

Minnesota Community Action 2015 Annual Report

Helping People, Changing Lives



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

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



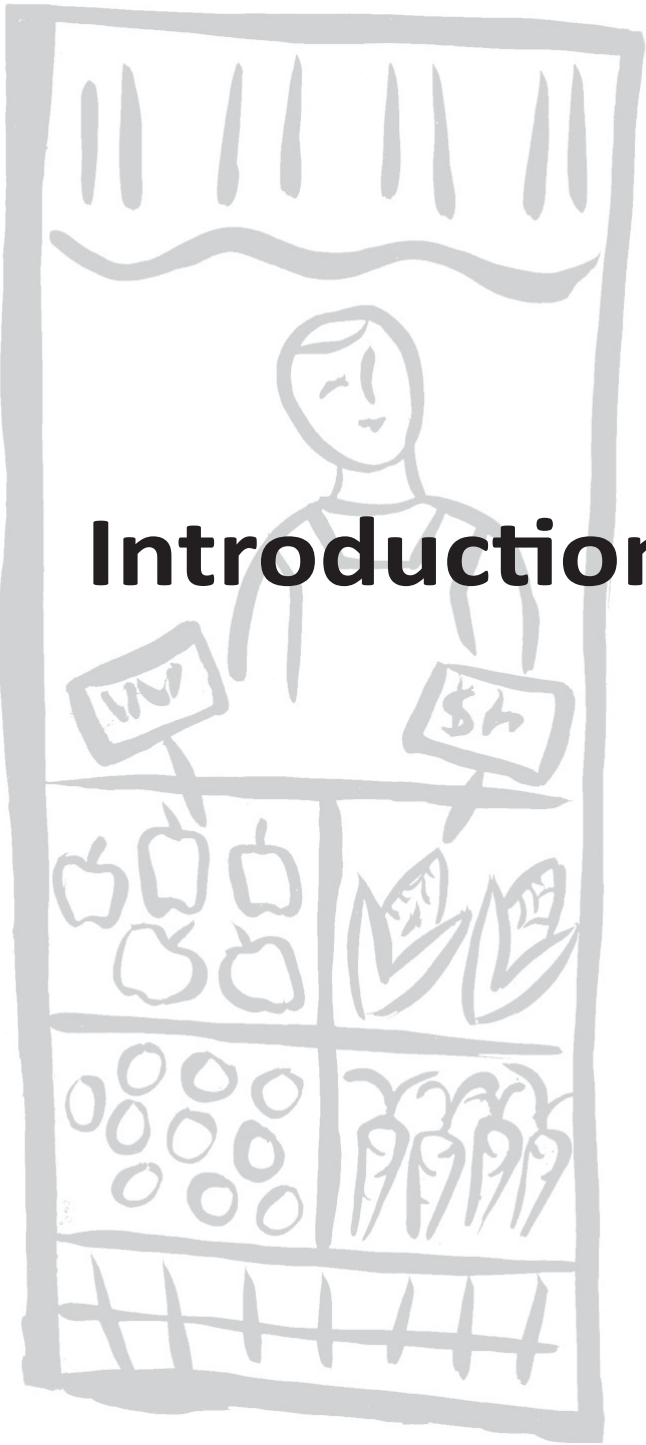
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Introduction



About this Report

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 25 Community Action Agencies and 11 Tribal Governments of the Minnesota Community Action network work with this promise in mind every day. This report reflects the efforts and success stories of Minnesota's Community Action network and the individuals and families changing their lives through Community Action.

The Community Action Network provides varied services that are integrated and coordinated to address barriers to economic self-sufficiency. Each organization 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 will become self-sufficient.

Funding for the Community Action network comes from the federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) and the state 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 to build the network's capacity to help Minnesotans achieve economic security and stability.

In 2013, \$6.85 million in federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) and \$3.93 million in state Minnesota Community Action Grant funding leveraged:

- **More than \$501 million in other funding (federal, state, local and private); and,**
- **Over 2 million hours of volunteer service. If valued at the federal minimum wage in 2013 (\$7.25), volunteer time would be worth more than \$14.7 million.**



Dear Friends,

In 2014, Community Action celebrated and commemorated the 50th Anniversary of the signing of the Economic Opportunity Act and all that our network has accomplished. Now, in 2015, we begin the next 50 years of our work.

The next 50 years – even the next five years – will see changes to the number of families participating in our programs and the type of support needed.

Community Action will embrace and take on these changes. We will continue to work collaboratively, engage with our community partners, leverage additional resources, create or maintain innovative anti-poverty and community building programs, and put the needs of our participants first.

Together with community partners, customers, and volunteers the network of 25 Community Action Agencies (CAAs) provided services to 587,878 individuals in 233,394 families in 2013. One of every ten Minnesotans has received services from a Community Action Agency. To know that one of every ten Minnesotans has needed our services is astonishing, but it is heartening to know that the network is there to help provide hope and change people's lives.

In 2014, the network connected Minnesotans with MNsure (Minnesota's state run health insurance exchange), helped navigate the propane crisis, implemented innovative new programs that bundle services, increased access to safe and dependable transportation, and developed cross sector partnerships to address hunger and develop local economies. These programs, and the family self-sufficiency, weatherization, education, and job training programs Community Action offers, represent the collaborative approach our network takes to "helping people help themselves and each other".

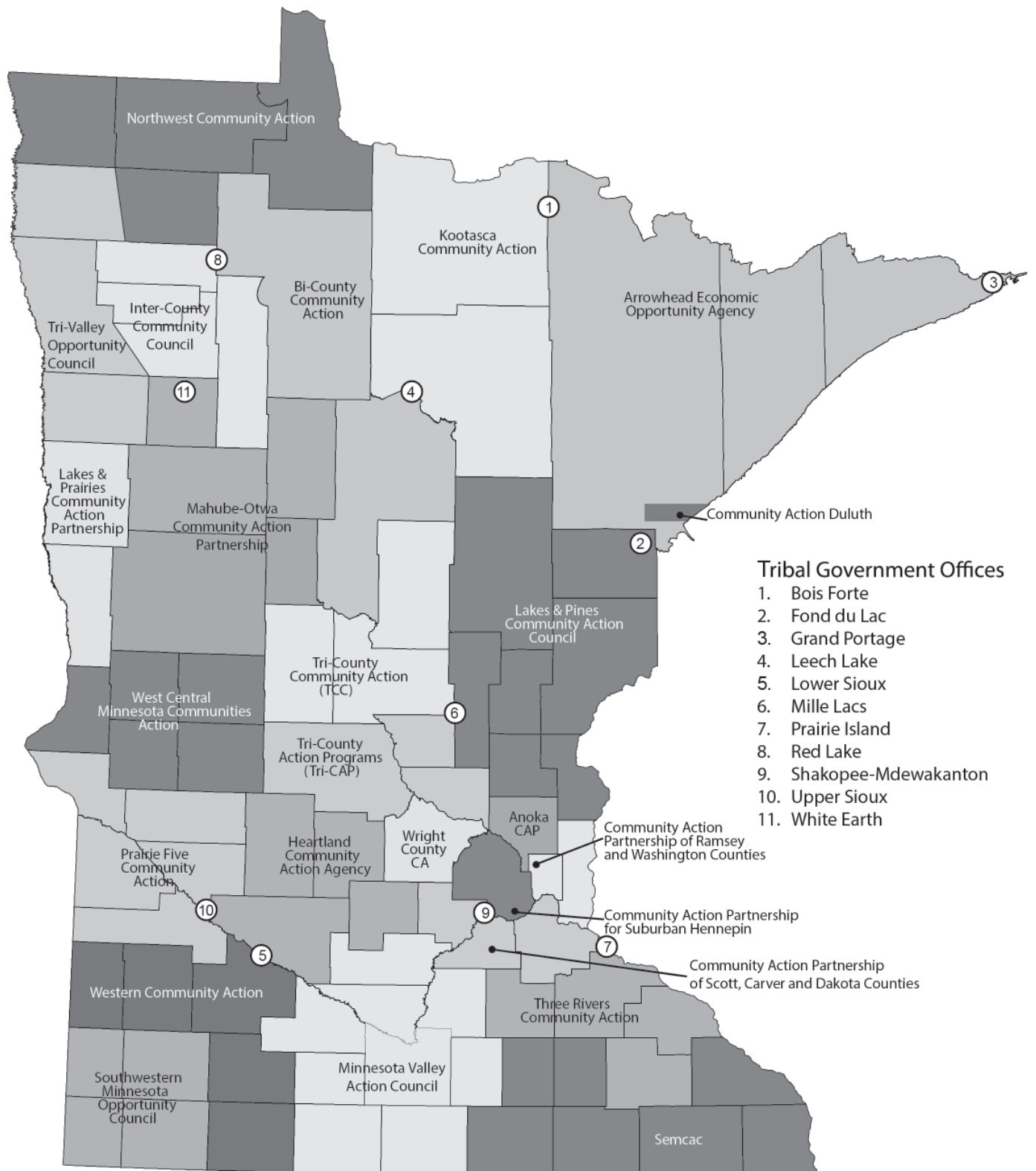
This innovative and collaborative approach will guide our work through the next 50 years. Though there will be changes, our approach will help us remain effective and help participants achieve their goals.

This report holds the stories of the past year and details outcomes our participants achieved. We will continue the fight against poverty because, as President Johnson said, "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
www.minncap.org

Minnesota Community Action Agencies





Minnesota Indian Affairs Council

For many years now, the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC) has worked closely with the Minnesota Department of Human Services, Office of Economic Opportunity in providing crucial services to the American Indian community. The MIAC has and will continue to support strongly the Community Action movement supported by the Community Services Block Grant on both the federal and state levels.

The resources provided by the Community Action Partnership statewide have greatly benefited and impacted each Tribal Nation throughout the state for many years as have crucial resources provided by the Office of Economic Opportunity.

Each Tribal Nation benefits in their own unique way by providing culturally-appropriate ways to address each of their community-specific needs. Few resources and long-standing relationships have proven so greatly beneficial to the Native Nations in Minnesota as the services provided here.

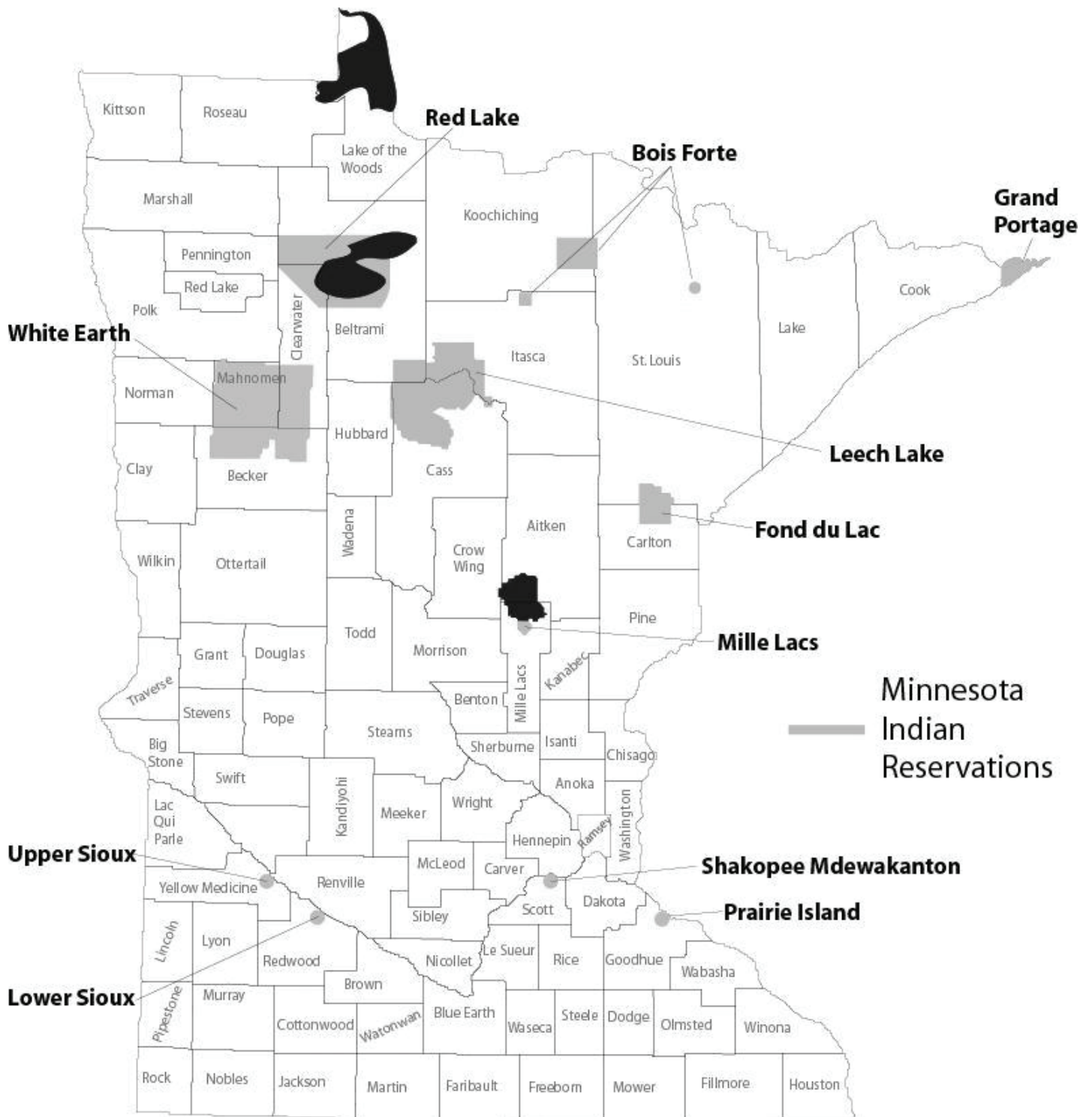
The fight against poverty of American Indian citizens of the state of Minnesota continues today. American Indians remain among some of the poorest populations in the state and nation and have some of the worst disparities in education, health, housing, and employment.

The Minnesota Indian Affairs Council recognizes that real and lasting impacts have been made by the Department of Human Services/Office of Economic Opportunity and supports the ongoing efforts to adequately fund all programs that alleviate poverty and address the disparities continually plaguing our communities.

Miigwech (Ojibwe Thanks),

Annamarie Hill, Executive Director
Minnesota Indian Affairs Council
www.indianaffairs.state.mn.us

Minnesota Tribal Governments



Guiding Principles for Partnership

To form meaningful and constructive partnerships and work more effectively with partner organizations, Community Action in Minnesota embraces five guiding principles: mutual respect, open communication, joint problem solving, empowerment through diversity, and ethical code of conduct.

Mutual respect.

In working with staff, board members, and consultants, Community Action values and recognizes 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.

Community Action is committed to keeping lines of communication open. We strive to develop solutions to problems, to share program improvement ideas and provide information on new developments in the anti-poverty field. Communication is frequent and delivered through a variety of tools and media.

Joint problem-solving.

A team approach to problem solving is best for arriving at effective solutions. Community Action welcomes opportunities to think outside traditional ways and come up with “best strategies” for program development, conflict resolutions or compliance issues. We are open to change and work together in exploring options for mutually agreeable solutions. Our goal is to have agencies function independently with our support in an effort to meet the needs of local communities within the parameters set by legislation.

Empowerment through diversity.

Community Action is receptive to the cultural diversity, multiple perspectives, and varying abilities of people in poverty. We acknowledge and respect diversity in terms of (but not limited to) race, religion, culture, socio-economic background, family generational history, physical and mental ability, age, gender, sexual orientation, political affiliation and veteran status. We resolve to support all forms of diversity as community and individual assets, and to ensure that we accurately portray the diversity of those in poverty in our work and daily decision-making.

Ethical Code of Conduct

Honesty and integrity are part of our foundation. We will:

- Establish an ethical tone.
- Comply with applicable laws, regulations and policies.
- Act honestly and ethically.
- Ensure accuracy and reliability of information.
- Report any violations of code.



Community Action Summary

Community Action Basics

Community Action in Minnesota

May 27, 1963: The Minnesota Legislature passes legislation creating the Minnesota Indian Affairs Commission (today known as the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council).

March 16, 1964: President Lyndon B. Johnson declares an unconditional War on Poverty in the United States of America. The Economic Opportunity Act is introduced in Congress.

August 20, 1964: President Johnson signs the Economic Opportunity Act establishing 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 year-end nearly all Minnesota counties are served by a newly formed Community Action Agency (CAA).

March 1966: Rep. Al Quie (R-MN) urges CAA governing boards to be composed of at least 1/3 representing the poor (“maximum feasible participation”). Congress passes the Quie Amendment, requiring CAA boards be composed of 1/3 elected officials, 1/3 low-income representatives and 1/3 private sector representatives as well as the Green Amendment, requiring CAAs to obtain official designation from local elected officials.

What is a Community Action Agency?

Community Action Agencies (or Community Action Programs) 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; (For CSBG enabling language visit: http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/csbg/pdf/csbg_law_508.pdf.)
- 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

NOTE: 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 people experiencing poverty;*
- *1/3 public officials; and,*
- *remaining 1/3 at-large local citizens.*

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.

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:

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

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

September 26, 1969: The Minnesota CAA Executive Directors form the Minnesota CAP Directors Association.

September 2, 1971: The Minnesota CAP Directors Association is reorganized into the Minnesota CAP Association.

May 24, 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 federal OEO funding program.

January 5, 1975: President Gerald Ford signs legislation that closes the Federal Office of Economic Opportunity and establishes the Community Services Administration under the Department of Health Education and Welfare (HEW), which will now administer Community Action funding.

January 1977: The Congressional Budget Office concludes that federal social services programs reduced poverty by 60% during the decade of 1965-1975.

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.

May 5, 1994: In response to the 1993 Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), the CSBG Law is amended to require Community Action Agencies to measure outcomes in promoting self-sufficiency, family stability and community revitalization. Following this amendment, Results-Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) is introduced 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.

2005: The National Performance Indicators are developed and required by the HHS Office of Community Services as part of the fulfillment of ROMA reporting.

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 funding to help stimulate the economy and to create and maintain jobs.

2010: Nationally, CSBG ranks 8th and the Weatherization ranks 9th out of approximately 200 programs in the number of direct jobs created or retained under ARRA for the quarter July 1 - September 30, 2010. CSBG ranked in the top 20 for all 5 quarters.

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.

Community Action in the Social Service Sector

In Minnesota, Community Action operates as a statewide network of 36 organizations.

- 25 private nonprofit Community Action Agencies
- 11 Tribal Governments

Community Action is a major segment of the nonprofit sector in Minnesota with the following characteristics:

- Combined annual budgets of more than \$512 million.
- Over 2 million volunteer hours.
- Approximately 3,000 employees across the state (not including Tribal Government employees).
- All agencies completing an annual independent audit.

Partnerships

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

Poverty's Many Faces

Needs vary significantly for urban, suburban and rural Minnesotans living in poverty. Community Action Agencies conduct needs assessments at least every three years to determine current community needs and strengths and to prioritize services and advocacy efforts. For example, Community Action Agencies increasingly serve participants with diverse languages including Spanish, Somali, Hmong, Vietnamese and Russian. Transportation is a particularly critical problem in some communities. Housing is a pervasive problem. In urban areas, low-income families may face a myriad of disconnected programs and service systems. Conversely, in rural areas services are scarce and far-flung.

Leveraged Funding

In 2013, \$6.85 million in federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funding and \$3.93 million in Minnesota Community Action Grant funding leveraged more than \$501 million in other funding from federal, state, local, and private sources.

Community Involvement/Volunteerism

Community Action taps into Minnesota's long-standing tradition of volunteerism. Parents, retirees, low-income workers, business people and other community members expand the capacity of local agencies by serving in a variety of volunteer roles. Whether it's serving as a board member, helping in Head Start, working in the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), preparing taxes, or providing transportation to elders, community volunteers enhance Community Action services.

In 2013 Minnesota Community Action harnessed over 2 million hours of volunteer service. If valued at the federal minimum wage in 2013 (\$7.25), volunteer time would be worth more than \$14.7 million. Fostering volunteerism is an integral strategy of Community Action programs.

Volunteer Hours Donated to Minnesota Community Action, 2001-2013

Year	Hours	Year	Hours
2001	1,541,727	2008	1,644,496
2002	1,625,520	2009	1,602,614
2003	1,606,262	2010	1,632,225
2004	1,631,980	2011	1,407,580
2005	1,982,384	2012	1,343,944
2006	1,892,298	2013	2,023,124
2007	1,826,253		

For more information:

- Visit the Minnesota Community Action Partnership at <http://www.minncap.org>
- Visit the National Community Action Partnership at <http://www.communityactionpartnership.com>

Minnesota Tribal History

Community Action funding flows through the Office of Economic Opportunity to Minnesota's 11 Tribal Governments. The Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC) was established in 1963 (MN Statutes Chapter 888, Sec. 2 (3:922)). MIAC is the official liaison between the State of Minnesota and the 11 tribal Governments within the state. The Council provides a forum for and advises state government on issues of concern to urban Indian communities. The Council administers programs designed to enhance economic opportunities and protect cultural resources for the state's American Indian constituencies. The MIAC plays a central role in the development of state legislation. Programs that affect the state's American Indian population and tribal governments are monitored. Minnesota was the first state in the nation to establish an Indian Affairs agency and provided a model for other states to follow.

The Indian Affairs Council's vision is to strive for the social, economic and political justice for all American Indian people living in the State of Minnesota, while embracing our traditional cultural and spiritual values.

The mission of the Indian Affairs Council is to protect the sovereignty of the 11 Minnesota Tribes and ensure the well-being of American Indian citizens throughout the State of Minnesota.

Tribal History

In Minnesota, there are seven Anishinaabe (Chippewa, Ojibwe) reservations and four Dakota (Sioux) communities. A reservation or community is a segment of land that belongs to one or more groups of American Indians. It is land that was retained by American Indian tribes after ceding large portions of the original homelands to the United States through treaty agreements. It is not land that was given to American Indians by the federal government. There are hundreds of state and federally recognized American Indian reservations located in 35 states. These reservations have boundary lines much like a county or state has boundary lines. The American Indian reservations were created through treaties, and after 1871, some were created by Executive Order of the President of the United States or by other agreements.



