



Helping People
Changing Lives
For 50 Years

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.



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Data included in this report was provided by the Office of Economic Opportunity, Minnesota Department of Human Services. For more information, visit:
<http://www.dhs.state.mn.us>

Dear Friends,

As Community Action commemorates the 50th anniversary of the signing of the 1964 Economic Opportunity Act that started the War on Poverty, we know there is much we have accomplished. We have provided services for over 50 years, we have changed and started programs as determined by our local communities, and we have tracked successful outcomes. We are a proven, innovative, and successful social service network, the largest nonprofit network in Minnesota.



However, our work is not done. We have seen new poverty population come through our doors looking for help. We have seen new challenges in our communities necessitating our expertise. We have seen new demands on our agencies requiring our innovation and creativity. And as always we have risen and will continue to rise to those challenges because as our promise states, “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.”

This report highlights some of the many things we have accomplished. It tells our story from the past year; the story of our communities and of those in need. This report tells what we have done and the changes we have led to better our state. We should be proud of what we have accomplished and what we continue to do. We know we have worked hard over the past 50 years to end poverty, and we know the face of poverty has changed and we have changed with it. We will continue our fight because, as President Johnson said, “giving new opportunity to those who have little will enrich the lives of all the rest. Because it is right, because it is wise, and because . . . it is possible to conquer poverty”.

Yours in Action,

Robert Benes, Chair
Minnesota Community Action Partnership

About Community Action

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.

The 26 Community Action Agencies and 11 Tribal Governments of the Minnesota Community Action network address this challenge every day. The Community Action network provides varied services that are integrated and coordinated to address barriers to economic security. Each agency assesses 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.

Foundational funding for the Community Action network comes from the federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) and the Minnesota Community Action Grant. The Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) in the Minnesota Department of Human Services administers this funding. Together, the Minnesota Community Action Partnership (MinnCAP) and the Office of Economic Opportunity provide support that helps to build the capacity of the Community Action network to help Minnesotans achieve greater self sufficiency.

In 2012, \$7.36 million in federal Community Services Block Grant funding and \$3.93 million in Minnesota Community Action Grant funding leveraged:

- Almost \$500 million in other funding.
- Over 1.34 million hours of volunteer service. If valued at the federal minimum wage (\$7.25), the contribution of volunteer time would be worth more than \$9.74 million.

Federal Poverty Guidelines

Each year the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issues the federal poverty guidelines. The guidelines are adjusted for families of different size. The guidelines are used in setting eligibility criteria for a number of federal and state programs, including Community Action. Based on eligibility requirements, some programs use a percentage multiple of the guidelines, such as 125%, 150%, 185%, or 200%. Some examples of federal programs that use the guidelines in determining eligibility are:

- Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)
- Head Start
- Individual Development Accounts (IDAs)
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants & Children (WIC)
- Weatherization Assistance

2013 Federal Poverty Guidelines

Family Size	48 Contiguous states and D.C.	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$11,490	\$14,350	\$13,230
2	\$15,510	\$19,380	\$17,850
3	\$19,530	\$24,410	\$22,470
4	\$23,550	\$29,440	\$27,090
5	\$27,570	\$34,470	\$31,710
6	\$31,590	\$39,500	\$36,330
7	\$35,610	\$44,530	\$40,950
8	\$39,630	\$49,560	\$45,570
For each additional person, add:	\$4,020	\$5,030	\$4,620

What is a Community Action Agency?

Community Action Agencies (CAAs) are private nonprofit or public organizations created out of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 to combat poverty. Tribal Governments are designated as eligible entities in the federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Act and, in Minnesota, are part of the Community Action network.

Purpose and Mission

In order to reduce poverty in communities, Community Action works to better focus available local, state, and federal resources (both public and private) 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; and,
- Has a governing tripartite 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.

Tribal Governments are designated as eligible entities for the CSBG funding. As sovereign nations, they are not mandated to have a tripartite board.

Governance: Maximum Feasible Participation

The importance 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 have a tripartite board that includes:

- At least 1/3 of members who are people experiencing poverty;
- 1/3 who are public officials; and,
- The remaining 1/3 are at-large local citizens.

The tripartite board fully participates in the development, planning, implementation, and evaluation of the strategies employed to meet community needs.

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.

About Community Action

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. Many people are familiar with the programs Community Action delivers. Each local Community Action Agency provides a unique combination of programming to meet locally determined objectives. Well known programs include:

- Advocacy, Education & Outreach
- Case Management
- Congregate Dining & Meals on Wheels
- Economic Development Business Start-Up
- Emergency Shelter & Transitional Housing
- Energy Assistance, Weatherization & Energy Conservation
- Family Assets for Independence in MN (FAIM)
- Family Crisis Services
- Financial Education
- Food Shelves, Family Nutrition Programs, & Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Outreach
- Foreclosure Prevention & Homeownership Support
- Free Tax Preparation, Tax Credit Outreach & Education
- Head Start, Early Head Start, Child Development Programs & Referrals
- Housing Construction, Rehabilitation & Assistance
- Jobs for Youth, Adults & Seniors
- Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)
- Senior Independent Living Services
- Transit & Transportation

Community Action strives to provide fast, flexible, local solutions for the increasingly diverse mix of Minnesotans experiencing poverty.

State and National Networks

The National Community Action Partnership and the Minnesota Community Action Partnership concentrate membership power and resources to alleviate poverty through public education/advocacy. The National Association for State Community Services (NASCS) brings together state CSBG Offices like Minnesota's Office of Economic Opportunity. National organizations, such as CAPLAW and the National Community Action Foundation, provide specialized support in areas, such as legal, financial management and advocacy. Through the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) and the Minnesota Community Action Grant, agencies join these networks and gain access to training/technical assistance, a wealth of best practice experience, and a powerful coalition of peers.

Community Action was created with a unique set of values that lift Americans out of poverty and into the American Dream. The values supported and mandated by the CSBG and Minnesota Community Action Grant are the values of the American Dream – diversity, local community, innovation, and accountability. It is the moral and ethical imperative of Community Action Agencies to join together, to recognize that they are stronger together than apart, and to support each other to live the founding values of Community Action.

Innovation in Community Action

From Community Action's inception, the tenet that local people know best has meant the creation of innovative supports targeted at local issues. The CSBG and Minnesota Community Action Grant give support to locally designed solutions. One director summed it up: "CSBG funds local research and development allowing us to respond more quickly to a changing environment or come up with creative solutions to unique situations. It provides money for community assessment studies, letting us hear directly from the people we serve regarding what works and what does not; what is needed and what is not...CSBG is the seed money for new supports and innovative solutions that would not get off the ground without such financial assistance."

Community Action has a long and proud history of incubation and innovation. From the earliest days to the present, Community Action has addressed the causes and conditions of poverty in an evolutionary, and ever-adapting and expanding way. At inception in the mid-1960s, Community Action provided programs like Head Start, Neighborhood Youth Corp, Employment Service Centers and Senior Citizen Centers, establishing from the very beginning a comprehensive, cradle-to-grave approach to addressing poverty.

In the 1970s and 1980s, Community Action brought new tools to its efforts with programs, such as Energy Assistance and Weatherization, the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), rural transportation efforts, commodity distribution programs, services to homeless families, emergency services, and economic development initiatives.

In the 1990s and 2000s, Community Action actively engaged in community collaboration efforts, expanded employment and employment support programs including car loans, child care and later stimulus-funded efforts, offered supports to secure and maintain financial assets through the Family Assets for Independence in Minnesota (FAIM) and mortgage foreclosure prevention programs, and expanded access to public benefits through health care and SNAP Outreach.

Throughout Community Action's history, incubating new programs within Community Action and then spinning them off into sustainable independent initiatives has been a common practice. Examples include food shelves, senior centers, WIC, county nursing program, legal services, Fair Housing Centers, job training programs, alcohol counseling program, Upward Bound (a youth development program), school for homeless children, and even a public library. Local partnerships are central to Community Action. Statewide, Community Action maintains hundreds of formal collaborative relationships in areas such as:

- Asset Building/Financial Education initiatives and Tax Education and Outreach
- Child Support
- Continuum of Care
- Emergency Food and Nutrition programs and Food Shelves
- Energy Assistance/Weatherization
- Faith-Based Organizations
- Family Service Collaboratives
- Head Start and Early Care and Education Programs
- Human Service Agencies
- Leadership Development
- Senior Services
- Transportation
- WorkForce Centers and Vocational Rehabilitation Programs
- Youth Programs

With this foundation, Community Action will continue to remain on the cutting edge of fighting poverty throughout Minnesota. And they will do so with decades of experience and a deep commitment to ensuring locally-designed solutions in community after community.

Historical Highlights

1960s

May 1963

The Minnesota Legislature creates the Minnesota Indian Affairs Commission (now the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council).

January 8, 1964

President Lyndon Johnson declares The War on Poverty during his State of the Union address.

March 1964

President Johnson introduces the Economic Opportunity Act to Congress.

August 20, 1964

Congress passes the Economic Opportunity Act and President Johnson signs it into law, creating the federal Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) and programs such as Community Action, Head Start, VISTA and Job Corps.

1965

The Minnesota Office of Economic Opportunity is created and by the end of the year nearly all counties are served by newly formed Community Action Agencies (CAAs).

March 1966

Rep. Al Quie (R-MN) urges CAA governing boards be composed of at least 1/3 representing the poor ("maximum feasible participation"). This amendment is adopted into law and implemented in January 1967.

September 1969

The Minnesota CAA Executive Directors form the Minnesota CAP Directors Association.

1970s

September 1971

The Minnesota CAP Directors Association is reorganized into the Minnesota CAP Association.

May 1973

The Minnesota Legislature provides the first state funding for Community Action Agencies. This was done in part to help meet the match requirements of the OEO funding program.

January 5, 1975

President Gerald Ford signs legislation that closes the federal OEO and establishes the Community Services Administration. The Department of Health Education and Welfare (HEW) now administers Community Action funding.

