Cerebral Palsy of Central Minnesota, Independent Lifestyles, the local bank and the tractor dealer to arrange for the flow of funds. The tractor manufacturer and dealer, a relative and others came together to help John bring his debt down to a manageable level. With a loan and TCC acting as an intermediary, John's tractor was returned and he was able to continue performing farm work. By regaining a means of making a living, he is able to meet his financial obligations and maintain his independence.

## A Prescription for Prevention

In June 2004, Tri-CAP launched an innovative Prescription program in partnership with Anna Marie's Alliance and Health Partners to meet clients' needs for emergency prescriptions. Each agency had observed increased requests for this type of service and understood it was impossible to address all of these needs alone. A program was developed to assist Tri-CAP and Anna Marie's clients who needed help with a co-payment or a one-month prescription.

A partnership was negotiated with Health Partners to charge the program the actual cost of the prescription. Community action funds paid for staff time and several small grants were secured to pay prescription costs. The initial program proved to be a huge success resulting in the partnership expanding to include the Council on Aging, Legal Services Minnesota Care Outreach, Catholic Charities Emergency Services, CentraCare Heartland Pharmacy, CentraCare Mid-Minnesota and all Coburn's Pharmacies in the three-county area. An Advisory Council meets three times a year to facilitate continuous improvement of the program.

Community action funds pay for the program and helped to leverage a two-year \$45,000 grant from the Bremer Foundation for prescription costs and a \$10,000 CentraCare Foundation grant for staff time. Additionally, each of the pharmacies only charges \$5 for prescriptions although all of their costs are not covered by this amount. In the first six months of using Bremer funding, \$12,635 has been spent to help 126 individuals with a total of 365 prescriptions.



# Supporting Seniors to Live Independently

## "A Little Help" to Keep Seniors in Their Own Homes

Over 200 seniors living in Hubbard and Mahnommen Counties participate in the Aging Assistance Program receiving chore and home maintenance services that allow them to live independently in their own homes. Elma, Janet and Joe's stories exemplify the importance of this program.

Elma, 87-years-old, lives alone in her rural Hubbard County home. She receives weekly housekeeping service. When she needed roof repairs and new rain gutters, the program helped pay for the cost of the repairs. Janet, 62-years-old, is confined to a wheelchair and lives alone. She also receives weekly housekeeping services. The program also paid for installation of a new bidet system and grab bars in her bathroom. For both Elma and Janet without these services they would be forced to move to an assisted living complex or a nursing home. The oldest client in the program was Joe who recently passed away at the age of 101. When Joe was 95-years-old, his family decided he should move to a nursing home. Joe lived in the home for two days, and then insisted that he be moved back to his home in rural Mahnommen County. One of his daughters, age 72, came to live with him. The program helped them with weekly housekeeping services, snow removal during the winter months, and purchase of a washer and dryer so they would no longer have to go to the Laundromat. Joe was able to remain in his home for 6 more years, living with the assistance of his elderly daughter and the program.

For most seniors, staying in their homes is vital to their emotional and physical well-being. It also saves the community thousands of dollars. For less than \$1,000 a year for six years, Joe was able to remain in his home thanks to the Aging Assistance program. For one year of nursing home care the cost would have been approximately \$30,000. Sometimes, it is simply a little help that allows seniors to remain in their homes.

## Supporting a Grandmother in Raising Her Grandchildren

Alice is a 66-year-old grandmother raising her four grandchildren ages 16, 4, 3 and 1. Alice is raising her grandchildren, because the children's mother has a drug addiction and has been in and out of jail. When they came to live with her, the family exceeded the maximum number of occupants in her apartment and they were evicted. Alice began working with Scott Carver Dakota CAP Agency to meet her family's immediate basic needs and to regain her independence. A community outreach coordinator helped her to develop a Family Partnership Plan with specific goals. The three youngest children were enrolled in Head Start and the new Birth-Three Head Start program. Kids-N-Kinship matched the 16-year-old with a mentor and Salvation Army paid for camp. Staff found a mentor for Alice through a local church. Salvation Army and the Burnsville Center donated school supplies and school clothes. The family received additional assistance with food, rent, energy assistance on an ongoing basis. The coordinator also helped Alice gain custody of the children allowing her to return to subsidized housing and receive financial assistance through a Relative Care Grant. Each family member continues to receive individual support through volunteer mentors and Head Start. Through community action, Alice once again has stable housing and adequate resources to provide a safe home for her and her grandchildren.

# Empowering Youth to Succeed

## No Barriers to Achievement

Trenna has participated in Minnesota Valley Action Council's Summer Youth Program for 2½ years. She has overcome multiple barriers and demonstrated outstanding achievements during her participation. Trenna has cerebral palsy, but doesn't allow it to slow her down. Trenna worked at Fairmont Community Education and Recreation for over a year through the youth program. Trenna excelled at her worksite and was a positive role model to her peers. She was given the opportunity to design their brochure during her work experience. Not only did she gain valuable work experience through the program, but also occupational skills that will support her in achieving her career goal of becoming a graphic designer.

Trenna is a very outgoing, friendly, organized and smart individual. She has accomplished many things in her young life and continues to strive towards achieving her goals. This remarkable young woman was also active during her high school education, participating in orchestra, choir, student council and managing the track and basketball teams. She graduated with honors from Fairmont High School, and is currently attending Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa for Graphic Design. She was recognized at MVAC's 39th Annual Meeting for her achievement.

## Supporting Youth to Develop Job Skills and Career Goals

Allyson was from a small town in southern Norman County. Her family had a limited income and additional barriers. She became a participant in Inter-County Community Council's Youth Employment and Training Program. Through the program, Allyson received valuable job training, learned about employer expectations, acquired important job skills and developed a strong work ethic.

One day at work, she and her worksite supervisor heard an advertisement about the shortage of nurses and the small number of students enrolled in the Certified Nurses Assistants (CNA) program. Inter-County staff and Allyson's worksite supervisor encouraged and supported her in applying and successfully finishing the training. She acquired a CNA licensure and immediately transitioned from earning minimum wage to making over \$10.00 per hour. Most importantly Allyson graduated from high school in 2005 and is now attending college with plans to go into the medical field. Inter-County's Youth Employment and Training program was an important factor in helping Allyson develop her initial work skills and identify her long-term career goals.

# Advocating to Remove Obstacles to Self-Sufficiency

## Changing Society's Approach to Poverty

KOOTASCA Community Action is working to eliminate systemic poverty by creating community awareness about the nature and extent of poverty and inspiring the community to make ending poverty a common goal. Over the last year KOOTASCA has participated in the Itasca Development Corporation (IDC), a local business development group. After extending its membership to nonprofits like KOOTASCA, the group wanted to change its vision statement to include community indicators critical to creating a healthy community.

To build awareness and understanding about local poverty, KOOTASCA sponsored an IDC forum, Building an Economy that Works for All, focused on low-wage jobs and what it really takes to make a living. This forum influenced IDC to include the issue of poverty in its new community vision statement: "All people have access to quality employment and adequate housing and no one has to live in poverty." Community indicators for poverty will now be monitored including the number of elementary school children qualifying for free and reduced price lunch and the achievement gap between students qualifying for free and reduced price lunch and those who do not. This community discussion has led to developing partnerships with local school districts to address the achievement gap for low-income students.

The IDC has ten action teams that commit to one-year projects focused on economic development issues. KOOTASCA recommended creating a team with a one-year goal of creating a poverty reduction plan for the community including local businesses as partners. Acting on this recommendation, the IDC board voted to establish the action team and is in the process of developing a plan. KOOTASCA'S advocacy has resulted in increased awareness and attention to eliminating poverty in partnership with the business community.

## Advocating for Voter's Rights

It was Election Day and Community Action Duluth received a call about a problem at a voting site. A person attempting to vote was encountering problems registering. At issue was an election judge's misinterpretation of the laws surrounding same-day registration. A staff member, who was registered in the same precinct, arranged to meet the potential voter about the problem. To prepare himself for talking with the precinct official, he brushed up on election laws and brought the phone number of the Duluth City Clerk with him.

The misunderstanding related to the ability of registered voters in the same precinct to vouch for the residency of an individual registering to vote on the same day. The staff member attempted to reason with the election official on behalf of the potential voter and their mother. Unable to convince the official, the staff member stepped away from the heated discussion to call the City Clerk's office. To resolve the situation, he connected the precinct judge to the city clerk's office who was able to convey the correct interpretation of the same-day registration law. Due to the advocacy of Community Action Duluth's staff, a young voter was able to exercise his Constitutional right to vote.

## **Intensive Advocacy and Support Services Lead to Citizenship**

Minnesota Valley Action Council's partnership with AmeriCorps has expanded its educational and training placement opportunities for low-income people in Brown County. Having an AmeriCorps volunteer has assisted MVAC in providing intensive one-to-one services for individuals needing help preparing resumes, passing GED tests, obtaining driving permits and licenses, learning English and learning job search skills.

Sometimes an important part of these services is advocating on behalf of clients. For example, a Vietnamese family needed intensive involvement and support in achieving their dream of citizenship. MVAC helped the family tackle the varied "systems" that posed barriers. With a little help they improved their English, corrected mistakes made on their INS documentation and received intensive instruction to prepare them to become citizens of the United States. In May of 2005, the father of the family succeeded in passing his citizenship test. This single success is representative of MVAC's many efforts to advocate on behalf of its participants and to build a stronger community.

## **A Long-Term Investment in Long-Term Stability**

In February 2004 Olmsted Community Action Program began working with Randy, Sara and their 4 children on moving from welfare to greater self-sufficiency.

At first, Randy's inability to read or write and Sara's uncontrolled seizures were unknown. As staff built trust and rapport with the family, steps towards self-sufficiency were identified including applying for SSI/SSDI, arranging transportation for medical appointments for consistent medical care, testing to determine the cognitive abilities of Randy and assessing of Sara's neurological impairments and seizure severity.

After 2 ½ years, Olmsted continues to work with the family in supporting their progress. Both adults have pending SSI/SSDI cases at the hearing level and are being represented by a reputable attorney. Randy has been connected with Rehabilitation Services, has a developmental disability social worker and is working extensively on credit repair. Sara has gone through several trials of various anti-seizure medications and finally found one that is working. Olmsted has assisted the family with connections to county resources that have provided new appliances for their home and assisted with homeowner's insurance. The family is also working with the Home Rehabilitation Loan program to make their mobile home more energy efficient and reduce their high utility bills.

Although staff continues to work with the family, great strides have been made to create a stable, supportive environment for Randy and Sara's children. Olmsted has made a difference in increasing the family's knowledge, skills and resources to become more independent.

# Results Oriented Management & Accountability (ROMA)

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, program development and improvement, training and reporting.

In 2000, work on a comprehensive family assessment tool started. The resulting Self-Reliance Achievement Scale (SRAS) was implemented statewide in 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>.

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>.

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 each local community action agency is unique, and has a distinct theory for change in their community. This reflects the nature of community action, that the board for each local agency establishes priorities to meet their local needs and make the best possible use of limited resources in each community. Though each agency is unique, many are striving for similar outcomes. Rather than looking at programs by type, ROMA looks across programs to identify and highlight common outcomes.

# Selected Family Results:

## Low-income people become more self-sufficient.

Outcome	Measure/Indicator	Achievement
<b>Employment</b>		
<i>Individuals in the community obtain employment or higher paying jobs.</i>	• Individuals who were unemployed obtained a job.	2,030
	• Individuals that obtain an increase in employment income.	1,258
<b>Employment Supports</b>		
<i>Barriers to employment faced by low-income individuals are reduced or eliminated.</i>	• Families who obtained care for child or other dependent in order to acquire or maintain employment.	2,578
	• Individuals who obtained access to reliable transportation and/or driver's license in order to acquire or maintain employment.	1,493
	• Individuals who obtained safe and affordable housing in support of family stability needed to gain or retain employment.	2,175
	• Individuals who obtained food assistance in support of family stability needed to gain or retain employment.	15,825
<b>Economic Asset Enhancement and Utilization</b>		
<i>Households achieve an increase in non-employment assets and resource utilization skills.</i>	• Households in tax preparation programs who obtained any type of Federal or State tax credit.	82,440
	• Estimated amount of tax credits.	\$22,111,030
	• Individuals who demonstrate ability to complete a budget for over 90 days.	4,164
	• Homes that have at least a 15-18% reduction in energy consumption.	2,615
<b>Housing Stabilization</b>		
<i>Families and individuals facing economic instability will retain their housing with intervention and short-term assistance.</i>	• Households in crisis who retain stable housing due to emergency rent payments received.	4,324
	• Households placed in Transitional Housing.	459
	• Households who avert foreclosure and maintain home.	1,231
	• Households who receive services to stabilize housing.	5,712

# Selected Family Results:

## Low-income people become more self-sufficient.

Outcome	Measure/Indicator	Achievement
<b>Independent Living</b>		
<i>The independence, dignity and well being of vulnerable adults receiving services from community action is maintained.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transportation services, including van or bus service, car maintenance and repair.</li> <li>• Senior nutrition services promote independence, dignity, good health and nutritional well-being of older persons.</li> </ul>	259,435  1,222,507 (Congregate Meals)  618,535 (Home Delivered Meals)
<b>Health Access &amp; Insurance</b>		
<i>Families have identified medical and dental providers and obtain needed medical and dental preventative care.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children who received follow-up services and therefore improved health.</li> <li>• Children who completed medical, dental and mental health exams.</li> <li>• Children with up-to-date or current immunizations.</li> <li>• Households who enrolled in MinnesotaCare or other health insurance programs.</li> <li>• Households who are able to access needed medical, dental and preventative care.</li> </ul>	4,301  9,721  10,529  6,580  13,296
<b>Emergency Assistance</b>		
<i>Households receive emergency assistance to resolve crisis and are able to become and remain stable within their communities.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Households that receive food or vouchers.</li> <li>• Households that receive emergency payments to vendors, including fuel and energy bills.</li> <li>• Households that receive temporary shelter.</li> <li>• Households that receive assistance for transportation including bus passes, car repair assistance, gas vouchers.</li> <li>• Households that receive clothing.</li> </ul>	48,232 69,737  736 8,172  20,638
<b>Child and Family Development</b>		
<i>Children and youth from low-income families participate in developmental or enrichment programs and achieve program goals.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children from low-income families who are ready for school having developed pre-literacy and pre-numeracy skills as measured by assessment.</li> <li>• Parents and other adults who learn and exhibit improved parenting skills.</li> <li>• Parents and other adults who learn and exhibit improved family functioning skills.</li> </ul>	5,550  8,552  7,241

# Selected Community Results:

## Conditions In Which Low-Income People Live Are Improved.

Outcome	Measure/Indicator	Achievement
<b>Community Improvement &amp; Revitalization</b>		
<i>There is an increase in or safeguarding of threatened community opportunities and resources or services for low-income people as a result of community action projects and initiatives, or advocacy with other public and private agencies.</i>	• Safe and affordable housing units created.	706
	• Safe and affordable housing units preserved or improved through construction, Weatherization or rehabilitation. Includes loans, rehab work and/or advocacy.	8,410
	• Accessible, affordable health care services/facilities for limited low-income people created or maintained.	4,554
	• Accessible, safe, affordable childcare/child development opportunities for low-income families created or maintained.	5,463
	• Accessible "before" and "after" school program opportunities for low-income families created or maintained.	1,700
	• Accessible new or expanded transportation or preserved transportation resources, including public or private transportation.	515,369
<b>Information and Referral</b>		
<i>Access to community resources is improved. Partners and the community are better informed about issues faced by low-income people.</i>	• Information and referral service provided to households requesting assistance.	404,718
	• Meetings to advocate for low-income individuals and families, media appearances, news releases/articles and public speaking.	14,023
<b>Civic Investment through Volunteerism</b>		
<i>Services provided in the community with volunteers.</i>	• People who volunteer.	33,577
	• Hours of service volunteered.	1,982,384
<b>Community Involvement through Maximum Feasible Participation</b>		
<i>People learn skills to participate in and advocate for, systems change on behalf of themselves, children and other vulnerable populations within their community.</i>  <i>The voices and needs of community members are accurately reflected through participation in community boards or committees.</i>	• Individuals participating in organizations, government, boards or councils that provide input to decision making and policy setting through community action.	1,268
	• Individuals that purchase their own homes as a result of community action assistance.	706
	• Individuals who attend advocacy training.	1,202
	• Parents who complete Leadership training.	573
	• Individuals who attend training sessions.	5,193
	• Individuals who serve on agency advisory council(s) at least one time per year.	1,494



# Selected Agency Results:

## Agencies Increase Their Capacity to Achieve Results.

Outcome	Measure/Indicator	Achievement
<b>Expanding Opportunities through Community-Wide Partnerships.</b>		
<i>Services and programs are efficient, well-integrated, non duplicative and meet the needs of low-income people in the community.</i>	• Total number of organizations with whom community action agencies work to promote family and community outcomes.	3,099 (Including 261 Faith-Based Organizations)
	• Formal collaborative agreements were maintained over the past year.	1,309
	• Financial agreements were maintained over the past year.	990
	• Informal service delivery relationships were maintained over the past year.	2,504
	• Advocacy alliances were maintained over the past year.	687
<b>Community Development</b>		
<i>Capacity of local organizations is strengthened to serve the community. Youth are engaged in productive activities in the community.</i>	• Local agencies or community organizations which receive capacity-building services.	466
	• Organizations that receive funding or in-kind assistance for youth activities.	73
<b>Broadening Agency Resource Base</b>		
<i>Agency has increased funding to ensure smooth program and agency operation in order to serve low-income individual and families more effectively.</i>	• Funding leveraged by Community Action funding.	\$233.6 million
<b>Agency Capacity</b>		
<i>Agency programs are regularly evaluated and improved to maximize strengths and deliver sound services to the community. Resources are focused on highest impact programs.</i>	• Monitoring reports with positive results reported by funders and self-evaluations including Head Start Prism reviews.	484
	• Staff performance evaluations completed.	3,608
	• Training needs assessments completed by staff and supervisors.	2,056
	• Strategic planning meetings involving staff & board; updated agency strategic plan in place.	537

# Minnesota Community Action Best Practice Awards

In February 2005, the Minnesota Community Action Association (MCAA) collaborated with the Minnesota Department of Human Service's Office of Economic Opportunity and the University of Minnesota's College of Human Ecology to host its 2nd annual 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.

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 strategy or new partnership with 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: 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.

## **Goal 1: Low-income people become more self-sufficient.**

### **BEST PRACTICE AWARD: Wheel Get There, Minnesota Valley Action Council**

Wheel Get There helps low-income people purchase reliable, low-cost vehicles, provides budget counseling to teach people how to manage the costs associated with car ownership, ongoing education about maintenance, and assistance with car repairs. Since January 2000, 552 people accessed vehicles, 450 people attended car maintenance classes, and 400 people have received budget counseling training.

### **HONORABLE MENTION: Tax Aid, Mahube Community Council**

Tax Aid operates in partnership with the IRS and AARP to provide free income tax preparation for low-income and elderly people. The program helps people to access state and federal tax credits, as well as electronically file their tax returns. The program ranked 5th out of 274 volunteer tax sites in the State of Minnesota for e-filing returns.

## **Goal 2: The conditions in which low-income people live are improved.**

### **BEST PRACTICE AWARD: Wazuweeta Woods, Three Rivers Community Action**

Wazuweeta Woods is a new mixed-unit, mixed-income development for working individuals and families. The development includes 24 affordable rental apartments and 33 for-sale homes and town homes. Homes are affordable to families earning as little as \$10.00 per hour. Rental units feature two, three, and four bedroom units with rents from \$490 to \$665. The project was developed in partnership with First Homes, Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, Greater Minnesota Housing Fund, City of Pine Island, local lenders, and Habitat for Humanity.

## **Goal 3: Low-income people own a stake in their own community.**

### **BEST PRACTICE AWARD: Community Voting Project of Saint Paul/East Metro Area, Community Action Partnership of Ramsey & Washington Counties**

The Community Voting Project is a community-based network promoting voter education and mobilization of low-income and under-represented communities in St. Paul and the East Metro Area. The project engaged low-income and under-represented communities in the electoral process, increased voter turnout, supported ongoing civic involvement and leadership opportunities. Between May and October 2004, 1,452 new voters were registered and voter participation in key precincts increased by 146% over 2002.

**BEST PRACTICE AWARD: Affordable Housing Program, West Central Minnesota Communities Action**

West Central partnered with the Minnesota Department of Corrections, Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, Greater Minnesota Housing Fund, and local municipalities to build and sell 43 homes through its affordable housing program since 1999. Homes are built using Department of Corrections' inmates, who are enrolled in a carpentry-training program. This housing has allowed families renting their housing to become homeowners. The market value of homes built exceeds \$4.3 million.

**Goal 4: Partnerships among supporters and providers of services to low-income people are achieved.**

**BEST PRACTICE AWARD: Morris Area Child Development Partnership, West Central Minnesota Communities Action**

THIS partnership is a collaboration between the Morris Area Child Care Center and Head Start to provide full-day services to both program's participants. West Wind Village, a senior retirement home, houses the expanded facility. The partnership provides full child care services to Head Start families, stronger early childhood education services, and coordination of parent involvement services. A Family Resource Library provides resources for parents to check-out and on-site training facilities for parents, early childhood professionals and the public. An intergenerational program helps the children to build relationships with senior residents.

**HONORABLE MENTION: Head Start Dental Days, Lakes and Prairies Community Action Partnership**

An annual event, Head Start Dental Days, provides dental services to Head Start children in the Family Service Center in Moorhead. This event makes dental care available to children and families that face obstacles in accessing their care. Examinations are provided in the Head Start space, where children and their families feel more comfortable. Dental Days is collaboration between Clay-Wilkin Head Start, Head Start parents, Apple Tree Dental, Red River Dental Access, volunteers, and Head Start staff members.

## **GOAL 5: Agencies Increase Their Capacity to Achieve Results.**

### **HONORABLE MENTION: Multicultural Outreach Program, Community Action Partnership for Suburban Hennepin**

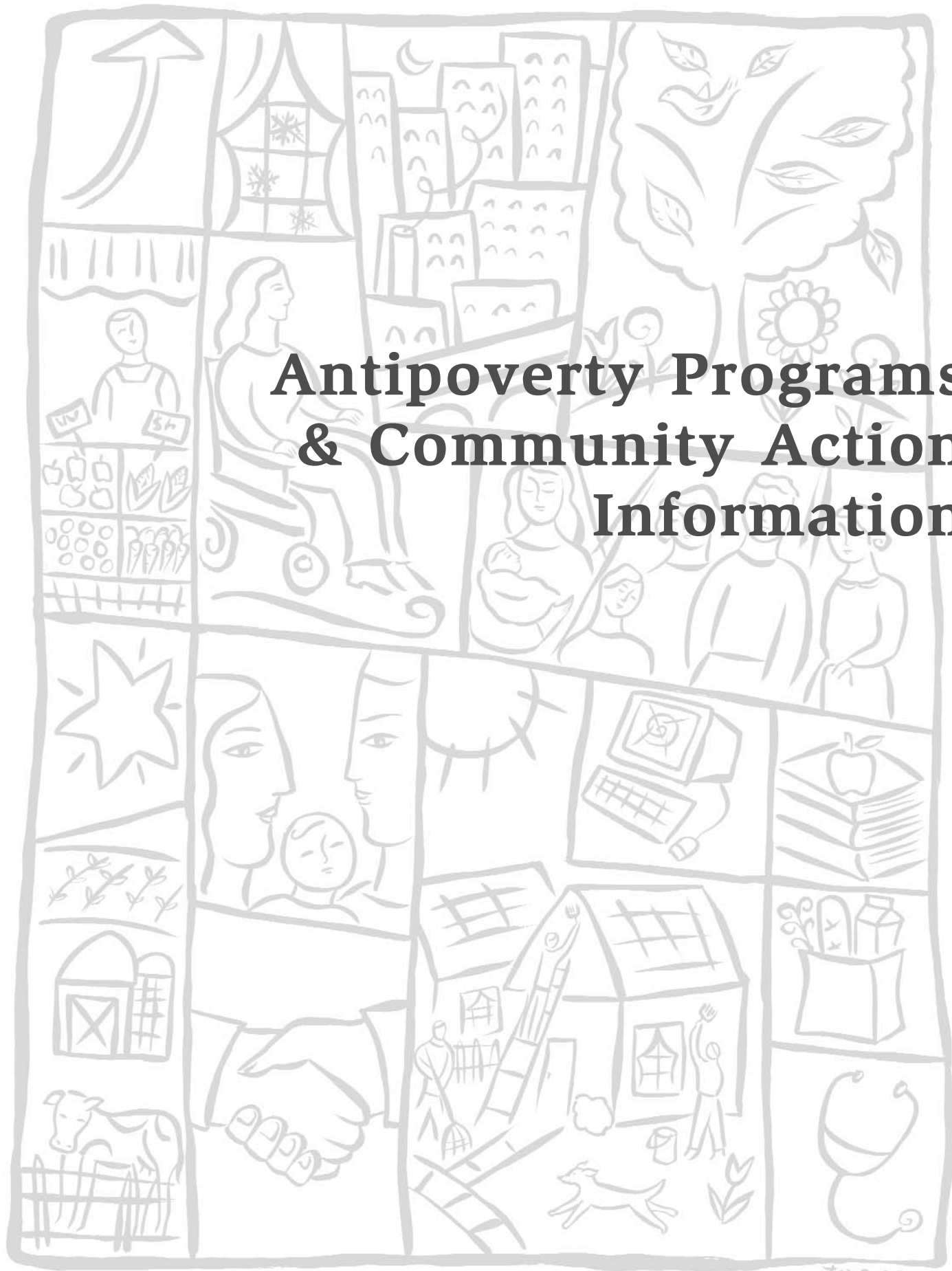
The Multicultural Outreach Program was developed to meet the needs of a growing population of participants with Limited English Proficiency in suburban Hennepin County. Information and referral services have been expanded to include a multicultural language outreach component with interpretative and translation services. A cultural liaison staff person was also hired. CAPSH's website is completely available in Spanish, and parts are available in Somali, Russian, and Hmong. Voter education and registration has also been a component of this program.