*Niigaan Maple Sugar,
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians*

Anishinaabe Reservations

The seven Anishinaabe reservations include: **Grand Portage** located in the northeast corner of the state; **Bois Forte** located in extreme northern Minnesota; **Red Lake** located in extreme northern Minnesota west of Bois Forte; **White Earth** located in northwestern Minnesota; **Leech Lake** located in the north central portion of the state; **Fond du Lac** located in northeast Minnesota west of the city of Duluth; and **Mille Lacs** located in the central part of the state, south and east of Brainerd.

All seven Anishinaabe reservations in Minnesota were originally established by treaty and are considered separate and distinct nations by the United States government. In some cases, the tribe retained additional lands through an Executive Order of the President. Six of the seven reservations were allotted at the time of the passage of the General Allotment Act.

The Red Lake Reservation is the only closed reservation in Minnesota, which means that the reservation was never allotted and the land continues to be held in common by all tribal members. Each Indian tribe began its relationship with the U.S. government as a sovereign power recognized as such in treaty and legislation. The Treaty of 1863 officially recognized Red Lake as separate and distinct with the signing of the Old Crossing Treaty of 1863. In this treaty, the Red Lake Nation ceded more than 11 million acres of the richest agricultural land in Minnesota in exchange for monetary compensation and a stipulation that the “President of the United States direct a certain sum of money to be applied to agricultural education and to such other beneficial purposes calculated to promote the prosperity and happiness of the Red Lake Indian.” The agreements of 1889 and the Agreement of 1904, Red Lake ceded another 2,256,152 acres and was guaranteed that all benefits under existing treaties would not change.

Dakota Reservations

The four Dakota Communities include: **Shakopee Mdewakanton** located south of the Twin Cities near Prior Lake; **Prairie Island** located near Red Wing; **Lower Sioux** located near Redwood Falls; and **Upper Sioux** whose lands are near the city of Granite Falls.

The original Dakota Community was established by treaty in 1851. The treaty set aside a 10-mile wide strip of land on both sides of the Minnesota River as the permanent home of the Dakota. However, in the aftermath of the U.S.-Dakota Conflict of 1862, Congress abrogated all treaties made with them and the Dakota were forced from their homes in the state. The four communities were reestablished in their current localities by acts of Congress in 1886. The four Dakota Communities today represent small segments of the original reservation that were restored to the Dakota by Acts of Congress or Proclamations of the Secretary of Interior.

Information reprinted with permission from the MN Indian Affairs Council (www.indianaffairs.state.mn.us).

Community Action: The American Dream

While Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funds can 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 Community Action Grant provide the foundation for Community Action in Minnesota.

Since President Johnson's 1964 call to arms, Community Action has effectively lifted Americans out of poverty and into the American Dream. Founding principles include:

- Maximum feasible participation;
- Access to comprehensive, integrated services;
- Coordination of community resources;
- Incubation of innovative supports;
- Evaluation and accountability; and,
- State and national networks.

Maximum Feasible Participation

The Economic Opportunity Act called for the poor to have "maximum feasible participation" in identifying problems and developing solutions to poverty. The Community Services Block Grant and Community Action Grant mandate that a CAA board includes one-third of its membership as people living in poverty. While this value of "maximum feasible participation" is embedded in Community Action's culture, it is not an easy value to operationalize. Without this legal requirement, there is no guarantee that over time this hallmark value will live in an organization's future.

Access to 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 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.

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 Community Action Grant reliably fund collaboration activities for CAAs. Some executive directors have predicted that collaborations might be reduced with funding cuts, because such activity is almost entirely supported by CSBG and Community Action Grant funding.

Incubation of Innovative Supports

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 Community Action Grant give considerable 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."

Evaluation and Accountability

Since 1994, Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) has provided an accountability framework for Community Action Agencies. 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. Without ROMA, CAAs ability to secure funding would likely be limited in significant and risky ways.

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. In addition, the National Association for State Community Services (NASCS) brings together state CSBG Offices like Minnesota's Office of Economic Opportunity. Furthermore, national organizations such as CAP Law and the National Community Action Foundation provide specialized support in areas such as legal, financial management and advocacy. Through the Community Services Block Grant and 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 Community Action Grant are the values of the American Dream - diversity, local community, innovation, and accountability.

It is important to recognize the role of CSBG and Community Action Grant in preserving Community Action. In Minnesota in FY2013, 587,878 low-income people in 233,394 families were served by Community Action; Over 2 million hours of volunteer service were donated to Community Action.

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.

Results Oriented Management and Accountability

Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) is a national performance-based initiative that promotes greater effectiveness and demonstrates results among state and local agencies receiving Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) and Minnesota Community Action Grant funds.

History of ROMA

ROMA was created in 1994 based upon principles contained in the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993. ROMA provides a framework for continuous growth and improvement among Community Action Agencies. Since 1994, the national Community Action Network has been guided by six broad anti-poverty goals:

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

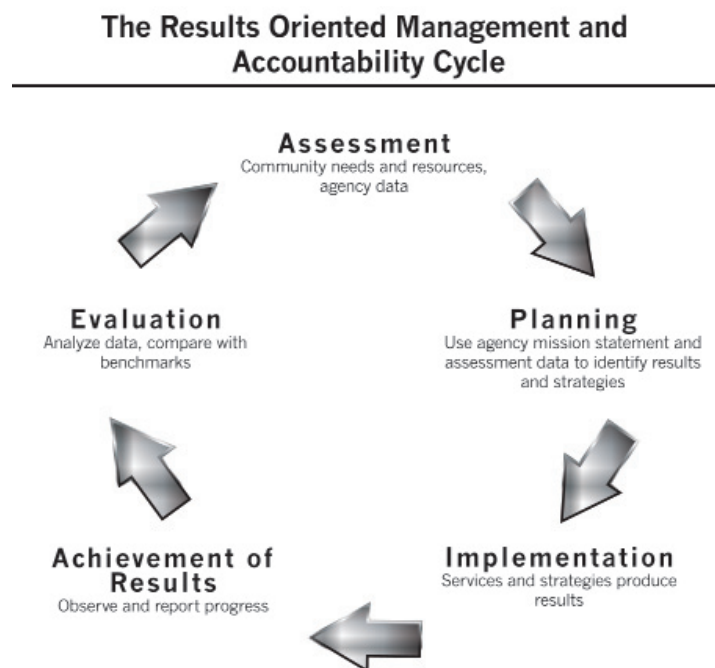
To accomplish these goals, local Community Action Agencies undertake a number of ROMA implementation actions focused on results-oriented management and results-oriented accountability:

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, including 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 in the communities in which they live resulting 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.



The following pages show selected ROMA Outcomes of Community Action in Minnesota.

Family Results:

Low-income people become more self-sufficient.

Outcome	Measure/Indicator	2013 Achievement
Employment		
Individuals in the community obtain employment or higher paying jobs.	Individuals who were unemployed obtained a job.	3,733
	Individuals who obtain an increase in employment income.	1,988
Employment Supports		
Barriers to initial or continuous employment faced by low-income individuals are reduced or eliminated.	Individuals who completed ABE/GED or post-secondary education programs and received a certificate or diploma.	1,320
	Individuals who obtained skills and/or competencies required for employment.	2,883
	Individuals who obtained access to reliable transportation and/or driver's license in order to acquire or maintain employment.	31,138
	Individuals who obtained safe and affordable housing in support of family stability needed to gain or retain employment.	3,063
	Individuals who obtained food assistance in support of family stability needed to gain or retain employment.	72,595
	Families who obtained care for child or other dependent in order to acquire or maintain employment.	9,606
	Households who obtained non-emergency energy assistance.	149,839
	Households who obtained non-emergency weatherization assistance.	2,656
Economic Asset Enhancement and Utilization		
Households and individuals achieve an increase in non-employment financial assets, financial skills, and/or resource utilization skills.	Households in tax preparation programs who obtained a Federal or State tax credit.	14,068
	Estimated amount of tax credits: \$18,301,703	
	Individuals who demonstrated ability to complete a budget for over 90 days.	3,558
	Households who demonstrated good or restored credit.	2,321
	Individuals who increased their savings through an Individual Development Account (IDA) or other savings account.	542
	Estimated amount of increased savings: \$96,613	
	Individuals who capitalized a small business with accumulated savings.	25
	Individuals who pursued post-secondary education with accumulated savings.	40
	Individuals who purchased a home with accumulated savings.	33

Family Results:

Low-income people become more self-sufficient.

Outcome	Measure/Indicator	2013 Achievement
Independent Living		
Number of vulnerable individuals receiving services from Community Action who maintain an independent living situation.	Senior Citizens served by Community Action.	100,239
	Individuals with disabilities served by Community Action.	71,527
Emergency Assistance		
Individuals receive emergency assistance to resolve crisis and are able to become and remain stable within their communities.	Individuals who received food or vouchers.	30,318
	Individuals who received emergency payments to vendors, including fuel and energy bills.	102,585
	Individuals who received rent or mortgage assistance.	6,443
	Individuals who received temporary shelter.	839
	Individuals who averted foreclosure and maintain their home.	1,643
	Individuals who received clothing.	20,794
Child and Family Development		
Children and youth from low-income families participate in developmental or enrichment programs and achieve program goals.	Infants and children that obtained age appropriate immunizations, medical and dental care.	10,504
	Infants and children whose health and physical development are improved as a result of adequate nutrition.	17,544
	Children who participated in preschool activities to develop school readiness activities.	5,896
	Parents and other adults who learned and exhibited improved parenting skills.	8,971
	Parents and other adults who learned and exhibited improved family functioning skills.	8,738
Family Supports		
Low-income people who are unable to work, especially seniors, adults with disabilities, and caregivers, for whom barriers to family stability are reduced or eliminated.	Obtained care for child or other dependent.	584
	Obtained access to reliable transportation and/or driver's license.	14,337
	Obtained safe and affordable housing.	2,383
	Obtained food assistance.	57,457
	Obtained non-emergency energy assistance.	136,400
	Obtained non-emergency weatherization assistance.	1,623
Other Services Provided		
The number of services provided to low-income individuals and/or families.	Pounds of food.	3,564,444
	Rides provided.	1,379,222

Community Results:

Conditions In Which Low-Income People's Lives Are Improved.

Outcome	Measure/Indicator	2013 Achievement
Community Improvement & Revitalization		
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.	Safe and affordable housing units created in the community.	1,024
	Safe and affordable housing units preserved or improved through construction, Weatherization or rehabilitation. *Includes loans, rehab work and/or advocacy.	3,395
	Accessible and affordable health care services/facilities for limited low-income people created or maintained.	6,599
	Accessible safe and affordable child care or child development placement opportunities for low-income families created or maintained.	14,927
	Accessible new or expanded transportation resources, or preserved transportation resources available to low-income families, including public or private transportation.	689,372
	Accessible new or increased educational and training placement opportunities or those are saved from reduction or elimination, that are available for low-income people in the community.	4,331
Information and Referral		
Access to community resources is improved.	Information, referral and outreach services provided to households requesting assistance.	836,539
Community Engagement through Maximum Feasible Participation		
The number of community members working with Community Action to improve conditions in the community.	Number of community members mobilized by Community Action who participate in community revitalization and anti-poverty initiatives.	20,301
	Number of volunteer hours donated to the agency.	2,023,124

Agency Results:

Agencies Increase Their Capacity to Achieve Results.

Outcome	Measure/Indicator	2013 Achievement
Expanding Opportunities through Community-Wide Partnerships.		
Services and programs are efficient, well-integrated, non duplicative and meet the needs of low-income people in the community.	The number of organizations, both public and private, that Community Action actively worked with to expand resources and opportunities in order to achieve family and community outcomes.	12,075
Broadening Agency Resource Base		
Agency has increased funding to insure smooth program and agency operation in order to serve low-income individual and families more effectively.	Funding leveraged through the Community Services Block Grant and the Minnesota Community Action Grant by Community Action Agencies (Tribal Governments not included).	\$276 million
Agency Capacity		
Agency programs are regularly evaluated and improved to maximize strengths and deliver sound services to the community.	Training hours that agency staff attended.	153,627
	Training hours that agency Board of Directors attended.	5,598

2013 Community Action Services by Agency

	Community Action Agencies																	Tribal Governments																			
	Anoka County CAP	Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency	Bi-County CAP	CA Duluth	CAP Ramsey and Washington	CAP of Scott, Carver, and Dakota Counties	CAP of Suburban Hennepin	Heartland CAA	Inter-County CC	KOOTASCA CA	Lakes and Pines CAC	Lakes and 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 and Loans		◆				◆			◆	◆			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Home Repair/Rehabilitation	◆	◆		◆		◆		◆		◆			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Small Cities Development Grants (SCDG)			◆							◆			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆							◆	◆	◆											
Rental Housing Assistance	◆	◆			◆		◆	◆		◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Community Homeownership Education	◆	◆	◆		◆		◆		◆				◆											◆	◆	◆											
Low-Income Housing Development and Stabilization	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆										◆		◆		◆		◆		◆	◆												
EMERGENCY SERVICES																																					
Energy Assistance (EAP)	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Energy Crisis	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Fuel Fund				◆	◆	◆		◆				◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Homeless Assistance	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Transitional Housing		◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Emergency Family Services				◆	◆	◆		◆		◆	◆					◆										◆			◆							◆	
Abuse and Neglect Services				◆	◆						◆			◆	◆	◆				◆		◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Donated Articles		◆			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆				◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Crisis Intervention	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆

2013 Statewide Community Action Program Activity Results

Data is from the FY2013 reporting year. See page 147 for definitions and descriptions of program activities.

		People Served	Households Served	Times Service Provided
EMPLOYMENT				
D3	Youth Employment	861	691	630
D6	Senior Employment Programs	150	150	150
D8	Displaced Homemakers	447	244	448
D9	Employment and Training Services	3,928	3,500	5,197
A1	Community Development	51	47	77
A5	Cottage Industries	147	124	1
EDUCATION				
L2	Literacy	4,735	2,616	1,694
L3	English/Second Language (ESL)	23	8	20
L5	GED, ABE and Educational Services	2,253	686	1,924
INCOME MANAGEMENT				
M2	Financial Education	12,999	5,479	6,915
M3	Tax Preparation Assistance	25,354	9,850	9,757
M4	Asset Development and Savings Programs	782	560	1,778
HOUSING (Grants, Development, Education, etc.)				
B1	Weatherization	5,506	2,049	2,025
B7	Energy Related Repairs	12,973	4,951	4,454
B9	Energy Conservation Services	3,807	1,519	1,520
C1	Housing Grants and Loans	899	359	321
C3	Home Repair/Rehabilitation	1,471	902	420
C5	Small Cities Development Grants (SCDG)	535	208	192
C6	Rental Housing Assistance	3,034	1,353	1,320
C9	Community Homeownership Education	3,134	1,362	1,351
C12	Low-Income Housing Development and Stabilization	9,717	3,473	4,206
EMERGENCY SERVICES				
B5	Energy Assistance	368,637	134,132	135,427
B6	Energy Crisis	111,077	37,441	37,652
B8	Fuel Fund	2,477	1,066	861
C10	Homeless Assistance	14,459	7,650	12,119
C11	Transitional Housing	794	415	654
G1	Emergency Family Services	2,437	1,574	1,706
G3	Abuse and Neglect	509	295	260
G6	Donated Articles	242,567	88,569	92,230
G8	Crisis Intervention	13,132	5,527	5,513

2013 Statewide Community Action Program Activity Results

		People Served	Households Served	Times Service Provided
NUTRITION				
H3	Holiday Projects	8,777	3,246	3,118
H4	Women, Infants, Children (WIC)	18,495	7,376	74,891
H5	Gardening	5,274	1,868	1,643
H6	Home Delivered Meals	3,941	1,965	542,255
H7	Congregate Meals	16,744	7,958	655,822
H9	USDA Commodity Assistance	10,243	6,047	252
H10	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Outreach	67,041	47,929	71,362
H11	Food Assistance	68,396	30,762	283,605
LINKAGES				
E1	Transportation System	85,433	22,372	1,221,569
E3	Transportation Assistance	19,914	7,541	221,328
E4	Vehicle Program	989	478	716
E5	Transportation Safety Programs	2,433	978	973
F1	Senior Oriented Services	5,314	3,718	12,901
F3	Chore Services	1,469	1,293	100,700
F5	Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)	3,273	1,544	68,745
F6	Senior Companion/Foster Grandparent	1,403	1,334	31,364
K1	Information and Referral	658,404	573,558	707,484
K2	Outreach	2,125,016	1,736,909	1,892,081
K3	Public Education, Information and Advocacy	882,032	624,095	805,736
K4	Benefit Enrollment and Application Assistance	7,673	2,613	4,057
K5	Leadership Development	552	210	90
SELF-SUFFICIENCY				
J1	Head Start	17,785	9,640	13,451
J2	Early Childhood Care and Education	4,950	3,795	7,384
J3	Child Care Administration	446	218	2,149
J4	At Risk Youth	2,381	847	3,229
J5	Campership	7	4	1
J6	Child Care Aware	12,864	8,214	8,076
J7	Youth Recreation	2,310	827	37,121
J8	Parenting	7,963	5,170	10,266
J9	Fatherhood Initiative	1,161	1,175	1,525
J10	Crisis Nursery	477	172	454
M1	Self-Sufficiency	11,374	6,297	8,663
M5	Family Loan Fund	54	22	22
HEALTH				
I1	Health Care Assistance (Non-Financial)	3,780	3,646	15,215
I2	Health Care Assistance (Financial)	702	488	487
I3	Family Planning	4,265	4,263	7,086

Community Action Redesign Explorations

The 2014 Legislature adopted new language for the state Minnesota Community Action legislation (Minnesota Statutes 256e.30, Subdivision 2) which removes disincentives to merge for local Community Action Agencies (CAAs). The statute allows merged CAAs to retain the base funding of each agency in the base component of the Community Action formula. For more information visit: <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=256E.30>.

Community Action's fifty year history has seen numerous agency reconfigurations, partnerships, shared services and even mergers. In the early 2000s, Freeborn County Community Action Agency merged with Semcac in southeastern Minnesota. These conversations are not new. They exemplify the value that Community Action places on innovation in service delivery. Community Action strives to alleviate poverty by providing high quality and user friendly services to the largest number of people and in the most financially efficient way possible.

Redesign options range from shared services and employees, to partnerships or collaborations, to mergers. The following are commonly used definitions of each (though different agencies can define the same activities with different names or labels):

- **Shared Services** – Relationships between one or more organizations to more effectively meet mission by sharing internal procedures, training, functions, best practices (human resources, information technology, accounting)
- **Shared Employees** – When two or more agencies employ the services of one staff.
- **Collaborations** – When two or more organizations work together to expand or improve program services, reach more clients, etc.
- **Mergers** – When two or more organizations join governance, finance, administrative, and operational functions to become one organization.

Community Action Agencies (CAAs) explore redesign options for a variety of reasons including:

- to respond to challenging external factors (e.g. reduced funding, increased costs, increased demand for services);
- to improve, expand, or preserve services;
- to strengthen the agency's financial position; and/or,
- to enhance organizational capacity.

The guidepost for decisions about whether and what form any partnership should take must be based on how best to fulfill the agency's mission. Exploring redesign prior to a crisis puts the CAA in a position of strength in deciding what is best.

A first step for any CAA considering redesign exploration is to conduct an organizational self-assessment that explores motivations, goals, critical issues, obstacles, red flags and the agency's financial position. From there, the agency can make an informed decision with respect to how redesign might best fulfill the agency's mission. At that point, the continuum of partnership options, such as shared services/employees, collaborations, or merger can be considered by the board and executive director.

CAPLAW, a leading legal services provider for Community Action nationally, conducted a literature review of nonprofit mergers, and did case studies of CAAs that have merged or engaged in shared services arrangements. They found the following key success factors:

- Trust (e.g. through familiarity with partner or past working experience);
- Clear strategic planning and vision for the partnership compatible with both organizations' missions;
- Redesign champion (board member or executive director) and board leadership;
- Experienced executive director;

- Board and staff buy-in (particularly for mergers);
- Thorough due diligence; and,
- Attention to organizational culture and integration issues, as well as internal and external communication.

CAPLAW also identifies potential roadblocks, including concern about loss of identity, cost and time involved, funding source rules (e.g. Head Start’s recompetition requirement), lack of board or staff buy-in, underestimating differences in organizational culture, and lack of attention to communication strategy.

While each partnership is unique common threads in recent Minnesota examples are:

- Agencies should survey the future for upcoming opportunities to embark on redesign, such as an executive director’s impending retirement, as well as what is happening in the larger service area that might affect redesign activities (such as other mergers, etc.);
- A previous and positive working relationship between agencies can provide a foundation for redesign success, as trust between partners is crucial to such work;
- An outside strategic facilitator can be helpful to the process, though not essential to success in all cases;
- It is optimal if partners can proceed at a speed that makes sense for their work together (rather than a speed dictated by outside factors), enabling them to move to a deeper level of discussions only when all partners comfortable to do so;
- It is possible to save funds through shared programming and staff, combined human resources and fiscal activities, even without fully merging;
- A central focus on how to continually serve families better should be a driving force of redesign discussions, rather than a central focus on how to save money;
- It is important to keep participants, staff, management, boards and communities updated with honest communication about the redesign process;
- The word “merger” can cause fear, so it is important to intentionally use words to describe redesign partnerships that do not unwittingly contribute anxiety to the process. Words such as “join” may prove a helpful alternative; and,
- Patience is extremely important to the success of redesign work.