1976

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) is created to assist low-income families who lacked resources to invest in energy efficiency.

January 1977

The Congressional Budget Office concludes that federal social services programs reduced poverty by 60% during the decade of 1965-1975.



1980s

August 13, 1981

President Ronald Reagan signs the Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1981 creating the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) and closing the Community Services Administration.

1981

Minnesota responds by passing the Minnesota Community Action Program Act, the first state Community Action legislation in the country.

July 1987

The Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act passes, providing Emergency Community Services Homeless Grant Program funding to CSBG grantees.

1988

The Minnesota Legislature appropriates state funds to expand access to Head Start for young children from low-income families.

1990s

May 5, 1994

In response to the 1993 Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), the CSBG Law is amended to require CAAs to create outcome measures in promoting self-sufficiency, family stability and community revitalization. Following this amendment, Community Action's Monitoring and Assessment Task Force introduced Results-Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) as a framework to measure outcomes.

October 27, 1998

Public Law 105-285 is signed into law, reauthorizing the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) and requiring the use of ROMA by all agencies by October 1, 2001.

2000s

2005

National Performance Indicators (NPIs) are developed and required by the Office of Community Services as part of the fulfillment of ROMA reporting for CSBG grantees.

February 17, 2009

President Barack Obama signs the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), providing the Community Action network with an additional \$1 billion in CSBG and a dramatic increase in weatherization funding to help stimulate the economy and create and maintain jobs.

2010

Nationally, CSBG ranks 8th and the WAP ranks 9th out of approximately 200 federal programs in the number of direct jobs created or retained for the quarter beginning July 1, 2010 and ending September 30, 2010 under ARRA.

2014

The Community Action Network commemorates the 50th Anniversary of the signing of the Economic Opportunity Act and rededicates itself to the work of ending poverty.



Comprehensive, Integrated Services

Community Action knows that poverty can only be defeated when people have access to comprehensive and integrated services. Poverty is rooted in a complex network of economic and social ills that includes inadequate education, unemployment, poor health, and substandard housing. CAAs have multiple supports under one roof, recognizing that poverty's eradication requires such a varied group of supports. In fact, the federal CSBG Act contains multiple references to and requirements for comprehensive services, ensuring that Community Action Agencies continue to provide this broad array of support for communities.

Community Action services are classified by the conditions causing poverty that the CSBG statute identifies as major barriers to economic security. The federal CSBG statute outlines the following eight broad program goals:

- Securing and maintaining employment;
- Securing adequate education;
- Achieving better income management;
- Securing adequate housing;
- Providing emergency services;
- Improving nutrition;
- Creating linkages among anti-poverty programs; and,
- Achieving self-sufficiency.

Coordination of Community Resources

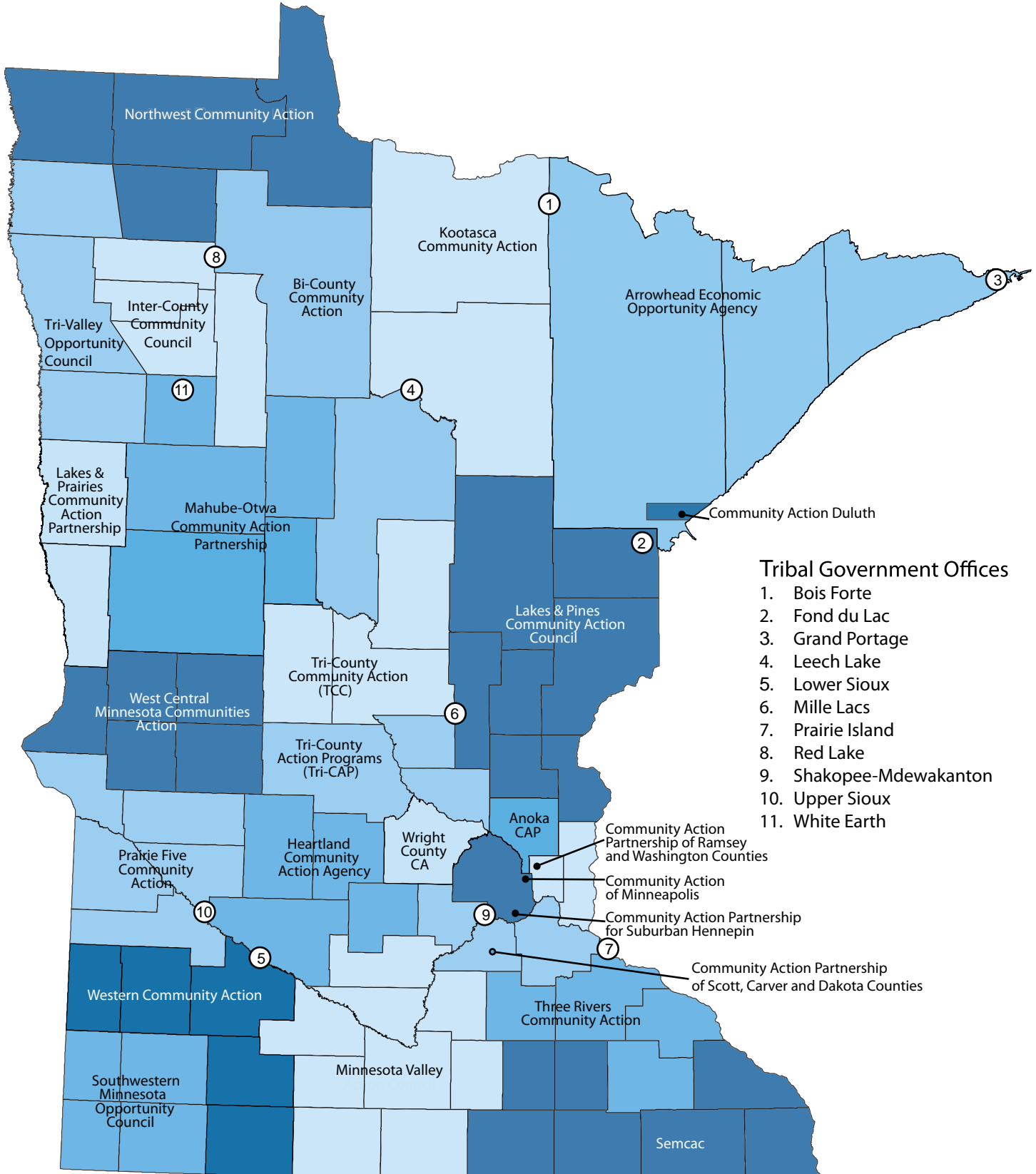
Community Action holds that the best way to fight poverty is to coordinate community resources. With the required composition of board structure (low-income citizens, business leaders, government leaders), CAAs have ample opportunities for cross-fertilization that increases community efficiencies and economies of scale. The Community Services Block Grant and Minnesota Community Action Grant reliably fund collaboration activities for CAAs.

Empowered Communities through Maximum Feasible Participation

Community Action taps into public-private sector cooperation and the spirit of American volunteerism. Statewide, CAAs maintain more than 10,000 community-wide partnerships in areas, such as child care, Head Start, homeless programs, emergency food programs, energy assistance/weatherization, vocational rehabilitation programs, financial education and employment services.

In 2012, 22,388 community volunteers contributed 1.34 million hours of service. These volunteer hours are equivalent to a \$9.74 million contribution, if valued at the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour.

The Minnesota Community Action Network



Community Action Services by Agency

	Community Action Agencies																				Tribal Governments																																			
	Anoka County CAP	Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency	Bi-County CAP	CA Duluth	CA of Minneapolis	CAP Ramsey & Washington	CAP of Scott, Carver, and Dakota Counties	CAP of Suburban Hennepin	Heartland CAA	Inter-County CC	KOOTASCA CA	Lakes & Pines CAC	Lakes & Prairies CAP	Mahabe-Otwa CAP	Minnesota Valley Action Council	Northwest CA	Prairie Five Community Action Council	Semcac	Southwest Minnesota Opportunity Council	Three Rivers CA	Tri-County CA (TCC)	Tri-County CAP	Tri-Valley Opportunity Council	West Central Minnesota Communities Action	Western CA	Wright County CA	Boise Forte Reservation	Fond Du Lac Reservation	Grand Portage Reservation	Leech Lake Reservation	Lower Sioux Indian Community	Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe	Red Lake Reservation	Upper Sioux Community	White Earth Reservation																					
EMPLOYMENT																																																								
Youth Employment		◆	◆		◆					◆					◆																						◆	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆													
Senior Employment Programs		◆			◆					◆					◆				◆																																					
Displaced Homemakers		◆																					◆																																	
Employment and Training Services		◆		◆	◆	◆		◆			◆	◆			◆								◆			◆																														
Community Development								◆																																																
Cottage Industries																		◆																																						
EDUCATION																																																								
Literacy		◆			◆					◆	◆																	◆	◆																											
English/Second Language (ESL)		◆			◆									◆																																										
GED, ABE, and Educational Services		◆		◆	◆				◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆												◆	◆																												
INCOME MANAGEMENT																																																								
Financial Education	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆			
Tax Preparation Assistance		◆		◆	◆			◆		◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆						◆	◆		◆	◆																													
Asset Development and Savings Programs	◆	◆		◆	◆			◆		◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆																																								
HOUSING SERVICES																																																								
Weatherization		◆	◆		◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		
Energy Related Repairs	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		
Energy Conservation Services	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆			◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		
Housing Grants & Loans		◆						◆			◆	◆			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
Home Repair/Rehabilitation	◆	◆			◆	◆				◆		◆		◆	◆	◆							◆	◆																																
Small Cities Development Grants (SCDG)			◆									◆			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		
Rental Housing Assistance	◆		◆					◆		◆	◆			◆	◆																																									
Community Homeownership Education	◆	◆		◆	◆			◆			◆																																													
Low-Income Housing Development & Stabilization	◆	◆	◆					◆	◆																																															
EMERGENCY SERVICES																																																								
Energy Assistance (EAP)	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		
Energy Crisis	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
Fuel Fund					◆	◆	◆		◆					◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
Homeless Assistance	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Transitional Housing		◆	◆					◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆																																								
Emergency Family Services					◆	◆	◆	◆		◆			◆	◆																																										
Abuse & Neglect Services					◆	◆	◆						◆																																											
Donated Articles		◆			◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆				◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
Crisis Intervention	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	