## **GOAL 6: Low-income people, especially vulnerable populations, achieve their potential by strengthening family and other supportive systems.**

### **BEST PRACTICE AWARD: Bethesda Kids in Development, Heartland Community Action Agency**

Bethesda Kids in Development (KID) addresses the school-readiness needs of preschoolers who have completed a Head Start cycle and have significant cognitive, social, and emotional delays. Project partners include a senior living site, businesses, public health, senior volunteers, and a mental health collaborative. The program increases children's developmental and school readiness skills just prior to entering kindergarten. It also helps parents develop effective advocacy skills to prepare them to actively engage in their children's school success.

# Antipoverty Programs & Community Action Information



# Homelessness in Minnesota

On February 24, 2005, 6,734 homeless persons were sheltered in Minnesota's emergency shelter and transitional housing programs. Over a third of these persons were children who were with their families (37%) or unaccompanied youth (6%). Twenty-nine percent (29%) of the adults sheltered were men and 28% were women. Another 1,129 requests for shelter or transitional housing could not be met.

The 6,734 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 are 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 over a period of almost 20 years, tells us that the needs of individuals and families experiencing homelessness can be seen across a continuum. Some people need support services for many years, perhaps forever, and some 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.

Regional Continuum of Care Committees, thirteen in the state, leads efforts to address the full spectrum of homelessness. The 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 for long-term homelessness 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, an additional 4,000 supportive housing units will need to be developed by the year 2010 to address the needs of long-term homeless Minnesotans.

Community Action Agencies (CAAs) 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. In addition, many CAAs 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.

# Quarterly Shelter Survey Enters the Digital Age

Since 1985, the Office of Economic Opportunity has administered the Quarterly Shelter Survey to count the number of homeless persons sheltered and turned away from shelter in Minnesota. This was the first study of its kind in the nation and remains the nation's longest running longitudinal count of homeless persons seeking shelter.

The Quarterly Shelter Survey is widely used throughout Minnesota for a wide variety of reasons, such as making funding proposals, identifying trends of homelessness in Minnesota, and determining Title I funding for school districts. The data that is obtained from the survey is quoted at the legislature and in the media throughout Minnesota.

Although OEO considers this assessment of one of the state's most vulnerable populations a moral obligation, changes in state funding has made it increasingly burdensome to administer and send out print surveys to the nearly 500 programs throughout the state.

In November, instead of receiving a paper copy in the mail, survey participants received an email, which directed them to a secure state website where they entered their numbers for the designated night. The change to an online format will allow more time for communicating results to partners interested in ending homelessness in Minnesota.



# Financial Literacy and Asset Development

Financial literacy education and asset building programs are key community action activities that promote the immediate and long-term economic security of low-income individuals and families. Short-term economic security focuses on income, having the means to cover one's basic needs such as housing, food and clothing. Equally important is long-term economic security, which focuses on the accumulation of assets and the development of human capital. Community action reaches thousands of families every year, connecting them with opportunities to develop positive financial management skills and habits and to build assets that 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.

In 1999, a small statewide IDA program called Family Assets for Independence in Minnesota (FAIM) was launched. Savings of participants are matched at a rate of 3:1: For every \$1 of earned income saved (up to \$480 per year), \$3 is matched towards purchase of an asset. Eligible assets include home purchase, capitalization of a small business, and post-secondary education. FAIM participants attend general financial literacy education classes along with additional asset-specific training. Today, FAIM is delivered by a statewide 24-site collaborative of community action agencies, Women Venture, Inc., and Leech Lake Tribal Government. West Central Minnesota Communities Action, Inc. is the fiscal agent for the initiative.

During the FAIM pilot (2000-2004), a total of 718 low-wage participants saved \$566,869. In 2001, research conducted by an outside evaluator showed that FAIM participants saved an average of \$28 per month and saved an average of 9 out of every 12 months. During the four-year pilot phase, 119 homes were purchased, 111 small businesses were capitalized, and 105 participants enrolled in post-secondary education programs. In total, 616 participants completed general financial literacy classes and asset specific training. In the current program (2004-present), over \$225,000 have been saved and 134 assets have already being acquired.

For more information about Minnesota's IDA program, visit: <http://www.minnesotafaim.org>.

## Accessing Federal and State Tax Credits

Recognized as our country's most effective and efficient antipoverty tool, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a federal tax credit created by Congress in 1975. It was established to offset particular disproportionately high taxes paid by low and moderate wage working families. More than 250,000 Minnesotan households - more than one in 10 - benefit from it, and many more qualify but do not know they are eligible. The EITC reduces any federal income tax that is owed and refunds the remaining amount of the credit to tax payers.

During the 2004 tax season, more than 250,000 working Minnesotans claimed more than \$387 million through the EITC. For tax year 2005, the EITC was worth up to \$4,400 for workers who earned up to \$37,000 and had two or more qualifying children. In Minnesota, the average amount claimed in 2004 was \$1,549. Nearly all Minnesotans who qualify for the EITC are also eligible for Minnesota's Working Family Credit (WFC). In 2005, the WFC was worth up to \$1,506 for workers who earned up to \$34,458 and had two or more qualifying children. The average WFC claimed by Minnesotans in 2004 was \$516.

Federal and state tax credits are a significant infusion of cash for low-income families and their local economies. Refunds increase the income of families helping them to meet their basic needs or to save and build assets, as well as stimulate Minnesota's overall economy as local grocers, retailers, and other businesses benefit from additional spending. For example, a single parent, low-wage earner who claims the EITC and WFC can increase their income by 50%.

### **Single Parent of Two Children**

Full-time minimum wage work in 2005 (after payroll taxes)	\$11,814
Federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) & <u>Minnesota Working Family Credit (WFC) Combined</u>	<u>\$5,500</u>
Total Income including Tax Credits	\$17,314

If 10% more of eligible tax payers had claimed their EITC for tax year 2002, nearly 24,000 more Minnesotans would have claimed another \$27 million in federal funds and more than \$9 million in state funds. Low-income families may also 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.

Free tax assistance preparation helps low-income families to access their credits. Several options exist for free tax assistance in Minnesota. Families earning \$36,000 or less, and individuals earning \$26,000 or less, are eligible for free tax preparation. Community action partners with both AccountAbility Minnesota and AARP's Tax-Aid program to expand access to tax assistance sites. Typically, tax assistance sites are open from February 1 through April 15.

## **Training and Support for Nonprofit Staff and Organizations**

In recent years, the capacity of community action and other nonprofits to deliver financial literacy and asset building opportunities to their participants has been growing with the support of the Office of Economic Opportunity, Minnesota Department of Human Services and the Minnesota Community Action Association. Through federal grants and a McKnight Foundation grant training and resources have been developed to support direct service case managers and coaches to deliver financial literacy and asset building activities. Statewide trainings have been delivered on the *Four Cornerstones of Financial Literacy* curriculum. The curriculum incorporates adult learning principles and utilizes the learning circles method to incorporate participants' life experiences, and includes the following topical modules. The [www.helpmnsave.org](http://www.helpmnsave.org) website has also been launched to provide a clearinghouse of tools, information, and resources for direct service staff. Outreach and technical assistance activities to increase knowledge and access to state and federal tax credits have also been important activities. As community action expands its activities in the areas of financial literacy and asset building, new resources and opportunities are helping low-income people to increase their self-sufficiency and move out of poverty.

# Head Start in Minnesota

Launched during the War on Poverty in 1965, Community Action and Head Start share a common history and vision of fostering the self-sufficiency of low-income families through education and empowerment. In Minnesota, Community Action is a critical partner supporting the efforts of 34 Head Start and Early Head Start programs in preparing low-income children to enter kindergarten with the social, physical, emotional, and cognitive skills and competencies necessary for school success.

## Comprehensive Services

A cornerstone of Head Start and Early Head Start is a comprehensive services approach to school readiness for low-income children.

- Comprehensive services coordinated with community-based service systems: As of 2004, all enrolled children are regularly assessed (3 times a year) in the areas of language development, literacy, mathematics, science, creative arts, social/emotional development, approaches to learning, and physical health according to the Head Start Child Outcomes Framework. Head Start children in Minneapolis scored higher than other children on the Kindergarten Entrance assessment.
- Early childhood language and literacy education prepares children for kindergarten: Since 1999, all Head Start programs have research-based curriculum and an ongoing child developmental assessment process.
- Health services to eliminate health related barriers to school readiness, including immunizations, oral health, mental health and developmental screenings. In 2005, all Head Start programs reported having mental health curriculum and practices in place for prevention, screening, and referral. Staff screened 13,741 children (81%) for developmental, sensory, and behavioral concerns, and conferred with mental health consultants about 1,699 children (10%) and referred 284 children for mental health services.
- Social services to help parents reach self-sufficiency so poverty presents less of a barrier to a child's ability to reach his or her full potential.
- Social/Emotional early childhood education to ensure children have the social/emotional skills needed to develop cognitively.

## Funding

Federal Head Start grants are made directly to local public or private nonprofit agencies. The federal-to-local flow of dollars is key to ensuring children and families receive programming tailored to their community and unique needs. Federal law requires the community to contribute at least 20% of the cost of a Head Start program. Since 1988, Minnesota has appropriated state general funds for Minnesota Head Start programs. Many programs use in-kind contributions to meet the match requirements including the value of volunteer hours and costs of donating space, materials and services. In 2005, Head Start programs only had enough funding to serve 41% of children under five living in poverty.

## **Participant Income Guidelines and Eligibility**

At least 90% of families eligible for Head Start or Early Head Start must have incomes that are at or below the federal poverty guidelines: \$12,830 for a two-person family and \$16,090 for a three person family in fiscal year 2005. Since the demand for Head Start exceeds funded capacity throughout Minnesota, Head Start grantees have additional selection criteria to serve children with the greatest needs such as a diagnosed disability or homeless or sheltered living arrangement.

## **Supporting Parenting and Strengthening Families**

Head Start is both a child and family development program. Minnesota Head Start supports the philosophy that mothers and fathers are the primary educators in their children's lives and that both parents need support to reach their full potential for themselves and their children.

## **Fostering Self-Sufficiency through Individual Family Partnership Agreements**

Early childhood experts know that it is supremely difficult for young children to learn how to function socially and emotionally in a stable, structured, consistent environment when they don't in fact live in a stable, structured, and consistent environment. Children learn best when they feel safe, secure, and supported. It is difficult for a parent to focus on learning parenting skills and how to provide their child with the nurturing and support he or she needs to succeed in school when their own life is unstable. Parents work with professional Head Start advocates to break the cycle of poverty. Individual Family Partnership Agreements are developed to help parents identify family strengths, goals and areas in which assistance is needed. By addressing their individual strengths and needs, parents have a better awareness of how to continue along their path towards self-sufficiency. In 2005, 13,776 families (90%) participated in family goal setting and worked with staff to achieve those goals.

## **Multiple Opportunities to Build Parenting Skills**

Head Start recognizes the inherent competence of parents and seeks to help them further develop their capacity to parent their children and extend classroom learning in the home. Parents are encouraged to take responsibility for their child's education and participate actively by volunteering in their child's classroom, accompanying their child on field trips, attending activities and events, serving on the Head Start Parent Policy Council, serving on Head Start parent committees, and striving towards their own educational goals. In 2005, 15,324 parents volunteered in Minnesota Head Start programs. Head Start employed 1,001 staff (30%) who are current or former Head Start parents.

## **Extending Classroom Learning Into the Home**

Head Start supports parents as the primary educators of their child. Programs have developed unique and creative ways to strengthen parent/child bonds and provide parents with the tools and resources they need to understand early childhood development principles and extend classroom learning into the home.

## **Head Start Parent Policy Council**

Head Start programs empower parents to be decision-makers through Parent Policy Councils comprised of a majority of currently enrolled parents. These parents help govern the Head Start program by approving or disapproving: All funding applications, procedures for shared decision making, program planning and goals and objectives, criteria for enrollment priorities, annual self assessment, personnel policies, and decisions to hire or terminate staff.

## **Community Partnerships**

Head Start has strong community partners throughout Minnesota to realize positive outcomes for poor children and families. Programs partner with school-based programs; health, dental, nutrition, and mental health providers; family social services and housing services; educational institutions and job trainers; neighborhood and cultural organizations; community experts in program evaluation and planning; and other child care services to provide full-day and/or full-year programming. Programs provided Head Start services in partnership with 243 Family Child Care Providers and had formal agreements with 327 schools and/or school districts.

## **Performance Standards**

In 1975 the federal government established Head Start Program Performance Standards. Performance Standards are detailed regulations for all areas of program operations. While all Head Start grantees must meet performance standards, each is free to design their programs to meet their unique community needs. Grantees undergo a rigorous in-depth monitoring of their programs every three years by the federal government. Grantees have 90 days to correct any program deficiencies and are de-funded if they do not meet regulations within that time.

# Food Shelves and Food Support in Minnesota

Many Minnesotans are utilizing food shelves and 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. Lack of money may lead older people to purchase less nutritional food such as fresh fruits, vegetables and meat because of higher costs and fear of waste, hindering their health and ability to remain self-sufficient.

Food Support (formerly known as Food Stamps), the federal program designed to help people meet their nutritional needs and supplement their food income, provides an average of \$78.00 per person per month. The Minnesota Department of Human Services works with counties to administer the program who serve on average, 69% of people in poverty. To find out how to apply for Food Support, Minnesotans may contact their local county human service office or the Senior Linkage Line at (800) 333-2433.

In 2004, Minnesota's 285 food shelves served 1.8 million people, 54 percent of whom were children and 20 percent of whom were seniors. Food shelf usage in 2004 increased by almost 10 percent over 2003. The Minnesota Department of Human Services contracts with Hunger Solutions Minnesota to manage the TEFAP contract, through which USDA commodity food is transported and distributed to the six America's Second Harvest Food Banks serving the State of Minnesota. USDA commodity food is available in all 87 counties for eligible recipients to access through visits to food shelves and emergency meal programs. For a listing of food shelves in a particular area of the state, visit [www.mnhungerpartners.org](http://www.mnhungerpartners.org).

# Circles of Support: Building Communities to End Poverty

Circles of Support is a high impact strategy to alleviate poverty that is being tested in several communities in the United States including Minnesota. Circles of Support link community members with families who are experiencing poverty. The reciprocal relationships built in these groups help break down the isolation many low-income families experience. These reciprocal relationships also add meaning to the lives of everyone involved.

Circles leverage human relationships for both the individuals involved and for communities. These relationships change the mind-set of the community. They are helping people to become organized to end poverty in the United States.

## Solutions to Poverty

People do not want to be poor.

Poverty is a complex dynamic and requires local and national solutions in order to eliminate it. More and more national, regional, and local community and faith organizations are committed to doing just that.

Helping agencies can utilize circles to provide many things institutions and professionals cannot provide to a family. Taken together, social service agencies have a very limited capacity to address poverty, when compared to the staggering number of people who are battling poverty in our nation's communities. Although services are an important piece of the puzzle in addressing individual and household poverty, services alone cannot and do not move families safely and permanently out of poverty. Furthermore, even the highest quality services imaginable do nothing to address the systemic barriers that perpetuate poverty and isolation. We have unwittingly institutionalized the natural human gift of caring and thereby marginalized the participation of the community in the lives of those among us who are locked into their daily struggles against poverty.

## Why Circles of Support?

Circles of Support are comprised of people who agree to befriend a family who is trying to get out of poverty. The members of the Circle (Allies) can be anyone, with any level of resources, who genuinely wants to help. Circles can do whatever they wish, as long as the family being supported wants the help being offered. Circles typically include focused support for employment, housing, transportation and building social networks. The Circle belongs to the family as well as to the Allies. Everyone benefits. Normally a Circle is comprised of three (3) allies for each participant family.

Human beings are hard wired to need relationships in order to grow and thrive. Often, when life is most difficult we operate more in isolation than in relationship.

Circles of Support help to break the pattern of isolation many families with low-incomes experience. Circles have learned that neighbor-to-neighbor relationships tend to be more energizing for everyone involved than our systems that have evolved into hiring professionals to "help" clients.

Circles of Support help to break patterns of isolation for people with middle and upper incomes, also. Many people have found that after a certain level of economic stability is reached adding to their accumulation of 'stuff' does not add meaning to their life. Many people have also found that being involved in a Circle of Support's wealth of relationships enriches their lives immensely.

The basic tenet of the Circle of Support strategy is to assure that all people have enough money, meaning and friends to thrive - and that everyone does that better through relationships. In implementing Circles of Support, human service organizations are encouraged to change staff roles to that of broker and teacher, not direct service provider. A broker is someone who understands the system of community services and can guide both families and their allies to them. As a teacher, staff members do not do for a circle what a circle can do for itself. Rather, they give people in the circle information to pursue solutions on their own. This shift ultimately increases the capacity of agencies to help people in need as well as increases the capacity of people with low-incomes to meet their needs as part of an interdependent community. Every 25 families generally has one (1) staff person to act as a resource to the family, to the Allies and to the Circle as a group.

## **Building Relationships Across Class and Racial Lines**

The Circles of Support approach is one of building effective relationships across race and class lines. It is not just another program, and it should not be included in a long list of social services programs. To do this well, service agencies need to incorporate the spirit of this approach into everything they do. All services can include informal supports from a willing group of community members who are seeking more meaning in their lives through a direct relationship with someone who can benefit from their time and energy.

Members of Circles of Support are building a new community within the existing communities. People join these communities focused on ending poverty, whether they come in as a family wanting out of poverty, or a family wanting to help others out of poverty. ALL relationships are reciprocal. It is not a handout program, nor is it an atmosphere of "you need me." Everyone has gifts and talents to share and those are being identified for each individual's best contributions to the overall task of ending poverty in their circle as well as in our larger community.

Finally, the approach is one that employs the head, the hands, and the heart; is driven by good intentions; gives permission for people to make mistakes as they



learn the sometimes messy business of building new relationships across class and race lines; and celebrates what is new and good, shifting the focus from problems to solutions.

In Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, California, and Arizona community action agencies, school districts, and community organizations are testing Circles of Support as a model for ending poverty. As each community more fully develops its model based on community resources and needs, the information is shared to end poverty.

## Community Allies

Most Circles have three (3) Allies for every family - one to work with the Participant on economic literacy, one on community networking (services and friend/organizational support), and one with education/job search. Currently in Minnesota, the community action agency's staff person facilitates the exact match and mix of interests, skills, and gifts between the Allies and the Participants.

## Key Components of Circles of Support

- Allies are recruited from interested faith communities, businesses, community service groups or from the general public.
- There is a series of orientation sessions for Participants and Allies who are interested.
- Allies and Participant families complete an interest survey so people with similar interests can be matched.
- Participants call the first Circles meeting.
- Circles meet as often as they agree upon and as often as the family with low-income may need.
- Weekly Community Leadership meetings include participants, allies, community members, human service staff, and anyone who is interested in ending poverty.
- Monthly Big View meeting identify the systems issues that are getting in the way of people being able to move out of poverty in the community.
- Community Teams are developed as needed to address the systems roadblocks identified at the Big View meetings.
- Social service agency staff members act as brokers of services.
- The mix of services brokered or delivered by social service agency staff depends on the coordinator of the model. Generally, case management, asset development, economic literacy and budget development, goal setting, job coaching, education/training, and other services needed by the family are available or brokered.
- Progress evaluations of the participant family are conducted and new ideas and improvements are continually added to the mix in the model.

Circles of support are being pioneered by Beyond Welfare of Ames, Iowa in conjunction with the Move the Mountain Leadership Center. For more information see: [http://www.movethemountain.org/beyond\\_welfare/](http://www.movethemountain.org/beyond_welfare/)

# Integrating Information Management Systems

Community action agencies, the Office of Economic Opportunity and the Minnesota Community Action Association are cooperatively implementing a very powerful and very flexible web-based information management system. The system will support an "ask once - enter once" approach to service delivery. Agencies and families will save precious time. With one-stop entry to numerous low-income assistance programs, access to services will be greatly improved while simultaneously reducing duplicative intake processes. In addition to improved services, the system 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 nonprofit partners who are using other systems.

For years, Community Action Agencies (CAAs) have been struggling with the complexity of operating multiple databases that are mandated by a variety of public and private funders. CAAs typically operate from 3-7 separate databases. More often than not, client data must be re-entered in each database resulting in fragmented services, costly inefficiencies and more data entry mistakes.

Community action agencies are pooling their resources through the Minnesota Community Action Association to improve efficiency and effectiveness. First, the web-based software has much greater power and flexibility to support agency operations than most agencies could afford on their own. Second, the application service provider hardware strategy will centralize ownership and maintenance and result in improved performance, security and reliability as well as around the clock support. Third, sharing a common training strategy will result in consistent high standards of performance and reduced total costs of ownership.

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

# Data Management System Features

The new data management system will provide a wide range of benefits to clients, service providers, funders, and administrators in a cost efficient manner.

- The "ask once - enter once" single point of data entry for multiple programs will increase staff efficiency and job productivity while reducing duplication of efforts and errors.
- The central data system will support more comprehensive, integrated service delivery and program administration. It will simultaneously reduce the amount of data gathering and data entry time while improving the availability of information for real-time service delivery. With less time spent on paperwork, 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.
- A powerful, multi-tiered security design will safeguard personal information. The design will also support an audit trail of actual information sharing. With proper consents, it will expedite the use of data sharing for analysis, longitudinal study, determination of best practices, performance measurement and program redesign.
- The system 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, it will be centrally upgraded rather than via software reinstallation and debugging on individual staff desktops throughout local agencies.
- 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. The ASP's security and back-up protections 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 community action agencies in Minnesota also assures cost savings on training. Association trainings, train-the-trainer strategies and online interactive training will result in even further savings of travel expenses and travel time.

For up-to-date information, see: <http://www.mncaa.org>

# Guiding Principles for Partnership

The Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO), Minnesota Department of Human Services has adopted three guiding principles in an effort to form meaningful and constructive partnerships with community action and other antipoverty programs. The principles of mutual respect, open communication and joint problem solving ground the relationship between community action and OEO.

## **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.

Adapted from principles developed by Kay Willmoth, Head Start Region V, Chicago, IL.





# Local Community Action Agency Information & Results

Jane M.

# Anoka County Community Action Program

Patrick McFarland  
Executive Director

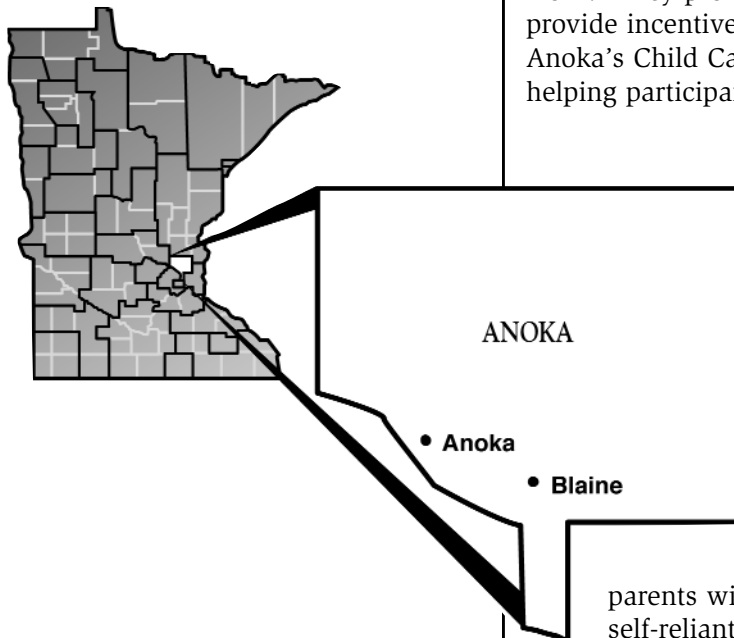
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## Service Area



## Results Highlight

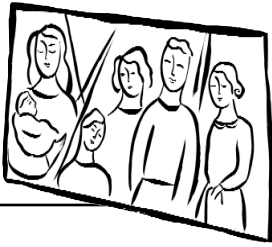
### Delivering Child Care

Anoka County Community Action Program (ACCAP) delivers all Child Care Assistance programs under contract with Anoka County. Child Care Assistance programs are publicly funded programs that help low and moderate-income parents and other caregivers pay for a child's care. These programs offer Basic Sliding Fee Child Care to non-welfare clients, MFIP Child Care for parents moving from welfare and Transitional Child Care for parents moving from welfare to non-welfare status. On average, 1,300 families are served by all three programs. All participants are either employed or in school developing employment skills.

Child Care Assistance programs are effective in alleviating poverty and fostering self-sufficiency by enabling parents to work. They provide resources to low-income families and provide incentives for people to leave welfare. Last year Anoka's Child Care Assistance programs spent \$10,000 helping participants pay child care costs.

The programs work in collaboration with Anoka Community Action Program, Anoka County, child care providers and the Workforce Center. Child Care Assistance programs work with over 800 licensed child care family homes and centers and provides substantial employment opportunities for child care professionals.

Child Care Assistance programs are uniquely positioned to provide a necessary resource for low-income parents with young children in their efforts to become self-reliant. The programs are vital in improving the local child care community and in improving existing child care community assets.