Selected Redesign Exploration Resources

- CAPLAW has resources (www.capl原因.org) about shared services, partnerships and merger. See in particular *Working Better Together: CAPLAW’s Guide to Shared Services and Mergers*, a guide to help CAAs and other CSBG organizations better understand such arrangements. Available at: <http://www.capl原因.org/resources/PublicationDocuments/WorkingBetterTogether.html>)
- MAP for Nonprofits provides assessment of and support for nonprofit realignment. Learn more at: <http://www.mapfor nonprofits.org/>. See their publication *Merge Minnesota: Nonprofit Merger as an Opportunity for Survival and Growth*. Available at: http://nonprofitfinancefund.org/files/images/initiatives/mergeminnnesota_mapfor nonprofits.pdf.
- MAP for Nonprofits and Wilder Research issued a report, *Synopsis: Success Factors in Nonprofit Merger*, which describes findings from a study of 41 direct service organization mergers in Minnesota between 1999 and 2010. Available at: <http://www.mapfor nonprofits.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/SuccessFactorsFullReport.pdf>.
- Compasspoint has a publication *The M Word: A board Member’s Guide to Merger*. Available at: http://www.compasspoint.org/sites/default/files/docs/research/445_mwordfinal2005.pdf.
- The Greater Twin Cities United Way recently convened a half-day New Structures for New Times forum on the topic, and shared new Minnesota-based research identifying success factors. Resources from the convening can be found at: <http://unitedfrontmn.org/unitedwayforums/mergers-resources/>.

Poverty in Minnesota

Poverty and Economic Insecurity in Minnesota

Despite the state's ongoing recovery from the Great Recession, many Minnesotans continue to face economic insecurity as they struggle with poverty or low-incomes with little or no assets. Low-wage workers, families with children, seniors, rural and urban Minnesotans, and people of color all count among the populations that lack the financial resources to, at minimum, meet their basic needs. The following trends provide a snapshot of poverty and economic insecurity in Minnesota.

In 2013, 11.2% of Minnesotans, almost 600,000 people, lived in poverty.¹ In recent years, the poverty rate has stabilized, but it remains more than three percentage points above the pre-recession low of 8% in 2003. The federal poverty guideline provides the official definition of "living in poverty" and is issued each year by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In 2015, a family of four with an annual income less than \$24,250 or a single individual with an annual income less than \$11,770 is defined as living in poverty.² Families living in poverty often face food insecurity, unstable housing, limited access to quality child care, unreliable transportation for work, or medical bills. Similarly, the poorest 20% of Minnesotans are 4.5 times as likely to be uninsured compared to the wealthiest 20% of Minnesotans.³ Overall, these circumstances create chronic stress and instability that negatively impact families and communities.

Many low-wage workers, who technically live above the official poverty guideline, also struggle to make ends meet and find it difficult to get ahead and thrive. According to Minnesota's JOBS NOW Coalition, a family of four with two working parents needs over \$58,000 a year to meet its basic needs; an amount more than double the official poverty threshold. To achieve this annual income, each parent would need to earn an hourly wage of \$14.03, yet 39% of Minnesota jobs pay less than this amount.⁴ Although low-income (twice the poverty level) is still less than the actual cost of living for a Minnesota family, this measure offers a more accurate picture of the number families that have inadequate income to meet basic needs. Using this guideline, nearly one-third of Minnesota children live in low-income households.⁵ For low-income families, an unexpected job loss, health problem or other life change can easily become a crisis and push a household into poverty.

Poverty is not evenly distributed across the state.

Though Minnesota has a lower poverty rate than the national average, there are areas within the state that have significantly higher rates. Poverty rates are higher in the cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul, some rural counties in greater Minnesota, and on and near American Indian Reservations. The highest poverty rates in the state include rural counties. In 2013, 13 counties had rates above 15% with more than 20% of the population in Beltrami (21.9%) and Mahnommen (26.2%) counties living in poverty.⁶ In contrast, the lowest poverty rates in the state include metro counties, such as Carver (5.0%), Scott (5.5%) and Washington (5.7%).

Poverty is increasingly suburbanized in the Twin Cities metro area.

Since 2000, the suburban share of the Twin Cities metro area's poor has significantly increased. Analysis of 2008 data showed that poverty rates in Hennepin and Ramsey Counties were highest in the metro area and higher than the statewide rate, but that the overall share of the metro area's poor was larger in the suburbs. By 2008, 54% of poor individuals lived in the suburbs compared to 46% in the central Twin Cities.⁷ The suburbs are now home to the largest and fastest-growing poor population.

Racial disparities in poverty rates and household incomes persist.

Statewide data masks significant racial and ethnic disparities in income and poverty. People of color make up the fastest growing segment of Minnesota's population. From 2000 to 2010, 86% of the state's growth was in people of color.⁸ The state's economy depends on the contributions of all Minnesotans, but across the state people of color are disproportionately more likely to face economic insecurity. In 2013, Minnesota ranked 9th highest among states for its median household income (\$60,702), more than \$8,400 higher than the U.S. median income (\$52,250), but not all Minnesotans share in this advantage.⁹ In 2010-2012, while the median income for non-Hispanic white households was \$60,221, the median income was much lower for American Indians (\$27,749), African-Americans (\$26,500) and Hispanics (\$39,199).¹⁰ Similarly, poverty rates for American Indians, Asians, African-Americans and Hispanics in Minnesota are significantly higher than the national average for these communities. In 2013, 17.7% of Asians, 23.4% of Hispanics, 32.4% of American Indians, and 32.8% of African-Americans lived in poverty in Minnesota.¹¹ Persistent racial disparities in poverty are in part driven by higher levels of unemployment. Overall unemployment for Minnesota's workers in 2013 was 5.4%, the lowest rate reported in the past five years, but unemployment among African-American Minnesotans was 15% and Hispanic unemployment was 9%.¹² Overall, in Minnesota, people of color are nearly three times as likely as white people to be uninsured.

Families with children are more likely to be poor.

Although 7.2% of all Minnesota families live in poverty, the rate is higher for families with related children at 12.2%. In married couple families with children, the rate is 4.4%, while 35.1% of single parent, female-headed households with related children under 18 years live in poverty and 44.6% of single parent, female-headed households with related children under 5 years live in poverty.¹³

Children are disproportionately poor.

Children remain the poorest age group in Minnesota. In 2013, 14.0% of children across the state lived in poverty in comparison to 10.9% of people aged 18-64 and 7.4% of people aged 65 and older.¹⁴ Census data also shows that the youngest children experience poverty at higher rates, with 15.3% under the age of five, living in poverty. The early years of a child's brain development can be seriously impacted by poor nutrition, unstable housing, toxic environmental stress and other socioeconomic effects of poverty. The long-term developmental effects of poverty can influence a child's entire life with significant social, emotional, behavioral, academic, physical, and adult earning outcomes. It is estimated that child poverty costs Minnesota \$5.7 billion each year in terms of lost productivity and earnings and greater criminal justice and healthcare costs.¹⁵ Further, research indicates that similar to children in poverty, low-income children, also face disparities in education, health and development.¹⁶

Childhood poverty is more likely to affect children of color.

Children of color experience particularly high poverty rates. In 2012, 38% of American Indian, 46% of African-American, 30% of Hispanic and 20% of Asian and Pacific Islander children lived in poverty in comparison to 8% of white children.¹⁷ As the racial and ethnic diversity of the state's population becomes increasingly diverse, disparities in childhood poverty are particularly troubling and have long-term consequences.

Employment does not guarantee economic security.

Many low-income families find it difficult to achieve economic security through work alone. When jobs pay low wages, offer less than full-time hours, or lack adequate benefits, earned income does not always provide a path out of poverty. For low-wage and low-skilled workers who were significantly impacted by the Recession, unemployment and underemployment have persisted and the benefits of the recovery have not been realized to the same degree as other categories of workers.

Safety net programs reduced income poverty.

The U.S. Census Supplemental Poverty Measure shows that work and income supports alleviate economic hardship and keep many families out of poverty. According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, nationwide in 2013 the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) lifted about 6.2 million people out of poverty, including about 3.2 million children.¹⁸ The number of poor children would have been one-quarter higher without the EITC. The credit reduced the severity of poverty for another 21.6 million people, including 7.8 million children. In conjunction with the Child Tax Credit, the EITC lifts even more families with children above poverty. Safety net programs are vital as medical and work related expenses push many people into poverty.

Income inequality and asset poverty.

By the late 2000s, the richest 20% of Minnesota households had average incomes 7 times larger than the poorest 20% and 2.5 times as large as the middle 20%.¹⁹ A review of Minnesota income data from pre- and post- recession shows the share of household income fell for every income quintile except those in the top. The share of income for the most affluent Minnesotans grew by more than 2% from 2006 to 2011 compared to the bottom quintile that fell by more than 6% during the same period.²⁰

Rising income inequality and poverty block households from building savings and wealth. Liquid asset poverty measures the percentage of households who lack sufficient net worth to live at the poverty level for three months in the absence of any income. A household of 4 with less than \$5,963 in liquid savings is asset poor. In Minnesota, 22% of all households are asset poor.²¹ Poor households and households of color are more likely to face asset poverty. Nationally, four in five of the poorest households and 61% of households of color are asset poor. For example, in recent years the gap in homeownership rates between households of color and white households has widened, resulting in Minnesota being one of 10 states with the greatest gap. While safety net programs and policies that make “work pay” affect income poverty, policies that increase income and create opportunities for saving and asset building reduce asset poverty.

Expanding economic opportunity to reduce poverty and economic insecurity.

Minnesota prospers when all of its citizens have the ability to meet their basic needs, maximize their human potential, and participate in the state’s labor force. Community Action strives to serve the diverse needs of people experiencing poverty. As families struggle to make ends meet, they turn to Community Action to meet their household needs and to improve their economic opportunities. Minnesota Community Action has made significant investments in expanded services to meet the sustained increase in demand for economic opportunity services. These efforts are helping people to help themselves by mitigating the effects of poverty and by providing the opportunities that people need to get ahead and achieve greater economic security.

Data Sources:

1. [2013 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates](#). U.S. Census.
2. [2015 HHS Poverty Guidelines](#). Published in the Federal Register on January 22, 2015.
3. [2015 Assets & Opportunity Scorecard: Minnesota Ranks in Top Ten of All States for Financial Security of its Residents](#). CFED, January 2015.
4. [Key Statewide Findings and Analysis from JOBS NOW’s Updated Cost of Living in Minnesota Research](#). JOBS NOW, March 2010.
5. [Minnesota KIDS Count 2014: Budgeting for Better Child Outcomes](#). Children’s Defense Fund–Minnesota, October 2014.
6. [2009-2013 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates](#). U.S. Census.
7. [The Suburbanization of Poverty: Trends in Metropolitan America, 2000–2008](#). The Brookings Institution, January 2010.
8. [Minnesota State Demographic Center](#).
9. [2013 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates](#). U.S. Census.
10. [Median household income by racial and ethnic group, Minnesota, 1989-2012](#). Minnesota Compass.
11. [2013 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates](#). U.S. Census.
12. Ibid.
13. Ibid.
14. Ibid.
15. [2011 Kids Count](#). Children’s Defense Fund-Minnesota, September 2011.
16. [Does Money Really Matter? Estimating the Impacts of Family Income on young Children’s Achievement with Data from Random-Assignment Experiments](#). Duncan, G., Morria, P. & Rodriguew, C. (2011).
17. [Children in Poverty by Race and Ethnicity](#). Kids Count Data Center. Children’s Defense Fund. Available at: .
18. [Policy Basics: The Earned Income Tax Credit](#). Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, January 2015.
19. [Income Inequality Grows in Minnesota](#). Minnesota Budget Project, November 2012.
20. [Minnesota KIDS Count 2013: A data visualization of child well-being](#). Children’s Defense Fund
21. [2015 Assets & Opportunities Scorecard](#). CFED, January 2015.

Poverty in Minnesota

Federal Poverty Guidelines

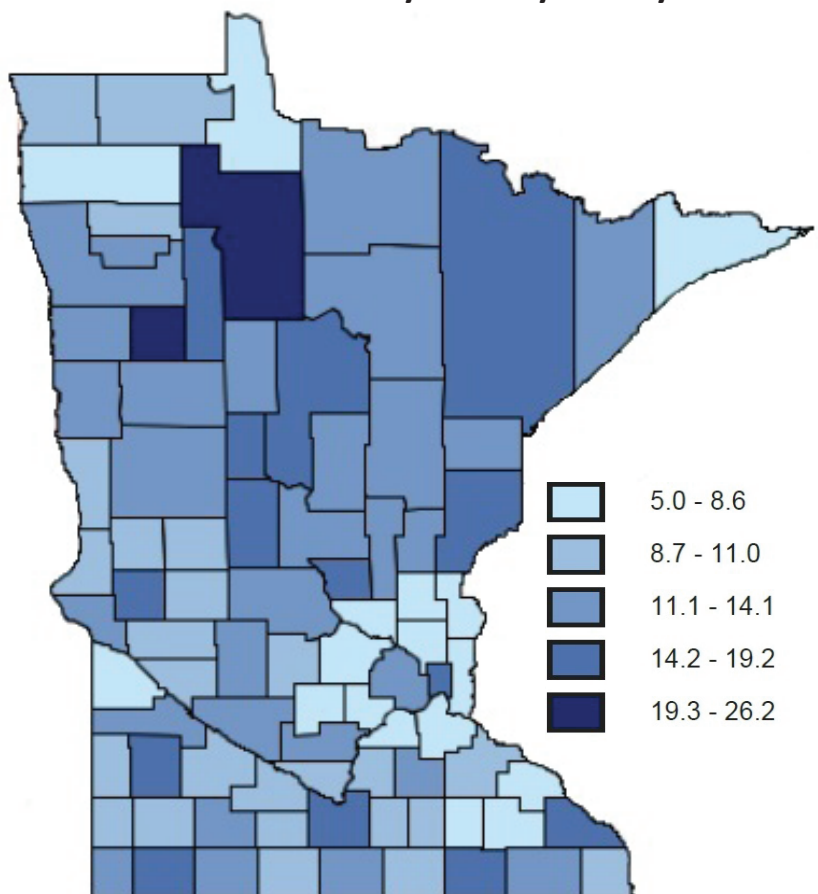
The federal poverty guidelines are issued each year in the Federal Register by the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The guidelines are adjusted for families of different size. The poverty guidelines are used in setting eligibility criteria for a number of federal and state programs. Based on eligibility requirements, some programs use a percentage multiple of the guidelines, such as 125%, 150%, 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 programs
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants & Children (WIC)
- Weatherization Assistance

2015 Federal Poverty Guidelines			
Family Size	48 Contiguous states and D.C.	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$11,770	\$14,720	\$13,550
2	15,930	19,920	18,330
3	20,090	25,120	23,110
4	24,250	30,320	27,890
5	28,410	35,520	32,670
6	32,570	40,720	37,450
7	36,730	45,920	42,230
8	40,890	51,120	47,010
For each additional person, add:	\$4,160	\$5,200	\$4,780

The poverty guidelines are updated periodically in the Federal Register by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the authority of 42 U.S.C. 9902(2).

Percentage of Individuals Below Poverty Level by County



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2013 5-Year American Community Survey

2013 Community Action Participant Demographics

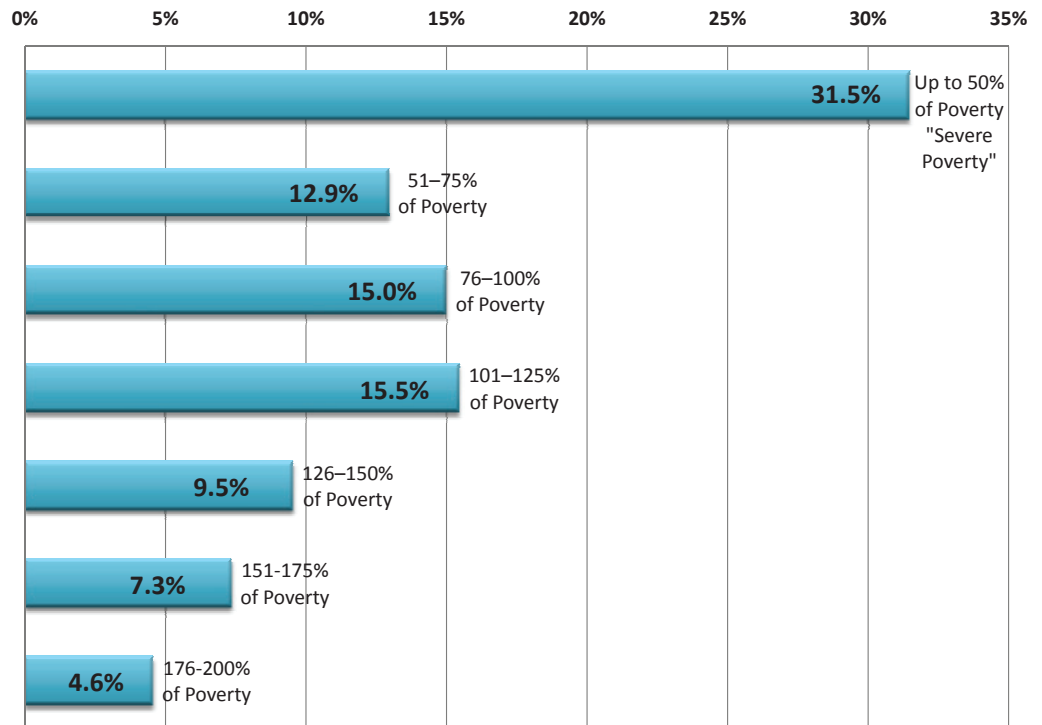
According to the 2013 American Community Survey, 11.2% of Minnesotans live in poverty (having incomes below the federal poverty line). Across Minnesota, Community Action Agencies reach out to people experiencing poverty, and many more very near poverty, to give them a helping hand and assist them to achieve economic self-sufficiency by reducing barriers and increasing opportunities for success.

In Minnesota in FY2013, 587,878 low-income people in 233,394 families were served by Community Action. Community Action serves a very diverse population. Participant characteristics reflect the Community Action commitment to change the lives of people most in need. Below are the demographics of the individuals and families helped throughout.

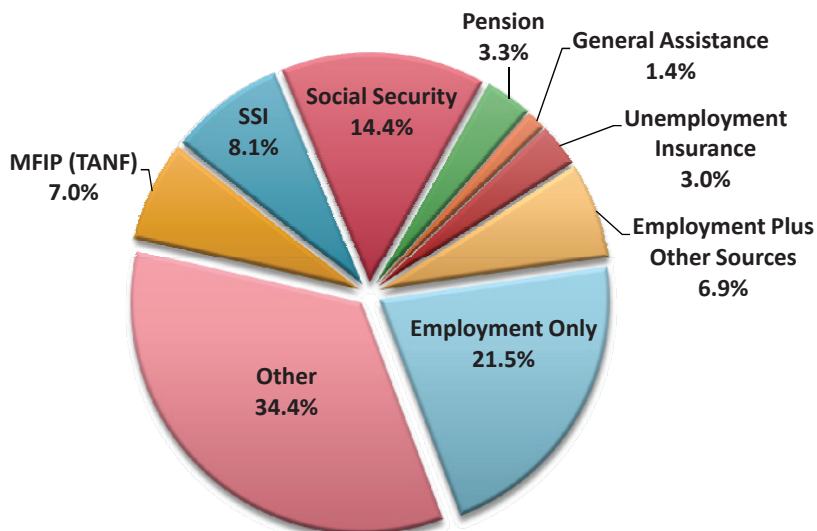
Family Income by Percentage of Federal Poverty Level

Poverty & Income

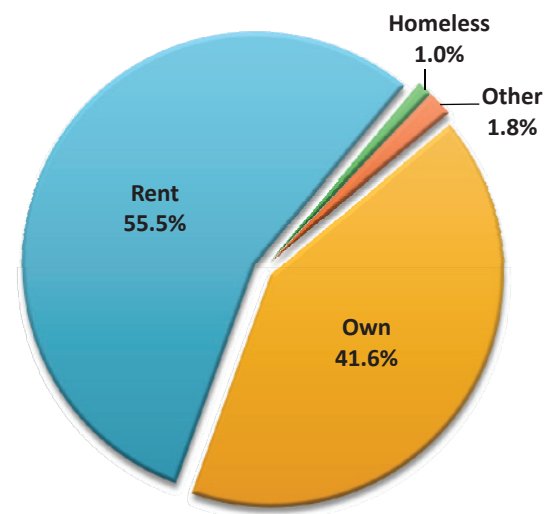
- 31.5% of families had income below 50% of the federal poverty line, i.e. severe poverty.
- 84.4% of families were poor or near poor with income less than 1.5 times the federal poverty line.
- Only 5.0% of families reported no income; the majority had income from one or more sources.
- 21.5% of families had income from employment only.
- 17.75% of families had retirement income.

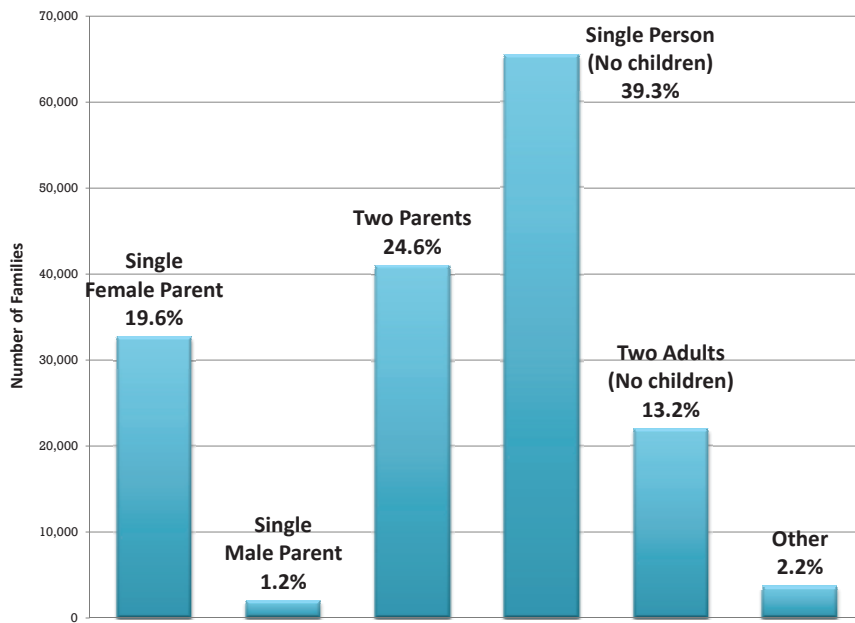


Sources of Family Income



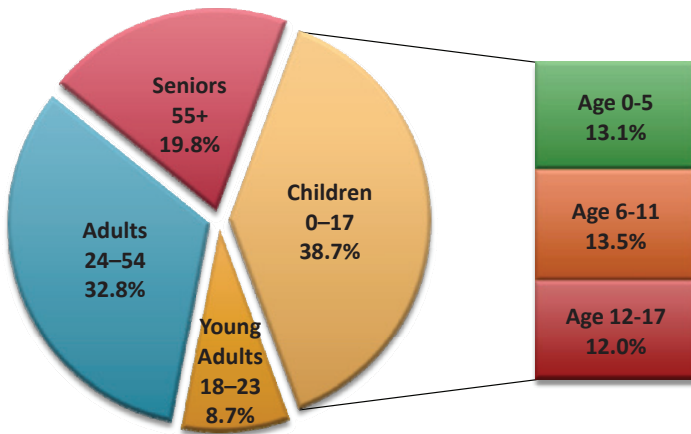
Housing Status of Participants





Family Composition of Households Served

- 24.6% of families served had two parents.
- 19.6% of families were headed by single mothers and 1.2% by single fathers.
- 27.5% of families had three or four members.