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NUTRITION																																							
Holiday Projects			◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		◆				◆	◆							◆		◆	◆				
Women, Infants, Children (WIC)						◆																			◆												◆		
Gardening		◆			◆							◆													◆														
Home Delivered Meals		◆				◆											◆	◆		◆								◆		◆	◆				◆	◆	◆		
Congregate Meals		◆			◆	◆											◆	◆										◆		◆	◆			◆	◆	◆	◆		
USDA Commodity Assistance																																						◆	
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Outreach		◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆			◆	◆			◆	◆				◆	◆	◆							◆	
Food Assistance		◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
LINKAGES																																							
Transportation System		◆			◆	◆											◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
Transportation Assistance		◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Vehicle Program	◆			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
Transportation Safety Programs					◆				◆				◆							◆																			
Senior Oriented Services	◆	◆			◆		◆					◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
Chore Services	◆					◆							◆					◆						◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)	◆												◆					◆						◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
Senior Companion/Foster Grandparent	◆																							◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
Information and Referral	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Outreach		◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Public Education, Information, and Advocacy		◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Benefit Enrollment and Application Assistance	◆	◆		◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Leadership Development					◆	◆				◆															◆								◆						
SELF SUFFICIENCY																																							
Head Start	◆	◆	◆		◆			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Early Childhood Care & Education	◆				◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆			◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Child Care Administration					◆																																	◆	
At Risk Youth		◆			◆		◆									◆									◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Campership																																						◆	
Child Care Resource Referral					◆		◆				◆	◆					◆	◆						◆	◆														◆
Youth Recreation		◆			◆											◆								◆	◆			◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Parenting		◆			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆			◆	◆	◆	◆									◆	◆											◆		◆	◆
Fatherhood Initiative		◆			◆							◆	◆	◆										◆	◆														◆
Crisis Nursery					◆					◆			◆																										
Self Sufficiency	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Family Loan Fund																																							
HEALTH SERVICES																																							
Health Care Aid (Non Financial)					◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		◆													◆	◆		◆					◆						◆	
Health Care Aid (Financial)					◆	◆		◆								◆																							◆
Family Planning					◆							◆					◆	◆									◆												

Community Action Goals and Results

Community Action Goals and Results

Since 1994, Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) has provided an accountability framework for Community Action Agencies across the nation. This system provides information essential to agency growth and improvement, such as staff training needs, and access to data that is important for funders. Having access to this powerful accountability and management system ensures that Community Action communicates results and impacts in the most comprehensive and compelling way.

The national Community Services Network is guided by six broad anti-poverty goals. Within these goals, CAAs select performance indicators most relevant to their efforts.

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

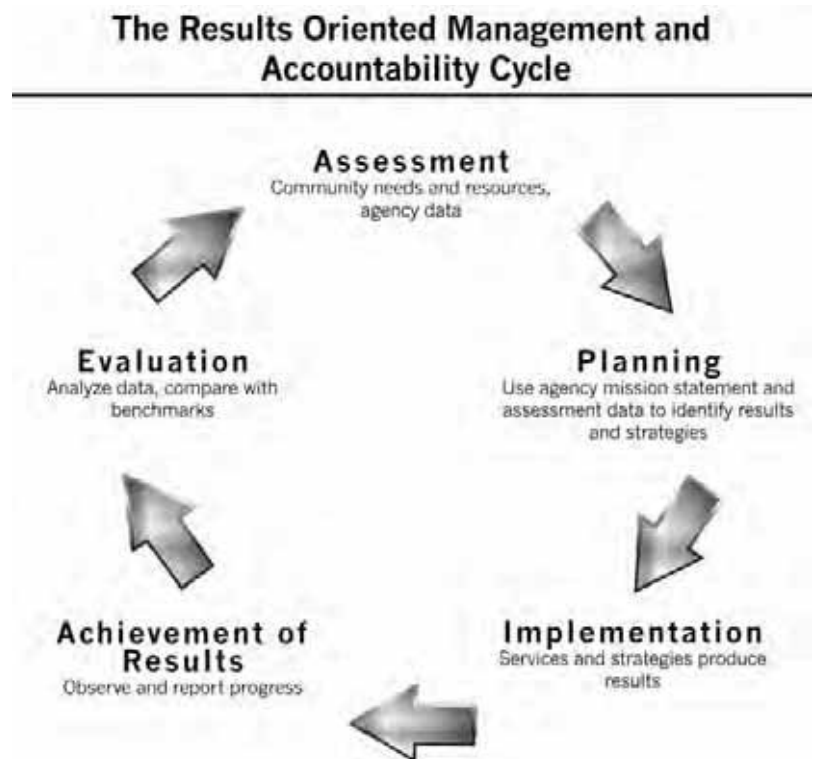
To accomplish these goals, CAAs undertake a number of implementation actions focused on results-oriented management and results-oriented accountability.

Results-Oriented Management

- Assess poverty needs and conditions within the community;
- Define a clear agency anti-poverty mission for Community Action and a strategy to address those needs, both immediate and longer term, in the context of existing resources and opportunities in the community;
- Identify specific improvements, or results, to be achieved among low-income people and the community; and,
- Organize and implement programs, services, and activities, such as advocacy, within the agency and among partnering organizations, to achieve anticipated results.

Results-Oriented Accountability

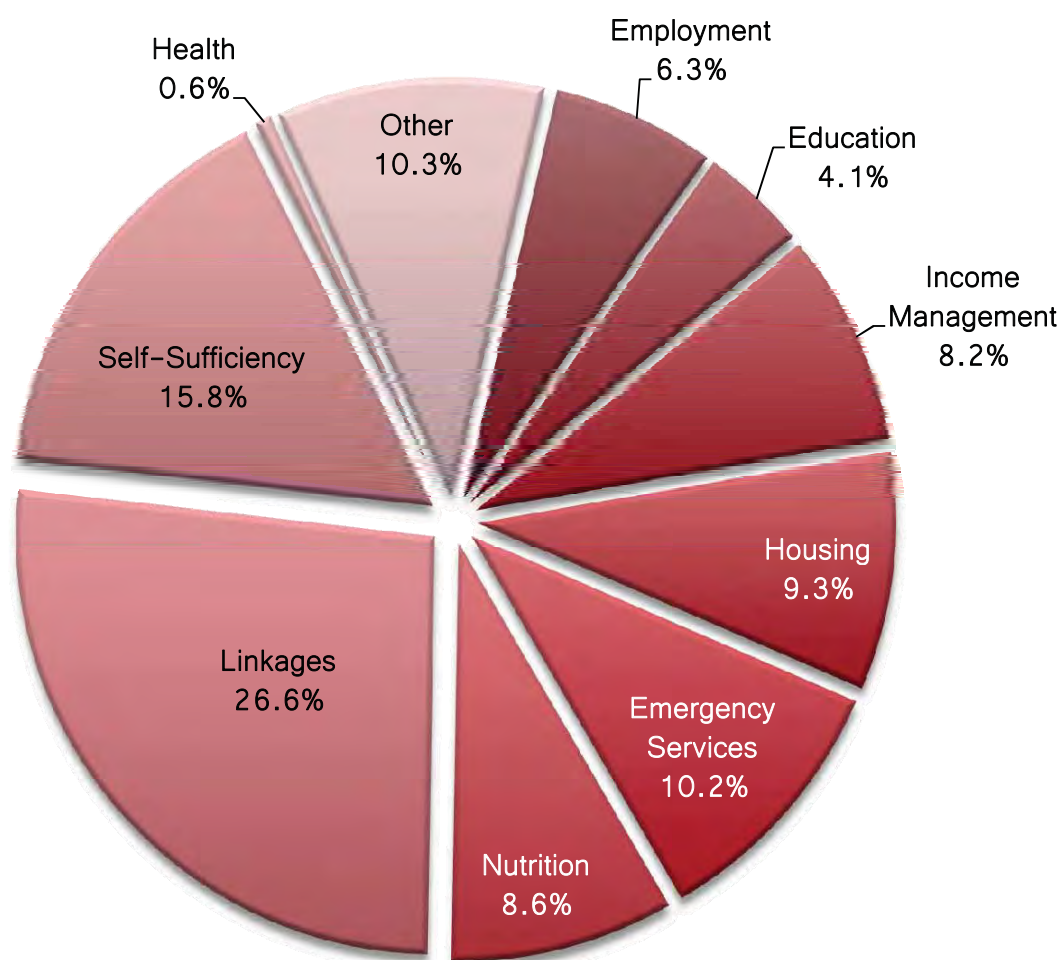
- Develop and implement strategies to measure and record improvements in the condition of low-income people and the communities in which they live that result from Community Action intervention; and,
- Use information about outcomes, or results, with agency board and staff to determine the overall effectiveness, inform annual and long-range planning, support agency advocacy, funding, and community partnership activities.



In 2012, Minnesota Community Action served 650,000 people and 250,000 families. The selection of results and stories on the following pages illustrate the depth and breadth of Community Action efforts.

CSBG-Funded Community Action Services

Since President Johnson's 1964 call to arms, Community Action has effectively lifted Americans out of poverty and into the American Dream. Community Action provides a range of prevention, emergency and support services. In 2012, the largest investment of CSBG funding, 26.6% of expenditures, supported linkages. These projects connected a variety of local services, programs, and concerned citizens to combat community-wide causes and conditions of poverty. The second largest investment supported self-sufficiency services, 15.8% of expenditures. Self-sufficiency projects provided a continuum of services to help participants gain or increase their economic security. Emergency Services and Other made up the third highest expenditures at around 10%. Emergency Services include food assistance, vendor payments for fuel and energy bills, clothing, transportation assistance, car or home repairs and other services to meet urgent needs.