## Program Activities & Results

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households Served	Times Services Provided
<b>INCOME MANAGEMENT</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	359	131	131
M4	Family Assets for Independence in MN	70	22	22
<b>HOUSING</b>				
B1	Weatherization	452	176	176
B4	Other Conservation Services	152	51	51
B7	Energy Related Repairs	181	62	62
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	21	11	11
C6	Rental Housing Assistance	34	34	34
C7	Low-Income Housing Development	371	369	371
C8	Community Housing Stabilization	50	17	17
C9	Community Homeownership Education	594	307	307
<b>EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	9,943	3,814	3,814
B6	Energy Crisis	1,782	589	589
B8	Fuel Fund	33	9	9
C10	Homeless Assistance	271	79	79
C11	Transitional Housing	63	62	63
G1	Emergency Family Services			
G3	Abuse and Neglect			
G6	Donated Articles	1,006	331	331
G8	Advocacy Information/Education	779	269	269
<b>LINKAGES</b>				
F1	Senior Oriented Services	1,075	874	2,385
F3	Chore Services	551	406	2,389
F6	Senior Companions/Foster Grandparents	84	83	1,769
<b>SELF SUFFICIENCY</b>				
J1	Head Start	2,762	2,199	2,762
J3	Child Care Administration	5,582	2,028	5,582
J6	Child Care Resource Referral	1,984	1,354	1,638



# Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency

Harlan Tardy  
Executive Director

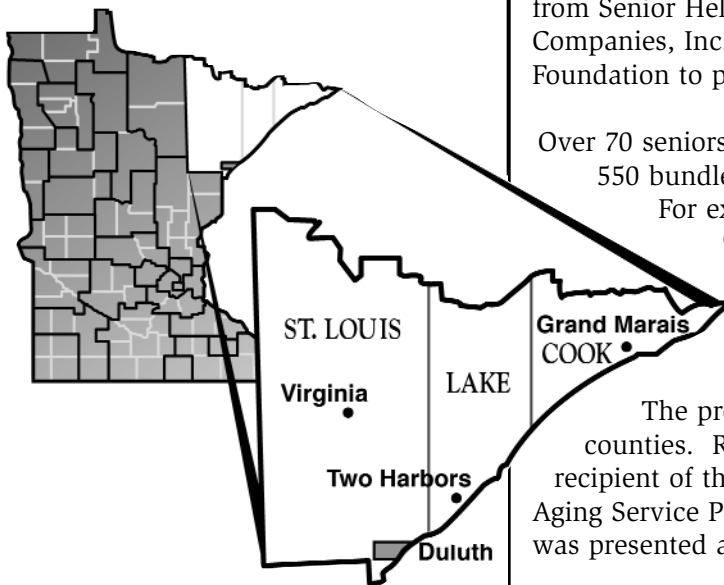
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## Service Area



## Results Highlight

### Award Winning Rural Bundled Services

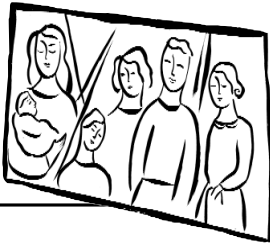
Rural Bundled Services is an Aitkin County partnership between private entities and human services agencies that bundle a number of services - two weeks worth of prepared meals, grocery delivery, and drugstore/medication pick-up - and then delivers the services to the homes of homebound seniors.

By bundling services, the project provides a more effective and efficient manner of delivering services to rural areas. Prior to the partnership, six communities had no home bound meal service coverage due to distance and travel times from the food service kitchen. The Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency purchased a temperature-controlled vehicle and meal packaging equipment through grant support from Senior Helpings; a national program of Philip Morris Companies, Inc., and the national Meals on Wheels Foundation to provide services to all communities.

Over 70 seniors utilized the service and were provided over 550 bundles of service. They tend to be very isolated.

For example, 58% of the project's clients live alone, 93% live outside the city limits, and 42% have incomes at or below the federal poverty guidelines and designate a non-relative as an emergency contact.

The program is expanding into two adjacent counties. Rural Bundled Services Model was the recipient of the 2005 National Association of Nutrition and Aging Service Providers (NANASP) Star Award. The award was presented at its annual conference in Washington D.C.



## Program Activities & Results

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households Served	Times Services Provided
<b>EMPLOYMENT</b>				
D3	Youth Employment	4	4	4
D6	Senior Employment Programs	14	14	14
D7	FSET	300	300	300
D8	Displaced Homemakers	120	120	120
<b>EDUCATION</b>				
L1	GED & Educational Services	294	294	294
L2	Literacy	44	44	44
L3	English as a Second Language (ESL)	72	72	72
L4	Adult Basic Education (ABE)	1,588	1,588	1,588
<b>INCOME MANAGEMENT</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	217	97	97
M3	Tax Aid	6,904	6,909	6,909
<b>HOUSING</b>				
B1	Weatherization	476	219	219
B3	MECS Audits	187	114	114
B7	Energy Related Repairs	952	381	0
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	257	107	107
C5	Small Cities Development Grants (SCDG)	12	7	7
C7	Low-Income Housing Development	15	8	8
C8	Community Housing Stabilization	5	1	1
C9	Community Homeownership Education	209	193	193
<b>EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	19,025	8,465	8,465
B6	Energy Crisis	6,397	2,326	2,326
C10	Homeless Assistance	767	321	321
C11	Transitional Housing	85	80	96
G1	Emergency Family Services	236	157	208
G6	Donated Articles	236	157	7,552
G8	Crisis Intervention	209	82	82
<b>NUTRITION</b>				
H1	Food Assistance	13,570	6,144	73,728
H6	Home Delivered Meals	1,296	1,166	211,000
H7	Congregate Meals	2,796	2,237	226,000
<b>LINKAGES</b>				
E1	Transportation System	141,468	88,417	353,669
E3	Transportation Assistance	7,070	2,003	7,382
F1	Senior Oriented Services	612	612	2,322
<b>SELF SUFFICIENCY</b>				
J1	Head Start	1,873	463	493
J4	At-Risk Youth	80	76	88
M1	Self Sufficiency	1,528	1,314	1,528

# Bi-County Community Action Program

Lucille A. Moe  
Executive Director

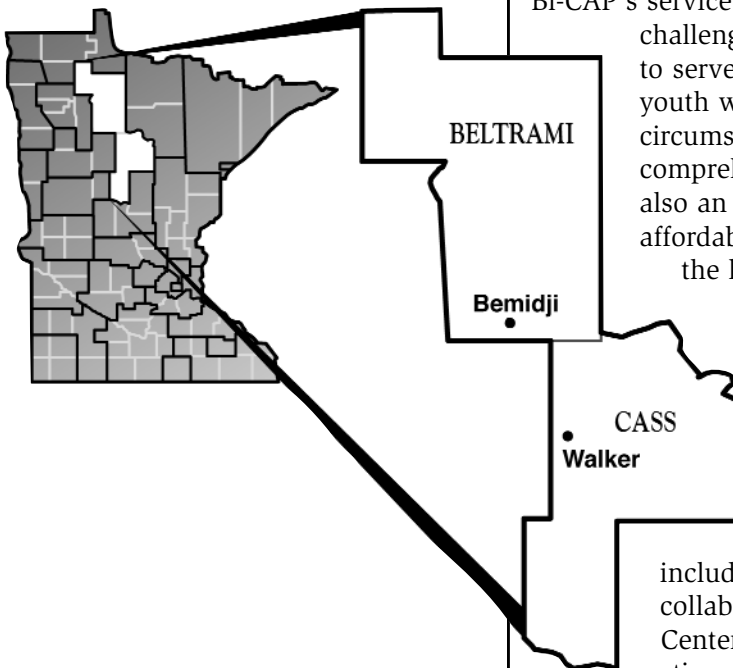
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## Service Area



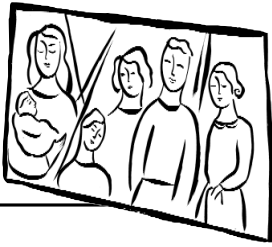
## Results Highlight

### YouthBuild Program

Bi-CAP's YouthBuild Program is an on-site construction training program for at-risk youth ages 16-24. The program maintains a comprehensive approach to expand participants' life options by offering hands on training in a viable trade, enhancing school participation and fostering leadership development skills. The program provides economically disadvantaged young adults opportunities to obtain education, employment and meaningful on-site construction work experience. Central to YouthBuild are opportunities for young people to develop the leadership and life skills necessary to take responsibility for their lives and ultimately become more self-sufficient. YouthBuild is a diploma based program. Participants are enrolled in an Area Learning Center (ALC) to accomplish their education goals.

Bi-CAP's service area is a rural area that is facing many challenges. One is providing meaningful programs to serve the area's youth population, especially youth who may be at-risk due to special circumstances in their lives. YouthBuild comprehensively addresses participants' lives. It is also an effective vehicle in the development of affordable housing units and transitional housing for the homeless.

YouthBuild coordinates with the Cass Lake Area Learning Center to accomplish the education component of the program. The ALC provides two full time teachers at the Bi-CAP YouthBuild Classroom. Each participant develops an Individual Leadership Development Plan that includes education goals. The Program also collaborates with the area Workforce Development Center (Rural MN CEP) to provide participant stipends and work-readiness activities.



## Program Activities & Results

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households Served	Times Services Provided
<b>EMPLOYMENT</b>				
D1	Employment & Training Services	14	4	4
D3	Youth Employment	243	66	78
<b>INCOME MANAGEMENT</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	1,281	421	1,281
<b>HOUSING</b>				
B1	Weatherization	392	145	145
B3	MECS Audits	9	3	3
B4	Other Conservation Services	69	27	27
B7	Energy Related Repairs	489	202	202
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	20	9	9
C3	Home Repair/Rehabilitation	33	20	20
C5	Small Cities Development Grants (SCDG)	65	26	26
C6	Rental Housing Assistance	191	56	56
C8	Community Housing Stabilization	6	3	3
C9	Community Homeownership Education	163	70	70
<b>EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	7,601	2,979	2,979
B6	Energy Crisis	1,281	421	421
B8	Fuel Fund	103	40	40
C10	Homeless Assistance	729	257	729
C11	Advocacy Information/Education	63	18	77
G6	Donated Articles	4	1	1
G8	Crisis Intervention	192	72	72
<b>NUTRITION</b>				
H2	Community Services Food Pkgs	181	60	726
H3	Holiday Projects	2,336	667	667
<b>LINKAGES</b>				
E3	Transportation Assistance	118	96	118
K1	Information and Referral	9,225	3,925	17,055
K2	Outreach	9,225	3,925	17,055
K3	Advocacy Information/Education	28,545	19,030	28,545
K4	Contract Services			
<b>SELF SUFFICIENCY</b>				
J1	Head Start	1,560	376	412
J2	Child Care	346	115	115
J4	At-Risk Youth	243	66	78
J7	Youth Recreation	243	66	78
<b>HEALTH</b>				
I2	Health Care Aid (Financial)	23	12	12

# Bois Forte Reservation

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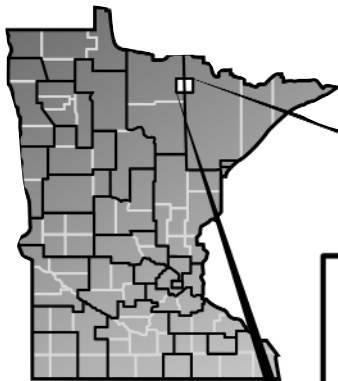
## Results Highlight

### Community Facilities and New Housing

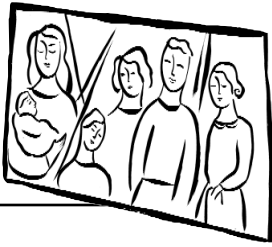
The Bois Forte Tribal Council continues to improve the living environment of the Bois Forte Reservation. After years of discussion and planning, the Band opened its new Native Hearts Fitness Center in Nett Lake in September 2004. The \$1 million facility houses the latest in fitness and rehabilitation 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.

## Service Area



BOIS FORTE



## Program Activities & Results

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households Served	Times Services Provided
<b>EMPLOYMENT</b>				
D6	Senior Employment Programs	41	20	20
D7	FSET	4	4	4
<b>EDUCATION</b>				
L2	Literacy	4	4	4
<b>HOUSING</b>				
B3	MECS Audits	11	3	3
B7	Energy Related Repairs	25	15	15
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	10	6	6
C7	Low-Income Housing Development	248	103	103
<b>EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>				
B6	Energy Crisis	334	119	119
B8	Fuel Fund	152	57	57
G3	Abuse and Neglect	4	1	1
<b>NUTRITION</b>				
H2	Community Services Food Pkgs	53	25	25
H7	Congregate Meals	7	6	6
H9	USDA Commodity Assistance	19	16	4,162
<b>LINKAGES</b>				
F6	Senior Companions/Foster Grandparents	4	4	4
K1	Advocacy Information/Education	2	2	2
<b>SELF SUFFICIENCY</b>				
J1	Head Start	96	50	50
J3	Child Care Administration	25	25	25

# Community Action Duluth

Stan Kaitfors  
Executive Director

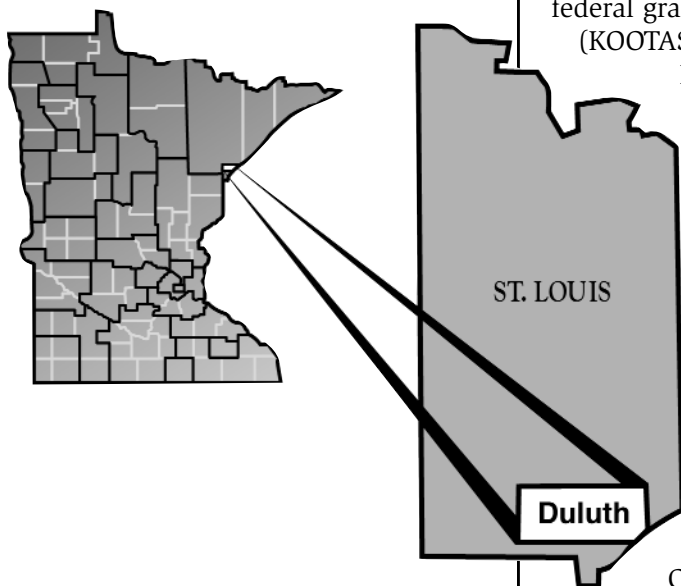
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## Service Area



## Results Highlight

### Helping Families to Achieve Self-Sufficiency Success

Community Action Duluth is expanding its self-sufficiency efforts to serve more families who face challenges in moving out of poverty by developing new partnerships and securing state and federal funding.

Through the Help and Opportunity in the Pursuit of Employment (H.O.P.E) project, Community Action has formed valuable partnerships with St. Louis County Social Services and organizations that make up our local Workforce Center. Through cooperative agreements, Community Action Duluth is accepting referrals of clients participating in the MN Family Investment Program (MFIP) who face multiple challenges to securing and maintaining employment. A federal grant received in partnership with 3 agencies (KOOTASCA Community Action, AEOA and Lakes and Pines Community Action) will enable us to extend this model through a project called Family to Family. Through project H.O.P.E. and Family to Family, Community Action Duluth will work with 106 additional families in poverty.

The primary services to be offered include intensive family employment advocacy and case management. Support and advocacy services may involve one-on-one, peer group, and service provider team approaches.

Families demonstrating high levels of desire and ability to transition out of poverty will be connected with our Circles of Support Initiative.

Circles of Support provides an informal support system that not only reduces isolation, but helps plan a course of action and uses the group's resources to help the participant move out of poverty.

Community Action Duluth appreciates the opportunity to engage citizens of Duluth in the community's efforts to end poverty.



## Program Activities & Results

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households Served	Times Services Provided
<b>EMPLOYMENT</b>				
D1	Employment & Training Services	36	21	24
D6	Senior Employment Programs	4	4	4
<b>EDUCATION</b>				
L1	GED & Educational Services	10	8	8
<b>INCOME MANAGEMENT</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	55	54	220
M3	Tax Aid	292	290	290
M4	Family Assets for Independence in MN	70	68	630
<b>EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>				
G1	Emergency Family Services	6	6	10
G3	Abuse and Neglect	8	8	12
G6	Donated Articles	26	24	26
G8	Crisis Intervention	20	20	25
<b>NUTRITION</b>				
H1	Food Assistance	87	36	47
<b>LINKAGES</b>				
E3	Transportation Assistance	81	40	225
E4	Vehicle Program	11	11	14
K1	Information and Referral	1,550	1,550	1,779
K2	Outreach	1,111	1,111	1,111
K3	Advocacy Information/Education	4,222	2,200	2,200
K4	Contract Services	45	45	51
<b>SELF SUFFICIENCY</b>				
J4	At-Risk Youth	16	10	12
J6	Child Care Resource Referral	42	42	46
J8	Parenting	42	36	65
J9	Fatherhood Initiative	4	4	6
M1	Self Sufficiency	42	34	65
M5	Family Loan Fund	6	6	6
<b>HEALTH</b>				
I1	Health Care Aid (Non-Financial)	12	12	15



# Community Action of Minneapolis

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William J. Davis  
President and C.E.O.

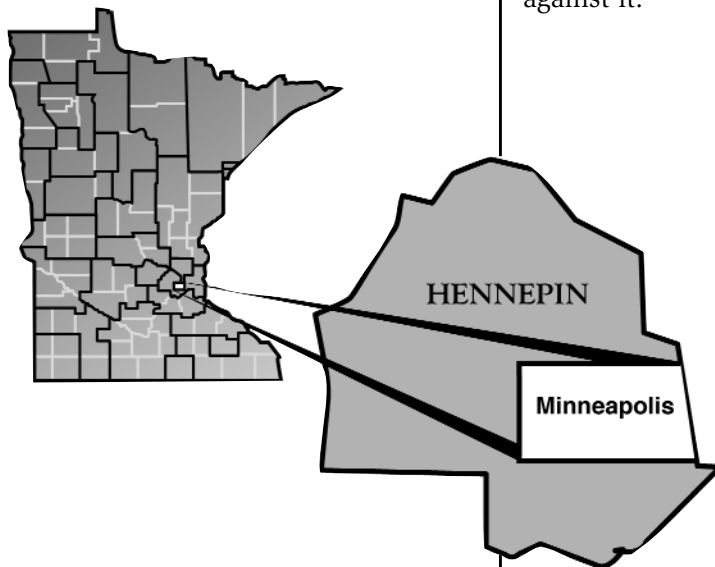
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## Service Area



## Results Highlight

### Community Action Day

Community Action of Minneapolis celebrated the 3rd annual Community Action Day in the Phillips community. The agency partnered with over fifty volunteers to paint a house and complete yard work at the American Indian Center in the Phillips neighborhood.

The volunteer time and work equated to over \$7,500 in cost savings to the low-income homeowner and the American Indian Center. The agency also honored a program participant with an achievement award for her success in the Self-Sufficiency Program.

The event provided a means by which the entire Minneapolis community could learn more about poverty and unite to fight against it.



## Program Activities & Results

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households Served	Times Services Provided
<b>EMPLOYMENT</b>				
D1	Employment & Training Services	27	25	27
D3	Youth Employment	5	5	5
<b>INCOME MANAGEMENT</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	42	42	78
M3	Tax Aid	15	15	15
<b>HOUSING</b>				
B1	Weatherization	1,325	407	407
B3	MECS Audits	1,807	901	901
B4	Other Conservation Services	168	254	254
B7	Energy Related Repairs	724	230	230
<b>EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	33,464	10,638	10,638
B6	Energy Crisis	8,817	2,803	2,803
B8	Fuel Fund	768	236	236
<b>LINKAGES</b>				
E3	Transportation Assistance	40	20	150
K1	Information and Referral	17,531	5,400	9,093
K2	Outreach	2,561	83	83
K3	Advocacy Information/Education	780	780	780
<b>SELF SUFFICIENCY</b>				
J4	Advocacy Information/Education	27	27	27
J7	Youth Recreation	600	582	600
M1	Self Sufficiency	49	49	
<b>HEALTH</b>				
I1	Health Care Aid (Non-Financial)	70	70	70

# Community Action Partnership of Ramsey & Washington Counties

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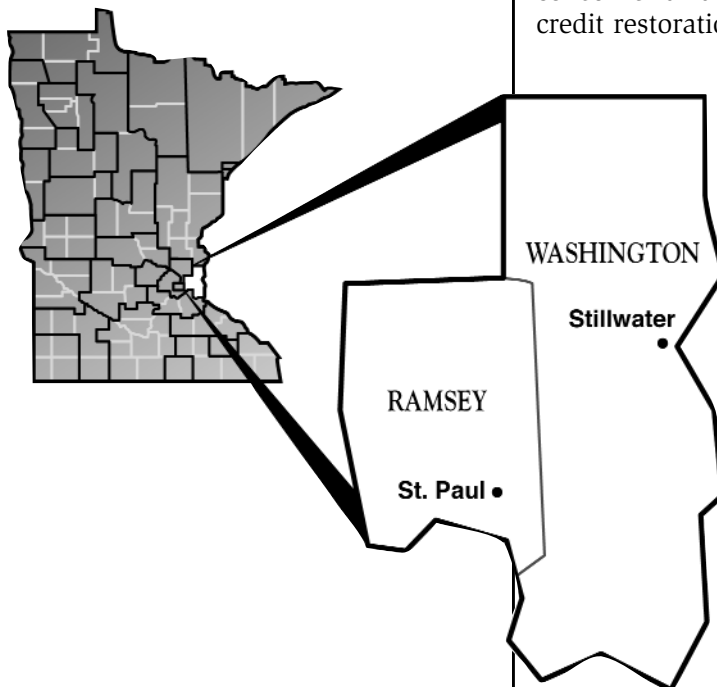
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## Service Area



## Results Highlight

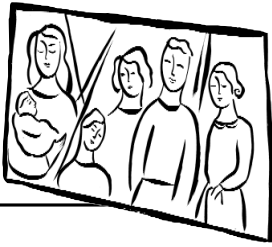
### Foundations for Success

Project Success is a long-term, goal-oriented, self-sufficiency program that works with individuals and their families to not only obtain, but also maintain a level of self-sufficiency. In order to have a long-term, lasting effect on a family's stability, the program must work in great depth with the participants and address all areas of need for that family.

Service delivery areas vary by the needs of each family and their individual set of strengths and weaknesses. They include such things as client advocacy, one-on-one counseling, employment readiness training, life skills training, educational and vocational exploration, and financial literacy training. For example, financial literacy training is a series of workshops that address topics of: asset building, budgeting, consumer awareness and protection, debt reduction and credit restoration.

One participant who entered the program had been nine months without drugs or alcohol in his system. During the years prior he had lost custody of his three children, been homeless and been in and out of rehabilitation. When he first came into the program, the participant stated that he was still in the mindset of getting ahead; "getting some bus cards and some help with a few bills would have been great."

Through participation in Project Success, he has subsidized housing, a driver's license, is working, has regained custody of his three children and is participating in a program that helps reconnect young fathers to their children.



## Program Activities & Results

<b>Code</b>	<b>Program Activity</b>	<b>Number of People Served</b>	<b>Number of Households Served</b>	<b>Times Services Provided</b>
<b>INCOME MANAGEMENT</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	585	585	585
M3	Tax Aid	435	435	435
M4	Family Assets for Independence in MN	150	150	150
<b>HOUSING</b>				
B1	Weatherization	1,464	366	366
B4	Other Conservation Services	836	209	209
B7	Energy Related Repairs	1,604	401	401
<b>EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	43,686	13,652	13,652
B6	Energy Crisis	15,734	4,917	4,917
B8	Fuel Fund	10	5	5
G8	Crisis Intervention	309	309	309
<b>NUTRITION</b>				
H6	Home Delivered Meals	293	293	76,180
H7	Congregate Meals	11,266	8,450	329,160
<b>LINKAGES</b>				
K1	Information and Referral	27,700		27,700
K2	Outreach	2,275		2,275
K3	Advocacy Information/Education	11,500		11,500
<b>SELF SUFFICIENCY</b>				
J1	Head Start	1,749	1,648	1,749
M1	Self Sufficiency	227	227	908
M5	Family Loan Fund	184	121	121

# Community Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin

Richard Zierdt  
Executive Director

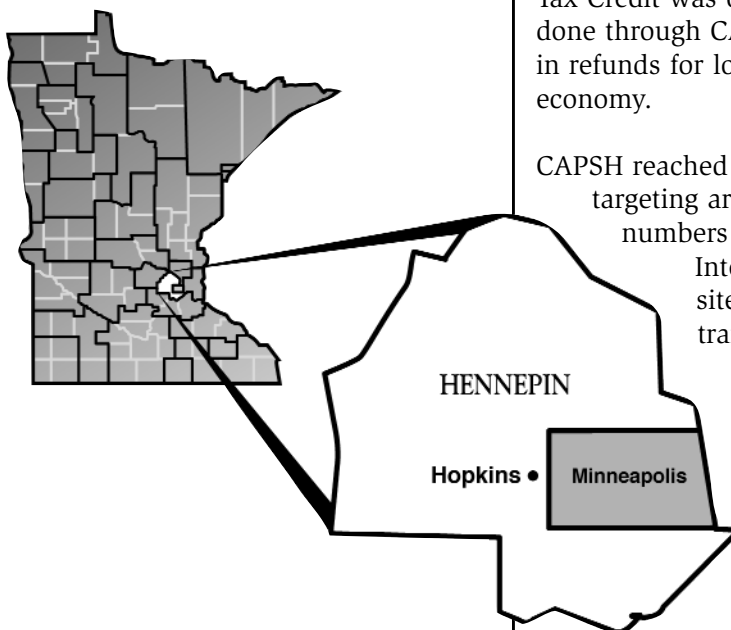
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## Service Area



## Results Highlight

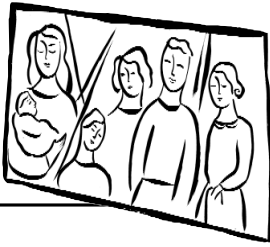
### Tax Assistance Outreach

Community Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin (CAPSH) has been operating a Tax Assistance Program for two years. What makes this program special is the large number of communities in which services are made available, as well as the outreach efforts that have been conducted to bring the program to non-English speaking taxpayers.