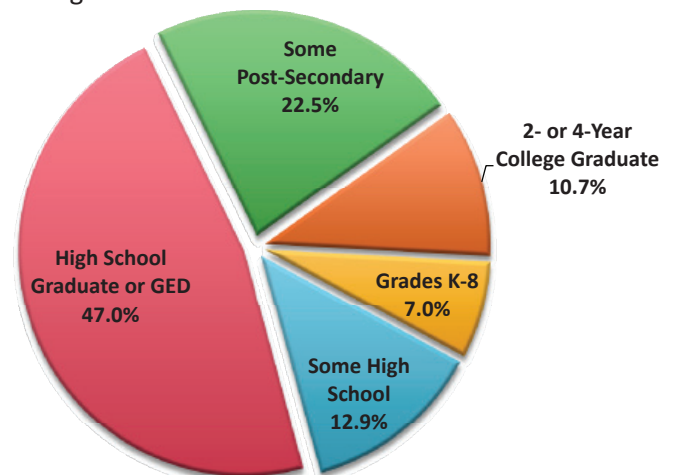
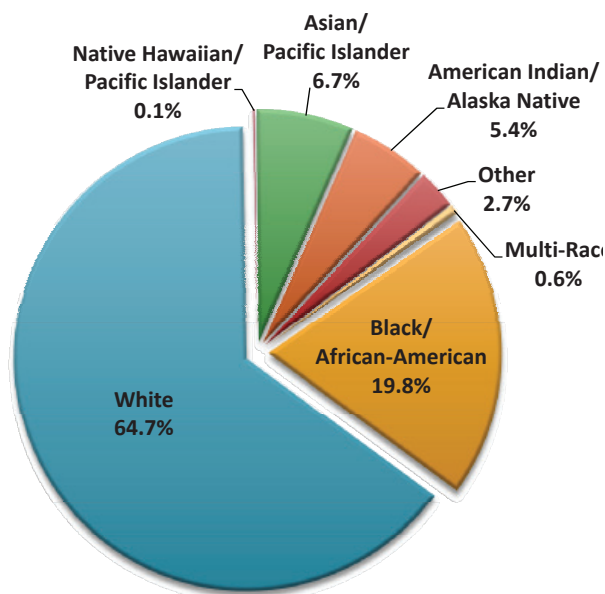


Age, Race/Ethnicity and Gender of Participants

- 38.7% of participants were children younger than 18.
- 19.8% were seniors age 55 and older.
- 35.3% of participants were a racial minority with 11.2% of people identifying as Hispanic.
- 56% of participants were female and 44% were male.

Education Level of Participants over 24 Years of Age

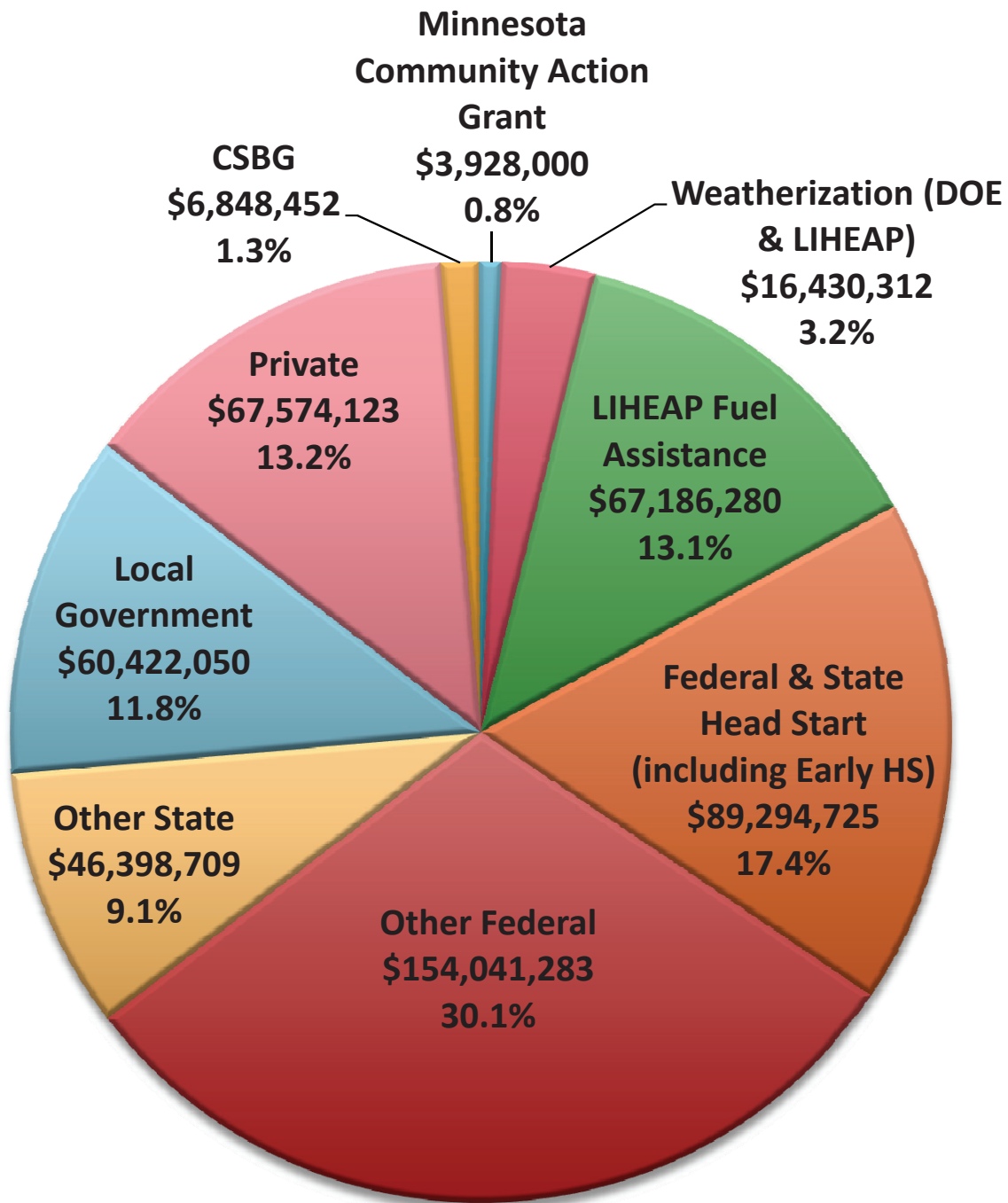
- 47.0% of participants had completed High School or have obtained their GED.
- 33.2% of participants had some postsecondary education or had completed a 2- or 4-year college degree.



Funding

Minnesota’s Community Action Network is supported by varied funding sources. In 2013, \$6.8 million in federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funding and \$3.9 million in Minnesota Community Action Grant funding allowed Minnesota’s Community Action Agencies and Tribal Governments to leverage more than \$501 million in additional funding.

Total Community Action Network Funding \$512,123,934



Funding Sources

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) - \$6,848,452

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 - \$313,122,608 (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 and Children Nutrition Program (WIC)

Other State Funding - \$60,228,701 (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 - \$60,422,050

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

Private Funding - \$67,574,123

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

2013 Financial Leveraging Summary

COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES	Community Services Block Grant	Minnesota Community Action Grant	Weatherization	LIHEAP Fuel Assistance	Federal & State Head Start
Anoka County Community Action Program	\$244,963	\$135,591	\$290,902	\$2,465,169	\$5,005,558
Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency	\$178,061	\$101,954	\$1,469,310	\$1,248,462	\$3,526,511
Bi-County Community Action Program	\$158,075	\$91,906	\$490,565	\$556,775	\$2,868,711
Community Action Duluth	\$205,632	\$115,816	\$0	\$0	\$0
Community Action of Minneapolis*	\$942,492	\$498,719	\$1,784,940	\$7,384,065	\$0
Community Action Partnership of Ramsey & Washington	\$954,391	\$504,701	\$1,819,007	\$2,622,109	\$11,298,188
Community Action Partnership of Scott, Carver, and Dakota Counties	\$375,091	\$213,446	\$98,403	\$4,085,771	\$2,801,731
Community Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin	\$572,788	\$312,842	\$0	\$6,825,295	\$0
Heartland Community Action Agency	\$143,269	\$84,462	\$570,519	\$1,965,279	\$2,314,203
Inter-County Community Council	\$72,819	\$49,042	\$290,319	\$1,479,403	\$1,291,239
KOOTASCA Community Action	\$104,565	\$65,003	\$376,152	\$1,246,481	\$2,246,261
Lakes & Pines Community Action Council	\$264,481	\$145,404	\$548,221	\$1,251,417	\$3,111,386
Lakes and Prairies Community Action Partnership	\$105,854	\$65,651	\$0	\$0	\$1,961,194
Mahube-Otwa Community Action Partnership	\$226,582	\$138,780	\$1,713,775	\$6,750,371	\$4,614,341
Minnesota Valley Action Council	\$353,965	\$202,825	\$602,964	\$3,551,648	\$3,602,875
Northwest Community Action	\$44,132	\$28,404	\$263,999	\$1,473,267	\$2,176,781
Prairie Five Community Action Council	\$76,252	\$50,768	\$244,131	\$1,679,862	\$1,554,304
Semcac	\$281,740	\$154,081	\$746,361	\$3,832,244	\$2,559,570
Southwest Minnesota Opportunity Council	\$95,872	\$60,633	\$320,260	\$1,264,759	\$1,737,597
Three Rivers Community Action**	\$284,826	\$168,064	\$848,970	\$1,787,308	\$1,663,576
Tri-County Action Programs	\$357,889	\$204,798	\$964,244	\$4,728,951	\$0
Tri-County Community Action Program	\$181,369	\$103,618	\$857,716	\$0	\$4,431,761
Tri-Valley Opportunity Council	\$75,568	\$50,424	\$0	\$207,601	\$11,794,730
West Central Minnesota Communities Action	\$109,184	\$67,325	\$713,240	\$4,697,020	\$2,549,176
Western Community Action	\$104,188	\$64,813	\$579,970	\$915,102	\$1,622,924
Wright County Community Action	\$98,108	\$61,757	\$343,595	\$1,628,561	\$1,896,786
CAA SUBTOTAL	\$6,612,156	\$3,740,827	\$15,937,563	\$63,646,920	\$76,629,403
TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS***					
Boise Forte Reservation Tribal Council	\$15,089	\$14,492	\$20,038	\$21,269	\$276,918
Fond Du Lac Reservation Business Committee	\$23,016	\$18,478	\$3,365	\$50,561	\$2,159,748
Grand Portage Reservation Tribal Council	\$15,908	\$14,905	\$0	\$7,440	\$228,818
Leech Lake Reservation Tribal Council	\$41,155	\$27,598	\$0	\$1,487,617	\$3,771,764
Lower Sioux Indian Community	\$15,193	\$14,544	\$0	\$0	\$0
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe	\$27,147	\$20,555	\$94,966	\$0	\$2,398,656
Red Lake Tribal Council	\$37,682	\$25,852	\$267,876	\$1,780,703	\$1,645,232
Upper Sioux Community	\$26,967	\$26,679	\$0	\$0	\$0
White Earth Reservation Tribal Council	\$34,139	\$24,070	\$106,504	\$191,770	\$2,184,186
TRIBAL SUBTOTAL	\$236,296	\$187,173	\$492,749	\$3,539,360	\$12,665,322
STATEWIDE NETWORK TOTAL	\$6,848,452	\$3,928,000	\$16,430,312	\$67,186,280	\$89,294,725

* Community Action of Minneapolis: Data presented above is from FY2013. State contracts were terminated in September 2014.

** Three Rivers Community Action funding includes that of Olmsted Community Action Program, which merged with Three Rivers on July 1, 2013.

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

2013 Financial Leveraging Summary

COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES	Other Federal****	Other State	Local Government	Private	Total Funding
Anoka County Community Action Program	\$1,803,378	\$316	\$624,463	\$4,114,812	\$14,685,152
Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency	\$5,829,800	\$11,007,558	\$4,628,439	\$2,265,772	\$30,255,867
Bi-County Community Action Program	\$747,149	\$1,389,868	\$98,972	\$396,149	\$6,798,170
Community Action Duluth	\$619,027	\$27,908	\$54,797	\$407,682	\$1,430,862
Community Action of Minneapolis*	\$29,129	\$0	\$0	\$1,695,947	\$12,335,292
Community Action Partnership of Ramsey & Washington	\$627,891	\$0	\$0	\$2,006,427	\$19,832,714
Community Action Partnership of Scott, Carver, and Dakota Counties	\$3,661,656	\$718,999	\$574,171	\$3,177,639	\$15,706,907
Community Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin	\$369,252	\$119,950	\$425,979	\$83,749	\$8,709,855
Heartland Community Action Agency	\$695,729	\$376,493	\$386,074	\$908,165	\$7,444,193
Inter-County Community Council	\$441,150	\$164,205	\$65,440	\$344,251	\$4,197,868
KOOTASCA Community Action	\$599,771	\$240,463	\$30,577	\$760,119	\$5,669,392
Lakes & Pines Community Action Council	\$159,994	\$3,124,935	\$6,349	\$1,045,080	\$9,657,267
Lakes and Prairies Community Action Partnership	\$2,438,763	\$2,786,875	\$206,434	\$915,489	\$8,480,260
Mahube-Otwa Community Action Partnership	\$1,685,970	\$2,226,979	\$13,333	\$1,717,803	\$19,087,934
Minnesota Valley Action Council	\$4,452,324	\$3,281,242	\$353,379	\$2,998,616	\$19,399,838
Northwest Community Action	\$222,692	\$142,292	\$80,555	\$226,081	\$4,658,203
Prairie Five Community Action Council	\$1,465,795	\$1,060,768	\$884,336	\$1,907,521	\$8,923,737
Semcac	\$1,889,004	\$1,362,415	\$878,176	\$2,007,320	\$13,710,911
Southwest Minnesota Opportunity Council	\$1,177,297	\$466,639	\$0	\$51,921	\$5,174,978
Three Rivers Community Action**	\$1,820,858	\$1,371,909	\$572,449	\$1,643,343	\$10,161,303
Tri-County Action Programs	\$597,238	\$1,105,568	\$1,112,944	\$644,997	\$9,716,629
Tri-County Community Action Program	\$129,521	\$40,187	\$5,816	\$141,156	\$5,891,144
Tri-Valley Opportunity Council	\$2,365,269	\$1,182,949	\$769,804	\$2,542,792	\$18,989,137
West Central Minnesota Communities Action	\$370,080	\$447,957	\$333,491	\$971,601	\$10,259,074
Western Community Action	\$1,594,101	\$1,267,978	\$159,816	\$1,462,878	\$7,771,770
Wright County Community Action	\$2,169,869	\$257,200	\$19,054	\$595,494	\$7,070,424
CAA SUBTOTAL	\$37,962,707	\$34,171,653	\$12,421,466	\$34,896,186	\$286,018,881
TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS***					
Boise Forte Reservation Tribal Council	\$4,718,242	\$435,769	\$5,283,161	\$302,866	\$11,087,844
Fond Du Lac Reservation Business Committee	\$31,782,403	\$978,581	\$2,521,384	\$672,401	\$38,209,937
Grand Portage Reservation Tribal Council	\$201,642	\$79,011	\$0	\$0	\$547,724
Leech Lake Reservation Tribal Council	\$23,329,180	\$4,151,808	\$16,258,320	\$29,627,288	\$78,694,730
Lower Sioux Indian Community	\$2,979,750	\$204,725	\$0	\$0	\$3,214,212
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe	\$21,724,958	\$2,517,321	\$23,415,019	\$702,248	\$50,900,870
Red Lake Tribal Council	\$7,844,202	\$26,638	\$0	\$296,891	\$11,925,076
Upper Sioux Community	\$990,610	\$189,848	\$0	\$0	\$1,234,104
White Earth Reservation Tribal Council	\$22,507,589	\$3,643,355	\$522,700	\$1,076,243	\$30,290,556
TRIBAL SUBTOTAL	\$116,078,576	\$12,227,056	\$48,000,584	\$32,677,937	\$226,105,053
STATEWIDE NETWORK TOTAL	\$154,041,283	\$46,398,709	\$60,422,050	\$67,574,123	\$512,123,934

* Community Action of Minneapolis: Data presented above is from FY2013. State contracts were terminated in September 2014.
 ** Three Rivers Community Action funding includes that of Olmsted Community Action Program, which merged with Three Rivers on July 1, 2013.
 *** Prairie Island Indian Community and Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community redistribute their CSBG and CAG funding to other tribes.
 **** Other Federal funding sources excluding CSBG, LIHEAP, Head Start, and Weatherization.
 ***** Other State includes funding sources excluding MCAG and state Head Start.

Minnesota Poverty 2014: Call to Action

In May, Minnesota's Community Action network and numerous partners hosted a Minnesota Poverty 2014: Call to Action. The event brought together over 350 people from across Minnesota to reflect on the 50 years of progress fighting poverty since President Johnson's declaration of "unconditional war on poverty in America" in his 1964 State of the Union speech, and to consider and recommit to effective strategies and solutions for today and the future.

Clarence Hightower, Executive Director of Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties, the host and chair of the planning committee, kicked off the event with a welcome address. Erik Stegman of the Half in Ten Campaign delivered a keynote shedding light on successes and challenges in cutting poverty, and highlighting what is required to cut poverty in half again. Breakout sessions addressed disparities in poverty by race/ethnicity, age, place, gender and veteran status, giving attendees the opportunity to dialogue about approaches tailored to address targeted needs.

Congresswoman Betty McCollum and other state leaders reminded the group that we are in this fight together, and that we must work together to insure adequate investments to address poverty moving forward. The day ended with opportunities to connect with current movements to end poverty in Minnesota, and a call to action.

For more information about the Minnesota Poverty 2014: Call to Action, visit www.mnpoverty14.com or www.minncap.org.





Community Action Programs

2014 Best and Promising Practices

After 50 years of service, Minnesota’s Community Action Agencies continue to develop new and innovative ways to provide opportunities for low-income families. Agencies are breaking new ground in delivering services to low-income people.

The eight agencies described in this section were honored for creating initiatives designed to help people facing a wide array of issues including: chronic disease, lack of transportation and affordable housing, food insecurity, and recidivism. The 2014 Best and Promising Practices Awards recognize initiatives that provide and document measurable outcomes, demonstrate innovation, collaborate with the broader community, and are replicable.

A **Best Practice** is a program, project, process, procedure, or strategy that has measurably 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. A **Promising Practice** has met the same criteria, but has existed for less than a year, therefore has not yet obtained the significant measurable results of a Best Practice.

The Minnesota Community Action Partnership collaborates with the University of Minnesota College of Human Education and Human Development, and the Minnesota Department of Human Services, Office of Economic Opportunity for the Best Practices awards.

Best Practice

Caries Away!, Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency

Caries Away!, an oral health initiative operated by Arrowhead Early Head Start (EHS) since 2006, focuses on low-income, high-risk infants, toddlers, and pregnant women across rural northeastern Minnesota. Families receive individualized anticipatory guidance related to oral health. They are given and taught to correctly use oral hygiene products. Professional relationships with several local dentists have been fostered to secure dental homes for children, ages birth to three years, who would otherwise go without seeing a dentist. Since Caries Away! began, 100% of Arrowhead EHS families have received oral health education and hygiene supplies. Over 1,800 children have received fluoride varnish and oral health screenings through an in-house preventive fluoride varnish program.



Best Practice

Financial Opportunity Center, Community Action Duluth

Community Action Duluth transformed their agency through the Financial Opportunity Center model. This bundled approach to providing services allowed program participants to have better outcomes. The main services coordinated under the Financial Opportunity Center are: employment services and coaching, green jobs, financial services and coaching, free tax preparation, income supports, and community engagement. Now the goal for participants when they enter Community Action Duluth is to be provided with as many holistic, comprehensive, and coordinated services as possible and to



track outcomes in a cohesive way agency-wide. Transforming the agency took vision, leadership, willingness to change, ability to evaluate and respond, perseverance, and dedication to the cause. Bundled services coupled with agency coordination demonstrates that participants involved in multiple programs truly achieve better results in the areas of increased income, job retention, improved credit score, and increased net worth.

Best Practice

Focus Lease Program, Minnesota Valley Action Council

Safe, affordable and dependable transportation is a basic necessity for people working their way out of poverty. This is particularly true in rural areas, where homes and workplaces may be tens of miles apart and public transportation is nearly non-existent. Minnesota Valley Action Council's "Focus Lease Program" enables working low-income people to lease new economical autos at low cost. The program is self-sustaining, with lease payments deposited into a revolving fund which enables the agency to purchase additional vehicles for leasing. In the four-plus years the program has been active, payment history has been excellent with no customers currently late on their payments. Clients have been able to secure a reliable car with reasonable payments, and without enduring the threat of repossession and the resulting devastation to their credit rating if problems arise.