Community Action Results

Self Sufficiency

All activities of Community Action support the goal of increasing economic security for low-wage workers, retirees, and their families. CAAs partner with many organizations that also aim to help families and individuals become more self-sufficient. CAAs have created formal family development and self-sufficiency programs that offer participants a continuum of services to assist them in gaining or increasing economic security.

Self-sufficiency programs provide trained staff to help families analyze their economic, social, medical, and educational goals. After the family develops a formal plan, CAA staff identify and coordinate supportive services to help the family members attain their goals over an extended period of engagement.



Building a Brighter Future

Community Action Duluth

Kobreina, a single mom with two small children, enrolled in the Circles@Work program in 2010. At the time, she couldn't continue working in the health care field and was struggling with a large amount of debt. She felt isolated, uncertain about how to proceed, and cutoff from resources to help her make a vocational change. Kobreina welcomed the opportunity to work with her employment coach and Ally in the Circles@Work program. With their support and that of the other single moms in Circles, she found the courage and dedication to embrace new opportunities.

In the fall of 2011, Kobreina began working in a temporary job with the City of Duluth's Parks and Recreation Department. During her 12 months of employment, Kobreina worked hard and learned many new skills. At the same time, she spent hours working with her employment and financial coaches at Community Action Duluth preparing to search and secure permanent work. Her financial coach helped her to become fully banked for the first time in 5 years and she filed for the Earned Income Tax Credit. When Kobreina received her tax refund she was prepared with a plan to use the money and today she is debt free and has an emergency savings account!

In 2013, Kobreina was hired as a full time call center customer service representative with benefits and hours that met her family's needs. Later in the year, she was able to purchase a car through Community Action Duluth's Jumpstart program. This achievement is a testament to the amazing work she had done to stabilize her financial situation to build opportunities for her family.

Employment

Community Action assists with employment in numerous ways, from helping with educational and job skills attainment, to providing critical employment supports, such as child care and transportation, to helping people find and keep jobs.



Employment Results

- 3,568 unemployed individuals obtained a job.
- 4,186 individuals obtained an increase in employment income.

Employment Supports Results

- 8,103 families obtained care for child or other dependent in order to acquire or maintain employment.
- 27,360 individuals obtained access to reliable transportation and/or driver's license in order to acquire or maintain employment.
- 3,924 individuals obtained safe and affordable housing in support of family stability needed to gain or retain employment.
- 37,149 individuals obtained food assistance in support of family stability needed to gain or retain employment.

The Self-Sufficiency Institute

Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties

Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties (CAPRW) has revamped its employment program to better assist workers who are un- or under-employed. Based on surveys of past participants, research with partners, and best practices, CAPRW found that a short term approach, including benefit application, resume writing, and job search support, was useful, but not sufficient in helping someone to become self-sufficient. Most program participants stayed with the program 1-2 years. In response, the agency developed a longer term program which expands the level of coaching provided.

Launched as The Self-Sufficiency Institute, the new program consists of classroom work in seven competencies: career development, job attainment, basic skills, leadership and self-development, personal skills, life survival, and workplace soft skills. The in-classroom portion of the Institute is four months long with 12 months of follow-up support. A train the trainer approach is being used to train volunteers, who will make it possible to expand the reach of the program to a larger number of participants. The program is grounded in partnerships with the University of Minnesota, LISC Financial Opportunity Centers, Hubbs Center for Lifelong Learning, and the St. Paul Emergency Medical Technician Academy.



Community Action Results

Income Management

Helping people secure and manage income, build savings and assets, and protect earnings are key Community Action activities that promote the immediate and long-term economic security of low-income individuals and families. Community Action reaches thousands of families every year, connecting them with opportunities to develop positive financial management skills and habits and to build income and assets that help move them out of poverty.



Results

- 11,944 participants accessed free tax preparation and qualified for federal and state tax credits totaling over \$13.1 million.
- 5,647 people demonstrated an ability to complete and maintain a budget for over 90 days.
- 526 people opened an Individual Development Account (IDA) or other savings account.
- 727 people increased their savings through IDA or other savings account totaling \$136.260.



Small Loans Lead to Greater Economic Security

Tri-County Community Action

During the past year, Tri-County Community Action (TCC) assisted 1,100 people with loans and grants to help them get and maintain jobs, complete training programs, improve family budgeting skills, and increase economic security. Jocelyn's story illustrates how a small amount of seed money can help a family grow its economic security.

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) originally referred Joceylyn to TCC for assistance with tax preparation. Staff worked with Jocelyn on her tax return and also discussed her overall needs. They found that Jocelyn and her husband were subsisting on her husband's disability benefits. Jocelyn expressed a need for increased income in order to meet their basic household expenses and transportation to secure employment.

TCC provided Jocelyn with grant funds to purchase a starter vehicle since she did not qualify for loan financing. Once Jocelyn had a vehicle and obtained a part time job, she was then able to expand her job search to find full time employment. During her job search, Jocelyn worked on increasing her financial literacy skills and improving her credit. Jocelyn obtained full-time employment and needed a better vehicle because she was driving to a neighboring community. TCC was able to finance a car loan for Jocelyn because of her increased income and credit score. Today, Jocelyn continues working full time while making her loan payments, paying all her household bills, and saving for future emergencies. With a simple hand-up, Jocelyn has dramatically improved the economic security of her family.



Family Assets for Independence in Minnesota (FAIM)

Research from the Individual Development Account (IDA) field suggests that people with very limited incomes can and do save money and accumulate assets when given incentives, financial education and institutional supports. IDAs are matched savings accounts that help low-income families to save, build assets, and enter the financial mainstream. In 1999, a statewide IDA program called Family Assets for Independence in Minnesota (FAIM) was launched. Savings of participants are matched at a rate of three to one: 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 is Minnesota's only statewide IDA program and is delivered by a statewide 21 site collaborative of Community Action Agencies, Emerge Community Development, Leech Lake Tribal Government and Bremer Bank. West Central Minnesota Communities Action, Inc. is the fiscal agent for the initiative.

For more information about Minnesota's statewide IDA program, visit www.minnesotafaim.org.

Key Outcomes

Over the last 12 years, FAIM participants saved over \$2.5 million and acquired nearly 2,650 long-term financial assets (23% homes, 33% small business, and 44% post-secondary education). Over 3,100 FAIM accountholders completed 12 hours of personal finance education, plus additional asset-specific training and ongoing financial coaching.

Return on Investment

FAIM delivers a strong return on investment for the public and private dollars that have supported it. When participants reach their asset goals, Minnesotans benefit from stable housing for low-income families, increased property taxes generated through homeownership, newly created jobs, local small business purchases, increased professional skills and a better educated workforce.

Results

FAIM Post-Secondary Education

- 40% of respondents indicated that their employment had improved since completing their education.
- 57% indicated their incomes had increased by a combined \$440,000+ per year.
- The percentage of FAIM post-secondary education accountholders not using any type of public assistance increased from 13% (at enrollment) to 64% (time of survey).
- 24% of FAIM post-secondary accountholders had no debt at follow-up.

FAIM Home Ownership

- 97% still owned their own home. The two who no longer did, sold them. No FAIM homeowners responding to the survey had foreclosed in a time when many Minnesotans had.
- 89% had not used risky financial products or services in the previous 6 months. Of those who had, they used only one product.
- 39% had no debt other than their mortgage.

FAIM Small Business

- 89% of surveyed FAIM-sponsored businesses were still in operation more than two years after opening compared to a national average of 44%.
- 65% of businesses achieved an increase in their sales and income after applying their FAIM matched savings to improve their businesses.
- Of the 130 small business accountholders responding, the total estimated revenue was \$4.64 million per year.

Community Action Results



Education Results

- 10,317 children participated in preschool activities to develop school readiness.
- 5,056 children participated in preschool activities and are ready for Kindergarten or 1st grade.
- 2,089 youth improved social/emotional development.
- 645 youth increased academic, athletic or social skills for school success.
- 531 accessible before- and after-school program placement opportunities for low-income families created, or saved from reduction or elimination.
- 13,197 accessible safe and affordable child care or child development placement opportunities for low-income families created, or saved from reduction or elimination.
- 2,741 people obtained skills/competencies required for employment.
- 765 people completed ABE/GED and received certificate or diploma.
- 2,041 accessible or increased educational and training placement opportunities, or those that are saved from reduction or elimination, that are available for low-income people in the community including vocational, literacy, and life skill training, ABE/GED, and post-secondary education.

The girlsBEST Project

Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency

The girlsBEST project was born out of a workforce development initiative to train workers in Lake County in welding and millwright work. A goal of this initiative was to prepare interested high school students to enter the manufacturing and mining industries in the area. The Principal of Two Harbors High School realized that high school girls weren't taking advanced industrial technology classes and that they were missing the opportunity to develop the skills needed by local industry. He decided to pilot a girls-only advanced technology class focused on woodworking. The class was a success!

AEOA's Planning Department came on board and partnered with the School District to create a collaborative girlsBEST application to the Women's Foundation of Minnesota. The goals of the project included continuing to offer a girls-only industrial technology class, partnering with Mesabi Range Community and Technical College to provide a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Camp opportunity in Lake County for both boys and girls, and partnering with existing NEMOJT Career EdVenture Programming with a focus on girls. Strategies incorporated in this model include engaging girls in all aspects of the project including planning, implementation and evaluation, creating a safe and welcoming environment in which girls can learn, reaching out to include underrepresented girls including low-income and girls of color. As a result of this collaboration, the Lake Superior School District received \$15,000 in funding for the first project year with the opportunity to receive multiyear funding. The project is made possible through a partnership involving the Lake Superior School District, the Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training, Mesabi Range Community and Technical College, Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (AEOA) and the Woman's Foundation of Minnesota.