CAPSH offers its tax program in 6 different locations throughout suburban Hennepin County, completing taxes on 10 different dates over the past year. Locations and dates were chosen in order to reach the largest number of clients throughout the diverse service area of 45 municipalities. A total of 124 low-income households were assisted, bringing an average refund of \$2,000 to clients. The Earned Income Tax Credit was obtained by 41% of those having their taxes done through CAPSH. Overall, nearly \$250,000 was obtained in refunds for low-income clients and returned to the local economy.

CAPSH reached out to non-English speaking clients by targeting areas and choosing locations with high numbers of Somali and Spanish speaking residents. Interpreters were made available for targeted sites, as well as at other sites where the need for translators was high.

As part of its tax assistance service and outreach efforts, CAPSH assisted a number of non-English speaking clients, primarily Spanish-speakers, with filing for their ITIN numbers. An ITIN, or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number, is a tax processing number only available for certain nonresident and resident aliens, their spouses, and dependents who cannot get a Social Security Number (SSN). ITINs were filed on behalf of approximately 20 households this past tax season.



## Program Activities & Results

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households Served	Times Services Provided
<b>EMPLOYMENT</b>				
D1	Employment & Training Services	210	210	
<b>EDUCATION</b>				
L3	English as a Second Language (ESL)	28	28	
L4	Adult Basic Education (ABE)	24	15	
<b>INCOME MANAGEMENT</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	1,764	1,176	1,176
M3	Tax Aid	360	124	124
M4	Family Assets for Independence in MN	111	43	288
<b>HOUSING</b>				
B1	Weatherization	509	196	196
B7	Energy Related Repairs	481	185	231
C3	Home Repair/Rehabilitation	177	75	
C6	Rental Housing Assistance	93	21	21
C8	Community Housing Stabilization	3,731	1,435	1,601
C9	Community Homeownership Education	778	288	
<b>EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	20,126	7,754	7,754
B6	Energy Crisis	5,530	2,127	2,127
B8	Fuel Fund	364	140	140
C10	Homeless Assistance	98	26	
C11	Advocacy Information/Education	7	7	
G1	Emergency Family Services	3,879	1,833	
G3	Abuse and Neglect	18	18	
G8	Crisis Intervention	137	129	
<b>NUTRITION</b>				
H1	Food Assistance	322	322	
H3	Holiday Projects	845	362	
<b>LINKAGES</b>				
E3	Transportation Assistance	573	573	573
F1	Senior Oriented Services	332	332	498
K1	Information and Referral	3,633	3,633	
K2	Outreach	21,926	21,926	
K3	Advocacy Information/Education	341,302	341,302	
K4	Contract Services	13		
<b>SELF SUFFICIENCY</b>				
J1	Head Start	360	360	
J2	Child Care	15	6	6
J4	At-Risk Youth	228	228	
J7	Youth Recreation	329	156	
<b>HEALTH</b>				
I1	Health Care Aid (Non-Financial)	117	86	
I2	Health Care Aid (Financial)	400		400
<b>OTHER</b>				
A1	Community Development		5	

# Fond du Lac Reservation

Michael Himango  
Executive Director

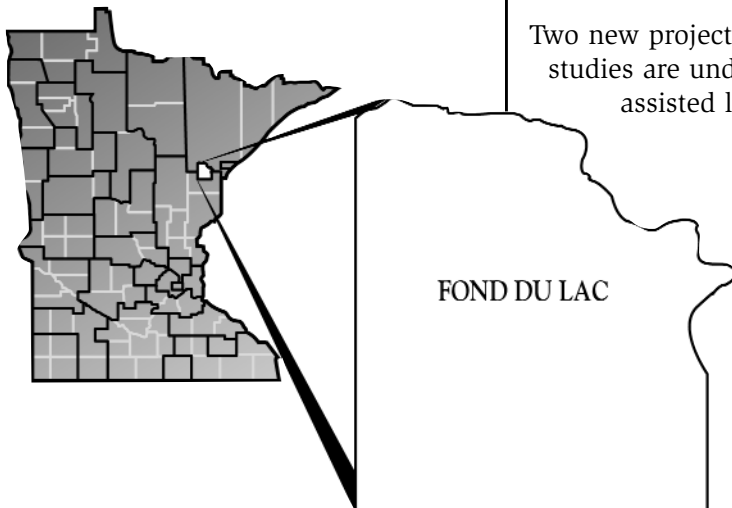
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## Service Area



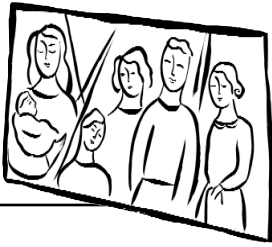
## Results Highlight

### Getting Right Down to Business

The Fond du Lac Reservation uses Community Action funds for a wide variety of projects and programs to assist in the overall development of the Reservation. Some of the funding is utilized to assist the Reservation's economic development activities.

Over the past two years, the Reservation has developed two new business enterprises. The first is the Fond du Lac Propane Company that provides services to band and non-band members both on the Reservation and those who live within 10 miles of the boundary. The second is Fond du Lac Gas & Grocery. The business provides gasoline, diesel fuel, deli, food, drinks, car wash and fresh meat counter to local residents.

Two new projects are in the pre-planning stages. Feasibility studies are under way for a Reservation radio station and an assisted living complex for band elders.



## Program Activities & Results

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households Served	Times Services Provided
<b>EMPLOYMENT</b>				
D1	Employment & Training Services	50	60	60
D3	Youth Employment	117	110	117
<b>EDUCATION</b>				
L3	English as a Second Language (ESL)	30	20	50
<b>HOUSING</b>				
B1	Weatherization	5	5	5
B4	Other Conservation Services	90	90	90
B7	Energy Related Repairs	11	18	11
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	5	3	5
C3	Home Repair/Rehabilitation	230	220	230
C7	Low-Income Housing Development	12	12	12
<b>EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	1,570	400	1,570
B6	Energy Crisis	408	195	408
B8	Fuel Fund	14	14	14
<b>NUTRITION</b>				
H2	Community Services Food Pkgs	658	275	658
H5	Gardening	123	121	121
H6	Home Delivered Meals	163	151	39,201
H7	Congregate Meals	40	40	7,857
<b>Advocacy Information/Education</b>				
E1	Transportation System	15	15	15
F1	Senior Oriented Services	5	5	5
K1	Information and Referral	3,930	1,050	3,930
<b>SELF SUFFICIENCY</b>				
J1	Head Start	200	195	200
<b>OTHER</b>				
A1	Community Development	28	28	28



# Grand Portage Reservation

Norman Deschampe  
Chairman

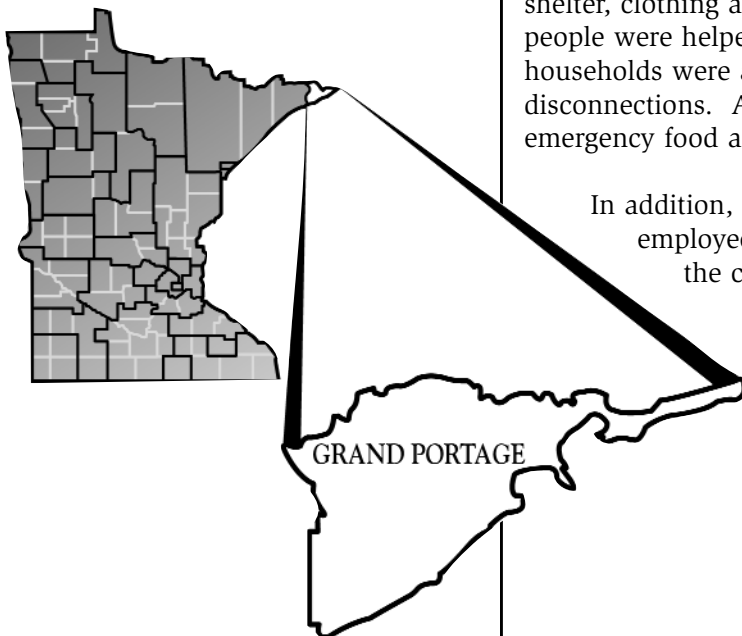
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## Service Area



## Results Highlight

### Grand Portage Band Touches the Lives of Community Members

Community Action and Grand Portage Band combined funds to 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 disconnections. A household of five was helped with emergency food and clothing needs.

In addition, bi-monthly job fairs are held for prospective employees designed to promote job opportunities at the casino and other local businesses.

All of these services in collaboration with other programs address unmet needs and help promote increased self-reliance within the community.



## Program Activities & Results

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households Served	Times Services Provided
<b>EMPLOYMENT</b>				
D1	Employment & Training Services	50	45	5
D3	Youth Employment	20	17	10
<b>EDUCATION</b>				
L1	GED & Educational Services	10	10	10
<b>HOUSING</b>				
B7	Energy Related Repairs	5	5	5
C6	Rental Housing Assistance	125	74	74
C7	Low-Income Housing Development	117	42	42
<b>EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	136	58	58
B6	Energy Crisis	117	42	42
G1	Emergency Family Services	25	7	7
G3	Abuse and Neglect	48	24	24
<b>NUTRITION</b>				
H1	Food Assistance	39	22	22
H3	Holiday Projects	170	78	1
H4	Women, Infants, Children (WIC)	33	33	33
H6	Home Delivered Meals	14	12	4,349
H7	Congregate Meals	114	58	7,241
H9	USDA Commodity Assistance	51	39	39
<b>Advocacy Information/Education</b>				
F1	Senior Oriented Services	40	38	1,920
<b>SELF SUFFICIENCY</b>				
J1	Head Start	19	16	200
J2	Child Care	30	23	23
J3	Child Care Administration	2	23	23
J4	At-Risk Youth	46	37	37
J7	Youth Recreation	189	156	340
J8	Parenting	31	16	16
M1	Self Sufficiency	92	50	50
<b>HEALTH</b>				
I1	Health Care Aid (Non-Financial)	114	80	80
I2	Health Care Aid (Financial)	314	186	18
I3	Family Planning	6	6	6

# Heartland Community Action Agency

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## Results Highlight

### Bethesda Kids in Development (KID)

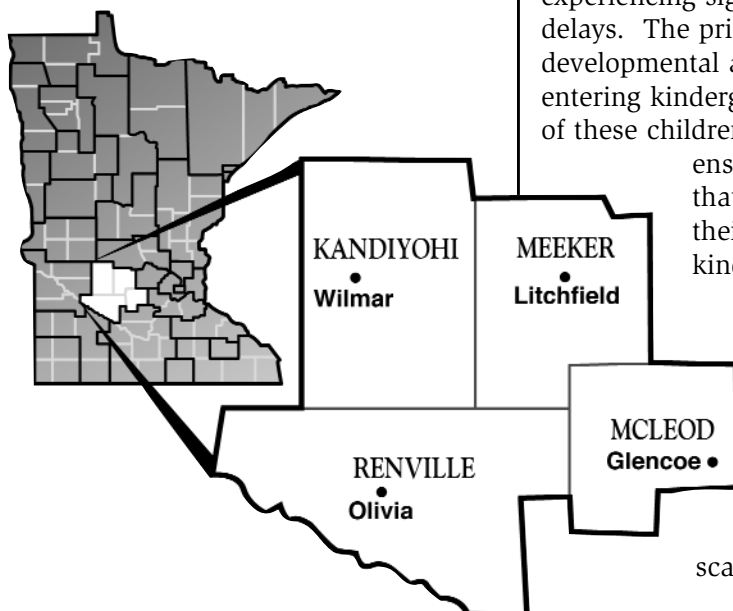
Heartland Head Start created and administered a pilot project that, due to its initial success, is being duplicated in other communities. The project brought together a variety of community resources under ROMA Goal 6: Low-income people, especially vulnerable populations, achieve their potential by strengthening family and other support systems. The Bethesda summer program was organized to address school-readiness needs for a select group of pre-schoolers and their families. Partners in the project included a senior living site and staff, businesses, Public Health, senior volunteers, and a mental health collaborative.

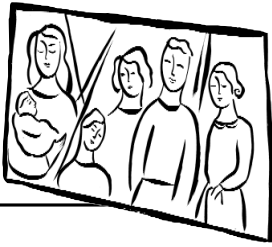
Children targeted for the Bethesda KID program are those who, after completing a typical Head Start cycle, are still experiencing significant cognitive, social, and emotional delays. The primary program goal is to increase developmental and school readiness skills just prior to entering kindergarten. It is also recognized that the parents of these children needed especially sharp advocacy skills to ensure school success. A second program goal is that parents be more knowledgeably engaged in their child's transition to, and participation in kindergarten.

Children completing the program increased their Brigance Early Childhood Screener scores by an average of 18.4%. The children also showed significant increases in their developmental levels on the Creative Curriculum Assessment Continuum (mean increase of .56 on a scale of 0 to 3).

The end result for our community is that pre-school kids at-risk for early failure receive a boost towards school-readiness, their chances for school success are increased, and the likelihood of more expensive post-K educational intervention is reduced.

## Service Area





## Program Activities & Results

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households Served	Times Services Provided
<b>EDUCATION</b>				
L1	GED & Educational Services	20	14	20
<b>INCOME MANAGEMENT</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	44	40	104
M3	Tax Aid	4	3	3
M4	Family Assets for Independence in MN	60	60	60
<b>HOUSING</b>				
B1	Weatherization	384	140	140
B7	Energy Related Repairs	179	60	60
C6	Rental Housing Assistance	20	5	5
C8	Community Housing Stabilization	1	1	1
C9	Community Homeownership Education	138	102	102
<b>EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	6,882	2,547	2,547
B6	Energy Crisis	2,105	628	628
B8	Fuel Fund	61	18	18
C10	Homeless Assistance	111	98	111
C11	Transitional Housing	5	4	4
G1	Emergency Family Services	72	72	72
G6	Donated Articles	26,948	8,455	8,455
G8	Crisis Intervention	288	238	238
<b>Advocacy Information/Education</b>				
H3	Holiday Projects	842	240	240
<b>LINKAGES</b>				
E3	Transportation Assistance	40	17	19
K1	Information and Referral	4,653	1,863	4,225
K2	Outreach	12,365	4,039	4,039
K3	Advocacy Information/Education	138,134	44,147	42,236
<b>SELF SUFFICIENCY</b>				
J1	Head Start	1,306	408	419
J8	Parenting	508	152	465
M5	Family Loan Fund	2	2	2

# Inter-County Community Council

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## Results Highlight

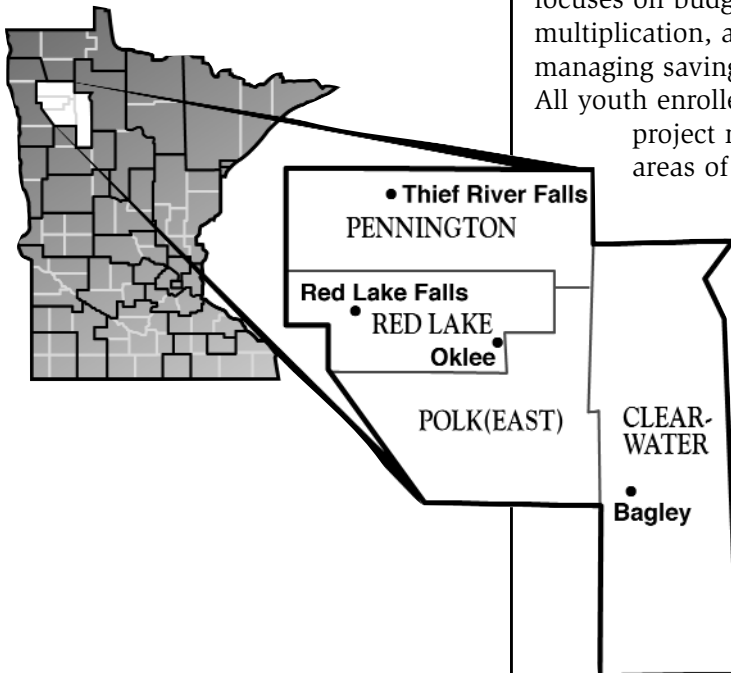
### Youth Employment and Training

Inter-County Community Council collaborates with the Northwest Private Industry Council to provide Employment and Training Services to at-risk high school youth in seven counties in Northwest Minnesota. The program provides work experience at schools, cities, nursing homes, and other training locations. Program participants receive valuable job training along with a much needed paycheck and begin to establish an employment record.

A valuable and innovative segment of the program is called Academic Enrichment. Inter-County contracts with teachers and school districts to provide instructions in Math and English to selected 14-16 year olds. In the classroom, the program focuses on reading, career assessments, and resume writing and other daily living skills. The math component focuses on budgeting skills, fractions, percentages and multiplication, and skills needed for banking such as managing savings accounts, checking accounts, interest, etc. All youth enrolled in the Employment and Training Services project made progress and/or passed the basic skills areas of Math, Reading or Writing.

Inter-County has an additional agreement with the Thief River Falls School District to award high school credit to students who successfully complete the course work. Fifty-eight percent of the youth enrolled at that site earned credit towards graduation. It is our hope that the provision of high school credit will be expanded to include additional districts.

## Service Area





## Program Activities & Results

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households Served	Times Services Provided
<b>EMPLOYMENT</b>				
D3	Youth Employment	261	261	261
D6	Senior Employment Programs	25	19	19
<b>INCOME MANAGEMENT</b>				
M3	Tax Aid	62	60	60
<b>HOUSING</b>				
B1	Weatherization	286	117	117
B3	MECS Audits	79	31	31
B4	Other Conservation Services	67	36	36
B7	Energy Related Repairs	237	103	103
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	14	9	9
C8	Community Housing Stabilization	16	5	5
<b>EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	3,405	1,437	1,437
B6	Energy Crisis	1,189	471	471
B8	Fuel Fund	4	1	1
C10	Homeless Assistance	185	77	185
G8	Crisis Intervention	221	69	69
<b>NUTRITION</b>				
H1	Food Assistance	285	87	160
H3	Advocacy Information/Education	49	12	12
<b>LINKAGES</b>				
F1	Senior Oriented Services	1	1	1
K1	Information and Referral	1,945	1,945	1,945
K2	Outreach	1,766	1,766	1,766
K3	Advocacy Information/Education	58	58	58
K4	Contract Services	3	1	1
<b>SELF SUFFICIENCY</b>				
J1	Head Start	216	201	216
M5	Family Loan Fund	21	7	7

# KOOTASCA Community Action

Barbara C. Dorry  
Executive Director

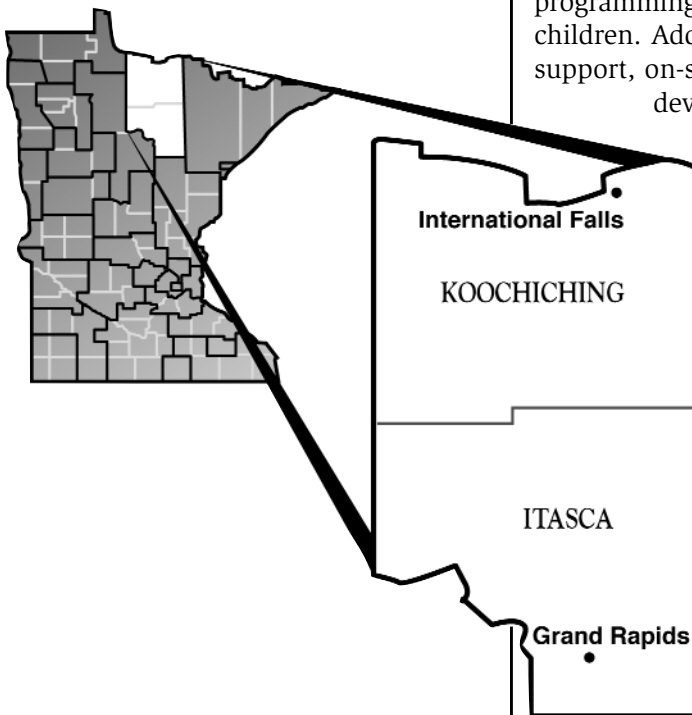
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## Service Area



## Results Highlight

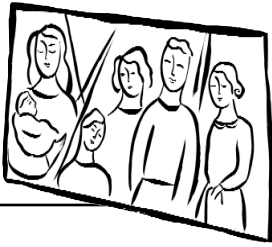
### Invest Early

Invest Early is a new collaborative project between KOOTASCA Head Start, four area school districts, Itasca County Health and Human Services, Itasca County Family YMCA, Itasca Community College and Bemidji State University. There are 100 new Invest Early child development slots for children age birth-5 throughout Itasca County. Eight childhood classrooms for children ages 3-5 have blended staffing from Head Start and the school districts. There are also five infant and toddler classes.

All early childhood programs in the county share a common application. The selection criteria identify "high risk" children and their families. The program provides year-around comprehensive services that include five-day a week programming for 12 hours per day, as well as busing for children. Additional family supports include mental health support, on-site adult basic education, and family development services.

Long-term project evaluation by Wilder Research Center will follow the Invest Early children to age 30 and will determine the effect of the programming. The planning process for this collaborative initiative took two years. According to Grand Rapids School District collaborative team partner Sue Miskovich, "This has been a cultural change process for all of us. This is the best collaboration I have seen in thirty years."

The Invest Early project is made possible with a grant from the Blandin Foundation. Maureen Rosato, KOOOTASCA Education Director and Dee Bretti, Education Manager represent KOOTASCA on the Invest Early Leadership Team.



## Program Activities & Results

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households Served	Times Services Provided
<b>INCOME MANAGEMENT</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	181	80	320
M3	Tax Aid	729	729	729
M4	Family Assets for Independence in MN	139	61	139
<b>HOUSING</b>				
B1	Weatherization	167	155	155
B3	MECS Audits	40	17	17
B4	Other Conservation Services	21	9	9
B7	Energy Related Repairs	435	190	190
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	37	15	15
C5	Small Cities Development Grants (SCDG)	63	26	26
C8	Community Housing Stabilization	10	3	3
C9	Community Homeownership Education	235	173	173
<b>EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	7,049	3,017	3,017
B6	Energy Crisis	2,547	1,021	1,021
C10	Homeless Assistance	436	233	436
C11	Transitional Housing	63	20	63
G8	Crisis Intervention	375	173	173
<b>NUTRITION</b>				
H1	Food Assistance	157	151	1,443
<b>Advocacy Information/Education</b>				
E3	Transportation Assistance	51	51	132
E4	Vehicle Program	18	9	9
F1	Senior Oriented Services	306	306	306
F6	Senior Companions/Foster Grandparents	41	41	41
K1	Information and Referral	2,890	1,261	3,821
K2	Outreach	55	55	55
K3	Advocacy Information/Education	513	340	981
<b>SELF SUFFICIENCY</b>				
J1	Head Start	735	235	245
J10	Crisis Nursery	312	107	205
M1	Self Sufficiency	97	40	26



# Lakes & Pines Community Action Council

Kathy Burski  
Executive Director

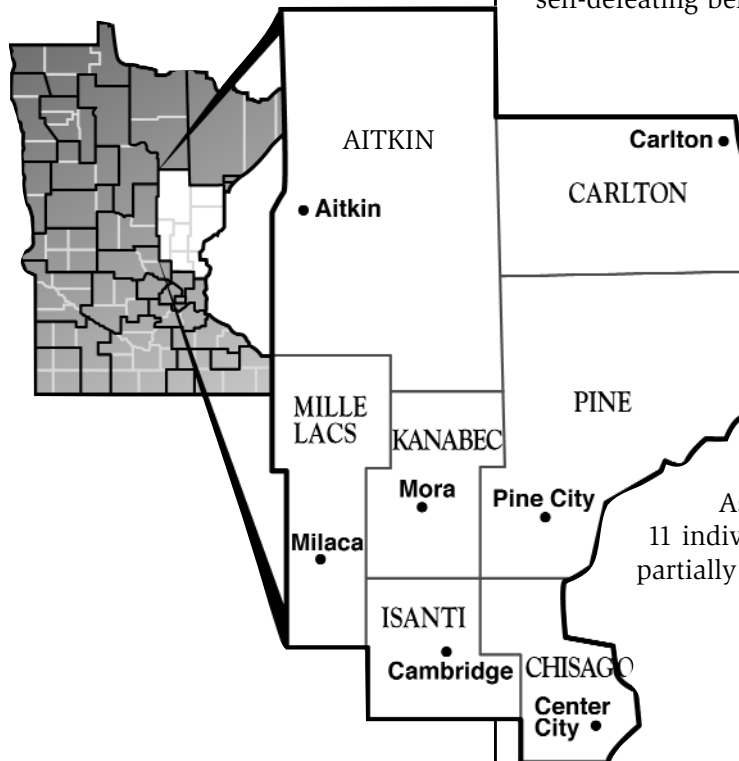
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## Service Area



## Results Highlight

### Help and Opportunities in Pursuit of Employment (H.O.P.E.)

Along with a variety of other agencies and organizations, Lakes and Pines initiated an Integrated Services Project (ISP) called H.O.P.E. (Help and Opportunities in Pursuit of Employment). The intent of the program is to work intensively with long-term Minnesota Family Investment Project (MFIP) families to secure employment as a step toward self-sufficiency.

Enrollees have faced the most significant barriers to securing and maintaining employment during their tenure on public assistance. These barriers include health and dental concerns, work or criminal history issues, transportation problems, relationship and family issues, and in some cases self-defeating behavior issues.

The H.O.P.E. Program has enlisted the help of County Social Services, Minnesota Work Force Centers, private employers, and Family Health and Employment Advocates to work very intensively to build upon small successes and help individuals secure employment. Once a job has been secured, the advocate continues to work with individuals on those skills, habits, and behaviors that will be required to maintain employment.

As of October 2005, the program has enrolled 11 individuals, five of whom have become fully or partially employed in a four-month period.