Best Practice

Housing Development - Spring Creek Townhomes in Northfield, Three Rivers Community Action

Spring Creek is a new 28-unit family rental townhome development in Northfield, MN. The collaborative project fulfilled community goals of using a distressed property, adding much-needed affordable rental housing for families with children, and creating a model development that demonstrates attractive, energy efficient design. Three Rivers Community Action was the developer of the \$6.4 million project, working in close partnership with the Northfield Housing and Redevelopment Authority who donated the land and facilitated the local process. The project serves as a model for how to develop attractive, energy efficient, and affordable rental housing targeted to underserved populations through community-based collaboration.



Spring Creek Townhomes is a success because it created 28 family rental housing units for households under 60% of area median income; developed an underutilized plot of land in a prime location in the community, adding to the City's tax base and providing much needed affordable rental housing; strengthened partnership between Three Rivers

and local community, including the Northfield HRA, City of Northfield and local media; demonstrated that affordable housing development can be attractive, energy efficient and neighborhood friendly; and provided a revenue stream to Three Rivers in the form of a developer fee that allows the agency to continue to pursue housing development activities in the region.

Best Practice

Instructional Community Work Crew, West Central Minnesota Communities Action

The WCMCA Institutional Community Work Crew built 115 affordable housing units and numerous other community projects. While developing job skills, crew members give back to the community and develop relationships. WCMCA partnered with the Department of Correction and the Douglas County Jail to provide Minnesota State Inmates with carpentry experience to assist in the transition to life on the outside. Inmate crew members experience higher rates of employment and wages upon release and lower rates of incarceration.



Best Practice

Food Security Program, Western Community Action

Western Community Action has taken a stand against hunger. Over the last five years, Western Community Action implemented multiple strategies incorporating existing and new resources -- dramatically increasing capacity to serve those in need. Western Community Action's food shelves have increased the number of pounds per person per visit from less than 20 pounds (5 years ago) to 26.8 pounds in 2013. Western Community Action assists with more than 100 SNAP applications per year, and screens hundreds more. Western Community Action has been providing a free meal and nutrition education through our Circles of Support programs since 2006.



Best Practice

Fatherhood Partnership Program, Anoka County Community Action Program

The Fatherhood Partnership Program provides partnership services to support ACCAP Head Start fathers in Anoka County. Resources and programming are made available for dads to support their role as a parent in their young children's lives. This includes the Fathers Reading Every Day (FRED) program, father-child activity nights that are geared to the interests of dads and their children, and having partners share resources and information about the issues fathers face. Participation in the ACCAP Head Start Fatherhood events has increased 136% over the past two years.



Promising Practice

Executive Director Services Agreement, Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency & KOOTASCA Community Action Council

A unique partnership between the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (AEOA) and KOOTASCA Community Action for shared services, culminating in shared Executive Director services, has the potential to strengthen regional Community Action services, conserve resources, and increase efficiencies across both organizations. Together, the agencies have shaped a mutually beneficial arrangement that is neither a merger nor a takeover, nor is it only pairing and sharing of services. Rather, it is a deal that retains each agency’s unique identity, program strengths, and governing Boards, while sharing selected program services and contracting for AEOA administrative expertise.



Promising Practice

Lincoln Park Farmers Market, Community Action Duluth

Community Action Duluth’s home neighborhood is Lincoln Park. It is a “food desert” by USDA definition, meaning that it has a poverty rate over 20% and no supermarket within a mile. Because of this, their low-income neighbors struggle to purchase food for their families. In response, Community Action Duluth’s Seeds of Success urban farming program started the Lincoln Park Farmers market in June 2013. In its first season of operation, the market attracted an average of 3.8 vendors per week. Over the course of the season, it attracted over \$1,000 of spending by customers using food support benefits.



Promising Practice

Food Hub, Minnesota Valley Action Council

Minnesota Valley Action Council is launching a food hub to make fresh, healthy, locally grown food readily available to institutions, retailers and consumers in its nine-county region. This new, self-sustaining initiative will create jobs, boost the income of dozens of small-farm families (one quarter of which are low-income), and provide support for the regional economy. In addition, it will increase the flow of local food to food shelves and school backpack programs and enable SNAP recipients to maximize their benefits. It is the first step in an ambitious local food initiative designed for impact across the CAP network.

MVAC is currently working with 25 small farmers (one-quarter of whom are low-income) and more than a dozen institutions to meet their need for fresh, healthy, locally grown food. The food hub also received \$20,000 in seed money from the Minnesota Cup competition. Other funding streams for the project include the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Community Service Block Grant, agency funds, and several other grants.



Using Data to Illuminate Opportunities to Change Lives

Lakes and Prairies Community Action Partnership (Lakes and Prairies) based in Moorhead, Minnesota has taken steps to becoming a data-driven organization. The agency uses data as a flashlight to support continuous improvement, rather than a hammer. Over the past decade, Lakes and Prairies Head Start program has substantially improved its collection and use of data on children receiving services. Recently, they have begun focusing on the quality of family data as well.

Lakes and Prairies Head Start program introduced the Family Well-Being Matrix in 2012. Adapted from a Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS) self-sufficiency tool, the Family Well-Being Matrix is administered at enrollment and exit of the program year. This matrix measures progress across a variety of domains including adult education, housing, substance abuse, mental health, food/nutrition, employment, child care, transportation, health care coverage, and parenting. The purpose of the tool is to assess each family's level of self-sufficiency (as measured by moving above a prevention line) and to help families build their capacity to engage in improving school readiness in their child. In the 2013-2014 program year, Lakes and Prairies Head Start families increased their summative self-sufficiency score by three points on average.

Lakes and Prairies Head Start staff use the High Scope Child Observation Record (COR) to collect data on children. Data is collected three times a year in various domains including math, language, literacy, and approaches to learning. Staff individualize instruction in the Head Start classroom to help each children make progress along the continuum and to ensure kindergarten readiness. In addition to the Family Well-Being matrix and COR data, Lake and Prairies Head Start staff are trained to understand the intersection with other data collected, including health and attendance data.

At a recent Lakes and Prairies Head Start “data day” spent looking at family well-being and child development data, one teacher experienced an “ah-ha” moment. She said, “I realized that I have to help these parents in order to get these children’s COR scores up.”

Families come to Community Action with varying circumstances and needs. Lakes and Prairies staff use data to help tailor services to meet each families individual needs. They also use data to shine a spotlight on broader trends which inform future programming decisions and help shape strategic directions for future community growth.

All Staff Engagement

- Each staff person from kitchen staff to bus drivers get an opportunity to learn about and give feedback on program data.
- The agency is able to inform staff about difference in sites and the diversity in families based on demographic data.

Data Analysis Question Examples

- What associations can I make about the data presented? At the classroom level? At the program level?
- What data can I impact? What data seems out of my control?
- What are some data sources we have not yet explored? What other data would you like to see?

Example of Survey Question

- After analyzing the data, I better understand how my work relates to program outcomes?



High Five Event: Celebration of Outcomes, Lakes and Prairies Community Action Partnership

Community Action Performance Management

Community Action’s shared mission, across the country and across Minnesota, is to create opportunities and security for all Americans. In our efforts to help families and communities thrive and become self-sufficient the network continually assesses our impact on this mission. Changing levels of poverty, income inequality, and demographics and an ever stronger need for our efforts call on our network to be ever more accountable to our customers and our communities.

Minnesota was a leader in implementing Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) – a system now required nationwide through the Community Services Block Grant Act of 1998 (CSBG).

New initiatives to further increase accountability and demonstrate results launched in 2012. The Community Action network, across all areas, is a part of these initiatives. Led by the Center of Excellence, the working groups had representation from local agencies, state CSBG offices, Community Action State Associations, the National Association for State Community Service Programs and the Community Action Partnership, and external content experts.

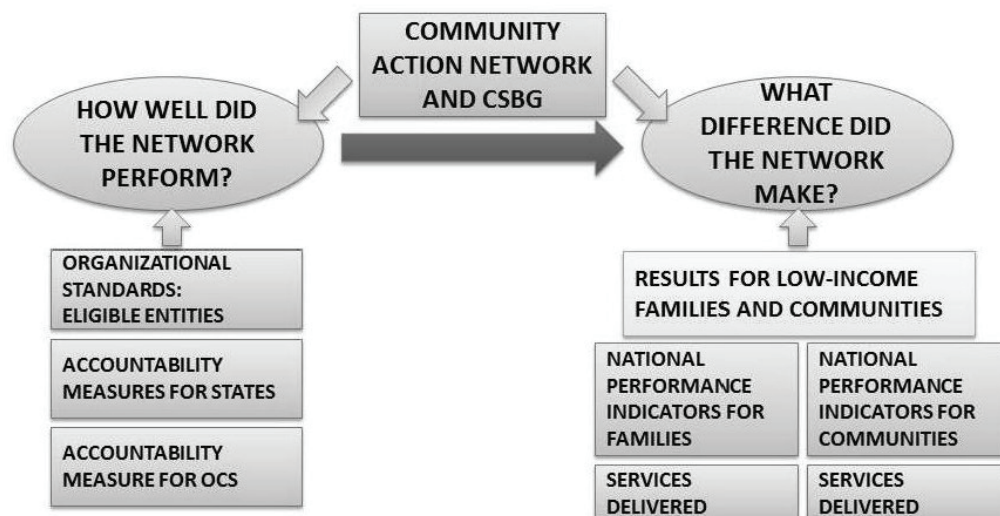
A three tiered approach has emerged:

Tier 1: Organizational Standards for eligible entities. The standards are designed to ensure CSBG eligible entities have the capacity to provide high-quality services to low-income individuals and communities. Information Memorandum 138 – State Establishment of Organizational Standards for CSBG Eligible Entities was released in January 2015 and all states and eligible entities will implement these standards beginning in federal fiscal year 2016. The 58 organizational standards are organized around 1) Maximum Feasible Participation, 2) Vision and Direction, and 3) Operations and Accountability.

Tier 2: State and Federal-level accountability measures: Measures to track and measure organizational performance by State CSBG Lead Agencies and the federal Department of Health and Human Services Office of Community Services will be implemented for federal fiscal year 2016.

Tier 3: ROMA Next Generation: a network wide process to enhance the CSBG Network’s performance and outcomes measurement system for local eligible entities – both to strengthen the culture of performance management and to analyze data more robustly. Planned implementation in federal fiscal year 2017.

Measuring the Success of Community Action and CSBG



Self-Sufficiency

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 can offer participants a continuum of services to assist them in gaining or increasing economic security.

Self-Sufficiency programs provide trained staff to help families set and work to achieve 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.

Selected Community Action Self-Sufficiency Outcomes

- **9,606 families obtained care for child or other dependent in order to acquire or maintain employment.**
- **1,176 families obtained care for child or other dependent for family stability.**
- **8,971 parents and other adults learned and exhibited improved parenting skills.**
- **8,738 parents and other adults learned and exhibited improved family functioning skills.**

Head Start

Thirty-four (34) Head Start programs, operated primarily by Community Action Agencies and Tribal Governments, serve all counties in Minnesota. Head Start programs are locally controlled and receive grant funds directly from their funding sources. Head Start is the original two-generation program, working with children and their families. 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 \$118 million in state and federal funding to 14,672 children and their families in FY2014/2015. The latest estimates show that fewer than 1 in 4 of income-eligible children under 5 are able to access Head Start services due to funding limitations.

As of November 2014 with classrooms fully enrolled, there were approximately 3,800 income eligible children (ages birth-5) on waiting lists for Head Start and Early Head Start services.

Of families served by Head Start in 2013-2014:

- **40% of enrolled children were racially diverse.**
- **17% spoke a primary language at home other than English.**
- **16% had a diagnosed disability (2200).**
- **10% of families were homeless (1,339).**

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.

Ensuring School Readiness

Children enrolled in Head Start demonstrated significant progress toward kindergarten readiness. Independent analysis of 19 different Minnesota Head Start programs during the 2013 school year showed that 88 percent of children met the developmental target for kindergarten upon exiting Head Start.

Head Start's extensive services for both families and their young children make the difference in children's developmental progress and lives. Services targeted to the needs of children include developmental screening and assessment, attendance monitoring, transportation, nutrition support, health evaluation and follow-up, on-site disability services, on-site mental health supports, and family home visits and goal setting.

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 also expend on average 25% of their total budgets on local services. Leasing facilities or paying rent on commercial property is another contribution Head Start makes to the local economy.

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.

Helping Tyler's Family Heal

Tyler, his mother and two siblings lived in the homeless shelter for protection from domestic violence. Tyler was referred to Head Start by the shelter social worker and was immediately enrolled with transportation to and from the shelter to Head Start. At Tyler's screening his mother indicated concerns about Tyler's social/emotional development. Head Start's mental health consultant met with the family to determine a plan of support. Tyler and his mother both participated in a comprehensive social emotional training offered



*Early Head Start and Head Start,
Arrowhead Economic
Opportunity Agency*



through Head Start known as Incredible Years.

Tyler's mother also received support from Head Start's Family Support team to accomplish her family goal for housing. Within six months she was accepted into a permanent housing program and the family is now in stable housing and Tyler's mother is employed full-time.

Tyler struggled with his social/emotional development which hindered his gains in other areas of development. With classroom individualization and parent engagement, by the end of the year Tyler was catching up with his peers.

Engaging Cindy's Parents for School Success

Cindy was an English Language Learner (ELL) in Head Start as a 3 year old. In her first few weeks of enrollment, her attendance was less than 48 percent and her teacher took immediate action. She scheduled home visits with the family to offer her assistance. A number of factors were causing transportation issues for the family. Cindy's teacher worked with the parents, stressing the importance of getting Cindy to school every day. Together with Head Start, they worked out a plan to find a more reliable transportation option.

Cindy's parents made it a priority to improve her attendance. Dad and Mom worked together to make sure Cindy got to school. As a result, Cindy's assessment scores improved and she exceeded the expectations for her age group. At the beginning of her second year of Head Start, Cindy had 100 percent attendance and is well on her way to being ready for kindergarten.

For more information about Head Start in Minnesota, visit www.mnheadstart.org.

Head Start Parent Engagement, KOOTASCA Community Action

My name is Kirsten Webb. In 1997, I moved to Minnesota with my husband and four boys. We had no family, jobs, or friends, and a substandard home. I started attending classes with my young sons and the teachers encouraged me to enroll my 3 year old in KOOTASCA's Head Start. I became involved with the program by representing the classroom at Policy Council, classroom volunteering, and attending meetings. I was then hired as a long-term aide substitute teacher.

In 1999, we had many changes, a divorce and a lot of uncertainty. Shortly after that I was hired as a teacher's aide. Through the Family Support Staff, I was guided to resources to assist during the divorce. Teachers encouraged me to attend Bemidji State and the Head Start program paid the cost for me to obtain my Child Development Associate. With the guidance of Head Start, I have grown as a mother, teacher, and person. With financial help from Head Start I have obtained my A.A. Degree with High Honors, and my Bachelor's Degree. I have since had another son, had 3 children attend Head Start, worked full-time and attended school. I have a stable and safe home for my boys to grow up in.

I have held many different jobs in Head Start. With the skills I have learned I have given back to my community. I have volunteered with more than eight organizations. I have been involved with these programs because Head Start helped me to find my voice and speak up for children. I learned that through volunteering in the community, my opinions are important. I have sat on panels to speak with the legislators, spoken with school districts, and been a part of Community Conversations to get people involved with their children's schooling. It has not always been easy; but my children have seen me succeed. In fulfilling my dreams, I have shown others that they too can make theirs come true.

Employment

In Minnesota, during the Great Recession, unemployment rose as high as 8.3% in the spring of 2009. Since then, the slow return to low unemployment has been a challenge for many families as unemployment persisted and wages stagnated. In 2013, 5% of Minnesotans seeking to be a part of the labor force were unemployed. For those who found jobs, available jobs tended to be low-paying and low-skilled.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation's 2014 report *Creating Opportunity for Families: A Two-Generation Approach* states:

- In Minnesota, 60 percent of parents with low-incomes do not have year-round, full-time employment, compared with 50 percent of parents with low-incomes nationally.
- Reducing childhood poverty requires attention to education and job training for parents.
- Even for those with jobs, just getting to work is tough without dependable transportation.



Fond du Lac Reservation

Community Action helps participants attain, maintain, and expand their employment goals in many ways. From connecting low-income Minnesotans with educational and job skills opportunities, to providing critical employment supports such as child care and transportation, to helping people find and keep jobs.

The following summarize key employment outcomes for Community Action in 2013:

Employment

- 3,733 individuals who were unemployed obtained a job.
- 1,988 individuals obtained an increase in employment income.

Employment Supports

- 9,606 families obtained child care for child or other dependent in order to acquire or maintain employment.
- 31,138 individuals obtained safe and affordable housing in support of family stability needed to gain or retain employment.
- 72,595 individuals obtained food assistance in support of family stability needed to gain or retain employment.
- 1,320 individuals completed ABE/GED or post-secondary education programs and received a certificate or diploma.

Community Action Employment

In Minnesota, the Community Action network employs 3,000 people across the state.

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's emergency services programs helped individuals achieve and maintain self-sufficiency:

- **30,318 individuals received food or vouchers.**
- **102,585 individuals received emergency payments to vendors, including fuel and energy bills.**
- **6,443 individuals received rent or mortgage assistance.**
- **1,586 individuals received temporary shelter.**
- **2,497 individuals averted foreclosure and maintain their home.**
- **6,348 individuals received assistance for transportation including bus passes, car repair assistance, gas vouchers.**
- **20,794 individuals received clothing.**
- **202 individuals received disaster relief.**

Energy Assistance

The Energy Assistance Program (EAP) assists low-income households to maintain affordable, continuous, and safe home energy. EAP in Minnesota is funded through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, administered at the Minnesota Department of Commerce. Households with the lowest incomes and highest energy costs receive the greatest benefits. In 2013, 147,636 households were helped by EAP. \$109,334,525 was made in payments to local utility companies to help keep homes warm. Of those helped, 11,236 households were in need of crisis assistance. The average grant amount was \$494.

Propane Assistance, Lakes & Pines Community Action Council

There is no doubt that what Minnesota witnessed in the winter of 2013-2014 in regards to the propane shortage supply and high demand is unlike anything any of us can recall in recent memory -- not since the gas lines of the 1970's. On top of the propane shortage, Minnesota's winter brought severe, below freezing temperatures beyond belief. The word "crisis" can't help but come to mind. What was called the "propane crisis" reached beyond families with low-wage earners. Lakes and Pines, much like other Energy Assistance providers, experienced an increase in requests for help in getting propane when propane couldn't be delivered or the cost was beyond what the family had budgeted for the winter. Lakes and Pines staff, and Community Action staff across the state, worked tirelessly to provide families opportunities to safely and adequately heat their homes. This high level of customer service, with a can-do, upbeat attitude is not outside of normal business and could not be achieved each day without careful planning, management and retention of skillful, compassionate employees. Staff at Lakes and Pines see crisis every day. What can be more of a crisis than losing your home or job? What can be more of a crisis than wondering if your child is ready for school? What can be more of a crisis than working with a staff person who is faced with a life changing event and needs help to continue to work and contribute as an employee? When the once in a life time crisis situation caused by a flood, rising fuel costs, family issues or job loss reach deeper levels throughout the community, Community Action uses the expertise of dealing with crisis from the people we serve each day to help the entire community in the aftermath.

Weatherization

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) reduces energy costs for low-income households by increasing the energy efficiency of their homes, while ensuring their health and safety. When a home is weatherized, services provided may include: energy audits to identify what improvements might be needed, attic and exterior wall insulation, education for the resident about how to reduce utility bills, air infiltration and bypass sealing, or testing, repair or replacement of a home's mechanical system. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) increased funds allocated to the Weatherization Assistance Program from \$230 million per year to \$1.8 billion per year. However, beginning in 2012, funding levels have been reduced to one third the level of pre-ARRA funding – reducing the number of homes weatherized each year. In 2013, 4,279 homes received weatherization services through the Minnesota Weatherization Assistance Program, helping families live in safer more energy efficient homes and reduce their utility bills.

Nationally, the program provides energy-efficiency services to more than 100,000 homes every year, greatly reducing average annual energy costs for eligible low-income families. The program prioritizes services to the elderly, people with disabilities, and families with children. These low-income households are often on fixed incomes or rely on income assistance programs and are most vulnerable to volatile changes in energy markets.

“High energy users” or households with a high energy burden also receive priority. DOE works in partnerships with state and local organizations to implement the program. DOE awards grants to state agencies, which then contract with local agencies. Weatherization programs operate in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories, and among Native American tribes. Approximately 900 local agencies deliver Weatherization services to eligible residents in every county in the nation. Since the inception of the Program in 1976, over 7 million households have received Weatherization services.

The Minnesota Department of Commerce carries out the WAP in Minnesota. In addition to DOE funding, local service providers leverage energy conservation resources with funding from local utilities and the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

A 2010 study by the University of Minnesota Extension found that a weatherization dollar spent in Minnesota creates \$1.09 in economic activity as the money circulates through local economies. According to the study, this heightened impact is attributable to the availability of manufactures and suppliers of weatherization products in Minnesota and to the vast statewide network of weatherization agencies throughout the state.

Elder Advocates, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

A service recipient named Allan, a disabled male under the age of 55, was in need of climate control for his home. His mother Ann, requested assistance to obtain the appliance to regulate the humidity and temperature in her son's home. His disability is heart related and high humidity and temperatures was adversely affecting Allan and he was experiencing health related hospitalizations and breathing emergencies.

The Elder Advocates of Leech Lake assessed his income to be well below the standard for Energy Assistance eligibility. The Energy assistance program denied Allan this assistance as this type of service is not available through Energy funds. As a disabled band member who lived below the standard level of poverty, Allan qualified for medical equipment through the Elder Advocate Program. An advocate helped Allan complete paperwork and necessary documentation to obtain a medical prescription for climate control in his home.