Head Start

Thirty-six (36) Head Start programs, operated primarily by Community Action Agencies, serve all counties in Minnesota. Head Start programs are locally controlled and receive grant funds directly from their funding sources. Minnesota Head Start programs contribute \$122 million in federal and state funds directly to local communities. Head Start creates direct savings for local taxpayers in terms of a high rate of return on investments in at-risk children and families.

Minnesota Head Start programs received state and federal funding to serve 14,830 children in FY 2012/2013. Based on 2011 Census estimates, this means 23% of income-eligible children under 5 are able to access Head Start services due to funding limitations. As of September 2012 with classrooms fully enrolled, there were 4,970 income eligible children (ages 0-5) on the waiting lists for Head Start and Early Head Start services.

Of families served by Head Start in 2012:

- 49% of enrolled children were racially diverse;
- 31% spoke a primary language at home other than English;
- 13% had a diagnosed disability (2,114); and,
- 9% of families were homeless (1,385).



Head Start Ensuring Compliance and Accountability to High Quality Standards

All Head Start programs provide family-centered services grounded in comprehensive, research based standards known as the federal Head Start Performance Standards. These standards ensure the goals of Head Start are implemented and monitored successfully.

Head Start Makes Direct Investments in Local Communities

In many Minnesota communities, Head Start is considered a major employer, on average hiring 1 staff for every 5 children served. Salaries and benefits constitute about 75% of programs' total budgets. Programs expend on average 25% of their total budgets on local services. Leasing facilities or paying rent on commercial property is a contribution Head Start makes to the local economy. In the 2011- 12 school year, Head Start contributions to local economies included:

- Job Creation - 3,490 staff and 352 contractors;
- 13,415 parent volunteers; and,
- Local Expenditures - Estimated \$30.5 million spent locally on food, gas, supplies, services Physical Capital Assets - Maintaining and operated 782 classrooms in Minnesota

Head Start Services Yield Direct Savings to Taxpayers

The preliminary results of a randomly selected longitudinal study of more than 600 Head Start graduates in San Bernardino County, California have shown that society receives nearly \$9 in benefits for every \$1 invested in Head Start. These benefits include earnings, employment and family stability and longer-term cost savings including:

- Decreased welfare dependency;
- Crime costs;
- Grade repetition; and,
- Special education.



Community Action Results

Housing

Community Action Agencies in Minnesota play an integral role in the provision of shelter, transitional housing, and supportive services to homeless families and individuals. According to annual outcome reporting, 19 Community Action Agencies provided 1,152 individuals with temporary shelter and placed another 854 households in transitional housing.

CAA's are an integral part of the regional Continuum of Care (CoC) Committees whose mission it is to develop plans to address the full spectrum of homelessness. The CoC process brings together housing and service providers, homeless people, private sector interests, government officials and others for regional coordination and planning. These efforts have increased access to federal and other resources to assist homeless persons and have led to more efficient use of existing resources and increased collaboration among existing service providers.



Veteran's Supportive Housing

Fond du Lac Reservation

To meet the needs of homeless veterans, the Fond du Lac Reservation developed the Veteran's Supportive Housing project which opened in 2013. The low income housing development includes 10 apartments for permanent supportive housing, a community room, laundry room and two administrative offices.

The project provides homeless veterans with safe housing coupled with health, chemical helath and mental health services to address problems, such as alcohol abuse, drug abuse, serious psychiatric diagnosis, dual diagnosis, and physical health issues. Once participants enter the program they are able to stay as long as they need to receive support and are free to leave at any time. The Fond du Lac Human Services Division is conveniently located near the housing and provides case management services including the development of a self sufficiency plan.

CSBG funds supported the planning division staff and economic development planner who were essential in developing the project. Close to \$3.1 million dollars was secured in funding for the project.

Emergency Services

Addressing long-term economic self-sufficiency is core to Community Action's work and providing emergency services is fundamental for people to be able to take the next steps forward toward self-sufficiency. The Minnesota Community Action network administered a range of emergency services that helped individuals obtain and maintain self-sufficiency.



Results

- 110,372 individuals received emergency payments to vendors, including fuel and energy bills for their family.
- 31,070 individuals received food or vouchers.
- 21,406 individuals received clothing.
- 6,799 individuals received emergency car or home repair.
- 5,687 individuals received emergency rent or mortgage assistance.
- 4,574 individuals received assistance for transportation including bus passes, car repair assistance, gas vouchers.
- 1,308 individuals received temporary shelter.

Safe Harbor Emergency Shelter

Heartland Community Action Agency

Heartland Community Action Agency provides a continuum of housing assistance including homeless assistance to permanent supportive housing. Staff are always looking for ways to improve the impact of their services. When analyzing data collected through housing contact logs and the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), it was determined that the agency could improve the delivery and impact of its emergency shelter program.

For many years emergency shelter was provided to people through motel vouchers for a one to five night stay. The data showed that longer stays were necessary to increase the likelihood of people moving from emergency shelter to stable housing. In response, Heartland developed the Safe Harbor initiative. The agency began leasing motel rooms, which allowed participants to stay for approximately 30 days and enabled staff to provide targeted assistance in securing stable housing. Community partnerships were expanded to increase program funding and improve services. The Litchfield Area Ministerial Association, United Way of West Central Minnesota, Willmar Area Community Foundation, Bethel Lutheran Church of Willmar, Evangelical Free Church of Willmar, St. Mary's Catholic Church of Willmar, and the Minnesota Department of Human Services through an Emergency Services Program grant all provided funding to lease motel rooms.

Now case managers meet weekly with participants and assist them with finding stable housing. The Evangelical Free Church provides volunteers who make meals, invite participants to community events, assist families with rides to appointments, and help them move to new housing. As a result of changing its approach, Heartland's outcome indicators show a 30 day average stay in the Safe Harbor program with 80% of participants exiting to stable housing.

Disaster Relief

Lakes and Pines Community Action

Lakes and Pines Community Action provided flood recovery funding and community outreach to residents in Aitkin, Carlton and Pine counties. Lakes and Pines staff provided input initially to funding sources on the best ways to reach flood victims, administer funds and gain the trust of local residents in order to quickly address the needs of the community. Homelessness was prevented and homes were restored due to the in-place processes and expertise that existed pre-flood at Lakes and Pines.

Community Action Results

Health

Community Action works in local communities across Minnesota to help ensure low-income people access the health care services needed.

MNsure (www.mnsure.org)

Most CAAs in Minnesota serve as navigators and in-person assisters helping Minnesotans navigate the health care marketplace and enroll in health care programs.



Results

Family Health Outcomes

- 10,548 children obtained immunizations, medical, and dental care.
- 2,743 obtained health care services for themselves and/or family member.

Community Health Outcomes

- 6,654 accessible safe and affordable health care services/facilities for low income people were created, or saved from reduction or elimination.
- 4,369 community services to improve public health and safety were created or preserved.



Improving Access to Health Care Insurance

Heartland Community Action Agency, Prairie Five Community Action Council, Southwestern Minnesota Opportunity Council, West Central Minnesota Communities Action, and Western Community Action

In 2013, Western Community Action, Southwestern Minnesota Opportunity Council, Prairie Five Community Action Council, West Central Minnesota Communities Action, and Heartland Community Action Agency collaborated on an application to the Department of Human Service and became certified Minnesota Community Application Assisters. Agencies trained front-line staff in the health insurance application process, as well as to use the Bridge to Benefits tool, which screens for eligibility for other public benefits programs.

By making the investment to become Minnesota Community Application Assisters and Navigators/ In-Person Assisters through MNsure, this 5-agency collaboration is addressing low income people's need for health insurance and their access to health care services. Marshaling these new resources has allowed agencies to offer clients a more comprehensive approach to stabilizing crisis situations as well as to enhance long-term economic security.

Emergency Food and Nutrition

SNAP Outreach

Minnesota has a broad outreach initiative to increase participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps). Outreach efforts inform communities about the value of SNAP and help people apply for benefits. Activities are tailored to address unique community needs, but generally include SNAP promotion, eligibility screening and application assistance.

For federal FY2014, 23 Community Action Agencies will receive funding through the US Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) for SNAP Outreach activities. The Office of Economic Opportunity provides fiscal and administrative oversight, and ongoing technical assistance and training to support the state outreach plan. For every non-federal dollar spent on allowable SNAP Outreach activities, USDA FNS reimburse half these outreach costs. In 2013, SNAP Outreach CAAs are receiving over \$800,000 in FNS funds, yielding \$1.6 million in total CAA program dollars reaching 75 of Minnesota's 87 counties.

The combined efforts of state, county, and community-based organizations, including CAAs, have contributed to increases in SNAP participation rates and made it easier for Minnesotans to apply for SNAP benefits. According to poverty data from the American Community Survey and the number of people receiving food support, Minnesota's SNAP participation rate in 2007 was 43%. By the end of FFY2012, the statewide participation rate had increased to 65%. The Minnesota Department of Human Services received the High Performance Bonus for Most Improved Program Access Index from the US Department of Agriculture in 2012.



Results

- Conducted 1,698 community presentations to promote the benefits of SNAP,
- Screened 54,229 people for SNAP eligibility, and
- Completed 5,471 Combined Application Forms to help clients apply for SNAP.