## Program Activities & Results

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households Served	Times Services Provided
<b>INCOME MANAGEMENT</b>				
M4	Family Assets for Independence in MN	36	11	11
<b>HOUSING</b>				
B1	Weatherization	581	204	204
B4	Other Conservation Services	172	49	49
B7	Energy Related Repairs	803	340	340
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	41	24	24
C5	Small Cities Development Grants (SCDG)	261	79	79
C8	Community Housing Stabilization	27	10	10
<b>EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	13,083	5,445	5,445
B6	Energy Crisis	3,926	1,382	1,382
B8	Fuel Fund	301	118	118
C10	Homeless Assistance	741	430	430
C11	Transitional Housing	12	4	4
G6	Donated Articles	18	5	5
G8	Crisis Intervention	241	102	102
<b>NUTRITION</b>				
H5	Gardening	831	252	252
K1	Information and Referral	3,638	2,709	2,709
K2	Outreach	9,018	6,053	6,053
K3	Advocacy Information/Education	32,406	16,203	16,203
<b>SELF SUFFICIENCY</b>				
J1	Head Start	2,075	470	490
J9	Fatherhood Initiative	353	353	353
M1	Self Sufficiency	17	5	5
M5	Family Loan Fund	64	18	18

# Lakes & Prairies Community Action Partnership

Joseph P. Pederson  
Executive Director

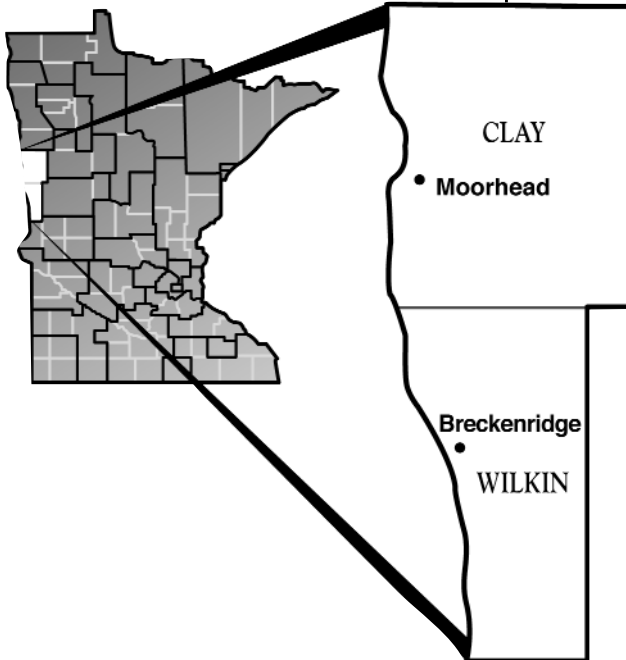
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## Service Area



## Results Highlight

### Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Site

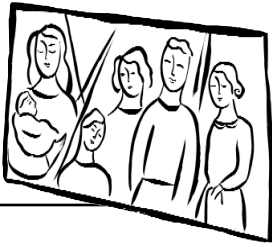
Lakes & Prairies Community Action Partnership, Inc. (LPCAP) formed a partnership with AccountAbility Minnesota to gain the necessary expertise to set-up and run a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site. The VITA Program focuses on maximizing the cash refund families receive when filing their annual income tax returns. LPCAP's volunteers help families navigate the complexities of State and Federal tax credit benefits. The sum of all these credits can potentially add 50% to a low-income working family's annual income.

In 2004, the volunteer staff completed 83 income tax returns. The average Earned Income Tax Credit received was \$2,435 per family. The average Minnesota Working Family Credit received was \$674. Combining the Federal and State refunds and credits received by clients, a total of \$357,742 was reinvested in the community.

Our VITA Site received monetary support from West Central Initiative Fund, AccountAbility Minnesota, Minnesota Department of Human Services, United Way and Bremer Bank. Clay County donated the office space and computers for our first tax season. Business Software, Inc donated technical support for computer software installation and tax site network set-up.

Volunteers were recruited and trained to complete the federal and state income tax and property tax returns.

As one VITA site client put it: "We are very happy with the VITA Program...Thanks to Lakes & Prairies we got all of our money back this time. We used it to pay off bills, like school loans, credit cards, over due medical bills and so on."



## Program Activities & Results

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households Served	Times Services Provided
<b>EDUCATION</b>				
L2	Literacy	510	487	510
<b>INCOME MANAGEMENT</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	113	37	91
M3	Tax Aid	154	37	37
M4	Family Assets for Independence in MN	24	14	24
<b>HOUSING</b>				
C8	Community Housing Stabilization	7	3	3
C9	Community Homeownership ED	12	5	5
<b>EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>				
C10	Homeless Assistance	298	129	298
C11	Transitional Housing	27	21	27
G1	Emergency Family Services	138	60	138
G6	Donated Articles	76	25	25
<b>NUTRITION</b>				
H1	Food Assistance	3,329	325	3,329
H3	Holiday Projects	319	74	74
<b>LINKAGES</b>				
E1	Transportation System	333	328	67,950
E3	Transportation Assistance	80	26	39
K1	Information and Referral	3,152	2,316	16,853
K2	Outreach	14,476	14,434	14,434
K3	Advocacy Information/Education	23	10	23
K4	Contract Services	614	281	178
<b>SELF SUFFICIENCY</b>				
J1	Head Start	492	487	492
J6	Child Care Resource Referral	4,866	2,002	2,002
J8	Parenting	690	316	690
J9	Fatherhood Initiative	28	28	28
<b>HEALTH</b>				
I2	Health Care Aid (Financial)	1	1	1
<b>OTHER</b>				
	Visitation/Safe Exchange Center	399	248	3,510

# Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

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## Results Highlight

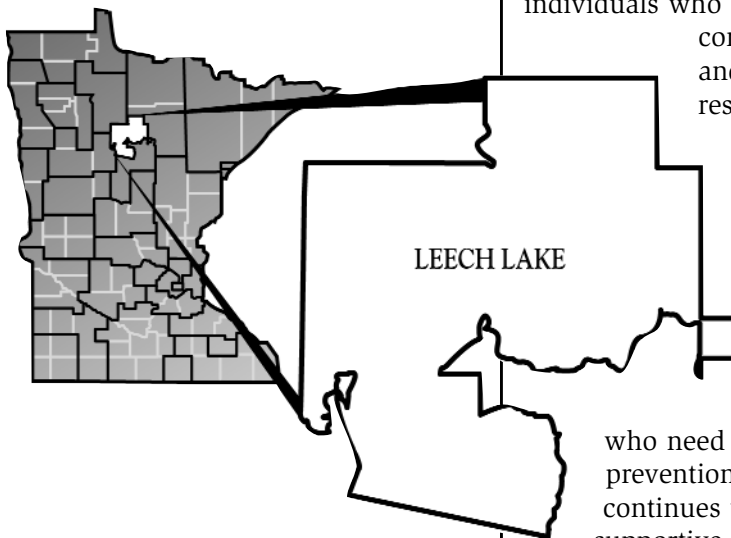
### Focusing on Health, Nutritional Needs and Homelessness Prevention

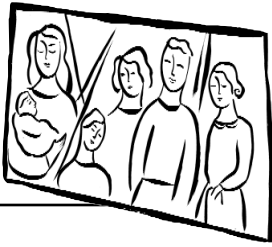
The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe's Tribal Council considers the critical needs of low-income reservation residents when determining the funding allocations of antipoverty service programs. For many years, the Tribal Council has made it a priority to help low-income reservation residents achieve an adequate 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 job search assistance.

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

The Tribal Referral Program provides direct assistance to prevent the loss of utilities and heating fuel to families who have received disconnection notices or who need new services for housing. Homeless prevention remains a priority, and short-term housing continues to be a concern. Tribal Referral maintains supportive housing services for families that have a short-term housing crisis.

## Service Area





## Program Activities & Results

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households Served	Times Services Provided
<b>EMPLOYMENT</b>				
D1	Employment & Training Services	800	750	800
D3	Youth Employment	75	35	75
<b>EDUCATION</b>				
L1	GED & Educational Services	123	123	123
L2	Literacy	200	150	200
<b>INCOME MANAGEMENT</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	92	77	92
<b>HOUSING</b>				
B1	Weatherization	65	15	15
B7	Energy Related Repairs	54	54	54
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	1,219	5,512	1,219
C3	Home Repair/Rehabilitation	960	700	1,400
C7	Low-Income Housing Development	46	20	20
C9	Community Homeownership Education	4	2	2
<b>EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	3,166	1,059	1,059
B6	Energy Crisis	702	180	180
C10	Homeless Assistance	241	133	133
G3	Abuse and Neglect	85		85
G8	Crisis Intervention	675	515	675
<b>Advocacy Information/Education</b>				
H1	Food Assistance	73	70	347
H4	Women, Infants, Children (WIC)	746	477	2,628
H6	Home Delivered Meals	65	60	15,600
H7	Congregate Meals	190	181	47,060
H9	USDA Commodity Assistance	6,874	4,675	4,675
<b>LINKAGES</b>				
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
<b>SELF SUFFICIENCY</b>				
J1	Head Start	231	228	231
J2	Child Care	271	73	271
J3	Child Care Administration	15	15	15
J4	At-Risk Youth	473	300	473
J6	Child Care Resource Referral	139	37	37
J7	Youth Recreation	525	315	525
<b>HEALTH</b>				
I1	Health Care Aid (Non-Financial)	18	18	18
I2	Health Care Aid (Financial)	65	31	65

# Lower Sioux Indian Community

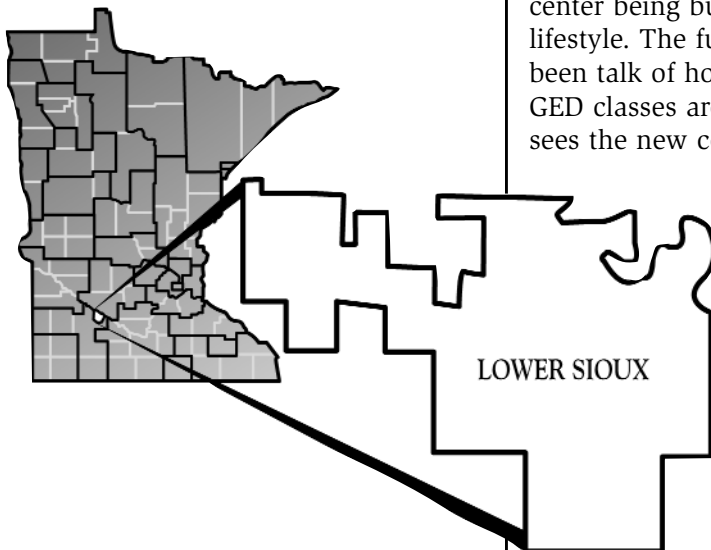
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Executive Director

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## Service Area

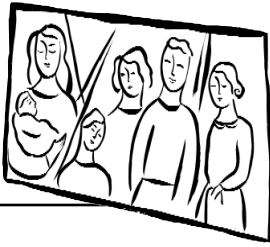


## Results Highlight

### 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.



## Program Activities & Results

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households Served	Times Services Provided
<b>EMPLOYMENT</b>				
D1	Employment & Training Services	17	7	7
D3	Youth Employment	7	4	4
D6	Senior Employment Programs	4	3	3
<b>EDUCATION</b>				
L1	GED & Educational Services	6	6	6
L4	Adult Basic Education (ABE)	4	4	4
<b>INCOME MANAGEMENT</b>				
M3	Tax Aid	332	332	332
<b>HOUSING</b>				
B1	Weatherization	22	8	8
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	53	21	21
C3	Home Repair/Rehabilitation	32	15	15
C6	Rental Housing Assistance	18	6	6
C9	Community Homeownership Education	35	21	21
<b>EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>				
B8	Fuel Fund	14	6	6
C10	Homeless Assistance	8	3	3
G1	Emergency Family Services	16	3	3
G3	Abuse and Neglect	23	7	7
G8	Crisis Intervention	37	12	37
<b>Advocacy Information/Education</b>				
H1	Food Assistance	194	62	370
H3	Holiday Projects	640	170	170
H6	Home Delivered Meals	41	41	10,660
H7	Congregate Meals	31	31	8,060
<b>LINKAGES</b>				
E1	Transportation System	503	353	330
E3	Transportation Assistance	36	36	598
<b>SELF SUFFICIENCY</b>				
J2	Child Care	21	10	60
J3	Child Care Administration	63	46	63
J4	At-Risk Youth	23	18	30
J6	Child Care Resource & Referral	10	3	5
J7	Youth Recreation	1,637	55	366
J8	Parenting Education	11	10	42
<b>HEALTH</b>				
I1	Health Care Aid (Non-Financial)	33	17	33
I3	Family Planning	8	8	12
<b>OTHER</b>				
A5	Cottage Industries	6	6	6



# Mahube Community Council

Leah Pigatti  
Executive Director

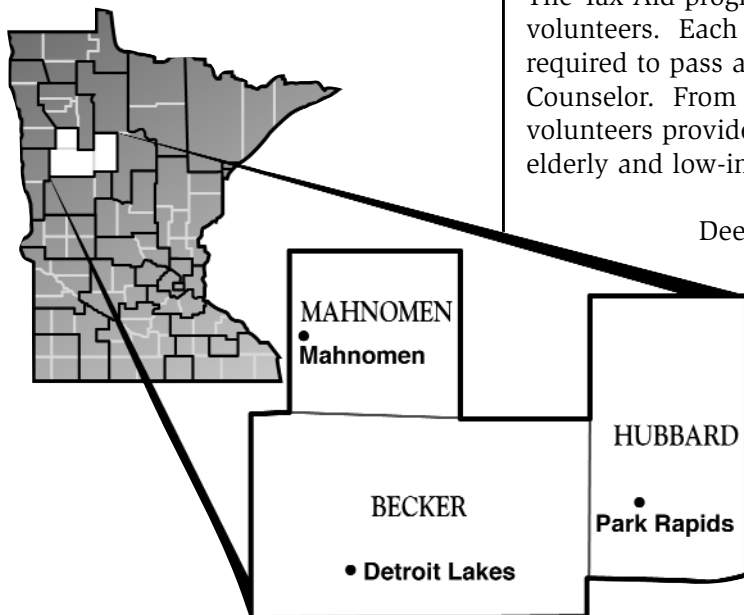
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## Service Area



## Results Highlight

### RSVP Tax Aid

The Tax Aid Program operates in conjunction with the IRS and AARP to provide free preparation assistance for income taxes, property tax rebates, and rental rebates for low-income and elderly tax payers.

During the 2005 tax filing year, the program provided services to 2,182 individuals, completing 1,385 tax returns, and 820 property tax and rental refunds. A total of 1,080 of the 1,385 tax returns were filed electronically. This filing system resulted in tax payers receiving their refunds in a maximum of 10 days, and sometimes sooner. The program participants received \$438,837 in earned income credits and \$984,481 in federal refunds.

The Tax Aid program is operated by 16 retired senior volunteers. Each volunteer attends extensive training and is required to pass an IRS exam to be certified as an AARP Tax Counselor. From January through April, these dedicated volunteers provide over 2,000 hours of service assisting elderly and low-income residents of the area.

Deemed an outstanding example of cutting edge antipoverty work in Minnesota, the Mahube Community Council RSVP received an Honorable Mention Award from the University of Minnesota College of Human Ecology and the Minnesota Community Action Association for the work of the Tax Aid Program.



## Program Activities & Results

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households Served	Times Services Provided
<b>EDUCATION</b>				
L1	GED & Educational Services	176	176	176
<b>INCOME MANAGEMENT</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	96	47	192
M3	Tax Aid	2,182	2,182	2,182
M4	Family Assets for Independence in MN	29	15	29
<b>HOUSING</b>				
B1	Weatherization	179	75	75
B4	Other Conservation Services	179	75	75
B7	Energy Related Repairs	504	201	201
C3	Home Repair/Rehabilitation	62	62	62
C6	Rental Housing Assistance	32	20	20
<b>EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	7,737	3,084	3,084
B6	Energy Crisis	2,963	1,181	1,181
B8	Fuel Fund	173	94	94
C10	Homeless Assistance	431	168	431
C11	Transitional Housing	13	6	13
G1	Emergency Family Services	64	34	64
G3	Abuse and Neglect	26	26	26
G6	Donated Articles	101	58	58
G8	Advocacy Information/Education	46	23	23
<b>NUTRITION</b>				
H1	Food Assistance	2,733	1,990	10,932
H3	Holiday Projects	1,549	537	537
H6	Home Delivered Meals	12	12	1,872
<b>LINKAGES</b>				
E1	Transportation System	144	144	640
F1	Senior Oriented Services	142	112	112
F3	Chore Services	98	98	2,500
F5	Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)	327	327	327
K1	Information and Referral	96,773	33,031	33,031
K2	Outreach	6,751	2,300	2,300
K3	Advocacy Information/Education	144	63	63
<b>SELF SUFFICIENCY</b>				
J1	Head Start	1,211	421	421
J2	Child Care	329	316	316
J6	Child Care Resource Referral	125	125	125
J8	Parenting	421	421	421
J9	Fatherhood Initiative	167	167	167
J10	Crisis Nursery	69	31	69
M1	Self Sufficiency	64	32	32

# Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians

Melanie Benjamin  
Chief Executive

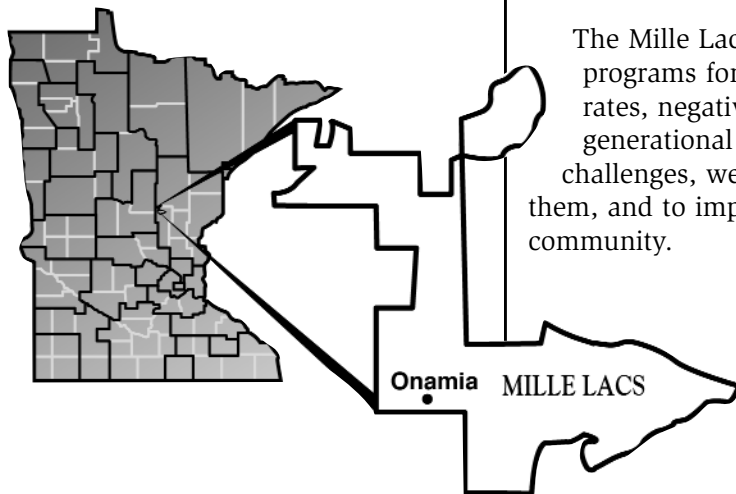
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## Service Area

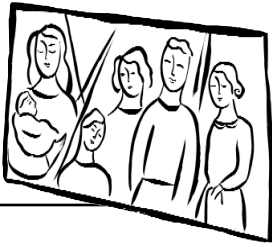


## Results Highlight

### 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.



## Program Activities & Results

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households Served	Times Services Provided
<b>EMPLOYMENT</b>				
D1	Employment & Training Services	210	170	210
D3	Youth Employment	90	60	90
<b>EDUCATION</b>				
L1	GED & Educational Services	96	75	96
<b>INCOME MANAGEMENT</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	47	30	720
M3	Tax Aid	235	167	167
<b>HOUSING</b>				
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 Education	57	37	54
<b>EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	876	438	438
B6	Energy Crisis	70	35	70
C10	Homeless Assistance	40	25	40
G8	Crisis Intervention	151	67	67
<b>NUTRITION</b>				
H1	Food Assistance	430	365	2,190
H4	Advocacy Information/Education	180	110	1,320
H6	Home Delivered Meals	65	40	16,900
H7	Congregate Meals	430	365	22,360
<b>LINKAGES</b>				
E1	Transportation System	120	60	15,600
F3	Chore Services	180	120	1,200
<b>SELF SUFFICIENCY</b>				
J1	Head Start	125	69	125
J4	At-Risk Youth	108	72	108
J7	Youth Recreation	108	72	108
J8	Parenting	325	276	325
J9	Fatherhood Initiative	108	78	108
M1	Self Sufficiency	100	40	30
M5	Family Loan Fund	120	60	60
<b>HEALTH</b>				
I3	Family Planning	60	35	60

# Minnesota Valley Action Council

John T. Woodwick  
Executive Director

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## Results Highlight

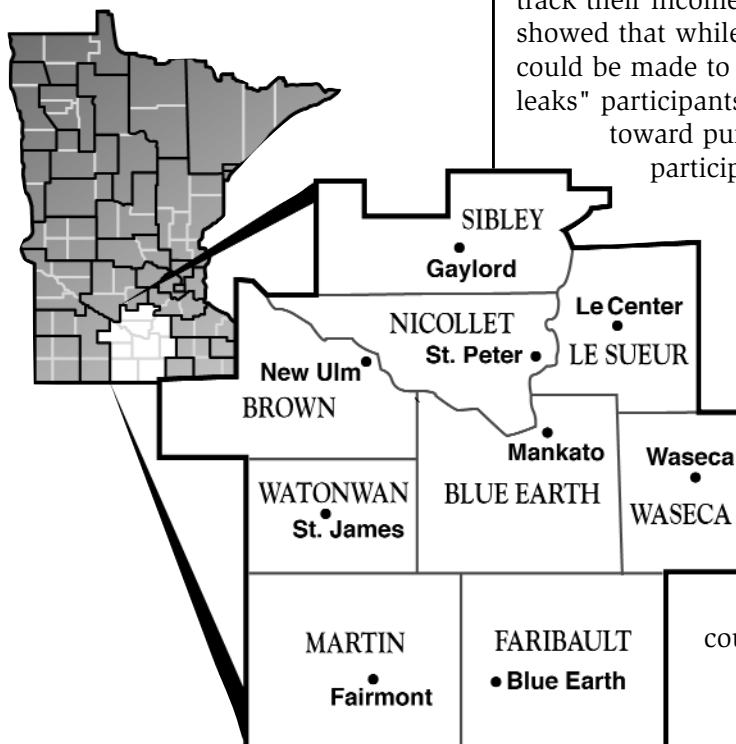
### Budget Guidance for Clients in Crisis

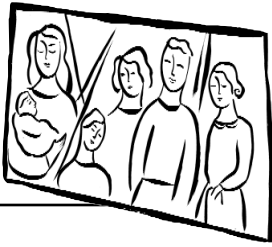
Through the Family Assets for Independence in Minnesota (FAIM) program, it became apparent that there was a need in the Minnesota Valley Action Council (MVAC) service area for basic budgeting skills among low-income participants. While evaluating the financial literacy trainings offered through FAIM, MVAC decided to try basic budgeting in two other programs: the Rural Homeless and Assistance Stability Program and the Emergency Shelter Grant Program. These programs deal with households in crisis situations. The budgeting education component could benefit these households stretch their limited income through improved spending and planning habits.

MVAC staff created a budgeting booklet to help participants track their income, expenses, and their debts. The booklet showed that while their income may be limited, choices could be made to avert crises. By identifying "spending leaks" participants can free up money to put into savings toward purchasing assets. The booklet helped participants regain control of their lives financially and become more self-sufficient.

MVAC staff meets with participants regularly to track progress on their established savings and spending goals, assist with any issues that arise along the way, and provide positive feedback and encouragement. MVAC helps link participants to providers that can help meet essential needs with program support money (i.e. energy assistance) or case management services such as Lutheran Social Services consumer counseling.

## Service Area





## Program Activities & Results

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households Served	Times Services Provided
<b>EMPLOYMENT</b>				
D1	Employment & Training Services	401	394	401
D3	Youth Employment	340	340	340
D6	Senior Employment Programs	78	78	78
D7	FSET	31	31	31
<b>INCOME MANAGEMENT</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	60	20	18
M4	Family Assets for Independence in MN	60	20	60
<b>HOUSING</b>				
B1	Weatherization	683	249	249
B7	Energy Related Repairs	638	233	233
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	101	37	37
C5	Small Cities Development Grants (SCDG)	27	10	10
C6	Rental Housing Assistance	474	173	173
<b>EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	13,486	5,619	5,619
B6	Energy Crisis	3,180	1,325	1,325
B8	Fuel Fund	118	49	49
C10	Homeless Assistance	245	102	102
<b>LINKAGES</b>				
E1	Transportation System	1,098	1,098	11,792
E4	Advocacy Information/Education	250	100	100
K1	Information and Referral	349,348	139,739	139,739
K2	Outreach	16,088	6,435	6,435
K3	Advocacy Information/Education	2,690	1,076	1,076
K4	Contract Services			
<b>SELF SUFFICIENCY</b>				
J1	Head Start	638	604	638
M1	Self Sufficiency	704	690	690

# Northwest Community Action

Randy Nordin  
Executive Director

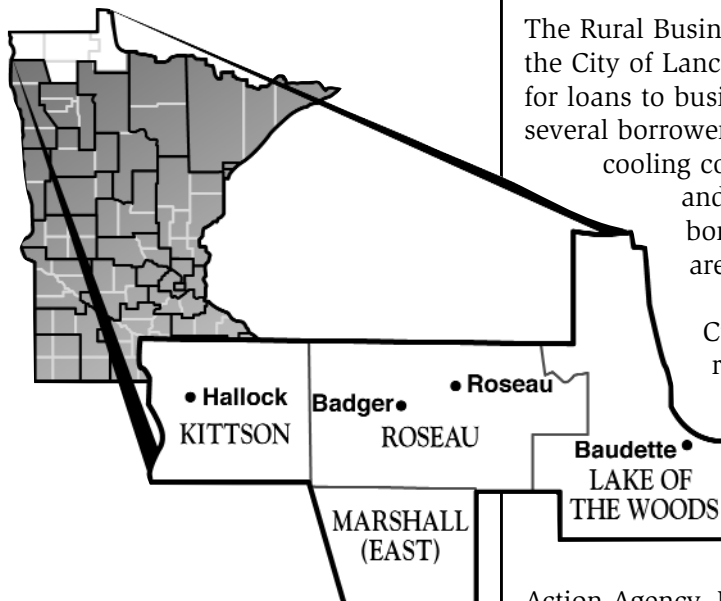
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## Service Area



## Results Highlight

### Revolving Loan Fund Helps Borrowers

In Northwest Minnesota, the City of Lancaster sought to develop a Revolving Loan Fund to ensure the retention and creation of new jobs, as well as to develop a mechanism for leveraging public and private investment in land, buildings, and equipment. The fund works in conjunction with local financial institutions, venture capitalists, private equity contributions and other investors including regional, state and federal loan and grant programs.