A portable air conditioner is now installed in the home and during the hottest months of the year Allan was able to maintain a better quality of health. His hospitalizations have been reduced to none and he is able to live day to day with fewer symptoms from his disability. The CSBG funds for health and linkages services have enabled our program to help Allan access the medical equipment he so badly required. His quality of life as a disabled low wage earner has been improved.

Transportation

Stable, safe, and dependable transportation are key components of the larger picture of self-sufficiency. Minnesota's Community Action network partners with local government, low-income participants, local businesses, and others to offer and develop an array of transportation resources. Regional transportation systems, providing cars through car loan programs, and offering financial education and incentives to low-income participants saving for a car are all a part of the network's approach to fighting poverty.

Transportation Services Provided by Community Action in 2013:

- **1,379,222 rides – Transportation System provided by the Community Action Agency**
- **6,328 individuals received emergency transportation assistance – bus tokens, volunteer rides, taxi voucher or van service.**
- **31,138 individuals obtained access to reliable transportation and/or driver's license.**
- **61 transportation projects were created, expanded, or saved from elimination – contributing to 689,372 rides provided or saved from elimination.**

Hiawathaland Transit, Three Rivers Community Action

Three Rivers Community Action's Hiawathaland Transit is a catalyst for residents of Goodhue, Rice, and Wabasha counties to have access to employment opportunities, medical appointments, education opportunities, and have an overall means of self-sufficiency in their homes and communities.

A resident of very rural Goodhue county, Penny was originally referred to the Hiawathaland transit via the county social services department. She is a middle aged client that had no means of transportation. Through Hiawathaland Auxiliary Regional Transit (HART) program, Penny was able to gain access to various medical appointments in communities where her services were provided.

Tragically, Penny became a victim of domestic violence. For her safety, she was moved over night to a new community. Hiawathaland Transit once again assisted Penny via Hiawathaland Public Transit and the HART Program by transporting her to all of her appointments (medical, county, counseling, etc). With transportation to these essential services, Penny was able to begin the healing process and gain the independence she needed to begin to build her new life.

Over the past year, Penny's confidence has grown and she has begun to feel safe in her community. Penny has found her own apartment and has started working. She continues to utilize Hiawathaland Transit to get to and from work each day, to get to her medical appointments, and has even started to venture out socially in the community.

Revolving Car Loan Fund, Minnesota Valley Action Council

As part of the CSBG ARRA funding, MVAC purchased a fleet of sixteen Ford Focus's in 2009. The vehicles continue to be leased to low-income people to provide them with reliable transportation. The individuals have the option to purchase the vehicle at the end of the lease. The lease payments establish a revolving loan fund to replenish the lease fleet. Currently we have fourteen cars out on lease and two completely paid off early. In FY 2013, the lease program purchased five 2013 Fords Focuses with the proceeds of the paid lease payments from the first fleet in 2009. These cars provided five additional low-income families with reliable transportation. A plan has been developed to expand the fleet again in 2016.

PRAIRIE FIVE RIDES, Prairie Five CAC

PRAIRIE FIVE RIDES is a public transportation service providing transportation options for all individuals throughout the region. The program works for our communities by implementing an innovative program to fulfill customer needs and provide mobility for our region throughout the year. The RIDES program focuses on enhancing the quality of life in our communities by providing safe, reliable, accessible, courteous, equitable, and reliable transportation. RIDES has flourished in both size and achievement. RIDES strives toward a better public transit experience for residents, students, and visitors. Prairie Five CAC is very proud of what RIDES has accomplished throughout the past 25 years making a difference in the lives of people.

RIDES has grown over the past 25 years from a small volunteer transportation program focused on service for older adults to one of the finest regional transportation systems in Minnesota.

RIDES has grown to providing more than 140,000 passenger trips each year, serving both city and county residents. RIDES now manages six city bus systems with the seventh joining the system in 2015!

Program Progression

- Budget in 1989 was 37,380 and mileage reimbursement rate was \$.21.
- Budget in 2013 was \$1.6 million and mileage reimbursement rate is \$.565.
- Staffing in 1989 was 1 Program Manager and 2 volunteer drivers.
- Staffing in 2013 is 1 Program Manager, 32 staff, and 39 volunteer drivers.
- Vehicle fleet in 1989 was 2 volunteer drivers utilizing private vehicles.
- Vehicle fleet in 2013 includes 20 buses, 5 handicap accessible vans, 39 volunteers utilizing private vehicles.



Prairie Five Community Action Council



Western Community Action

Education

Community Action Agencies and their broad network of community partnerships recognize the importance of education and training as a foundation for securing a stable, self-sufficient, and thriving future.

From early childhood school readiness to adult basic education to partnerships with local industry to develop training programs to support for adults pursuing G.E.D. or post-secondary education. Community Action supports strategies to reduce high school dropout rates and adequately prepare high school students for college, while providing low-income college students the support they need to attain a degree or credential.

In 2013, Community Action Agencies worked with 755 partnerships with school districts across Minnesota and 236 postsecondary education or training institutions.

Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen noted in remarks in an October 2014 speech, *Perspectives on Inequality and Opportunity from the Survey of Consumer Finances*, that:

Two key factors influencing intergenerational mobility and trends in inequality over time are so significant that you might call them “cornerstones” of opportunity, and you will not be surprised to hear that both are largely related to education. The first of these cornerstones I would describe more fully as “resources available to children in their most formative years.” The second is higher education that students and their families can afford.

“Research shows that children from lower-income households who get good-quality pre-Kindergarten education are more likely to graduate from high school and attend college as well as hold a job and have higher earnings, and they are less likely to be incarcerated or receive public assistance.”

In Minnesota, Community Action Agencies connect low-income children with a range of early learning opportunities. Whether enrolling children in Head Start, connecting parents with Early Learning Scholarships, or helping families learn how to use Parent Aware to choose high quality early childhood education opportunities Community Action helps children from low-income households and their families build the skills and knowledge necessary to thrive.

The following summarize key education outcomes for Community Action in 2013:

- **2,883 individuals obtained skills/competencies required for employment.**
- **735 individuals completed their ABE or GED and received a certificate or diploma.**
- **585 individuals completed post-secondary education program and obtained a certificate or diploma.**
- **250 children were enrolled in a before- or after-school program.**
- **9,293 children participated in preschool activities to develop school readiness skills.**
- **5,896 children participated in preschool activities and are ready to enter Kindergarten or 1st grade.**
- **1,192 youth improved their social and emotional development.**
- **699 youth increased academic, athletic, or social skills for school success.**
- **703 accessible before-school or after-school program placement opportunities for low-income families were created or saved from reduction or elimination.**
- **4,331 accessible or increased educational training placement opportunities were created, or saved from reduction or elimination.**

Culturally Specific Education, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

Many Native American tribes face divergent conditions and economic disadvantages regarding income, employment, and educational attainment. In many tribes, these areas are considerably lower than national averages. In today's global economy, a high-quality education is no longer just a pathway to opportunity – it is a prerequisite to success.

Unfortunately, Native American students continue to lag behind their peers on national assessments, account for the highest dropout rate of any racial or ethnic population, and hold a dramatically lower share of baccalaureate degrees than the rest of the population.

Native American tribes throughout the United States have attempted to regain the practices that helped define them as a people. The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe (MLBO) holds community values that are rooted in their culture that form the foundation of their lives and the community. MLBO established the Niigaan Youth Program (In the Ojibwe language, Niigaan can be translated to 'leader at the front') to be a responsible and fun organization that creates a positive environment for youth that will enhance positive life choices, instill integrity and responsibility through education, culture, and community involvement.

Niigaan provides high quality programming and a safe venue for the community's youth. Niigaan programs strengthen and support MLBO's values of honesty, humility, truth, wisdom, love, respect, and courage. The Anang (In the Ojibwe language, Anang is translated to 'star') program, "Backpack-To-School" program and the Adopt-A-Park Initiatives reinforced participation, educational enrichment, community involvement, physical activity and being a positive role model. Despite daily life challenges, participants have improved attendance, positive behavior and are receiving better grades in their classes.

The success of Niigaan also relates directly to the participation of both community and participants. Niigaan staff members have the luxury of not only providing after school support for participants but also a direct line of communication within the public schools/tribal schools. Niigaan helps parents gain confidence in their own abilities through volunteering. Niigaan strengthens participants to achieve their greatest potential.

Adult Basic Education, Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency

Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency's (AEOA) Adult Basic Education (ABE) program has formed a successful partnership with Hibbing Community College (HCC) to help adults bridge the gap to college readiness. This partnership serves a range of people in both the Hibbing area and the region as a whole.

The College and AEOA's ABE program noted an increase in students who were not college ready when registering for classes on campus. Some may be straight from high school while others are parents returning to school to improve their employment outcomes.

For those students the partnership with HCC allows them to connect with a cohort of students in similar situations, supporting one another and keeping each other accountable. This often includes immediately recognizing and addressing uncompleted work or text messages to students who couldn't make it to class to make sure they're okay. The success of these "learning communities" has prompted HCC to look into a possible expansion of the program in the future.

Along with the classroom communities, the one-on-one interactions with instructors are among the largest benefits to the students. This is illustrated by one of the enrolled students' comments. Sheila Humphrey commented, "With this program, they sit you down and talk to you one on one to see what your needs are, it's fantastic. There are others like myself who didn't quite feel like they fit in, but we do fit in here, and we can give something to the community by coming to college and getting a better education."

Without this extra support and partnership many of these students wouldn't have the opportunity to succeed and further their education. HCC and AEOA are committed to ensuring this progress and partnership continues in the future.

Income Management

Income Management

The Great Recession, stagnant wages, slow job growth after the recession, credit crisis, housing market decline and rising food, gas and energy prices, have eroded the economic stability of many working households. Households without savings or financial assets lack a safety net and often find their basic self-sufficiency threatened during difficult financial times. 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.

Financial Opportunity Center, Community Action Duluth

Community Action Duluth (CAD) has transformed its agency through the Financial Opportunity Center (FOC) model. This bundled approach to providing services has allowed program participants to ultimately have better outcomes. The main services coordinated under the FOC are employment services and coaching, green jobs, financial services and coaching, free tax preparation, income supports and community engagement. Now the goal for participants when they enter CAD is to be provided with as many holistic, comprehensive and coordinated services as possible and to track outcomes in a cohesive unified way through the agency.

Transforming the agency took vision, leadership, willingness to change, ability to evaluate and respond and perseverance to the cause. After 3 years of outcomes, it's still exciting to see the power of bundled services coupled with agency coordination, demonstrating that participants involved in multiple programs truly achieve better results in the areas of increased income, job retention, improved credit score and increased net worth!

The coordinated effort to bring participants into both financial and employment services with income support screening and coaching is going well. In the first year, 240 participants enrolled in the FOC and to-date 675 participants are getting on-going coaching services. Success is measured by getting people into 2 of 3 services and 3 of 3 services. The initial year's results proved that 171 people were receiving 2 and 3 services or 71.3% of all participants – a huge jump when previously just 10-15% of people got more than one service before our FOC model change.

Now however, 3 years into the model, 508 of the 675 participants are in bundled services or 75.2%. This level of effort is also tracked by frequency of contact between coach and participant. In the first year 10% of participants only saw a coach one time, 24% saw their coach between 2-4 time and 66% saw their coach over 5 times. Now, our frequency of contact has also increased with 6% seeing a coach just once, 27% between 2-4 time and 67% over 5 times.

Outcomes for people in more than one service also speak volumes for the work and benefits of bundling. The major financial outcomes that the FOC tracks are: Increases in Net Income, Increases in Net Worth, and Increases in Credit Score. Additional key outcomes are tracked for employment retention, at 30, 90, 180 and 365 days. In the first year of tracking FOC outcomes, 30 people increased net income, 42 people increased net worth and 47 people increased credit scores. Today, 153 people increased net income, 156 people increased net worth and 187 people increased credit scores.

In 2013, Community Action’s income management work resulted in:

- **14,068 participants accessed free tax preparation and qualified for federal and state tax credits totaling over \$18 million.**
- **3,558 people demonstrated an ability to complete and maintain a budget for over 90 days.**
- **432 people opened an Individual Development Account (IDA) or other savings account.**
- **1,024 people increased their savings through IDA or other savings account totaling \$96,613.**

Family Assets for Independence in Minnesota (FAIM) is Minnesota’s only statewide IDA program and is delivered by a statewide 21-site collaborative of Community Action Agencies, Emerge Community Development, 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.

Financial Education is Key

Poverty, race, discrimination, and insufficient financial knowledge and skills combine to steer many low-income households away from mainstream financial services – i.e. savings and checking accounts, conventional mortgages and consumer loans at prime interest rates – and towards a “fringe” financial services market consisting of check cashers, payday lenders, rent-to-own shops and pawnshops. These institutions drain resources away from economically insecure families that could have been used to acquire assets and build for the future. The fringe financial services system functions to perpetuate poverty.

Approximately 25% of low-income families have no relationship with mainstream financial institutions. The same is true of one-third of African American households and 29% of Hispanic households. The reasons include lack of mainstream financial services outlets in communities, distrust or unfamiliarity with such institutions, restrictive account requirements, inconvenient hours of operation, and the high cost of fees and bounced checks.

These services prey on low-income people’s lack of access to mainstream financial services. Financial under education contributes to an environment in which consumers are vulnerable to unscrupulous financial services and lenders who overcharge and hide costs. Too often people living in poverty suffer from a general lack of knowledge in the area of financial education. This fact, true across all spheres of society, combined with vicious marketing strategies that target low- and moderate-income neighborhoods make low-income people and the communities in which they live especially vulnerable. The complexity of the financial service industry and accessibility of various consumer credit and investment opportunities increases the need for strong financial education for low-income consumers.



*Community Action Partnership
of Ramsey & Washington Counties*

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.

Key FAIM Outcomes:

Between 2000 and 2013, FAIM participants saved over \$2.8 million and acquired more than 2,000 long-term financial assets (26% homes, 34% small business, and 40% post-secondary education). Over 3,000 FAIM accountholders completed 12 hours of personal finance education, plus additional asset-specific training and ongoing financial coaching.

FAIM's 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. What follows are key returns on investment by asset area from follow-up studies conducted in 2012:

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.

Housing and Homelessness

Community Action Agencies in Minnesota play an integral role in the provision of shelter, transitional housing, supportive services to homeless families and individual, and the coordination of planning efforts to address and prevent homelessness.

An increasing number of people are facing the threat of losing housing, are precariously housed, or are experiencing homelessness. The increase in need for stable housing is the result of a convergence of factors: the loss of affordable housing and foreclosures, wages that have not kept pace with the cost of living, rising housing and energy costs, and underemployment.

Programs administered by CAA's include:

- Foreclosure Mitigation, Prevention, and Counseling
- Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program
- Emergency Shelter and Motel/Hotel Voucher Programs
- Transitional and Rapid Re-Housing
- Long-term Homeless Supportive Services and Permanent Supportive Housing
- Affordable Housing Development



Three Rivers Community Action



Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency

Affordable Housing, Semcac

The Community Development Department continues to work with area communities to address housing issues. High rent costs and the continued stress of living in substandard housing have a negative effect on the clients we serve.

In the early part of 2014, the closing paperwork was compiled for the rehabilitation of two buildings with sixteen rental units, located in Preston. The agency worked to ensure that housing subsidies could be used by tenants. This assured that the units did not get turned over to the public housing market which would have made the apartments unaffordable for the current residents.

Rural Development, Greater MN Housing Fund and MN Housing all partnered with Semcac in this rehab project. These partners offered technical expertise and provided the necessary funding. The Bluff Country Housing and Redevelopment Authority (BCHRA) was utilized and will be the new owner of the buildings. Semcac provided all administrative support to the BCHRA.

A group of local business persons had initially purchased the building with the good intent of keeping housing affordable. A community member stated, "We are happy to see the property continuing as affordable housing. The intent of the owners when they started this project in the late 70's was to provide affordable housing for those in the Preston area who couldn't afford other housing." Therefore, this initiative honored the former owners' desires of housing affordability.

Updates included roofing, siding, windows, interior upgrades (such as light fixtures and some appliances) and a resurfaced parking lot. With these updates, the units will be preserved for years to come.

During the rehabilitation process, no resident turnover occurred. Residents are very happy with the updates and will continue to be able to rent safe, affordable housing; the ultimate goal. A residency waiting list has been created, proving that this is a viable project being utilized by the community.



Semcac

Selected housing and homeless prevention outcomes for 2013:

- **15 Community Action Agencies provided 839 individuals with temporary shelter.**
- **746 households received transitional housing resources.**
- **424 projects statewide improved or preserved 3,395 safe and affordable housing units.**
- **14 Community Action Agencies helped 381 low-income Minnesotans purchase their own home.**

CAA's are an integral part of the 10 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 increased access to resources to assist homeless persons, led to more efficient use of existing resources, and increased collaboration among existing service providers.

Homelessness

Economic downturns have historically led to an increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness. In the last three decades, however, the number of people experiencing homelessness has remained high even in good economic times. The recent recession and resulting unemployment have exacerbated the number of people experiencing homelessness.

Every three years, Wilder Research Center conducts a one-day study of the number of people experiencing homelessness throughout Minnesota. It is the largest and most comprehensive study of its kind in the nation that includes individuals found in shelter as well as non-shelter locations. Wilder conducted its latest study on October 25, 2012. Key findings from this study were published in September 2013 and follow.

Prior to the Great Recession, the number of people in Minnesota experiencing homelessness was beginning to plateau and even decreased slightly. However, in 2009 the Wilder count found a 24.5% increase in the number of homeless Minnesotans as compared to 2006. In 2012 (the year of most recently available data), the number of Minnesotans experiencing homelessness rose by 5.8% to 10,214 people. Though this is a smaller rate of increase, the number remains high. The economic recovery has been slower for some Minnesotans than others.

According to the Department of Human Services (DHS) Semiannual Sheltered Survey from 2013, on any given night approximately 7,500 people receive shelter from a variety of homeless service providers across the state. Over forty percent of persons sheltered are children and their families (41%). The remaining of those sheltered are adult men (29%) and adult women (26%). Due to inadequate resources, sheltering programs continue to turn away thousands of individuals seeking shelter on a given night, though the exact number is difficult to obtain. Both the Wilder and DHS surveys are snapshots. The total number of persons who experience homelessness throughout the course of a year is certain to be a much higher number.

Homeless Youth

The number of homeless youth continues to remain high and increased from 2012 to 2013.

In October, 2012, 1,747 families with children were homeless – an increase of 33% from pre-recession counts. In 2012, the number of homeless children and families was the highest since Wilder began collecting data in 1991. Wilder Research Center estimates that approximately 2,211 Minnesota unaccompanied youth experience homelessness on any given night. Over the course of a year, Wilder Research estimates 5,100 youth experience homelessness. The total number of children (unaccompanied and with their parents) represents more than one in three (36%) of the total homeless population in Minnesota.

Examples of the innovative programs and partnerships Minnesota's CAA's operate to prevent homelessness are:

- Heartland Community Action helps lead Homeless Solutions – a collaboration of housing service providers, United Way, faith community, and community members that addresses the needs of homeless households and educates communities about the impact of homelessness. Homeless Solutions uses two approaches to address homelessness – Family Promise (a church of the week model) and Safe Harbor (a motel room model). Heartland leases motel rooms to help households transition into stable housing. Households staying at Safe Harbor work with Heartland staff to set and achieve goals and work on budgeting and finding housing and employment.
- Community Action of Suburban Hennepin's (CAPSH) Homeless Services model is based on one-on-one intensive case management to stabilize a family in crisis. CAPSH works together with families, local property managers, and Hennepin County to identify a complementary network of services to help stabilize a family and connect them with resources to move forwards.
- Lakes & Prairies Community Action partnered with the Fargo Moorhead Coalition to develop a community response to households – CARES (Coordinated Assessment Referral and Evaluation System). CARES gives this coalition the ability to triage households by assessing their barriers to maintaining housing and to provide the right amount of assistance at the right time to help households obtain, maintain and stabilize housing. This is a systemic change across the entire region that has resulted in improved system access to housing programs, and increased efficiency and effectiveness for program staff and administrators.

Coordinated Assessment Referral and Evaluation System (CARE), Lakes & Prairies Community Action

Affordable housing and homelessness are at a crisis level across the state of Minnesota, and the communities that we serve are no exception. Emergency shelters are overwhelmed, and the traditional housing system is unable to address the high level of needs that we are experiencing in our communities. This has resulted in the burden of navigating this complex system falling on the shoulders of the very households that need our assistance the most.

In an effort to streamline access to crisis housing resources, Lakes & Prairies Community Action has been working in partnership with the members of the Fargo Moorehead Coalition to develop a community response to households – CARES (Coordinated Assessment Referral and Evaluation System). CARES gives us the ability to triage households by assessing their barriers to maintaining housing, and allows us to provide the right amount of assistance at the right time to help them obtain, maintain and stabilize housing. This is a systemic change across the entire region that has resulted in improved system access to housing programs, and increased efficiency and effectiveness for program staff and administrators.

We now have a shared assessment tool in place across the West Central region of Minnesota and the entire state of North Dakota which allows us to share a common assessment for program entry into Rapid Re-Housing, Transitional Housing and Permanent Supportive Housing programs. We have also developed shared policies and procedures for program admittance across the region. Households are now able to access the full range of housing programs available to them based on program eligibility and assessment score by completing one common assessment tool. We continue to refine and improve on the CARES system to further streamline access to programs and services. In addition, we continue to work toward a "data bridge" that will allow the two statewide Minnesota Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) systems to communicate to further streamline access to households that are moving across state lines.

Nutrition

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (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 educating households about SNAP, eligibility screening and application assistance.

In 2013, 22 Community Action Agencies received 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 reimburses half these outreach costs. In 2013, SNAP Outreach CAAs received \$780,000 in FNS funds, yielding \$1.56 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 CY 2013, the statewide participation rate had increased to 70%. More than half of eligible seniors are now enrolled in SNAP.

The average monthly EBT benefit is approximately \$290 per household, which is spent in local grocery stores. Every \$5 in new Food Support benefits generates \$9 in total community spending.