2014 SNAP Outreach Grantees

- Anoka County Community Action Program
- Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency
- Bi-County Community Action Program
- Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis
- Catholic Charities of the Diocese of St. Cloud
- Community Action Duluth
- Community Action Minneapolis
- Community Action Partnership for Suburban Hennepin
- Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties
- Heartland Community Action Agency
- Hunger Solutions Minnesota
- Inter-County Community Council
- Lakes and Pines Community Action Council
- Lakes & Prairies Community Action Partnerships
- Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota
- Mahube-OTWA Community Action Partnership
- Metro Meals on Wheels
- Minnesota Valley Action Council
- Northwest Community Action
- Prairie Five Community Action Council
- Scott-Carver-Dakota CAP Agency
- Second Harvest Heartland Food Bank
- SEMCAC
- Three Rivers Community Action
- Tri-County Action Programs (SC)
- Tri-County Community Action Program (LF)
- Tri-Valley Opportunity Council
- West Central Minnesota Communities Action
- Western Community Action

Community Action Results

Linkages

The term “linkages” refers to the activities that bring together (through mobilization and coordination) community members, or groups and often government and business organizations that serve many communities. Linking a variety of local services, programs, and concerned citizens is a way to combat community-wide causes and conditions of poverty. In 2012, Minnesota Community Action Agencies categorized 26.6% of their CSBG expenditures, as linkages expenditures. Linkages also can be observable connections, such as medical transportation, integrated databases of community resources, communications systems, or support and facilities for new community-based initiatives.



Results

- 5,600 safe and affordable housing units preserved or improved through construction, Weatherization or rehabilitation.
- 96 safe and affordable housing units created in the community.
- 6,654 accessible and affordable health care services/ facilities created or maintained.
- 13,197 accessible safe and affordable childcare or child development placement opportunities for low income families created or maintained.
- 1,307,516 accessible new or expanded transportation resources, or preserved transportation resources available to low-income families, including public or private transportation.
- 837,152 information, referral and outreach services provided to households requesting assistance.
- 22,388 community members mobilized by Community Action who participate in community revitalization and anti-poverty initiatives.
- 11,014 partnerships with organizations, both public and private, that Community Action actively works with to expand resources and opportunities in order to achieve family and community outcomes.

Developing Agency Leadership

Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties

A key for organizational succession planning is the development of future leaders. With an eye on developing future leaders, Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties launched the Leaders in Action program. Similar to the Minnesota Community Action Emerging Leaders program, this program is a competitive, year-long experience for key mid-level employees. Participants are staff members who are sponsored by their supervisor and who want to increase their leadership capability.

The agency’s Executive Director guides and leads the program throughout the year with senior team members leading sections of coursework. Participants learned about the history of Community Action, Results Oriented Management (ROMA), Budgeting, Leadership Styles, Technology, Funding Streams, Program Evaluation, and Influencing. They also developed specific skills, such as writing, that are essential to becoming a leader. The program’s success has made this approach a core strategy in succession planning for the organization.

Transportation

Minnesota's statewide Community Action network offers an array of transportation services, including public transit services, financial education and incentives to low-income participants saving for a car, and car loan programs.

Rural Rides in the Arrowhead Region

Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency

Access to reliable, affordable transportation in rural areas is essential for low income people who do not own cars. In response to the identified need for transportation, in 2008 Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (AEOA) developed the Rural Rides program with start-up funding from the the Blandin Foundation. During the last 5 years, the program has expended to serve Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Lake, and greater St. Louis (excluding Duluth) Counties.



While short-term services focus on providing rides, Rural Rides works with each client to create a customized transportation self-sufficiency plan. Last year, Rural Rides completed nearly 50,000 work-related rides for over 600 people. Most clients are in their 20s and 30s and all have incomes less than 150% of the poverty level. The program continues to grow in spite of the recent economic upturn. In September 2013, the highest volume of rides in the program's history was achieved with over 5,100 rides completed in that month alone. Rural Rides is a model program in Minnesota and has received national recognition for its unique approach to rural transportation. Community action taff have traveled across the country to share best practices and help other agencies develop similar programs.



Social Entrepreneur Category Winner, The Minnesota Cup

Minnesota Valley Action Council

Minnesota Valley Action Council (MVAC) has expanded its entrepreneurial efforts to improve service delivery and client outcomes. The agency's innovative work on its food hub initiative won the grand prize of \$20,000 in the social entrepreneur category of the Minnesota Cup. Most of the food Americans eat travels more than 1,500 miles, even though it could be supplied within 50 miles. MVAC set-up a food hub in Mankato that allows small farmers to aggregate enough demand to successfully sell their products. In its ninth year, the Minnesota Cup has grown into the nation's largest statewide competition for emerging business ideas. Its purpose is to support and accelerate the development of Minnesota's newest and most innovative business ideas. MVAC competed with more than 1,100 entries.

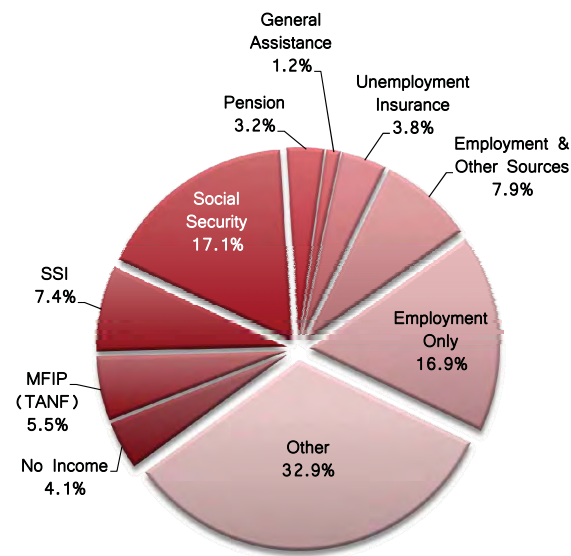
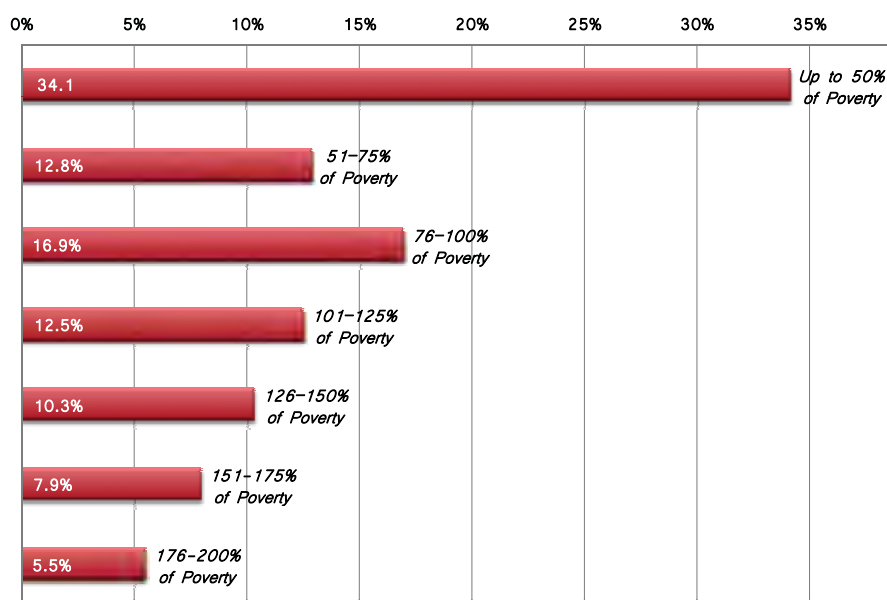


2012 Community Action Participant Demographics

In 2012, Minnesota Community Action served nearly 650,000 people and 250,000 families.

According to the U.S. Census' American Community Survey, nearly 12% of the population of Minnesota lives in poverty (having incomes below the federal poverty line). It is the work of Community Action Agencies throughout Minnesota to reach out to these people, and many more very near poverty, to give them a helping hand and assist them to achieve economic self-sufficiency by reducing barriers and increasing opportunities for success.

Community Action serves a very diverse population. Participant characteristics reflect the Community Action commitment to change the lives of people most in need. Demographic highlights of participants follow.

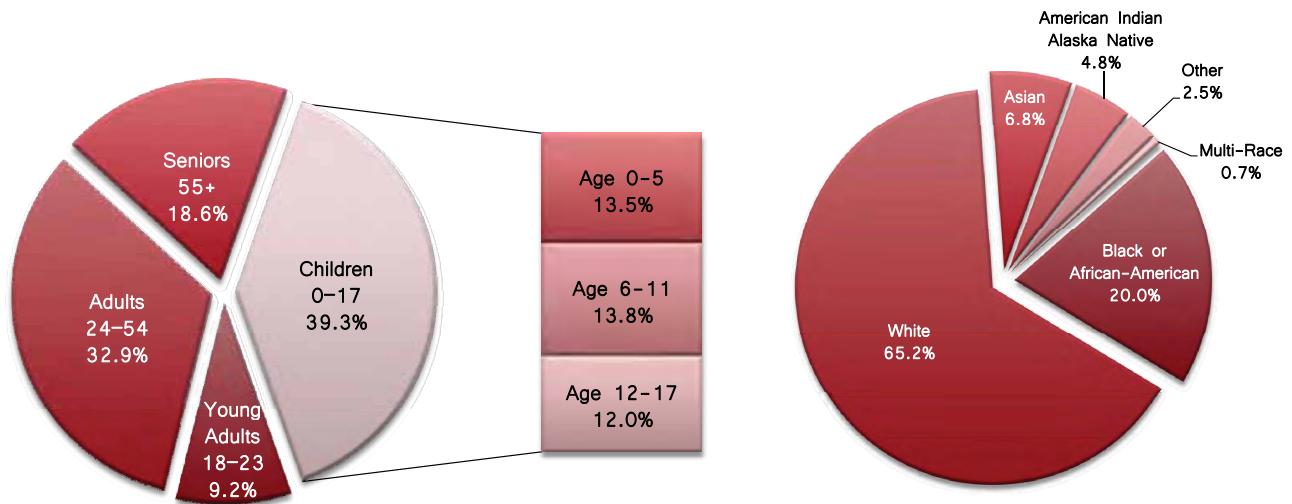


Poverty and Income

- 34.1% of families lived in severe poverty with incomes at or below 50% of the Federal Poverty Guideline (FPG).
- 46.9% of families had incomes at or below 100% of the FPG.
- Nearly 90% of families had incomes at or below 150% of the FPG.
- 28.7% of families had income from wages or unemployment insurance.
- 20.2% of families had at least one member who was a retired worker.