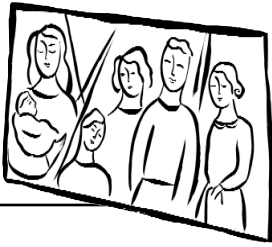
Ultimately, all loan requests to the City Revolving Loan Fund must demonstrate the potential to become strong long-term business enterprises with a high probability of meeting or exceeding the job creation objectives while becoming local tax and utility ratepayers.

The Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) was awarded to the City of Lancaster in the amount of \$365,000 to be used for loans to businesses in Lancaster. The City has identified several borrowers, one steel manufacturer, one heating and cooling contractor, one painting and coating company and one grocery store. The five businesses, as borrowers that meet the City's loan priorities, are targeted for the RBEG loan.

Currently, the loans have been made, repayment funds are coming in, and more interest has developed in accessing the loan funds from other businesses in town.

The local and regional partners in developing this loan pool are as follows; City of Lancaster, Northwest Community

Action Agency, Northwest Regional Development Commission, local banks, Lancaster businesses, City Attorney and United States Department of Agriculture.



## Program Activities & Results

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households Served	Times Services Provided
<b>INCOME MANAGEMENT</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	108	40	81
M4	Family Assets for Independence in MN	23	9	162
<b>HOUSING</b>				
B1	Weatherization	108	40	40
B4	Other Conservation Services	37	16	16
B7	Energy Related Repairs	383	151	151
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	185	49	49
C8	Community Housing Stabilization	62	39	39
C9	Community Homeownership Education	44	28	28
<b>EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	2,987	1,280	1,280
B6	Energy Crisis	712	284	284
C10	Homeless Assistance	238	80	80
G6	Donated Articles	322	120	120
G8	Crisis Intervention	433	141	141
<b>NUTRITION</b>				
H1	Food Assistance			
H2	Community Services Food Pkgs	268	83	83
H3	Holiday Projects	566	151	151
<b>LINKAGES</b>				
K1	Advocacy Information/Education	3,627	1,533	3,763
K2	Outreach	1,233	787	836
K3	Advocacy Information/Education	1,447	536	863
<b>SELF SUFFICIENCY</b>				
J1	Head Start	1,053	267	366
J4	At-Risk Youth	74	43	74
J7	Youth Recreation	74	43	74
<b>HEALTH</b>				
I2	Health Care Aid (Financial)	59	16	16



# Olmsted Community Action Program

Mina Wilson  
Executive Director

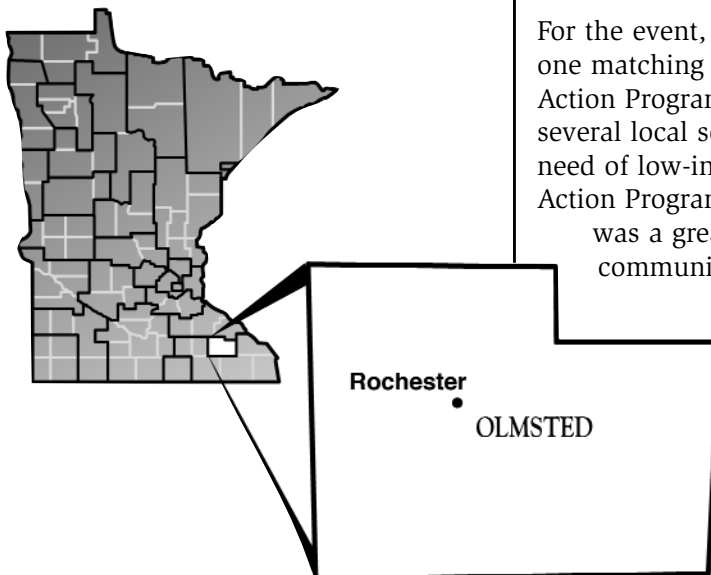
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## Service Area



## Results Highlight

### Mitten Tree

Olmsted Community Action Program in coordination with Olmsted County and the City of Rochester has begun the tradition of a mitten tree in late December and early January. The purpose of the mitten tree is to ensure those little hands stay warm all winter.

During the months of December and January, Olmsted Community Action Program, Olmsted County and the City of Rochester staff and local citizens made donations of new hats, mittens and scarves that were used to decorate a "forest" of trees in the Government Center Rotunda. This was a joint effort between the Community Action staff, Community Action Board members, the Facilities Department, and Olmsted County's Coffee Club.

For the event, 104 hats, 149 pairs of mittens, 17 scarves and one matching purse were collected. Olmsted Community Action Program's Board members distributed the items to several local schools and day cares who have indicated a need of low-income children in their areas. Community Action Program staff distributed adult-sized items. This effort was a great success and appreciated throughout the community.



## P r o g r a m   A c t i v i t i e s   &   R e s u l t s

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households Served	Times Services Provided
<b>INCOME MANAGEMENT</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	21	7	56
M4	Family Assets for Independence in MN	32	12	12
<b>HOUSING</b>				
B7	Energy Related Repairs	671	244	244
<b>EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	6,109	2,191	2,191
B6	Energy Crisis	671	244	244
C10	Homeless Assistance	227	81	81
G6	Donated Articles	309	119	119
G8	Crisis Intervention	312	120	120
<b>LINKAGES</b>				
K1	Information and Referral	2,781	1,030	1,030
K2	Outreach	2,916	1,080	1,080
K3	Advocacy Information/Education	15,228	5,640	5,640
<b>SELF SUFFICIENCY</b>				
M1	Self Sufficiency	135	52	52

# Otter Tail-Wadena Community Action Council

Davis Leino-Mills  
Executive Director

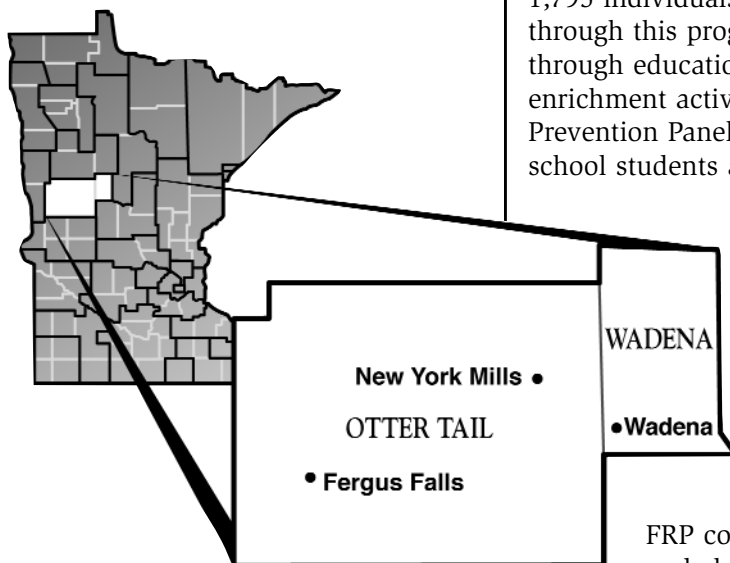
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## Service Area



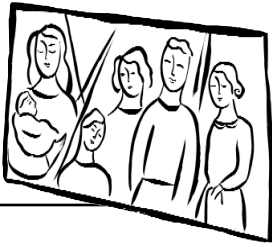
## Results Highlight

### Fathers' Resource Program

The Fathers' Resource Program (FRP) helps fathers become a positive presence in their children's lives. FRP helps fathers understand their legal rights and options. It provides guidelines on how to work with agencies such as legal aid, child support and County Social Services. The program holds a free family law clinic each month, allowing fathers to meet with attorneys to discuss and review the legal rights and responsibilities of paternity, custody and child support. In addition, the program sponsors monthly father/child activities to promote fathers' involvement in their child's life and to strengthen the father/child bond.

This year the program joined forces with the Head Start Fatherhood Initiative to expand resources for fathers. Over 1,795 individuals and 829 households this year were reached through this program. Both programs advocate for fathers through education, legal clinics, case management, and social enrichment activities. One activity, the Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Panel, goes into high schools and talks with high school students about the advantages and disadvantages of being a teen parent. The benefits of abstinence and pregnancy prevention are stressed. The fathers on the panel discuss how important a father's role is in the care of his children.

Dads Make a Difference is another program supported by FRP. The program helps local schools send young men and women to Dads Make Difference seminars. FRP coordinates student registration, transportation and chaperones the events. After the seminars, the students come back and educate other teens.



## Program Activities & Results

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households Served	Times Services Provided
<b>EMPLOYMENT</b>				
D3	Youth Employment	64	20	64
<b>EDUCATION</b>				
L1	GED & Educational Services	2	2	2
L2	Literacy	84	76	128
L3	English as a Second Language (ESL)	3	3	3
L4	Adult Basic Education (ABE)	4	4	4
<b>INCOME MANAGEMENT</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	170	72	216
M3	Tax Aid	180,530	75,221	75,221
M4	Family Assets for Independence in MN	28	7	28
<b>HOUSING</b>				
B1	Weatherization	299	130	130
B4	Other Conservation Services	117	51	51
B7	Energy Related Repairs	234	97	36
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	2	2	2
C7	Low-Income Housing Development	40	13	16
C8	Community Housing Stabilization	7	3	7
C9	Community Homeownership Education	274	194	194
<b>EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	2,331	944	944
B6	Advocacy Information/Education	548	222	222
B8	Fuel Fund	7	3	3
C10	Homeless Assistance	3,570	1,488	3,570
G3	Abuse and Neglect	25	6	20
G6	Donated Articles	31	31	31
G8	Crisis Intervention	519	213	213
<b>NUTRITION</b>				
H1	Food Assistance	19,581	6,600	7,007
H3	Holiday Projects	263	102	102
<b>LINKAGES</b>				
E3	Transportation Assistance	2,555	27	3,633
E4	Vehicle Program	10	4	4
F1	Senior Oriented Services	74	74	74
F3	Chore Services	127	127	127
F5	Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)	604		593
F6	Senior Companions/Foster Grandparents	26	26	26
K1	Information and Referral	22,832	9,738	46,534
K2	Outreach	5,475	2,747	3,228
K3	Advocacy Information/Education	17,088	7,120	7,120
K4	Contract Services	1,382	576	1,612
<b>SELF SUFFICIENCY</b>				
J1	Head Start	670	258	258
J2	Child Care	208	183	208
J4	At-Risk Youth	120	81	120
J7	Youth Recreation	61	38	61
J8	Parenting	707	376	557
J9	Fatherhood Initiative	1,795	829	1,127
M1	Self Sufficiency	146	59	59
M5	Family Loan Fund	36	15	15
<b>HEALTH</b>				
I1	Health Care Aid (Non-Financial)	4,654	4,643	3,839
I2	Health Care Aid (Financial)	94	61	91
I3	Family Planning	1,030	1,030	1,288

# Prairie Five Community Action Council

Debra J. Larson  
Executive Director

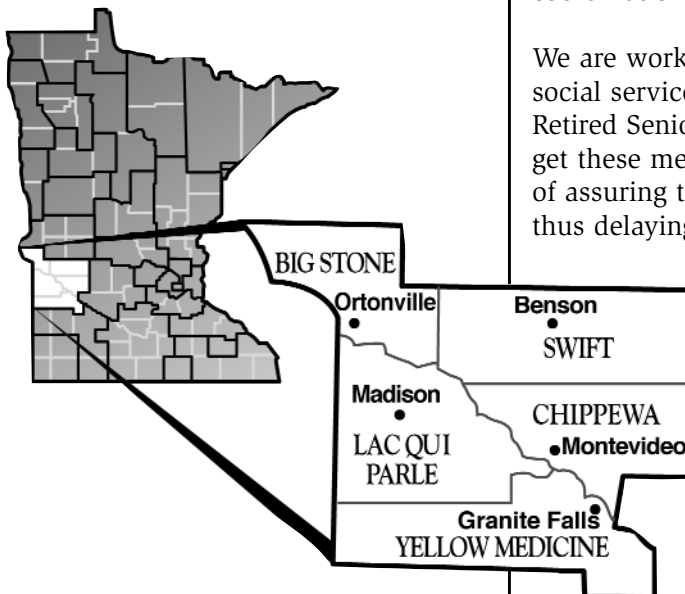
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## Service Area



## Results Highlight

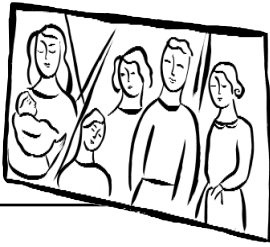
### Senior Nutrition Through Home Delivery

The trend of a declining and aging population in Prairie Five's service area prompted the agency to look at innovative ways to serve the aging rural population, particularly the low-income aging. Over 25% of the population in Prairie Five's service area is over the age of 60, compared to the state average of 12.5%. More than 70% of the communities in the service area have less than 500 people.

Prairie Five Senior Nutrition Program has recently installed three freezers, strategically placed throughout the region for frozen meal distribution to isolated areas. The meals are produced and packaged with two heat sealers located in our central kitchens. Meals are distributed weekly to the freezers. Frozen meals are then distributed with the coordination and collaboration of many different entities.

We are working with hospital discharge planners, county social service agencies, countryside public health, churches, Retired Senior Volunteer Program, and the general public to get these meals to those most in need. This is another way of assuring that seniors are able to stay in their homes longer, thus delaying the high cost of nursing home or assisted living care.

Private/public planning, support, and financial contributions were received to help expand the distribution of meals.



## Program Activities & Results

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households Served	Times Services Provided
<b>EDUCATION</b>				
L2	Literacy	434	319	319
<b>INCOME MANAGEMENT</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	283	96	96
M3	Tax Aid	388	335	335
<b>HOUSING</b>				
B1	Weatherization	253	95	95
B3	MECS Audits	70	23	23
B4	Other Conservation Services	70	23	23
B7	Energy Related Repairs	405	162	162
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	19	13	13
C5	Small Cities Development Grants (SCDG)	32	22	22
C9	Community Homeownership Education	39	32	32
<b>EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	6,084	2,296	2,296
B6	Energy Crisis	1,995	688	688
B8	Fuel Fund	199	70	70
C10	Homeless Assistance	24	18	18
G6	Donated Articles	84,350	22,031	55,166
G8	Crisis Intervention	544	375	375
<b>NUTRITION</b>				
H1	Advocacy Information/Education	4,877	1,597	1,597
H2	Community Services Food Pkgs	1,258	480	480
H3	Holiday Projects	1,867	709	709
H6	Home Delivered Meals	601	417	47,162
H7	Congregate Meals	2,053	1,372	111,306
<b>LINKAGES</b>				
E1	Transportation System	2,455	612	68,459
E3	Transportation Assistance	897	78	897
F1	Senior Oriented Services	1,245	657	657
F6	Senior Companions/Foster Grandparents	145	140	140
K1	Information and Referral	5,160	2,466	1,014
K2	Outreach	14,403	6,252	4,793
K3	Advocacy Information/Education	18,518	13,754	1,498
<b>SELF SUFFICIENCY</b>				
J1	Head Start	299	292	299
J2	Child Care	129	123	129
J6	Child Care Resource Referral	2,907	1,987	1,987
J7	Youth Recreation			
J8	Parenting	359	292	292
<b>OTHER</b>				
A5	Cottage Industries	41	25	25
	School Supplies Distribution	64	45	45
	Quilt GiveAway	150	150	150

# Prairie Island Indian Community

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President

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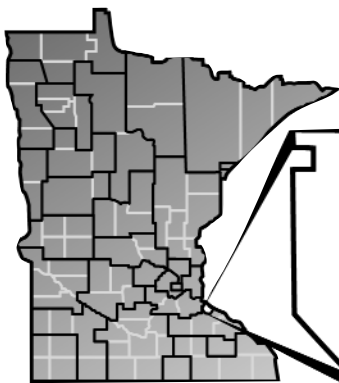
## Results Highlight

### 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.

## Service Area



PRAIRIE ISLAND

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.



# Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians

Floyd Jourdain, Jr.  
Chairman

Ramona Desjarlait  
Program Director

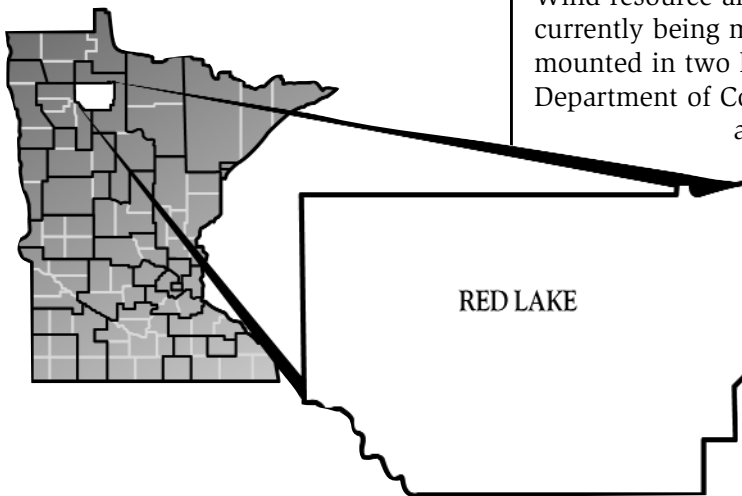
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## Service Area



## Results Highlight

### Environmental Projects

**Biomass study:** 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 is probably not viable, several 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 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 resource analysis:** Wind speeds and frequency are currently being measured through three anemometers mounted in two locations on Reservation land. The Department of Commerce (DOC) loaned the Tribe two anemometers and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) loaned the third. DOC and NREL will assist with data analysis and recommend feasibility options that the Tribe can pursue.

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



## Program Activities & Results

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households Served	Times Services Provided
<b>EMPLOYMENT</b>				
D1	Employment & Training Services	684	171	120
D3	Youth Employment	63	14	60
D6	Senior Employment Programs	2	2	120
<b>EDUCATION</b>				
L1	GED & Educational Services	103	23	120
<b>HOUSING</b>				
B1	Weatherization	204	51	51
B7	Energy Related Repairs	807	179	179
C3	Home Repair/Rehabilitation	88	27	27
<b>EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	4,991	1,109	1,109
B6	Energy Crisis	2,777	617	617
G8	Crisis Intervention	2,979	662	662
<b>NUTRITION</b>				
H6	Home Delivered Meals	185	179	15,227
H7	Congregate Meals	352	341	21,585
<b>LINKAGES</b>				
E3	Transportation Assistance	411	341	20,500
F1	Senior Oriented Services	62	55	55
F3	Chore Services	73	70	105
K1	Advocacy Information/Education	389	375	375
K2	Outreach	75	75	75
<b>SELF SUFFICIENCY</b>				
J1	Head Start	772	193	193
J4	At-Risk Youth	1,120	280	1,120
J7	Youth Recreation	1,120	280	5,000
J8	Parenting	60	15	120
J9	Fatherhood Initiative	5	2	60

# Scott Carver Dakota CAP Agency

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Executive Director

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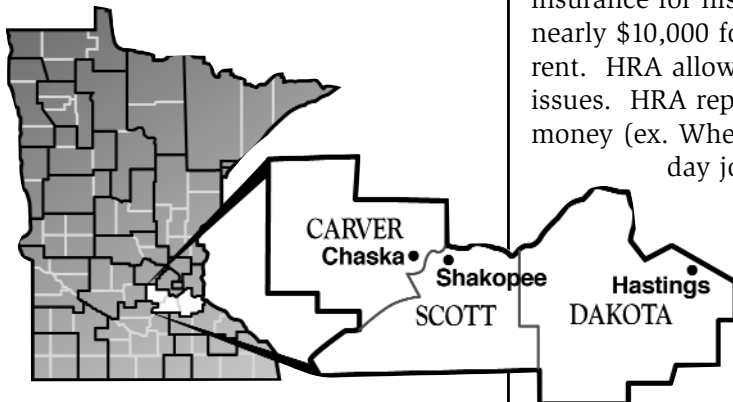
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## Service Area



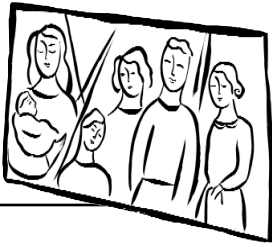
## Results Highlight

### Ways to Work Helps Families

The CAP Agency's new Ways to Work (WtW) program is designed to assist low-income households with dependent minor children, who are relatively self-sufficient, but have flawed credit and need transportation. The program provides financial literacy education as well as facilitating affordable bank loans for people who do not qualify for traditional bank financing.

WtW recently worked with a two-parent family trying to maintain an adequate standard of living despite a myriad of health problems. The mother is disabled and the father was working full-time at a local grocery store. The job mandated reliable transportation, but a month into the job their car broke down. They began renting a car in order to retain the job because the father felt it was the only way to have health insurance for his wife and family. They eventually paid nearly \$10,000 for car rental and became delinquent on their rent. HRA allowed them to stay due to the family's health issues. HRA reported that whenever the family had "extra" money (ex. When the wife was able, she would work a temp day job) they would use it to pay rent.

The family received a loan to purchase a car through WtW and significantly reduced their monthly car expenses, allowing them to pay the back rent. The WtW Coordinator also assisted them in accessing other helping programs. The couple attended the Financial Literacy class and are working on repairing their credit. The mother reports that "the CAP Agency has turned [our] world around".



## Program Activities & Results

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households Served	Times Services Provided
<b>EMPLOYMENT</b>				
D6	Senior Employment Programs	4	4	
<b>EDUCATION</b>				
L2	Literacy	1,175	470	1,175
<b>INCOME MANAGEMENT</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	365	100	800
M4	Family Assets for Independence in MN	95	31	95
<b>HOUSING</b>				
B1	Weatherization	165	53	53
B4	Other Conservation Services	322	115	115
B7	Energy Related Repairs	247	76	76
<b>EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	13,487	4,690	4,690
B6	Energy Crisis	3,386	1,353	1,353
B8	Fuel Fund	277	80	80
C10	Homeless Assistance	847	258	847
C11	Transitional Housing	90	50	90
G6	Donated Articles	6,226	1,575	1,575
G8	Crisis Intervention	2,080	659	659
<b>NUTRITION</b>				
H1	Food Assistance	10,525	3,332	12,133
H3	Advocacy Information/Education	5,426	1,243	1,243
H4	Women, Infants, Children (WIC)	3,798	1,979	37,057
H6	Home Delivered Meals	414	367	46,796
H7	Congregate Meals	1,013	935	88,979
<b>LINKAGES</b>				
F1	Senior Oriented Services	82	60	60
F3	Chore Services	254	249	4,743
K1	Information and Referral	28,839	9,468	9,468
K2	Outreach	28,839	9,468	9,468
K3	Advocacy Information/Education	28,839	9,468	1,934
K4	Contract Services	6	4	6
<b>SELF SUFFICIENCY</b>				
J1	Head Start	867	764	867
J2	Child Care	428	113	113
J3	Child Care Administration	162	27	27
J8	Parenting	235	227	235
J9	Fatherhood Initiative	250	125	125
J10	Crisis Nursery	125	73	125
M1	Self Sufficiency	646	157	646
M5	Family Loan Fund	91	26	26

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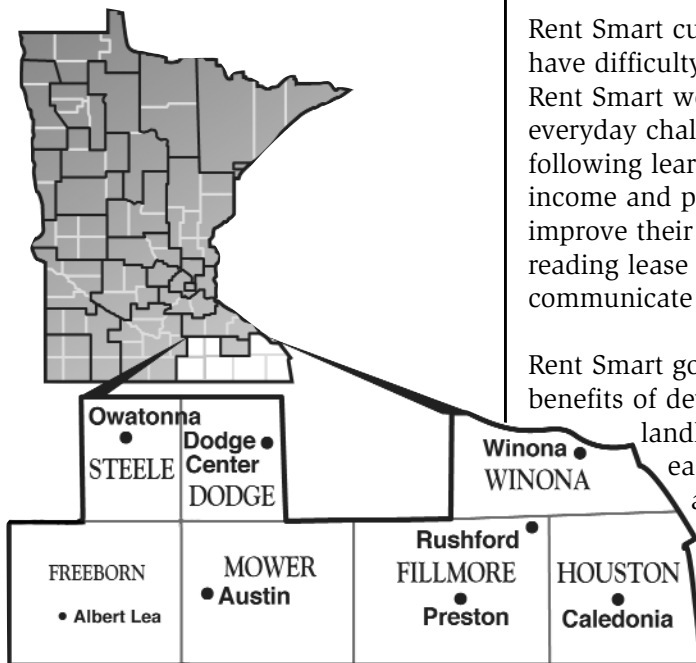
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## Service Area



## Results Highlight

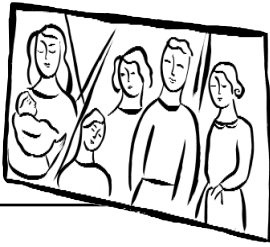
### Rent Smart

Community Action funds enable Semcac to have Field Service staff at each contact center in the agency's seven county service area. Field Service staff directly administer Semcac's programs and provide a personal connection between low-income households and community resources and services.

Field Service staff at the Steele County Contact Center collaborated with the City of Owatonna's Housing and Redevelopment Authority, the Steele County Transitional Housing, the Steele County Extension Service and local landlords to offer Rent Smart workshops. These collaborating partners provided staff time and materials at the workshops. Child care and a meal were also provided to improve attendance of families.