Program Impact: In FFY2013, CAA SNAP outreach achieved the following outcomes:

- **Conducted 1,996 community presentations to educate about the benefits of SNAP,**
- **Screened 58,334 people for SNAP eligibility, and**
- **Completed 6,021 Combined Application Forms to help clients apply for SNAP.**

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed)

The Minnesota Department of Human Services Office of Economic Opportunity contracts with the University of Minnesota Extension and Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) to deliver SNAP-Ed in Minnesota.

During 2013, the University of Minnesota Extension and Minnesota Chippewa Tribe SNAP-Ed programs had an overall goal to engage participants in choosing healthy, safe foods and active lifestyles by using the information and skills gained as a result of SNAP-Ed programming.

Programming focused on increasing fruit, vegetable, whole grain, and low-fat/no-fat calcium rich food intake, making wise food shopping and preparation choices, and being physically active each day. SNAP-Ed programming takes place where SNAP participants and SNAP-eligible persons congregate, including schools, county human service offices, Community Action Agencies, senior dining sites, food shelves, public housing, and treatment programs.

"I've learned how to stretch my money for food. I've also learned how to cook quick and good tasting meals. I learned to eat some foods from each of the food groups...I know that it's better to eat food that is colorful and has variety from each group. I really enjoy these classes and had a lot of my questions answered."

- Isanti County
Mother



Semcac



In 2013, the University of Minnesota Extension and Minnesota Chippewa Tribe provided SNAP-Ed programming in 84 counties and 6 reservations (Bois Forte, Fond du Lac, Grand Portage, Leech Lake, Mille Lacs, and White Earth), providing more than 57,000 people with direct nutrition education. In addition, a retrospective pre/post instrument was used to measure fruit and vegetable intake as a result of University of Minnesota Extension SNAP-Ed courses. On average, participants in SNAP-Ed courses increased consumption of fruits and vegetables by more than 1/3 of a cup.

Nutrition Education Classes, Community Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin

In 2014, Community Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin (CAPSH) partnered with Appetite for Change, in order to provide nutrition education classes to low-income families in suburban Hennepin County.

As part of its community needs assessment process, CAPSH recognized that many households lack the knowledge and skill to prepare nutritious meals on very limited budget. Constraints were not only financial – they were cultural, too. CAPSH sought out a partner that was willing and able to provide nutrition education classes that were informational, enjoyable and adaptable to different cultural groups.

Established in 2011, Appetite for Change (AFC) offers educational programs to social service agencies. Its “Community Cooks” program seeks to bring families together to cook fresh and delicious meals while learning and building community. “Community Cooks” workshops provide education around healthy cooking, smart grocery shopping, budgeting and cooking in bulk, to make homemade meals more accessible and affordable.

The CAPSH/AFC partnership provides nutrition education workshops that include parents and children in the meal preparation process. Aside from meals (which are also provided), recipes and cooking tips, families receive information about other services, including SNAP. Classes are offered in English and Spanish and soon will be in Somali.

For CAPSH, this partnership has resulted in being able to offer great nutrition education classes to the communities it serves, assuring information is delivered in a professional yet culturally-competent way. For AFC, the partnership has meant that the organization was able to provide its outreach and educational resources to a whole new group of people. From whatever angle the CAPSH/AFC partnership is viewed, the outcome is the same: the partnership has resulted in the achievement of family and community successes.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

The Minnesota Department of Human Services, Office of Economic Opportunity contracts with Hunger Solutions Minnesota to allocate United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) commodity food to food shelves, on-site meal programs and shelters throughout the 87 counties in Minnesota based on population and poverty data. Hunger Solutions Minnesota works with the six regional Second Harvest Food Banks, each of which serves a geographical area of the state. This program design ensures an equitable distribution of USDA commodity food to all 87 counties. USDA awarded Minnesota approximately \$917,000 in federal TEFAP funding in 2013. State funds of \$189,413 supplement the federal award and provide the required match. TEFAP funds are used to cover the cost associated with the distribution of USDA food commodities, including warehousing, transportation, product tracking, and allocation. For the federal fiscal year of 2013, the Minnesota TEFAP program received approximately 10.5 million pounds of USDA commodity food valued at over \$10 million.

Program Impact:

- **Foods available through the TEFAP program have changed significantly since the days of cheese and butter. Today, a wide variety of foods are available, including culturally specific items as well as manageable packaging sizes appropriate for individual households.**
- **In 2013, Minnesota food banks distributed over 105 million pounds of food to food shelves and other emergency feeding programs.**
- **Six regional Feeding America Food Banks distribute USDA commodity foods to over 290 food shelves, on-site meal programs and shelters throughout the state.**
- **An individual receives about 50 pounds of food per food shelf visit, which is approximately a one week supply of food.**

Minnesota Food Shelf Program (MFSP)

The State of Minnesota appropriated \$2,636,000 million for the 2012-2013 biennium for the Minnesota Food Shelf Program. Funds will be used by 290 Minnesota food shelves to assist in meeting the increased need to purchase nutritious food and for the operating and administrative costs.

Program Impact:

- **Food shelf use is at record highs across the state. The number of visits per year has more than doubled since before the Great Recession and has stayed at this record high level – 3.2 million visits per year.**
- **Recent data shows that 38 percent of households using food shelves report that paid employment is the family's major source of income. High housing costs, prescription drug costs and low wages are cited by these populations as reasons for increased reliance on emergency food sources.**
- **In 2013, over 50 percent of those served at food shelves were senior citizens and children under the age of 18.**
- **3,500 children across Minnesota are served by food shelves every day.** (*The State of Hunger in Minnesota – 2014*, Hunger Solutions Minnesota. Accessed online at: <http://www.hungersolutions.org/hunger-data-center/>)

Minnesota food shelves are the first line of defense against hunger and provide instant emergency services to residents of Minnesota. Food assistance programs have been very successful in the past and have a strong foundation with a combination of government, community based services, religious organizations and many volunteers that work together to feed the hungry. Based on current trends, food shelf usage and need for services is continuing to increase. Many Minnesota food shelves are struggling to meet the rapid rate of demand in their services areas.

Health

Access to affordable health care and insurance is key to family stability and self-sufficiency. Community Action was a visible and successful leader in connecting low-income Minnesotans with MNsure in 2013.

In 2010, the Affordable Care Act became law and in November 2011, Governor Mark Dayton signed an Executive Order to create a health insurance exchange/marketplace in Minnesota. In March, 2013 Governor Dayton signed House File 5, formally creating a state-based health insurance exchange in Minnesota. This exchange, MNsure, opened for its first open enrollment period in October 2013 for Minnesotans to enroll in insurance plans with coverage effective January 1, 2014.

Community Action Agencies engaged in statewide outreach efforts to help connect low-income Minnesotans with MNsure. August 2013 marked the start of MNsure outreach. All through the fall and winter Community Action designed and launched a wide range of community specific outreach activities. From TV/Radio Ads, to interviews on radio shows, to newspaper articles, to outreach through community health fairs, connections with local schools, housing partnerships and more – Community Action Agencies mobilized their communities to help connect low-income Minnesotans with health insurance resources. Community Action agencies provided outreach and application and enrollment assistance statewide to help connect uninsured and hard to reach Minnesotans with MNsure. Community Action agencies became official MNsure Partners and staff became certified MNsure Navigators.

From <http://www.mnsure.org/learn-more/aca/>

Family Health Outcomes

- **10,504 children obtained immunizations, medical, and dental care.**
- **4,436 obtained health care services for themselves and/or family member.**
- **6,244 households enrolled in MinnesotaCare, MA(Medicaid), MNsure, or other health insurance programs.**

Community Health Outcomes

- **6,599 accessible safe and affordable health care services/facilities for low-income people were created, or saved from reduction or elimination.**
- **2,607 community services to improve public health and safety were created or preserved.**

The World Health Organization declares in its Constitution that “Health is a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity”. Community Action helps improve individual and community health outcomes through all of its programs, not just those specific to clinical health care and insurance.

Comprehensive approaches promoting health can be seen across Community Action. Examples include:

- **Healthy Homes** – an initiative from the U.S. Department of Energy Weatherization Plus Health initiative takes a strategic approach to coordinate resources that both improve home energy efficiency and health and safety measures including lead poisoning, asthma, and exposure to radon.
- **SNAP Outreach and Education** – Community Action Agencies, the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, and University of Minnesota Extension conduct outreach to help eligible Minnesotans increase awareness of SNAP and increase their knowledge of how to use SNAP benefits to purchase and prepare healthy food.
- **Culturally Specific Youth Programming** – Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe’s Niigaan Youth Program brings youth and community leaders together to create a positive environment focusing on physical activity, positive role models, educational enrichment, and community involvement.

MNsure Outreach and Enrollment, Inter-County Community Council

Inter-County Community Council (ICCC) embarked on a new endeavor in providing assistance with outreach and enrollment in MNsure. MNsure is the new health insurance marketplace where Minnesotans can find, compare and choose a health plan that fits their needs. As an organization, we wanted to be able to help answer some of the questions that come with a new initiative and make sure that everyone has access to health care coverage.

ICCC committed to MNsure Enrollment and outreach on an agency wide level, incorporating it within every program that we operate. Staff provided outreach and enrollment through Head Start/Early Head Start events, Energy Assistance Program applications, Employment and Training intake screenings, Food Shelf intakes, Family Service/Homeless intakes, newspaper/website articles, radio programs/radio ads and cable TV, booths at the county fairs, booths at community health fairs, Policy Council and Board meetings, and SNAP outreach efforts and all application assistance programming.

In our rural service area there were not any other providers who provided MNsure enrollment services. As an organization we reached out to form new relationships and networked with the local hospitals, clinics, insurance brokers, technical college, etc. to bring outreach and enrollment services. We wanted service providers to feel like we were a safe place for people to refer families and individuals.

With a population spread out from each other in rural areas and unpredictable Internet access our goal was to try to meet people where they were and also to be available at a time that was convenient to them. We held outreach and enrollment events within the community, bringing access to Internet and computer systems. We also allowed for individual appointments daily. We reached out to local insurance brokers within our service area and created an almost seamless system to best serve households in a one stop approach. Staff successfully assisted 267 people with enrollment within our service area.

Expanding Dental Care, Tri-County Community Action

Tri-County Community Action (TCC) partnered with the Central Lakes Community Dental Clinic at Central Lakes College (CLC) in Brainerd, which is funded by the Minnesota Department of Human Services. “We got involved because many of these kids do not have dental clinics”, explains LeAnn Schoenle, former dental assisting instructor at CLC. “This allows the kids who are on state insurance or who have no insurance to get out of pain, if they have decay, or get the referrals they need to stay healthy.” Initially, two Registered Dental Hygienists from CLC visited TCC’s Head Start classrooms in Todd, Morrison and Crow Wing counties to provide annual dental assessments and recommendations. To make potential follow up appointments more accessible and expand the service beyond Head Start children, TCC turned space in their Morrison County office into a dental room so even more qualified patients could be seen. The staff at CLC were instrumental in helping TCC set up a dental room and acquire donated equipment for the space.

A partnership with Dr. Kendall L. Dammeier, DDS, and his staff at Northland Smiles in Deerwood, was established to provide a full range of dental services to patients at TCC’s dental room. Morrison County Public Health works in conjunction with TCC to notify clients who are uninsured, on medical assistance or MinnesotaCare and are due for a dental exam. Additionally, the agency provides residents in Todd County with dental services by bringing in a mobile unit with the help of Children’s Dental Services from the Twin Cities metro area of Minnesota. In Crow Wing County, patients can still be seen at CLC’s clinic.

With the help of community partners, TCC has been able to provide dental services to hundreds of children and adults across the tri-county area who otherwise wouldn’t be served.

Linkages

The term “linkages” refers to the activities that bring together (through mobilization and coordination) community members, or groups and often government and commercial 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.

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.

In 2013 Community Action Agencies worked with **11,149 organizations** to form **12,075 partnerships**.

These partnerships are with other nonprofits, faith organizations, local governments, for-profit businesses or corporations, housing consortiums, school districts, banks, and other groups.

This partnership approach is central to Community Action. By partnering with other local organizations, Community Action agencies expand and leverage resources to help families and communities achieve important outcomes.

2013 Community Action Linkages Outcomes

- **1,024 safe and affordable housing units created in the community.**
- **3,395 safe and affordable housing units preserved or improved through construction, Weatherization or rehabilitation. *Includes loans, rehab work and/or advocacy.**
- **6,599 accessible and affordable health care services/facilities created or maintained.**
- **14,927 accessible safe and affordable child care or child development placement opportunities for low-income families created or maintained.**
- **689,372 accessible new or expanded transportation resources, or preserved transportation resources available to low-income families, including public or private transportation.**
- **836,539 information, referral and outreach services provided to households requesting assistance.**
- **20,301 community members mobilized by Community Action who participate in community revitalization and anti-poverty initiatives.**



*Fathers Support Group,
Mahube Otwa Community Action Partnership*

Regional Food Hub, Minnesota Valley Action Council

In July 2014, Minnesota Valley Action Council (MVAC) launched a regional food hub. MVAC purchases locally grown produce from regional growers, packages it into larger quantities and sells it to local institutions.

This strategy will generate additional revenue for small, local produce growers (25% of which meet the poverty income levels); create jobs both at the growers level as well as within the Food Hub; reduce the carbon footprint by helping institutions source produce locally, rather than having it shipped 1,400 miles on average; and generate funds that can be used for MVAC's mission.

The Food Hub also sells Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) plans to area families and individuals who want to support locally grown food growers and eat healthy fresh produce themselves. CSA's provide a box of a variety of fresh produce each week for 12 weeks to subscribers.

Strategically, MVAC wanted to: 1) Stimulate job growth; 2) Raise income levels of people experiencing poverty; 3) Reduce carbon emissions; 4) Promote health; 5) Foster community collaboration and 6) Create a social entrepreneurial venture that would generate income that would support the agency's mission.

As with most things we do, we recognize that none of us are successful without the assistance of someone along the way. In order for this social venture to come to fruition, we received the support of: Department of Human Services, Office of Economic Opportunity; Otto Bremer Foundation; Southern Minnesota Initiative Fund; Minnesota Department of Agriculture; Minnesota Cup; community support through our annual Warm Your Heart fund raising event; Gustavus Adolphus College; nine local growers; and 40 CSA memberships.

MVAC was just awarded an additional \$100,000 from USDA to secure equipment that slices, dices and peels the produce, which will meet the needs of local school districts who want to provide locally grown food to their students.

In our first half year of operations, MVAC contracted from 9 growers; sold to 1 local institution; sold 5 tons of produce; and created 1.3 FTE's.



*Linking Families to Resources,
Community Action Duluth*



*Head Start,
Mahube Otwa Community Action Partnership*



*Senior Exercise Groups,
Mahube-Otwa Community Action Partnership*



*Independent Living Support,
Minnesota Valley Action Council*

Helping Seniors Live Independently, Mahube-Otwa Community Action Partnership

This project is an example of collaboration between the Detroit Lakes Noon Rotary group, the Catholic Heart Work Camp (CHWC), the Becker County Senior Coordinator, and Mahube-Otwa Community Action Partnership. The Senior Coordinator position is funded by several community organizations, with Mahube-Otwa serving as the local host site.

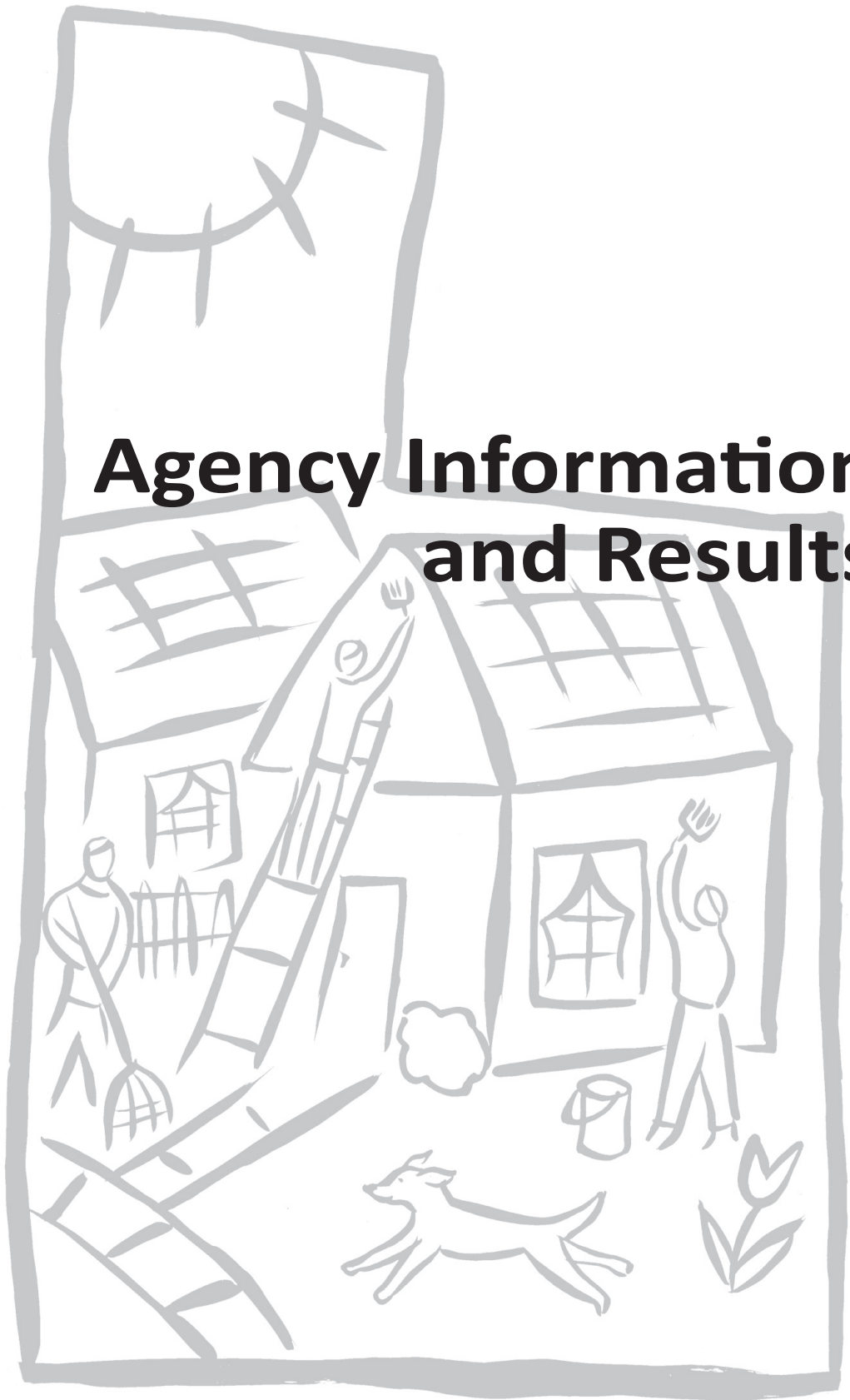
The Becker County Senior Coordinator made a presentation describing home maintenance services available for residents at the Detroit Lakes Noon Rotary Group. One attendee, lives in Detroit Lakes, is 75 years old and is no longer able to provide the labor needed to maintain his property. Mahube-Otwa was able to put his home on the CHWC schedule. Two groups of youth spent 32+ hours each at his home to make safe entrances and walkways, install grab bars, repair the deck, and clean and paint his outside fencing. In return to the community for these services, Ed has offered his property as a free retreat and meeting site for local non-profits, especially youth groups.

A total of 480 hours of free labor were completed at Ed's home, which was valued at \$22.14 per hour.

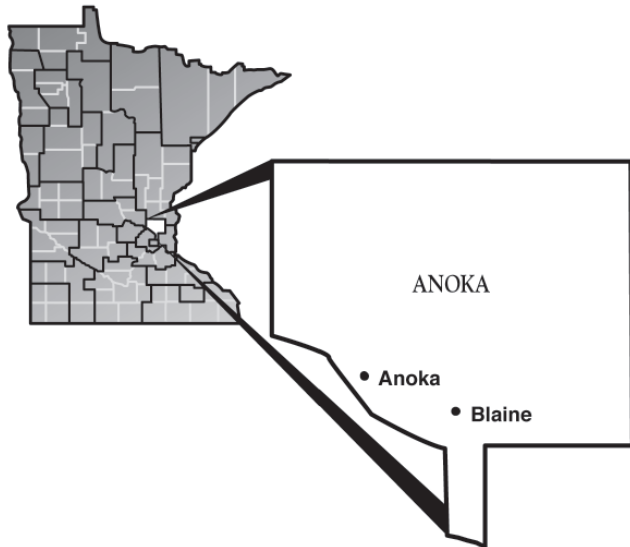
After the project was completed, Ed was very quick to express his gratitude; stating that this group of young workers displayed incredible positive energy and enthusiasm, and was composed of individuals who wanted to help and make a positive difference in the community so that he came away with a powerful message of HOPE. Before, he was overwhelmed with the amount of work to be done, he didn't know where to start, but he now has a more hopeful attitude about life in general as a result of this experience.

As a result of his involvement with the CHWC and the Mahube-Otwa project coordination, Ed will be able to continue to live safely and independently in his current home for years to come.