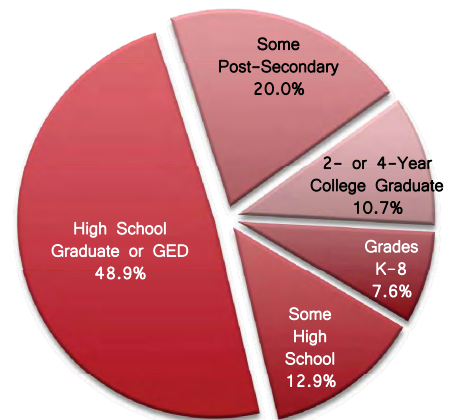
Age, Race/Ethnicity, and Gender of Participants

- 39.3% of participants are children under the age of 18. Of participants under the age of 18, 34.5% are under five years-old.
- 18.6% of participants are age 55 or older.
- 34.8% of participants were a racial minority with 11.2% identifying as Hispanic or Latino.
- 55.8% of participants were women and 44.2% were men.



Education Level of Participants Over 24 Years of Age

- 20.5% of adults over age 24 did not have a high school diploma or GED.
- 48.9% have a high school diploma or GED.
- 30.7% have some post-secondary education and 10.7% are two- or four-year college graduates.

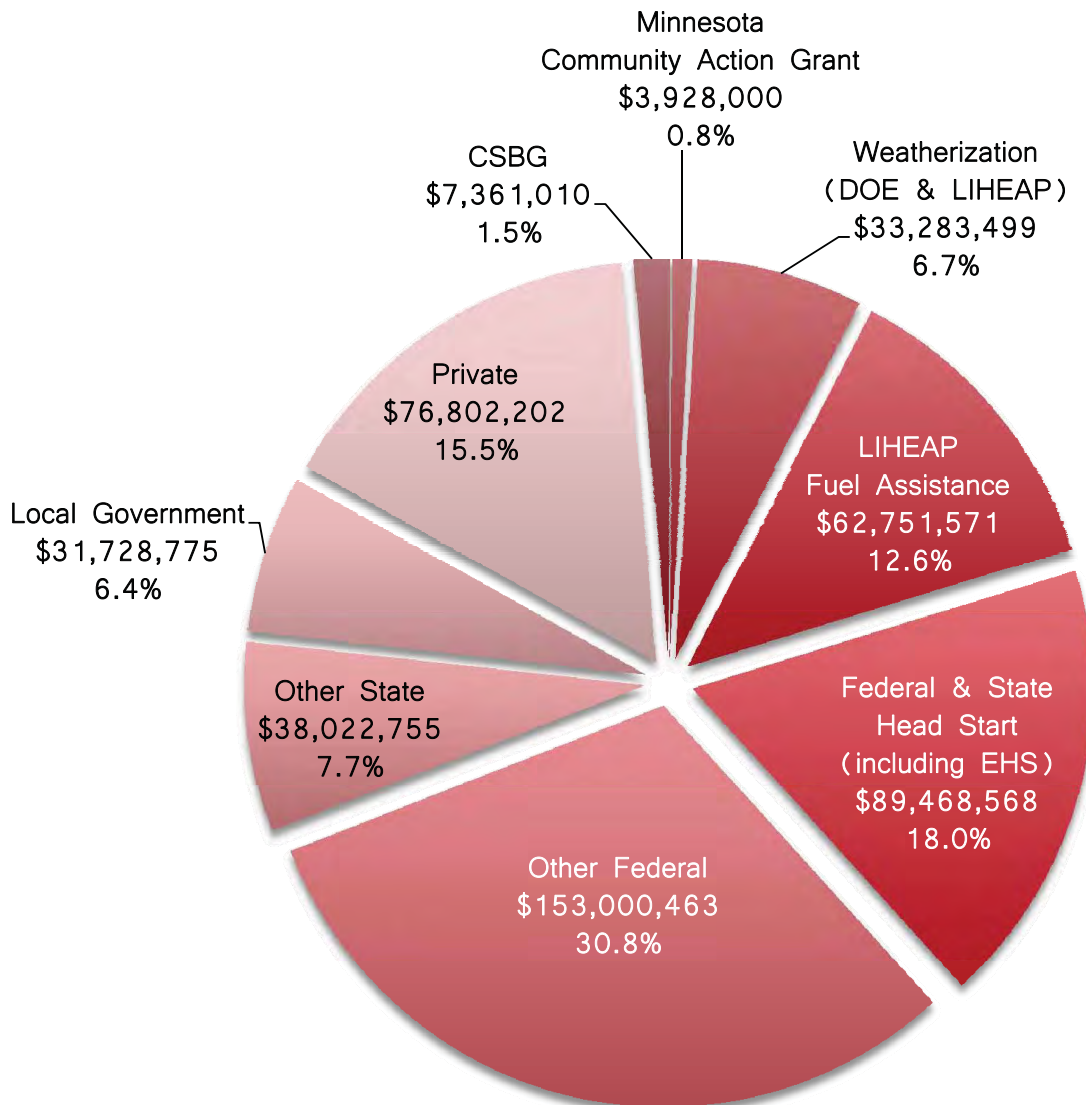


2012 Community Action Funding

While Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funds may be a small percentage of a Community Action Agency (CAA) budget, these funding sources provide 100% of Community Action's identity. By holding to founding values through supports and mandates, the Community Services Block Grant and Minnesota Community Action Grant provide the foundation for Community Action in Minnesota. In 2012, \$7.36 million in federal CSBG) funding and \$3.93 million in Minnesota Community Action Grant funding allowed Minnesota's Community Action Agencies and Tribal Governments to leverage almost \$500 million in additional funding.

Tribal programs are run by their own sovereign governments. Because of their relationships with Federal, State and Local governments, Tribes may receive various kinds of support. This can include funding from the Department of Interior, Environmental Protection Agency, or Department of Justice, all used to support the unique work of each Tribal Nation.

In 2012, every \$1 of CSBG funding leveraged \$66 in federal, state, local, and private funds.



Maximizing the Public's Investment

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) - \$7,361,010

CSBG funding is appropriated by Congress through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Minnesota Community Action Grant - \$3,928,000

Minnesota Community Action Grant funds are appropriated through the Minnesota legislature and are used for the same purpose as federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funding.

Other Federal Funding - \$325,199,862 (Includes Weatherization, LIHEAP Fuel Assistance and Head Start)

Includes non-CSBG funding appropriated by the federal government. Examples include:

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

Other State Funding - \$ 51,326,994 (Includes State Head Start)

Includes non-Minnesota Community Action Grant funding appropriated through the Minnesota legislature. Some examples of other state funding are:

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

Local Government Funding - \$31,728,775

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

Private Funding - \$76,802,202

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

2012 Minnesota Community Action Funding

COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES	Community Services Block Grant	Other Federal*	Minnesota Community Action Grant	Other State	Local Government	Private	Total
Anoka County CAP	\$261,949	\$9,937,806	\$135,591	\$862,383	\$545,535	\$4,885,858	\$16,629,122
Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency	\$189,880	\$12,377,187	\$101,954	\$8,477,444	\$4,556,416	\$2,254,517	\$27,957,398
Bi-County CAP	\$168,352	\$4,490,467	\$91,906	\$1,918,899	\$320,068	\$182,823	\$7,172,515
CA Duluth	\$224,580	\$831,553	\$115,816	\$10,211	\$52,020	\$423,821	\$1,658,001
CA of Minneapolis	\$1,011,412	\$14,995,881	\$498,719	\$0	\$0	\$3,398,217	\$19,904,229
CAP of Ramsey & Washington	\$1,024,227	\$14,743,212	\$504,701	\$2,387,669	\$140,000	\$2,263,058	\$21,062,867
CAP of Scott, Carver, and Dakota Counties	\$400,195	\$9,901,391	\$213,446	\$1,758,298	\$310,864	\$3,396,938	\$15,981,132
CAP of Suburban Hennepin	\$613,158	\$6,898,921	\$312,842	\$165,927	\$145,975	\$132,212	\$8,269,035
Heartland CAA	\$152,402	\$5,107,491	\$84,462	\$653,352	\$462,803	\$777,260	\$7,237,770
Inter-County Community Council	\$76,511	\$3,476,550	\$49,042	\$399,284	\$53,436	\$458,213	\$4,513,036
KOOTASCA CA	\$110,709	\$6,598,180	\$65,003	\$453,822	\$30,627	\$692,270	\$7,950,611
Lakes & Pines CA Council	\$282,974	\$9,791,382	\$145,404	\$1,290,663	\$3,250	\$1,207,661	\$12,721,334
Lakes and Prairies CAP	\$112,097	\$4,239,291	\$65,651	\$2,174,133	\$127,791	\$1,131,705	\$7,850,668
Mahube-Otwa CAP	\$295,218	\$9,212,441	\$138,780	\$2,090,002	\$5,600	\$1,780,802	\$13,522,843
Minnesota Valley Action Council	\$377,438	\$13,582,312	\$202,825	\$2,913,639	\$421,469	\$3,423,375	\$20,921,058
Northwest CA	\$46,575	\$4,174,027	\$28,404	\$381,401	\$81,526	\$127,440	\$4,839,373
Olmsted CAP**	\$151,812	\$18,489	\$84,187	\$38,501	\$35,266	\$30,148	\$358,403
Prairie Five CA Council	\$80,210	\$4,747,888	\$50,768	\$940,762	\$847,753	\$1,760,643	\$8,428,024
Semcac	\$301,566	\$8,371,853	\$154,081	\$1,715,064	\$1,020,294	\$1,668,940	\$13,231,798
Southwest Minnesota Opportunity Council	\$101,345	\$4,823,451	\$60,633	\$604,900	\$0	\$60,646	\$5,650,975
Three Rivers CA**	\$151,148	\$5,452,338	\$83,877	\$1,691,257	\$564,791	\$1,508,970	\$9,452,381
Tri-County Action Programs (TRI-CAP)	\$381,665	\$6,374,045	\$204,798	\$1,040,125	\$985,415	\$805,247	\$9,791,295
Tri-County CA Program (TCC)	\$193,444	\$5,259,207	\$103,618	\$616,755	\$2,762	\$218,586	\$6,394,372
Tri-Valley Opportunity Council	\$79,473	\$14,389,455	\$50,424	\$2,460,052	\$720,737	\$1,981,903	\$19,682,044
West Central Minnesota Communities Action	\$115,685	\$8,143,073	\$67,325	\$602,354	\$380,230	\$1,279,088	\$10,587,755
Western CA	\$110,303	\$4,726,297	\$64,813	\$1,284,146	\$1,148	\$1,504,654	\$7,691,361
Wright County CA	\$103,754	\$5,853,309	\$61,757	\$553,738	\$21,943	\$589,152	\$7,183,653
CAA SUBTOTAL	\$7,118,082	\$198,517,497	\$3,740,827	\$37,484,781	\$11,837,719	\$37,944,147	\$296,643,053
TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS***							
Boise Forte Reservation Tribal Council	\$15,182	\$2,680,865	\$14,492	\$390,755	\$254,261	\$471,336	\$3,826,891
Fond Du Lac Reservation	\$23,721	\$33,816,510	\$18,478	\$1,405,374	\$2,532,399	\$515,102	\$38,311,584
Grand Portage Reservation	\$16,064	\$482,691	\$14,905	\$125,773	\$0	\$0	\$639,433
Leech Lake Reservation	\$43,261	\$33,347,786	\$27,598	\$4,133,365	\$16,649,823	\$31,711,773	\$85,913,606
Lower Sioux Indian Community	\$15,294	\$3,092,328	\$14,544	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,122,166
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe	\$27,171	\$20,025,993	\$20,555	\$1,739,051	\$0	\$5,062,804	\$26,875,574
Red Lake Reservation	\$39,520	\$2,681,155	\$25,852	\$195,773	\$0	\$0	\$2,942,300
Upper Sioux Community	\$27,012	\$1,234,265	\$26,679	\$210,567	\$0	\$0	\$1,498,523
White Earth Reservation	\$35,703	\$29,320,772	\$24,070	\$5,641,555	\$454,573	\$1,097,040	\$36,573,713
TRIBAL SUBTOTAL	\$242,928	\$126,682,365	\$187,173	\$13,842,213	\$19,891,056	\$38,858,055	\$199,703,790
STATEWIDE NETWORK TOTAL	\$7,361,010	\$325,199,862	\$3,928,000	\$51,326,994	\$31,728,775	\$76,802,202	\$496,346,843

* Other Federal includes non-CSBG federal funding sources and federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds.

** Olmsted Community Action Program merged with Three Rivers Community Action on July 1, 2013.

*** Prairie Island Indian Community and Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community redistribute their CSBG and CAG funding to other tribes.

Actual & Projected Minnesota Community Action Funding

COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES	Actual 2012 and 2013 Funding			Projected 2014 and 2015 Funding*			
	2012 and 2013 Annual Minnesota Community Action Grant	2013 Annual Community Services Block Grant	2013 Annual Total Funding	2014 and 2015 Annual Minnesota Community Action Grant	2014 and 2015 Annual CSBG At Level Funding	2014 and 2015 Annual CSBG At 50% Reduction	2014 and 2015 Annual Total Funding At 50% CSBG Reduction
Anoka County CAP	\$135,591	\$244,963	\$380,554	\$136,852	\$246,084	\$118,009	\$254,861
Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency	\$101,954	\$178,061	\$280,015	\$103,516	\$180,192	\$90,289	\$193,805
Bi-County CAP	\$91,906	\$158,075	\$249,981	\$90,684	\$154,830	\$79,619	\$170,303
CA Duluth	\$115,816	\$205,632	\$321,448	\$114,402	\$201,711	\$99,342	\$213,744
CA of Minneapolis	\$498,719	\$942,492	\$1,441,211	\$475,743	\$891,514	\$404,023	\$879,766
CAP of Ramsey & Washington	\$504,701	\$954,391	\$1,459,092	\$538,266	\$1,015,096	\$456,014	\$994,280
CAP of Scott, Carver, and Dakota Counties	\$213,446	\$375,091	\$588,537	\$230,193	\$406,165	\$199,838	\$430,031
CAP of Suburban Hennepin	\$312,842	\$572,788	\$885,630	\$343,064	\$629,263	\$293,695	\$636,759
Heartland CAA	\$84,462	\$143,269	\$227,731	\$86,317	\$146,198	\$75,988	\$162,305
Inter-County Community Council	\$49,042	\$72,819	\$121,861	\$48,323	\$71,099	\$44,394	\$92,717
KOOTASCA CA	\$65,003	\$104,565	\$169,568	\$59,574	\$93,337	\$53,749	\$113,323
Lakes & Pines CA Council	\$145,404	\$264,481	\$409,885	\$139,613	\$251,540	\$120,305	\$259,918
Lakes and Prairies CAP	\$65,651	\$105,854	\$171,505	\$63,951	\$101,990	\$57,389	\$121,340
Mahube-Otwa CAP	\$138,780	\$226,582	\$365,362	\$114,184	\$201,279	\$99,160	\$213,344
Minnesota Valley Action Council	\$202,825	\$353,965	\$556,790	\$194,824	\$336,256	\$170,427	\$365,251
Northwest CA	\$28,404	\$44,132	\$72,536	\$28,323	\$43,776	\$25,658	\$53,981
Olmsted CAP**	\$84,187	\$151,812	\$235,999	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Prairie Five CA Council	\$50,768	\$76,252	\$127,020	\$49,815	\$74,049	\$45,635	\$95,450
Semcac	\$154,081	\$281,740	\$435,821	\$183,142	\$313,165	\$160,713	\$343,855
Southwest Minnesota Opportunity Council	\$60,633	\$95,872	\$156,505	\$61,476	\$97,098	\$55,332	\$116,808
Three Rivers CA	\$83,877	\$142,105	\$225,982	\$143,517	\$259,258	\$123,552	\$267,069
Tri-County Action Programs (TRI-CAP)	\$204,798	\$357,889	\$562,687	\$205,716	\$357,785	\$179,484	\$385,200
Tri-County CA Program (TCC)	\$103,618	\$181,369	\$284,987	\$106,162	\$185,423	\$92,490	\$198,652
Tri-Valley Opportunity Council	\$50,424	\$75,568	\$125,992	\$33,065	\$53,148	\$29,600	\$62,665
West Central Minnesota Communities Action	\$67,325	\$109,184	\$176,509	\$61,367	\$96,883	\$55,241	\$116,608
Western CA	\$64,813	\$104,188	\$169,001	\$65,802	\$105,648	\$58,929	\$124,731
Wright County CA	\$61,757	\$98,108	\$159,865	\$60,691	\$95,547	\$54,679	\$115,370
CAA SUBTOTAL	\$3,740,827	\$6,621,247	\$10,362,074	\$3,738,582	\$6,608,334	\$3,243,554	\$6,982,136
TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS							
Boise Forte Reservation Tribal Council	\$14,492	\$15,089	\$29,581	\$14,614	\$15,322	\$14,492	\$29,106
Fond Du Lac Reservation	\$18,478	\$23,016	\$41,494	\$18,724	\$23,445	\$17,909	\$36,633
Grand Portage Reservation	\$14,905	\$15,908	\$30,813	\$14,241	\$14,585	\$14,182	\$28,423
Leech Lake Reservation	\$27,598	\$41,155	\$68,753	\$26,218	\$38,258	\$24,141	\$50,359
Lower Sioux Indian Community	\$14,544	\$15,193	\$29,737	\$15,261	\$16,600	\$15,029	\$30,290
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe	\$20,555	\$27,147	\$47,702	\$20,043	\$26,053	\$19,006	\$39,049
Red Lake Reservation	\$25,852	\$37,682	\$63,534	\$27,006	\$39,816	\$24,797	\$51,803
Upper Sioux Community	\$26,679	\$26,967	\$53,646	\$26,741	\$27,085	\$26,682	\$53,423
White Earth Reservation	\$24,070	\$34,139	\$58,209	\$26,570	\$38,954	\$24,434	\$51,004
TRIBAL SUBTOTAL	\$187,173	\$236,296	\$423,469	\$189,418	\$240,118	\$180,672	\$370,090
STATEWIDE NETWORK TOTAL	\$3,843,813	\$6,705,731	\$10,549,544	\$3,928,000	\$6,848,452	\$3,424,226	\$7,352,226

* Minnesota Community Action Grant funding levels are based upon the Governor's proposed 2014-2015 Budget. CSBG projections are based on the anticipated President's 2014 Budget.

** Olmsted Community Action Program merged with Three Rivers Community Action on July 1, 2013.

Minnesota Community Action Network Directory

State Contacts

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Fond Du Lac Reservation Business Committee

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Lakes and Prairies Community Action Partnerships

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White Earth Reservation Tribal Council

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National Community Action Partners Directory

National Partners

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Office of Community Services

Administration for Children & Families

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Jeannie Chaffin, Director, Office of Community Services
Seth Hassett, Director, Division of State Assistance
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Washington, DC 20447
Website: www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs

Other Resources

CSBG Training and Technical Assistance Resource Center

Website: www.csbgta.org

Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA)

Website: www.roma1.org

Self-Sufficiency Research Clearinghouse

Website: www.opressrc.org



For more information, please contact:

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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.*