Rent Smart curriculum is designed to help persons likely to have difficulty obtaining and maintaining rental housing. Rent Smart workshops help families prepare for and handle everyday challenges of renting. Participants related the following learned outcomes: (1) how to budget monthly income and plan expenses more carefully; (2) how to improve their credit and credit reports; (3) the importance of reading lease agreements before renting; and (4) new ways to communicate effectively with a landlord and tenants.

Rent Smart goals are that participants will: understand the benefits of developing a cooperative relationship with their landlord and neighbors, find adequate housing more easily, learn how to resolve issues with landlord and neighbors, and move less often, thus increasing their housing stability and self-reliance.



## Program Activities & Results

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households Served	Times Services Provided
<b>EMPLOYMENT</b>				
D1	Employment & Training Services	14	14	14
<b>EDUCATION</b>				
L1	GED & Educational Services	28	18	28
L2	Literacy	113	54	113
L3	English as a Second Language (ESL)	22	17	22
L4	Adult Basic Education (ABE)	13	13	13
<b>INCOME MANAGEMENT</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	850	346	433
M3	Tax Aid	35	7	7
<b>HOUSING</b>				
B1	Weatherization	526	236	236
B4	Other Conservation Services	378	147	147
B7	Energy Related Repairs	509	203	203
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	73	25	22
C7	Low-Income Housing Development	26	19	19
C8	Community Housing Stabilization	51	24	24
C9	Community Homeownership Education	91	83	83
<b>EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	13,920	6,002	6,002
B6	Energy Crisis	4,918	1,772	1,772
B8	Advocacy Information/Education	507	165	165
C10	Homeless Assistance	811	292	811
G1	Emergency Family Services	1,707	1,629	1,707
G6	Donated Articles	1,479	554	554
G8	Crisis Intervention	988	291	291
<b>NUTRITION</b>				
H1	Food Assistance	7,894	2,668	30,705
H3	Holiday Projects	2,700	859	859
H4	Women, Infants, Children (WIC)	80	57	57
H6	Home Delivered Meals	544	180	70,818
H7	Congregate Meals	5,292	3,598	329,178
<b>LINKAGES</b>				
E1	Transportation System	286	278	32,321
E3	Transportation Assistance	944	930	13,631
F1	Senior Oriented Services	159	127	127
F5	Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)	1,149	1,031	1,149
K1	Information and Referral	12,533	6,859	16,874
K2	Outreach	28,598	21,897	21,897
K3	Advocacy Information/Education	172,039	75,264	172,039
K4	Contract Services	1,456	567	886
<b>SELF SUFFICIENCY</b>				
J1	Head Start	1,422	423	445
J2	Child Care	113	54	113
J6	Child Care Resource Referral	22	7	7
J8	Parenting	5	2	5
J9	Fatherhood Initiative	59	59	59
<b>HEALTH</b>				
I1	Health Care Aid (Non-Financial)	373	161	373
I2	Health Care Aid (Financial)	383	313	383
I3	Family Planning	1,837	1,815	1,837

# Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community

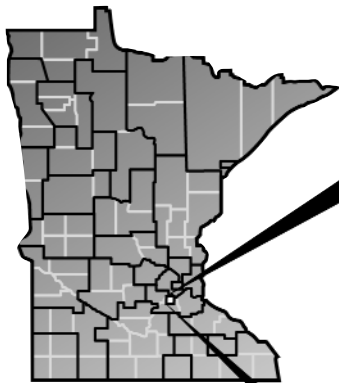
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## Service Area



SHAKOPEE  
MDEWAKANTON



## Results Highlight

### Education and Health

The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC) offers varied services to more than 4,500 staff members, as well as American Indians living in Scott County. Services include: Children and Family Services, Mental Health, Employee Assistance, Education and Dental and Health Services.

The SMSC has health and dental clinics that provide 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 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. It also runs the Johnson O'Malley program providing educational support to schools with American Indian 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, American Indian 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 American Indian books for a Shakopee elementary school library and support of local athletic programs.

The SMSC provided \$594,824 in funding to American Indian 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 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.

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.

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.



# Southwestern Minnesota Opportunity Council

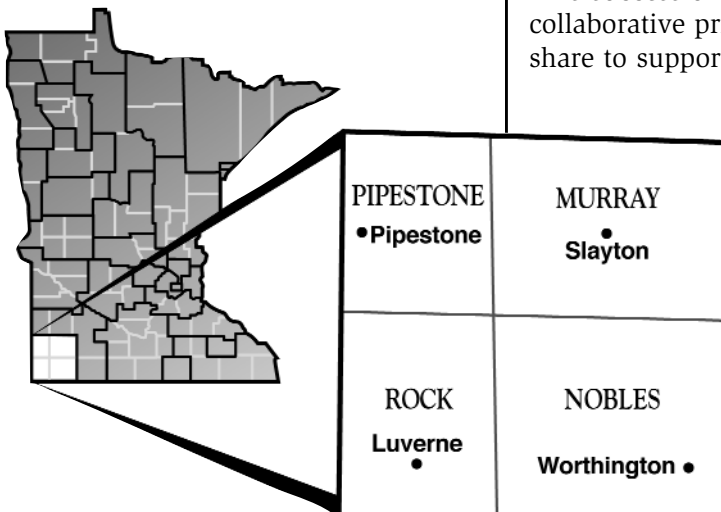
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## Service Area



## Results Highlight

### Even Start Family Literacy Program

Since the early 1990's, Southwestern Minnesota Opportunity Council (SMOC) Head Start's Program has worked cooperatively with the Worthington School District 518's Community Education Department to meet family literacy needs of specific Head Start participants. These literacy initiatives have been targeted for immigrant families living in Worthington, which has become the state's most diverse city outside the Twin Cities area.

Through a thoughtful collaboration between SMOC Head Start and District 518's Adult Basic Education (ABE), School Readiness (SR) and Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE). A federal Even Start Grant was awarded and has funded the Even Start Family Literacy Program for 8 years. This successful partnership has been built on sound collaborative principles with each stakeholder doing its fair share to support the operation of the program:

- Each program employs a portion of the teaching staff.
- The school district provides the space, Meals are subsidized through the district's free and reduced lunch program.
- Child care for younger siblings is provided by ECFE and Head Start staff.
- Activities for older siblings including homework help is provided by Youthworks and AmeriCorps workers.
- Head Start furnishes a computer for the early childhood classroom.
- Transportation services are funded and coordinated by ABE.

By partnering with school district programs, SMOC Head Start has been able to significantly expand and enhance its services. Ultimately, it is the families themselves, up to 15



## Program Activities & Results

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households Served	Times Services Provided
<b>EMPLOYMENT</b>				
D1	Employment & Training Services	42	42	42
<b>EDUCATION</b>				
L2	Literacy	100	40	100
L3	English as a Second Language (ESL)	100	40	100
L4	Adult Basic Education (ABE)	120	57	120
<b>INCOME MANAGEMENT</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	209	108	223
M4	Family Assets for Independence in MN	27	8	27
<b>HOUSING</b>				
B1	Weatherization	308	123	123
B7	Energy Related Repairs	166	66	66
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	32	10	10
C5	Small Cities Development Grants (SCDG)	88	58	58
C9	Community Homeownership Education	84	62	84
<b>EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	4,782	1,913	1,913
B6	Energy Crisis	1,098	439	439
B8	Fuel Fund	15	5	5
C10	Homeless Assistance	67	24	24
<b>LINKAGES</b>				
E1	Advocacy Information/Education	3,800	2,700	46,395
F3	Chore Services	145	145	7,620
F6	Senior Companions/Foster Grandparents	5	5	387
K1	Information and Referral	5,867		5,867
K2	Outreach	5,446		5,446
<b>SELF SUFFICIENCY</b>				
J1	Head Start	275	228	2,705
J6	Child Care Resource Referral	5,697	479	479
<b>HEALTH</b>				
I3	Family Planning	960	960	960

# Three Rivers Community Action

Michael Thorsteinson  
Executive Director

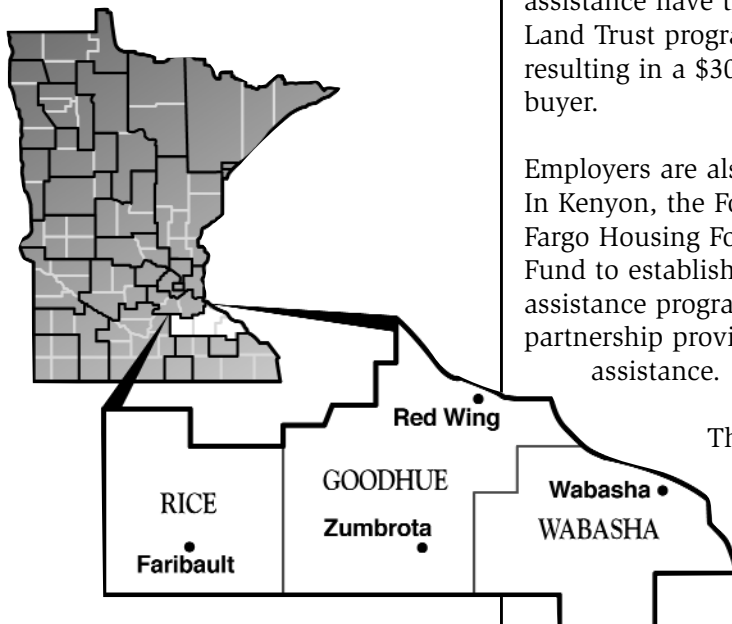
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## Service Area



## Results Highlight

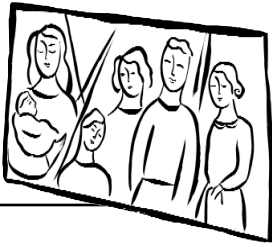
### Home Ownership Programs Assist Families

Three Rivers Community Action, Inc. has assembled a unique variety of programs that assist working families to enter home ownership. Three Rivers works to identify needs, to raise resources and to develop high quality housing units. Three Rivers then assembles programs to assist households in making the homes affordable.

Tax Increment Financing enables Three Rivers to reduce the initial sale price of a home by subsidizing infrastructure improvements to ensure that affordable mortgage products are available. Financing up to \$15,000 in the form of deferred loans from the Greater Minnesota Housing Fund, the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency and its First Homes program help fill the gap between home building costs and the price a family can afford. Households needing additional assistance have the opportunity to enter into the Community Land Trust program where land is held in a permanent trust, resulting in a \$30,000 drop in the cost of the housing to the buyer.

Employers are also participating in making homes affordable. In Kenyon, the Foldcraft Foundation partnered with Wells Fargo Housing Foundation and Greater Minnesota Housing Fund to establish a down payment and closing cost assistance program administered by Three Rivers. This partnership provides households with \$5,000 in entry cost assistance.

The impact of these programs is dramatic. A \$145,000 new home that would otherwise be affordable only to a buyer earning \$38,000 per year is now affordable to a buyer earning as little as \$22,000 per year.



## Program Activities & Results

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households Served	Times Services Provided
<b>HOUSING</b>				
B1	Weatherization	177	65	65
B4	Other Conservation Services	139	57	57
B7	Energy Related Repairs	196	70	70
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	18	6	6
C7	Low-Income Housing Development	130	62	62
C8	Community Housing Stabilization	8	2	2
C9	Community Homeownership Education	27	14	14
<b>EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	4,576	1,821	1,821
B6	Energy Crisis	1,573	509	509
B8	Fuel Fund	57	21	21
C10	Homeless Assistance	448	154	448
C11	Transitional Housing	52	16	52
G8	Crisis Intervention	781	230	230
<b>NUTRITION</b>				
H6	Home Delivered Meals	357	277	35,100
<b>LINKAGES</b>				
E1	Transportation System	4,021	1,608	77,203
E3	Transportation Assistance	89	59	456
F1	Senior Oriented Services	515	343	343
K1	Advocacy Information/Education	6,903	2,635	7,905
K2	Outreach	13,806	5,270	5,270
K3	Advocacy Information/Education	15,187	5,797	15,187
<b>SELF SUFFICIENCY</b>				
J1	Head Start	1,059	244	256
J5	Campership	54	12	17
M5	Family Loan Fund	63	19	19

# Tri-County Action Program (Tri-CAP)

Paula S. Erdmann  
Executive Director

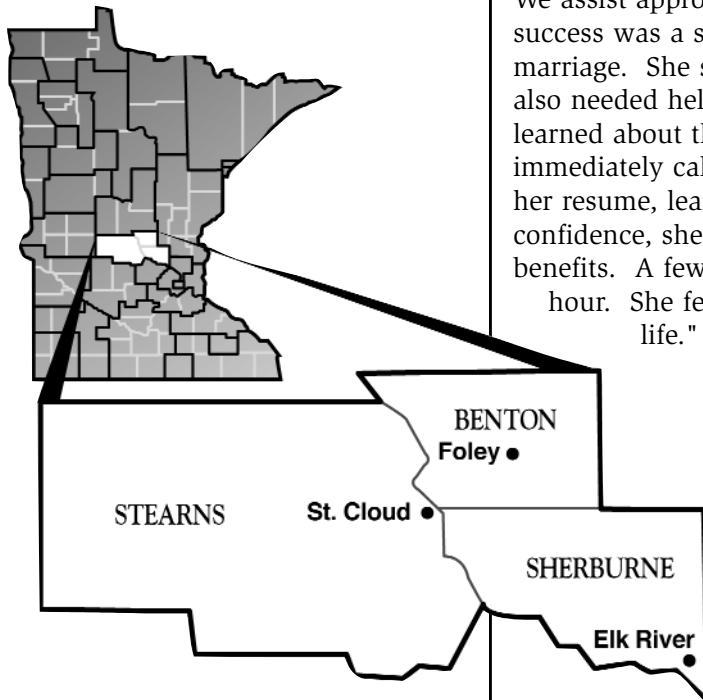
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## Service Area

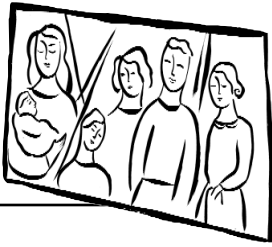


## Results Highlight

### Displaced Homemaker Program Provides Jobs

The Minnesota Displaced Homemaker Program serves an adult entering the job market after household income has been lost due to death, divorce, separation or disability of a primary wage earner. This pre-employment program provides workshops and one-on-one counseling designed to prepare the person for securing a job. Staff have partnered with a variety of agencies to bring these services into battered women shelters, Workforce Centers, halfway houses, CAP agencies and other locations throughout Benton, Sherburne, Stearns, Wright, Pine, Isanti, Chisago & Kanabec Counties so that those in need can obtain assistance near where they live. A program Advisory Council helps promote the services, provides referrals to the program and helps set program policies.

We assist approximately 130 individuals per year. One recent success was a stay at home mother divorced after 17 years of marriage. She struggled to find a job to pay her bills and also needed help to stop a housing eviction. When she learned about the Displaced Homemaker Program, she immediately called to set up an appointment. After revising her resume, learning interview skills and regaining her confidence, she secured a job starting at \$9.50 an hour with benefits. A few months later her wage increased to \$11 per hour. She feels the program gave her "a second chance at life."



## Program Activities & Results

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households Served	Times Services Provided
<b>EMPLOYMENT</b>				
D8	Displaced Homemakers	136	136	136
<b>INCOME MANAGEMENT</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	537	209	630
M3	Tax Aid	1,719	573	573
M4	Family Assets for Independence in MN	96	40	43
<b>HOUSING</b>				
B1	Weatherization	429	196	196
B3	MECS Audits	110	37	37
B7	Energy Related Repairs	631	213	213
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	60	17	17
C3	Home Repair/Rehabilitation	137	39	39
C6	Rental Housing Assistance	115	60	60
C7	Low-Income Housing Development	70	20	20
C8	Community Housing Stabilization	172	49	49
<b>EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	11,936	4,686	4,686
B6	Energy Crisis	1,547	442	442
B8	Fuel Fund	193	76	76
C10	Homeless Assistance	678	249	678
C11	Transitional Housing	370	125	370
G8	Advocacy Information/Education	2	2	2
<b>NUTRITION</b>				
H3	Holiday Projects	23	7	7
<b>LINKAGES</b>				
E3	Transportation Assistance	2,726	1,780	70,814
K1	Information and Referral	95,595	32,053	95,595
K2	Outreach	47,175	12,050	12,050
K3	Advocacy Information/Education	81,303	24,755	81,303
<b>SELF SUFFICIENCY</b>				
M1	Self Sufficiency	699	265	527
<b>HEALTH</b>				
I2	Health Care Aid (Financial)	242	242	242

# Tri-County Community Action (TCC)

Joseph D. Ayers  
Executive Director

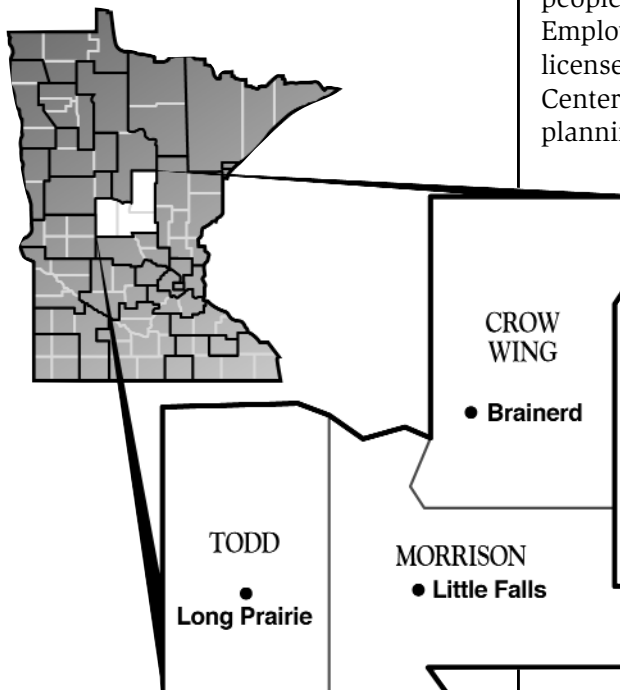
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## Service Area



## Results Highlight

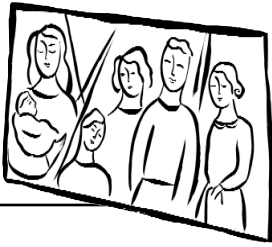
### Self Employment Program

Tri-County Community Action's (TCC) Self Employment Program has a sixteen year history of alleviating poverty and fostering self-sufficiency by helping clients develop business plans and establishing business start up loans.

When Sally came to TCC, she was working part-time earning minimum wage. She had been unemployed for more than three years because of a harassment lawsuit filed against her former supervisor. Sally's husband, on Social Security disability with extensive health problems, was attempting to find some type of work to help out the household.

Sally wanted to own her own business to utilize her skills, her experience and her passion for working with elderly people. Sally worked with Rural Minnesota Concentrated Employment Program (RMCEP) to renew her beauty operator license. She also met with the Small Business Development Center staff at Central Lakes College to help with financial planning. Sally negotiated with a new upscale elderly high-rise to put her shop in their building. She received a business loan through TCC's Self Employment Program to purchase equipment and supplies.

TCC's Self Employment Program business loan addressed Sally's needs and helped her fulfill her dream. Sally is now self sufficient, continuing to provide for herself and her husband.



## Program Activities & Results

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households Served	Times Services Provided
<b>INCOME MANAGEMENT</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	32	27	104
M4	Family Assets for Independence in MN	8	8	8
<b>HOUSING</b>				
B1	Weatherization	257	107	107
B3	MECS Audits	302	126	126
B4	Other Conservation Services	262	109	109
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	11	3	3
C9	Community Homeownership Education	8	8	8
<b>EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>				
G3	Abuse and Neglect	87	29	82
G8	Crisis Intervention	219	73	145
<b>LINKAGES</b>				
K1	Information and Referral	2,112	497	497
K2	Outreach	2,112	497	497
K3	Advocacy Information/Education	8	8	8
K4	Contract Services	36	15	15
<b>SELF SUFFICIENCY</b>				
J1	Head Start	2,112	497	497
J2	Child Care	183	439	439
J6	Child Care Resource Referral	121	290	290
J9	Advocacy Information/Education	43	18	18
M1	Self Sufficiency	10	5	2
M5	Family Loan Fund	14	14	14
<b>OTHER</b>				
A1	Community Development	10	5	2



# Tri-Valley Opportunity Council

Dennis P. DeMers  
Chief Executive Officer

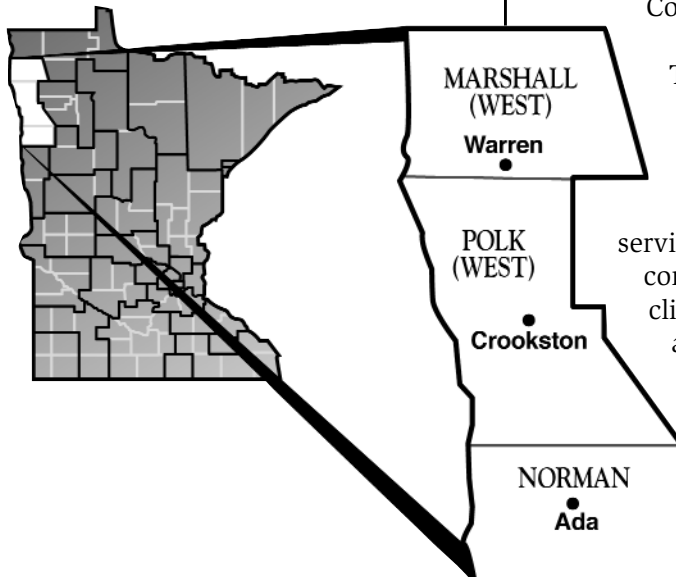
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## Service Area



## Results Highlight

### One Stop Shop Through Community Collaboration

In 2002, Polk County purchased a 33,000 square foot building in East Grand Forks, MN. The Polk County Board of Commissioners envisioned a human service center that would provide office space and meeting space for a variety of human service agencies. A group of human service stakeholders was created with Tri-Valley being a member. The stakeholders evolved a plan that would create a community collaboration intended to increase efficiencies and the effectiveness of human service clients in our area.

The facility was remodeled with the input of each of the tenants. The original tenants were: Polk County Social Services, Polk County Public Health, Northwest Minnesota Mental Health, Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc. and Tri-County Corrections.

Today, this effort is considered very successful in meeting the needs of clients receiving services in the East Grand Forks service area. Agencies that were previously housed in separate offices have come together to share resources, enhance services and create partnerships that have provided comprehensive approaches to meeting the needs of clients, working together to build self-sufficiency and strengthen human services. Since the opening of the facility, two more agencies have joined the collaboration.

The concept of the Polk County Human Service Center as a "one stop shop" continues to meet the needs of children and families in our area while serving as a model for co-located services.



## Program Activities & Results

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households Served	Times Services Provided
<b>EDUCATION</b>				
L2	Literacy	414	300	414
<b>HOUSING</b>				
B1	Weatherization	194	68	68
B3	MECS Audits	237	102	102
B7	Energy Related Repairs	290	116	116
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	9	3	3
C9	Community Homeownership Education	38	27	5
<b>EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	4,590	1,818	1,818
B6	Energy Crisis	1,428	571	571
B8	Fuel Fund	48	19	19
C10	Homeless Assistance	231	90	90
C11	Transitional Housing	17	8	8
G8	Crisis Intervention	146	57	57
<b>NUTRITION</b>				
H1	Food Assistance	2,266	1,059	268,986
<b>LINKAGES</b>				
E1	Transportation System	8,950	2,172	70,464
E3	Transportation Assistance	281	529	6,754
F3	Chore Services	641	634	69,838
F6	Advocacy Information/Education	1,533	1,533	1,533
K1	Information and Referral	710	201	201
K2	Outreach	137	124	131
K3	Advocacy Information/Education	6,690	3,057	5,654
<b>SELF SUFFICIENCY</b>				
J1	Head Start	1,301	942	1,301
J2	Child Care	214	143	135
J6	Child Care Resource Referral	213	85	85
J8	Parenting	2,604	920	1,096
<b>HEALTH</b>				
I1	Health Care Aid (Non-Financial)	1,503	695	3,712

# Upper Sioux Community

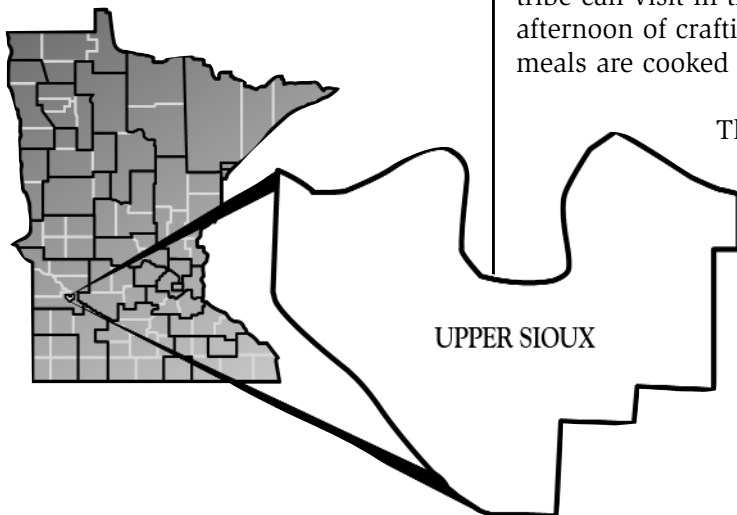
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## Service Area



## Results Highlight

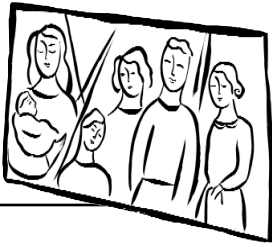
### Elders' Meal Site Program Helps the Hungry

Hunger is hard to detect, even in small communities where everyone knows each other. It is an invisible condition that plagues people all over the world, 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 volunteer staff members deliver meals to those unable to leave their homes.

Managed and funded in part by Community Action funds, the Meal Site offers much more than a hot meal. It is 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. Nutritious meals are cooked on site and served hot.

Through the collaborative effort of the Upper Sioux Community's Indian Health and Diabetes Programs, staff members 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.



## P r o g r a m   A c t i v i t i e s   &   R e s u l t s

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households Served	Times Services Provided
<b>EMPLOYMENT</b>				
D6	Senior Employment Programs	1	1	1
<b>NUTRITION</b>				
H3	Holiday Projects	40	35	35
H6	Home Delivered Meals	46	46	12,500
H7	Congregate Meals	14	12	1,460
<b>LINKAGES</b>				
E3	Transportation Assistance	20	18	18
F3	Chore Services	5	5	5
K2	Outreach	399	156	156
K3	Advocacy Information/Education	399	156	156
<b>SELF SUFFICIENCY</b>				
J8	Parenting	15	12	15
<b>HEALTH</b>				
I1	Health Care Aid (Non-Financial)	209	152	209

# West Central Minnesota Communities Action

Stephen Nagle  
Executive Director

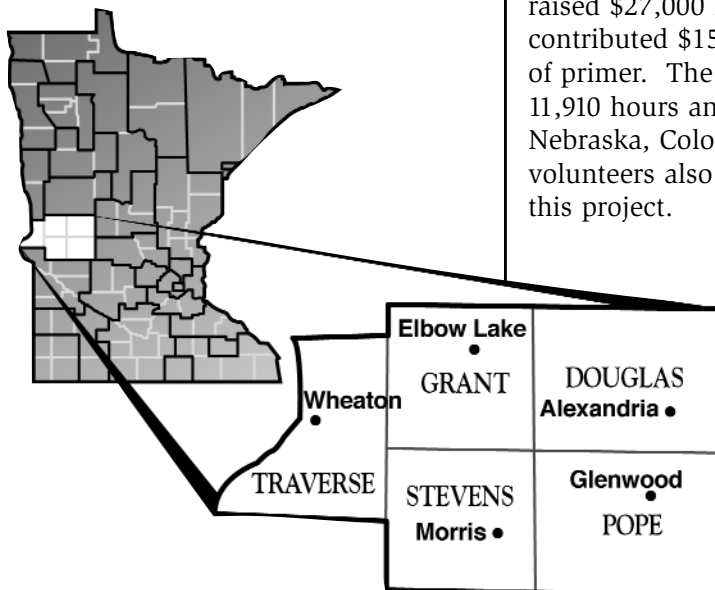
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## Service Area



## Results Highlight

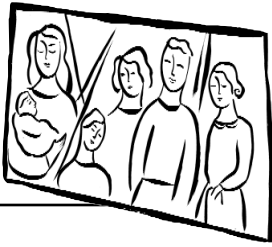
### Home Repair Mission Project

In July 2005 West Central Minnesota Communities Action, Inc., along with West Central Area Schools and Group Workcamp Foundation, sponsored a mission project that brought 370 youth and their adult leaders into west central Minnesota to complete home repair projects for low-income, elderly, and disabled homeowners. The mission trip lasted an entire week, with the fortune of great weather. The youth and the adult leaders spent the week at West Central Schools in Barrett. Forty-nine homes were rehabilitated and eight wheelchair ramps were built.

Each Workcamp participant contributed \$365 to participate in the project. This fee helped pay for materials used for home repairs. West Central Minnesota Communities Action, Inc. raised \$27,000 locally, Group Workcamp Foundation contributed \$15,000, and Valspar paints donated 100 gallons of primer. The 370 youth and adult leaders volunteered 11,910 hours and came from Missouri, Illinois, Ohio, Nebraska, Colorado, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Ninety local volunteers also contributed 2,350 hours of volunteer labor for this project.

The repairs the group conducted on 49 homes included interior and exterior painting, roof coating, mobile home skirting, gutter repair, and construction of porches and stairs. The group weatherized homes by caulking and weather-stripping, and 8 wheelchair ramps were built.

The Home Repair Missions Project resulted in a benefit to 49 households; \$47,200 in total funds, 14,300 volunteer hours, with a total economic impact to West Central Minnesota of \$182,500.



## Program Activities & Results

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households Served	Times Services Provided
<b>INCOME MANAGEMENT</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	557	149	1,041
M3	Tax Aid	121	72	72
M4	Family Assets for Independence in MN	126	40	126
<b>HOUSING</b>				
B1	Weatherization	678	226	226
B3	MECS Audits	375	125	125
B7	Energy Related Repairs	950	300	300
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	33	13	13
C3	Home Repair/Rehabilitation	147	49	49
C5	Small Cities Development Grants (SCDG)	133	74	74
C7	Low-Income Housing Development	51	15	15
C8	Community Housing Stabilization	21	7	7
C9	Community Homeownership Education	145	46	46
<b>EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	11,853	4,730	4,730
B6	Energy Crisis	3,825	1,530	1,530
B8	Fuel Fund	72	24	24
C10	Homeless Assistance	471	236	471
C11	Transitional Housing	21	5	21
<b>LINKAGES</b>				
E1	Advocacy Information/Education			
E3	Transportation Assistance			
E4	Vehicle Program	6	2	2
F1	Senior Oriented Services	129	86	86
F5	Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)	1,326	884	884
K1	Information and Referral	25,185	9,212	9,212
K2	Outreach	5,105	1,908	1,908
K3	Advocacy Information/Education	1,410	620	4,080
<b>SELF SUFFICIENCY</b>				
J1	Head Start	1,140	289	289
M5	Family Loan Fund	66	23	23

# Western Community Action

Shelly Maes  
Executive Director

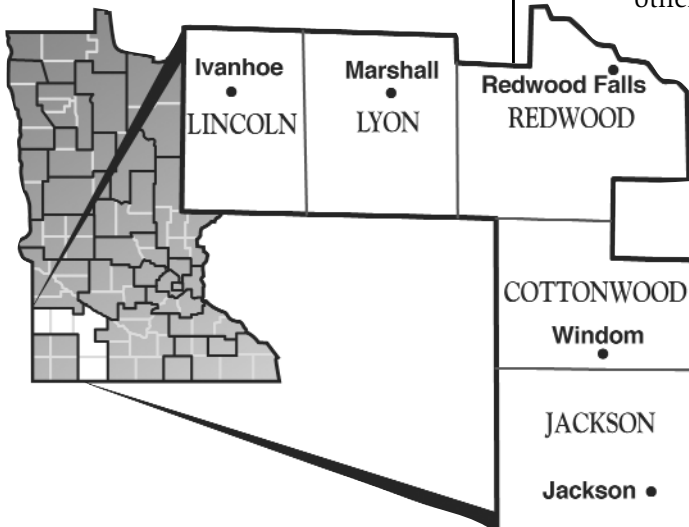
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## Service Area

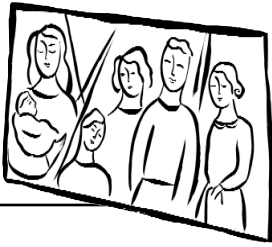


## Results Highlight

### "Something to Build On"

Western Community Action partnered with the Tracy Economic Development Authority (EDA) and the Tracy High School's Building Trades class to renovate a blighted home. Students get hands-on experience in remodeling and learn a variety of new skills, not to mention the pride they develop in this project. The Tracy EDA beautifies its neighborhood by having a run down property renovated and increasing the city tax base. Western Community Action is able to purchase, rehabilitate and sell an affordable home to an eligible family, granting them the American dream of home ownership. With the success of this project, we anticipate continuing this partnership with Tracy High School as an annual project for this building class, in addition to creating similar partnerships within our five county service area and other area schools.

Once this project is completed in January 2006, the property will be sold to a family who is either homeless, on public assistance and/or unable to obtain affordable conventional financing for home ownership. Once this family has been selected, they are required to work with our on-staff case manager on debt restructuring, budget counseling and participate in our Dollar Works curriculum to assist them in successful home ownership. The family will continue with ongoing case management support until they have successfully paid off all delinquent debt, have successfully followed their monthly budget program and are on the road to self-sufficiency.



## Program Activities & Results

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households Served	Times Services Provided
<b>EDUCATION</b>				
L1	GED & Educational Services	8	7	8
L3	English as a Second Language (ESL)	10	8	10
L4	Adult Basic Education (ABE)	10	8	10
<b>INCOME MANAGEMENT</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	277	110	330
M4	Family Assets for Independence in MN	67	42	42
<b>HOUSING</b>				
B1	Weatherization	375	125	125
B4	Other Conservation Services	336	140	140
B7	Energy Related Repairs	149	62	62
C3	Home Repair/Rehabilitation	55	23	23
C5	Small Cities Development Grants (SCDG)	638	266	266
C6	Rental Housing Assistance	277	110	110
C8	Community Housing Stabilization	72	30	30
C9	Community Homeownership Education	129	95	95
<b>EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	5,239	2,174	2,174
B6	Energy Crisis	1,099	456	456
B8	Fuel Fund	106	44	44
C10	Homeless Assistance	473	156	473
C11	Advocacy Information/Education	86	38	86
G6	Donated Articles	22,733	8,679	8,679
G8	Crisis Intervention	121	69	69
<b>NUTRITION</b>				
H1	Food Assistance	6,256	2,234	2,690
<b>LINKAGES</b>				
E1	Transportation System	7,162	2,984	115,264
K1	Information and Referral	2,525	6,019	6,019
K2	Outreach	2,527	6,141	6,141
K3	Advocacy Information/Education	5,334	12,961	12,961
K4	Contract Services	343	835	835
<b>SELF SUFFICIENCY</b>				
J1	Head Start	286	278	286
J2	Child Care	55	45	55
J4	At-Risk Youth	229	135	231
J6	Child Care Resource Referral	311	311	311
J8	Parenting	33	33	33
M1	Self Sufficiency	553	221	221
M5	Family Loan Fund	1	1	1



# White Earth Reservation

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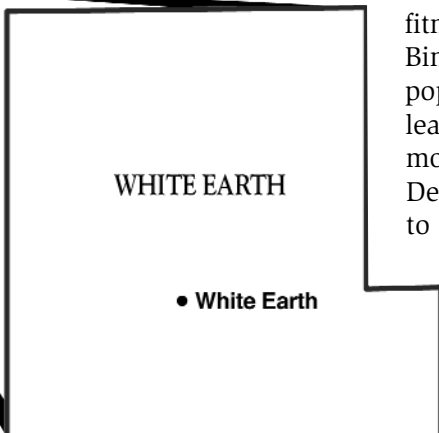
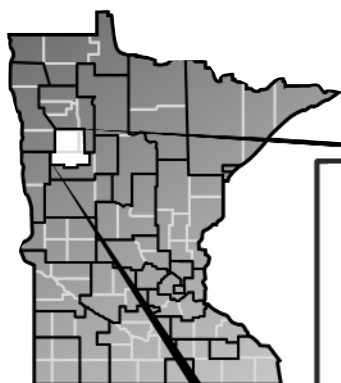
## Results Highlight

### Elderly Nutrition Program

For over thirty years, the White Earth Elderly Nutrition Program (ENP) has provided congregate and home delivered meals to American Indian and non-Indian elders residing on the White Earth Reservation. There are five nutrition sites, including Big Elbow Lake, Naytahwaush, Rice Lake, Pine Point and White Earth. While these meals are very important, particularly to those homebound, services do not stop there.

In collaboration with the White Earth Diabetes Project, two health prevention programs have been incorporated including Honor the Beat and Diabetic Bingo. Honor the Beat was developed to teach healthy lifestyle changes and healthy eating to combat cardiovascular disease and diabetes. The program consists of a "Wheel of Fortune" game with questions on nutrition, healthy lifestyles, cardio vascular health and tribal history. Points are awarded which can be used for incentives. This program is designed to encourage elders to visit one of the many fitness centers on the reservation. Diabetic Bingo, developed by the Diabetes Project, is a popular game among the elders and a valuable learning tool. Defeat Diabetes is also offered monthly at the Anishinabe Center at nearby Detroit Lakes. There are several events offered to elders throughout the year including the elder holiday party, picnic, diabetes camp, caregiver's conference and health fair. Transportation is provided to elders wishing to attend these events, providing important social contact. In addition, information and referral services are provided including presentations on Medicare, cancer awareness, food safety, phone service for low-income individuals and others. An ENP newsletter is sent quarterly to our homebound elders including nutrition education, services and notice of upcoming events.

## Service Area





## Program Activities & Results

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households Served	Times Services Provided
<b>EMPLOYMENT</b>				
D1	Employment & Training Services	79	75	79
D3	Youth Employment	51	45	51
<b>EDUCATION</b>				
L1	GED & Educational Services	45	41	45
L2	Literacy	95	44	23
L4	Adult Basic Education (ABE)	78	69	78
<b>INCOME MANAGEMENT</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	63	58	94
M3	Tax Aid	17	13	10
<b>HOUSING</b>				
B1	Weatherization	37	15	15
B7	Energy Related Repairs	267	89	89
C3	Home Repair/Rehabilitation	72	23	23
C6	Rental Housing Assistance	13	12	12
C8	Community Housing Stabilization	8	7	7
<b>EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	2,190	730	730
B6	Energy Crisis	1,554	518	518
C10	Homeless Assistance	150	61	150
G1	Emergency Family Services	119	72	119
G3	Advocacy Information/Education	684	493	493
G6	Donated Articles	12	11	11
G8	Crisis Intervention	316	119	119
<b>NUTRITION</b>				
H1	Food Assistance	23	23	23
H3	Holiday Projects	2,382	753	753
H6	Home Delivered Meals	105	64	15,170
H7	Congregate Meals	345	281	22,255
H9	USDA Commodity Assistance	13,502	6,530	6,530
<b>LINKAGES</b>				
E3	Transportation Assistance	313	313	313
K1	Information and Referral	1,178	1,043	3,131
K2	Outreach	353	241	1,795
K3	Advocacy Information/Education	71,973	23,833	33
<b>SELF SUFFICIENCY</b>				
J1	Head Start	237	221	237
J2	Child Care	53	29	53
J3	Child Care Administration	164	81	164
J4	At-Risk Youth	302	148	302
J6	Child Care Resource Referral	565	396	565
J7	Youth Recreation	9	9	9
J8	Parenting	150	79	10
J9	Fatherhood Initiative	300	216	71
J10	Crisis Nursery	39	39	39
M1	Self Sufficiency	426	251	83

# Wright County Community Action

Mark G. Sexton  
Executive Director

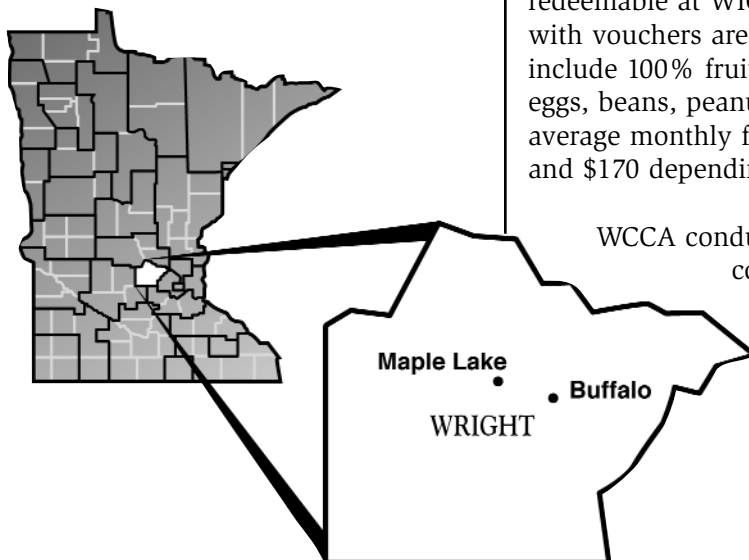
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## Service Area



## Results Highlight

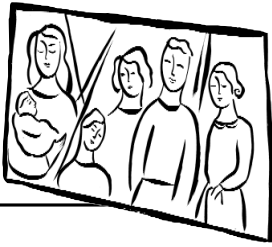
### Women, Infants & Children

The Wright County Community Action (WCCA) Women, Infants & Children (WIC) program provides nutrition services to thousands of eligible county residents each year. Monthly service levels of the WCCA WIC program are currently averaging over 2,145 persons.

The WIC program serves women who are pregnant, postpartum, breastfeeding, and infants and children under the age of five. Persons served through the program must have a nutritional need and meet federal income eligibility standards.

Participants receive a nutrition assessment, nutrition education, health referrals, and vouchers for nutritionally appropriate supplemental foods. Food Vouchers are redeemable at WIC approved grocery stores. Foods obtained with vouchers are based on the participants need and may include 100% fruit juice, iron fortified cereal, milk, cheese, eggs, beans, peanut butter, tuna, carrots and formula. The average monthly food vouchers have a value of between \$35 and \$170 depending on the participants need.

WCCA conducts WIC clinics on a monthly basis in the communities of Buffalo, Howard Lake, Maple Lake, and Monticello. Applications may be received and completed by mail prior to setting a clinic appointment.



## Program Activities & Results

Code	Program Activity	Number of People Served	Number of Households Served	Times Services Provided
<b>EDUCATION</b>				
L1	GED & Educational Services	1,185	964	2,909
L2	Literacy	1,085	954	1,085
<b>INCOME MANAGEMENT</b>				
M2	Budget Counseling	302	112	336
M3	Tax Aid	297	179	179
<b>HOUSING</b>				
B1	Weatherization	120	45	45
B7	Energy Related Repairs	173	59	59
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	22	7	7
C5	Small Cities Development Grants (SCDG)	61	27	27
C9	Community Homeownership Education	190	84	84
<b>EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>				
B5	Energy Assistance	3,640	1,319	1,319
B6	Energy Crisis	1,772	642	642
B8	Fuel Fund	225	85	85
C10	Homeless Assistance	225	72	225
C11	Transitional Housing	21	7	21
G6	Donated Articles	20,315	5,328	5,328
G8	Crisis Intervention			
<b>NUTRITION</b>				
H1	Advocacy Information/Education	1,368	418	418
H3	Holiday Projects	195	66	66
H4	Women, Infants, Children (WIC)	3,448	2,004	25,351
<b>LINKAGES</b>				
F6	Senior Companions/Foster Grandparents	1,027	372	372
K1	Information and Referral	57,710	19,237	57,710
K2	Outreach	14,421	4,807	14,421
K3	Advocacy Information/Education	39,861	13,287	39,861
<b>SELF SUFFICIENCY</b>				
J1	Head Start	1,373	338	374
M5	Family Loan Fund	6	2	6
<b>HEALTH</b>				
I3	Family Planning	305	295	305
<b>OTHER</b>				
A1	Community Development	2,688	16	13

# Community Action Program Activity Reporting Codes and 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. Include all FAIM participants.  
*Times Service Provided: Number of Counseling Sessions*
- M3 TAX AID:** Assistance to low-income individuals in filing taxes, including applications for rent tax refunds.  
*Times Service Provided: Number of Households Assisted*
- M4 ASSET DEVELOPMENT:** Assistance to low-income individuals in building assets to purchase of a home, further their education, or start a business through a combination of matched savings and financial education and training. Includes Family Assets for Independence in Minnesota (FAIM).  
*Times Service Provided: Number of Individuals Assisted*

## **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. (May also be served in B5 - Energy Assistance.)  
*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 HOME OWNERSHIP 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/CAG. 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 (Duplicative) Assisted*
- H2 COMMUNITY SERVICES FOOD PACKAGES:** People performing community and volunteer services can obtain food packages at reduced costs. One example is Fare Share.  
*Times Service Provided: Number of shares Provided (Duplicative)*
- H3 HOLIDAY PROJECTS:** Food baskets and gifts to low-income individuals and families during the holidays.  
*Times Service Provided: Number of Households Assisted*
- H4 WOMEN, INFANTS, and CHILDREN FOOD PROGRAM (WIC):** Nutrition education and supplemental foods for pregnant, breast-feeding and 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 (Duplicative) 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 Transitional Year Child Care) where direct client services are not performed.  
*Times Service Provided: Number of Children Enrolled*
- J4 AT-RISK YOUTH:** Education and prevention activity relating to drugs, gangs and delinquency.  
*Times Service Provided: Number of Individuals Assisted*
- J5 CAMBERSHIP:** Low-income children are given chance to attend camp by subsidizing camp costs.  
*Times Service Provided: Number of Children Assisted*
- J6 CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL (CCR&R):** Referral of families to licensed child care providers (family and center care) with current openings for type of care needed and assistance to households in becoming licensed child care providers.  
*Times Service Provided: Number of Families Referred*
- J7 YOUTH RECREATION:** Sport skill instructions, good health practices and recreation to disadvantaged youth.  
*Times Service Provided: Number of Youth Served*
- J8 PARENTING EDUCATION:** Direct provision of support to parents in their child rearing roles. Includes providing information on expectations for each stage of their child's development and offering practical ideas to encourage learning and develop positive parent-child relationships, when these services are not part of another program. Does not include referrals to other organizations (such as ECFE) that provide these services.  
*Times Service Provided: Number of Individuals Assisted*

- J9 FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE:** Activities and assistance to promote and strengthen the role of fathers in families, when these services are not part of another program.  
*Times Service Provided: Number of Individuals Assisted*
- J10 CRISIS NURSERY:** Temporary care for children who are at-risk of abuse and neglect or who have experienced abuse or neglect. Includes provision of or referral to support services.  
*Times Service Provided: Number of Children Assisted*
- M1 SELF-SUFFICIENCY:** Case management to encourage and assist low-income people to become economically self-sufficient through education and employment. MFIP case management.  
*Times Service Provided: Number of Participants completing the program that have achieved or partially achieved economic self-sufficiency.*
- M5 FAMILY LOAN PROGRAM:** Loans provided to low-income families.  
*Times Service Provided: Number of Households Assisted*

## HEALTH

- I1 HEALTH CARE AID: NON-FINANCIAL:** Health counseling programs, chemical dependency, planned parenthood, teen pregnancy, STD clinic and other health advocacy activities. (See I2 for financial aid for health care services)  
*Times Service Provided: Number of Individuals Assisted*
- I2 HEALTH CARE AID - FINANCIAL:** Financial aid for medical costs, i.e. Rural Emergency Medical Assistance, payment for health services of outpatient visits, eye examinations, 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*

## 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*

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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**

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

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Senators: 2-Rod Skoe, 4-Carrie Ruud

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

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

Representatives: 19B-Tom Emmer, 32A-Joyce Peppin, 32B-Kurt Zellers, 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-Terri Bonoff, 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

## **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

## **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-Betsty Wergin, 17-Sean Nienow

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

### **Lakes and 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-Brita Sailer, 3A-Irv Anderson, 3B-Loren Solberg, 4A-Frank Moe, 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

### **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-Kurt Zellers, 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-Amy Koch, 32-Warrne Limmer, 33-Gen Olson, 34-Julianne Ortman, 40-Bill Belanger, 41-Geoff Michel, 42-David Hann, 43-Terry Bonoff 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

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

Representatives: 2A-Kent Eken, 2B-Brita Sailer, 4A-Frank Moe

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-Larry Haws, 16A-Sondra Erickson, 16B-Mark Olson, 48A-Tom Hackbarth

Senators: 13-Dean Johnson, 14-Michelle Fischbach, 15-Tarryl Clark, 16-Betsy Wergin, 48-Mike Jungbauer

Congressional: 6-Mark Kennedy, 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-Duke Powell, 40B-Ann Lenczewski, 57A-Katie Sieben, 57B-Denny McNamara

Senators: 25-Tom Neuville, 34-Julianne Ortman, 35-Claire Robling, 36-Pat Pariseau, 37-Chris Gerlach, 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-Larry Haws, 16A-Sondra Erickson, 16B-Mark Olson, 48A-Tom Hackbarth

Senators: 13-Dean Johnson, 14-Michelle Fischbach, 15-Tarryl Clark, 16-Betsy Wergin, 48-Mike Jungbauer

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

### **Tri-County Community Action Programs**

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-Brita Sailer, 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-Amy Koch, 32-Warren Limmer

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

# Minnesota Economic Opportunity Act

## Minnesota Statute 256E.30

### Financial assistance for community action agencies.

**Subdivision 1. Authorization.** The commissioner of education may provide financial assistance for community action agencies, Indian reservations, and migrant and seasonal farmworker organizations to carry out community action programs as described in section 256E.32 in accordance with the Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1981, Public Law 97-35, as amended in 1984, Public Law 98-558, state law, and federal law and regulation.

**Subd. 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 farmworker 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.

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

**Subd. 4. Definition.** For the purposes of sections 256E.30 to 256E.32, "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; 2003 c 130 s 12; 2005 c 98 art 1 s 24

## 256E.31 Community action agencies.

**Subdivision 1. In general.** A community action agency is a political subdivision of the state, a combination of political subdivisions, a public agency, or a private nonprofit agency which has the authority under its applicable charter or laws to receive funds under section 256E.30 to support community action programs as described in section 256E.32 and which was designated as an eligible entity under the Community Services Block Grant Act, Public Law 97-35, section 673(1), 95 Stat. 357, 512 (1981), as amended by, Act of October 30, 1984, Public Law 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.

**Subd. 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.

**Subd. 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.

**Subd. 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.

**Subd. 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.

**Subd. 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 256E.30 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.

**Subd. 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.

**Subd. 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; 2005 c 98 art 1 s 24

## Minnesota Statute 256E.32 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 256E.30 to 256E.32; and

(c) Conforms to any other supplementary criteria as the governor may prescribe consistent with the purposes and provisions of sections 256E.30 to 256E.32.

**Subd. 2. Components.** The components of a community action program shall be designed to assist participants, including homeless individuals and families, migrant and seasonal farmworkers, 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.

**Subd. 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 256E.30, 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.

**Subd. 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; 2005 c 98 art 1 s 24

# 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
CAG	Minnesota Community Action Grant
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
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