Agency Information and Results



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Results Oriented Management and Accountability - Selected Outcomes

Individual and Family Outcomes

Individuals who were unemployed and obtained a job.	434
Individuals who have obtained pre-employment skills/competencies required for employment and received certificate or diploma.	244
Individuals who completed ABE, GED, or post-secondary education programs and obtained a certificate or diploma.	240
Individuals who obtained safe and affordable housing needed to gain or retain employment and/or in support of family stability.	86
Households who demonstrate good or restored credit.	424
Individuals who avert foreclosure and maintain home.	368
Children who participate in preschool activities to develop school readiness.	628

Community Outcomes

Number of community members mobilized by Community Action that participate in community revitalization and anti-poverty initiatives.	372
Number of volunteer hours donated to the agency.	33,676
Community Partnerships	154



Program Activity	Number of People Served
INCOME MANAGEMENT	
M2 Financial Education	31
M4 Asset Development & Savings Programs	122
HOUSING	
B7 Energy Related Repairs	227
B9 Energy Conservation Services	99
C3 Home Repair/Rehabilitation	14
C6 Rental Housing Assistance	845
C9 Community Homeownership Ed	572
C12 Low-Income Housing Develop & Stab	723
EMERGENCY SERVICES	
B5 Energy Assistance	15,651
B6 Energy Crisis	32
C10 Homeless Assistance	1,517
G8 Crisis Intervention	29
LINKAGES	
E4 Vehicle Program	149
F1 Senior Oriented Services	1,270
F3 Chore Services	597
F6 Senior Companion/Foster Grandparent	213
K1 Information & Referral	2,115
K4 Benefit Enrollment & App Assistance	1
SELF-SUFFICIENCY	
J1 Head Start	2,687
J2 Early Childhood Care & Education	1,355
M1 Self-Sufficiency	580

Success Story

Senior Budget Specialist Services

ACCAP Senior Outreach Workers link low-income older adults to supportive services which enable them to remain living independently in their own homes. Workers identify a need for which there is no resource. They find clients who can manage their home or health, but are struggling with financial management due to vision loss, hospitalization or rehabilitation, medication effects, or physical or cognitive health changes. A client can be assisted through a Representative Payee, but to receive this service a physician needs to declare the person unable to manage their finances. Many physicians are uncomfortable making this assessment and even if a doctor cooperated, there is a monthly fee which some clients cannot afford. Most clients do not want their Social Security check going to a Rep Payee; they just need someone to help them with their monthly bill paying.

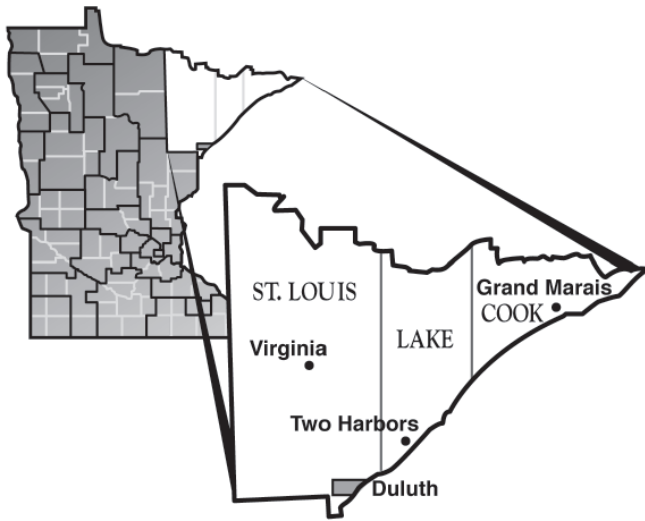
To address this gap in services, the ACCAP Board approved the addition of a Budget Specialist to work with these clients providing monthly case management, short term or ongoing. Both ACCAP and County staff are thrilled to finally have a resource for clients who need this important service.

Sheri

Sheri is a very kind, gracious and active woman who owns her own mobile home. Upon the initial visit, the Budget Specialist learned that Sheri had been stuffing her mail into bags and boxes for at least 2+ years and she contributes to numerous national and international religious organizations which results in the overdraw of her checking account.

The Budget Specialist began by helping her sort her bags and items. During this painstaking process, cash in the form of a crisp 100-dollar bill was found in an envelope along with a few hundred dollars in coins. The coins had been a Christmas gift for grandchildren that had been mislaid. Sorting mail, paying bills and balancing bank statements will be ongoing. Sheri is gradually reducing the number of contributions as the specialist encourages her to save money for work on her home. Due to the efforts of the Budget Specialist and the budget plan they developed together, Sheri now can maintain financial stability.

Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency



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Results Oriented Management and Accountability - Selected Outcomes

Individual and Family Outcomes

Individuals who were unemployed and obtained a job.	761
Individuals who obtain an increase in employment income and/or benefits.	384
Individuals who have obtained pre-employment skills/competencies required for employment and received certificate or diploma.	1,817
Individuals who completed ABE, GED, or post-secondary education program and obtained certificate or diploma.	570
Individuals who obtained safe and affordable housing needed to gain or retain employment and/or in support of family stability.	46
Individuals who avert foreclosure and maintain home.	55
Children who participate in preschool activities to develop school readiness.	454

Community Outcomes

Number of community members mobilized by Community Action that participate in community revitalization and anti-poverty initiatives.	1,504
Number of volunteer hours donated to the agency.	80,863
Community Partnerships	737



Program Activity	Number of People Served
EMPLOYMENT	
D3 Youth Employment	98
D6 Senior Employment Programs	14
D8 Displaced Homemakers	90
D9 Employment & Training Services	1,281
EDUCATION	
L2 Literacy	358
L3 English/Second Language (ESL)	15
L5 GED, ABE & Educational Services	973
INCOME MANAGEMENT	
M3 Tax Preparation Assistance	3,824
M4 Asset Development & Savings Programs	7
HOUSING	
B1 Weatherization	439
B7 Energy Related Repairs	900
B9 Energy Conservation Services	798
C1 Housing Grants & Loans	300
C3 Home Repair/Rehabilitation	300
C9 Community Homeownership Ed	112
C12 Low-Income Housing Develop & Stab	2
EMERGENCY SERVICES	
B5 Energy Assistance	19,153
B6 Energy Crisis	6,545
C10 Homeless Assistance	849
C11 Transitional Housing	89
G6 Donated Articles	1,566
G8 Crisis Intervention	50
NUTRITION	
H5 Gardening	12
H6 Home Delivered Meals	1,704
H7 Congregate Meals	6,396
H10 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Outreach	60
H11 Food Assistance	5,424
LINKAGES	
E1 Transportation System	84
E3 Transportation Assistance	1,585
F1 Senior Oriented Services	835
F5 Retired Senior Vol (RSVP)	1,442
K1 Information & Referral	10,580
K2 Outreach	13,720
K3 Public Education, Information & Advocacy	1,062
K4 Benefit Enrollment & App Assistance	330

Success Story

Deb Fort, Head Start Family and AEOA Employee

To look at the Afton-Lakeland area of Minnesota now, you'd never guess it was a very small farming community when I was a child. I grew up there in an old farm house several miles from the nearest neighbor. My two brothers and two sisters were at least 10 years older than me.

There were no other children my age in the area so I grew up a rather lonely and shy child. My home life was emotionally and verbally abusive.

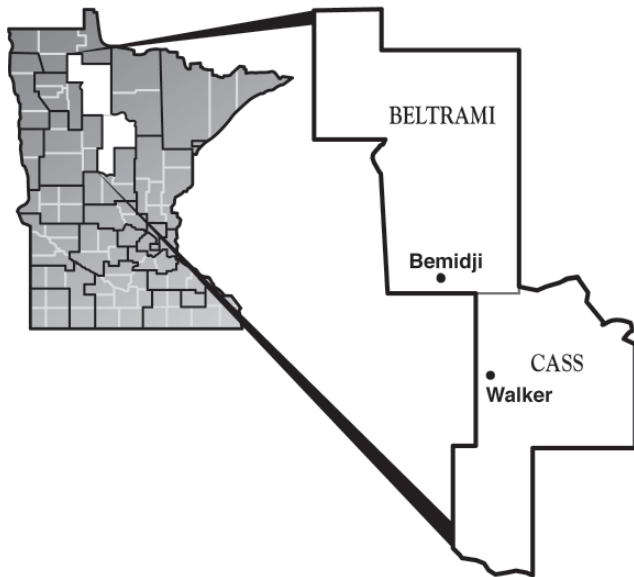
We moved several times over the years finally ending up in Britt, Minnesota. By this time I had very low self esteem, I dropped out of high school in 10th grade, got involved in drugs and drinking, and I moved out of the house at 17. In 1981 I met my future husband Ray (who has a similar background as me), things progressed and we were married and had two fine sons.

In 1987 the family moved to Gilbert. During my oldest son's preschool screening he was referred to Head Start as he had some speech problems. This began my involvement with Head Start. Through the supportive and attentive staff at AEOA's Head Start I became a policy council representative. This empowered me; I completed my GED through AEOA's Adult Basic Education program and began thinking about going back to work. I didn't want to give up my time volunteering with Head Start; in 1991 I was hired to work for Head Start.

Both my sons have both joined the Navy and graduated college and one is working on his Master's Degree. We owe all of this to the "Head Start" my whole family received 27 years ago. I know myself and my family wouldn't be in this good place in our lives without this wonderful program and all the fantastic talented staff people who have helped us.

SELF-SUFFICIENCY	
J1 Head Start	1,696
J4 At Risk Youth	93
J7 Youth Recreation	62
J8 Parenting	131
J9 Fatherhood Initiative	5
M1 Self-Sufficiency	1,371

Bi-County Community Action Programs, Inc.



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Results Oriented Management and Accountability - Selected Outcomes

Individual and Family Outcomes

Individuals who were unemployed and obtained a job.	28
Individuals who obtain an increase in employment income and/or benefits.	22
Individuals who have obtained pre-employment skills/competencies required for employment and received certificate or diploma.	24
Individuals who obtained safe and affordable housing needed to gain or retain employment and/or in support of family stability.	601
Individuals who avert foreclosure and maintain home.	49
Children who participate in preschool activities to develop school readiness.	263
Parents who learn and exhibit improved parenting skills.	497

Community Outcomes

Number of community members mobilized by Community Action that participate in community revitalization and anti-poverty initiatives.	578
Number of volunteer hours donated to the agency.	40,616
Community Partnerships	255



Program Activity	Number of People Served
EMPLOYMENT	
D3 Youth Employment	42
EDUCATION	
INCOME MANAGEMENT	
M2 Financial Education	333
HOUSING	
B1 Weatherization	206
B7 Energy Related Repairs	575
B9 Energy Conservation Services	100
C5 Small Cities Development. Grants (SCDG)	12
C6 Rental Housing Assistance	284
C12 Low-Income Housing Develop & Stab	40
EMERGENCY SERVICES	
B5 Energy Assistance	9,462
B6 Energy Crisis	2,860
C10 Homeless Assistance	522
C11 Transitional Housing	63
G8 Crisis Intervention	337
NUTRITION	
H3 Holiday Projects	203
H11 Food Assistance	2,088
LINKAGES	
E3 Transportation Assistance	17
K1 Information & Referral	5,313
K2 Outreach	1,458
K3 Public Education, Information & Advocacy	1,538
SELF-SUFFICIENCY	
J1 Head Start	873

Success Story

My Story by Miranda Whirlwindsoldier

My name is Miranda Whirlwindsoldier. In 2013, I enrolled in BI-CAP's YouthBuild Program. I was hoping to learn about carpentry and catch up on some school credits. But I ended up learning a whole lot more. I was failing every class in school and had given up on school. I didn't know what to do with my life and I sure didn't know how to make anything in my life better.

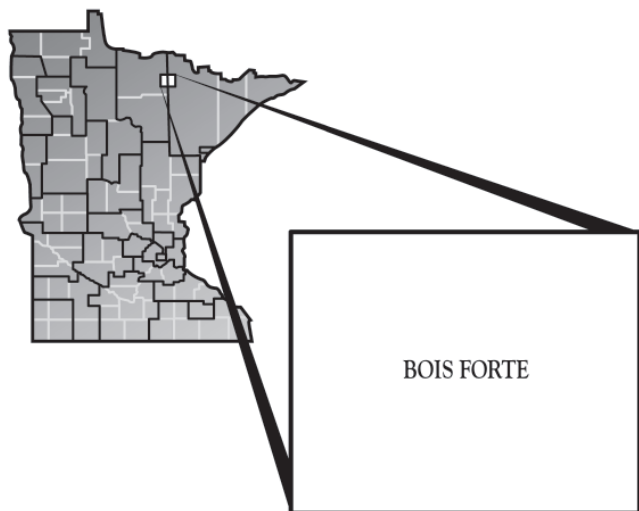
Then one day, I went to the YouthBuild orientation. Later, I got a call saying that I had been selected to participate in the program. From then on my life began to change. The first week I was shy, quiet and very nervous. I had lived in the area for a while but I didn't have any friends. Then I realized I had a whole year in YouthBuild and I've made lots of friends. I am thriving in this school, get good grades and am smart enough.

I never had any money before the program. Now I have money to spend on myself or my family or to save for something important. I earned it and I can make choices with it. I bought Christmas presents for my little brothers and sisters this year and it felt so good. I also have some new clothes that I bought with my money.

I'm certified in CPR, NCCER Construction Certification and Pre-Apprenticeship Certificate Training (PACT). Through YouthBuild, I got my DMV Learners Permit so I'm closer to getting a driver's license.

YouthBuild gave me a chance to get a diploma, and I wouldn't have tried for one without YouthBuild. In the past few months, I've gained the confidence to go to college, get a job, and manage my life. I've gained a sense of responsibility and I have grown up a lot. My choices are far better for me and my future than they would have been without the program. YouthBuild has had a huge impact on my life. I started pretty low, but now I am on my way up as high as I can dream. I would recommend the program for anyone that wants to turn their life around.

Bois Forte Reservation



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The Bois Forte Reservation is located in northern Minnesota in Koochiching and St. Louis counties, approximately 40 miles south of the Canadian border. The tribal headquarters are in Nett Lake, Minnesota.

What does the name “Bois Forte” mean?

Bois Forte, or “strong wood,” was the name given by French fur traders to the Native Americans living in the densest forests of what is now northeastern Minnesota.

How did the Bois Forte people traditionally live?

The Bois Forte people lived in harmony with the rhythms of nature, moving through the woods as the seasons changed to fish, hunt, pick blueberries, and make maple sugar. This began to change when Europeans started arriving in the late 1600s and early 1700s. Since that time, the Bois Forte people have seen many changes; the great forests are gone, there are many more people and far fewer animals. Despite these alterations, the Bois Forte have endured and built a diverse, growing economy at the same time they have preserved their ancient traditions; harvesting wild rice, tapping maple trees and picking berries to name a few. Weaving everything together is a sense of community, expressed as gatherings and celebrations in powwows and sacred ceremonies.

How did the Bois Forte people come to the area where they currently live?

The Bois Forte Band of Ojibwe has lived in northeastern Minnesota for centuries, but did not originate here. The people journeyed from the east coast up the Saint Lawrence River around the Great Lakes and followed the rivers and lakes inland. During the early years of fur trading with non-Indians, the Bois Forte people moved inland from the Grand Portage area to the mouth of the Vermilion River.

Where is the Bois Forte Reservation?

The Bois Forte Reservation is located in northeastern Minnesota. The Reservation consists of three parts. The largest section is at Nett Lake in St. Louis and Koochiching counties. It is home to the majority of Bois Forte Band members and the Band’s Tribal Government Offices. The Vermilion Reservation is located near the city of Tower on Lake Vermilion in St. Louis County. It is home to Fortune Bay Resort Casino, the Bois Forte Heritage Center, the Vermilion Family Wellness Center and the Vermilion Community Center and Health/Dental Clinics. Deer Creek in Itasca County is also part of the Bois Forte Reservation although no Band members live there.



How was the Bois Forte Reservation created?

To obtain Indian people's rich land and natural resources, the U.S. government signed a series of treaties with Indian nations in the 1700s and 1800s. Under the terms of the Treaty of 1854, Indian people in northern Minnesota ceded land from International Falls to Duluth to Grand Portage. The Bois Forte Indians were given the right to select reservation lands in the vicinity of Lake Vermilion, which was the heart of their community, and they retained the right to hunt and fish in the ceded area.

But when reports of gold beneath the Bois Forte people's lands began to circulate, non-Indians wanted the land. That led to the Treaty of 1866, in which all claims to a reservation near Lake Vermilion were relinquished and a reservation of about 100,000 acres was established at Nett Lake. Even though the Vermilion reservation was reestablished by an 1881 Executive Order, the Bois Forte Indians were only given back about 1,000 acres in the Vermilion area, instead of the tens of thousands they had been promised in the Treaty of 1854.

How was the Bois Forte Band government of today created?

The federal Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 recognized that assimilation had failed and that Indian people and Indian governments should be strengthened, not weakened. It was followed by other policies of the twentieth century, such as the Freedom of Religion Act, the Indian Child Welfare Act, and the Indian Self-Determination Act, which marked a new respect for Indian sovereignty and self-governance. Indian nations like Bois Forte were offered the choice of managing their own government programs.

Also during this century, the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe was formed as a political union of six Chippewa bands. This helped the Bois Forte Band further strengthen its government. By 1997, the Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council had assumed full responsibility for the delivery of all governmental programs and services to its people.

Success Story

Credit Union offering financial education tools

The new Bois Forte Northern Eagle Federal Credit Union opened in 2014, with two locations to better serve the community Nett Lake and Vermilion. Northern Eagle will provide financial education and products to promote, strengthen, and sustain the Bois Forte economy through a wise use of savings and credit.

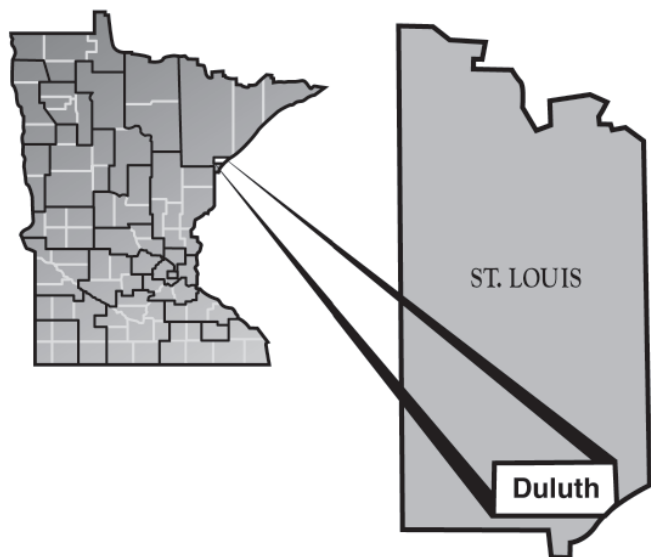
Almost everyone could use a hand learning more tools to help manage money and build savings for their future. Northern Eagle can help by offering an important service to provide education and counseling for people who are challenged with financial issues such as credit card debt, credit scores, student loan debt, and home foreclosure.

Northern Eagle is partnering with Lutheran Social Services (LSS) to provide credit union members with up to six free, confidential sessions of financial counseling. In-person counseling sessions are available at 8 offices statewide – Brainerd, Duluth, Mankato, Minneapolis, St. Louis Park, St. Paul, Willmar and Superior, Wisconsin – as well as through phone counseling.

The counseling helps create a workable budget and an action plan. People can get help to improve their credit reports, or to stop foreclosure or any housing problems, or learn new money management ideas – whatever helps. LSS also offers debt management plans (DMPs) to consolidate credit card debt at much lower interest rates, and other helpful tools.

From the Bois Forte News • January 2014

Community Action Duluth



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Results Oriented Management and Accountability - Selected Outcomes

Individual and Family Outcomes

Individuals who were unemployed and obtained a job.	68
Households in tax preparation programs who obtained any Federal or State tax credit.	978
Amount of tax credits:	\$2,292,902
Individuals who increased their savings through an Individual Development Account or other savings account.	65
Amount of increased savings:	\$58,085
Household who demonstrate good or restored credit.	102

Community Outcomes

Community members mobilized that participate in revitalization and anti-poverty initiatives.	849
Number of volunteer hours donated to the agency.	7,757
Community Partnerships	175



Program Activity	Number of People Served
EMPLOYMENT	
D9 Employment & Training Services	210
EDUCATION	
L5 GED, ABE & Educational Services	10
INCOME MANAGEMENT	
M2 Financial Education	99
M3 Tax Preparation Assistance	2,371
M4 Asset Development & Savings Programs	304
HOUSING	
C9 Community Homeownership Ed	99
NUTRITION	
H10 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Outreach	925
LINKAGES	
E4 Vehicle Program	67
K4 Benefit Enrollment & App Assistance	81
SELF-SUFFICIENCY	
M1 Self-Sufficiency	433

Success Story

Breaking Down Barriers to Employment!

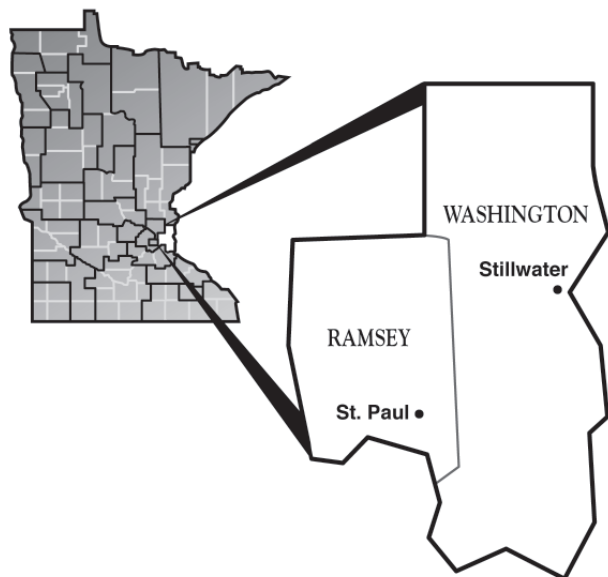
When Larry came to Community Action Duluth in the spring of 2013 he was experiencing long term unemployment. Larry's prior work experience was in outside, manual labor and construction work, but child support arrears kept him from obtaining a driver's license. He found himself in the difficult and frustrating position of not being able to even make a start at paying back his child support debt without gainful employment, which he had been unable to obtain without his driver's license. This was a real Catch 22 situation.

Larry worked closely with his Career and Financial Coach to address these intertwined barriers. With the help of his coach, Larry was hired as a gardening crew member in Community Action Duluth's Seeds of Success Urban Farming program in April of 2013. During the three months in the program, Larry gained transferrable work place skills, but also recent job history and positive employment references.

Larry successfully completed his transitional employment in late summer and since then he has continued to work with our Career and Financial coach. Larry's next goal was to get his driver's license reinstated. His coach contacted the child support officer and explained how crucial obtaining his license was to his ability to pay back child support. The very next day the coach received a voicemail from the child support officer saying the hold had been lifted!

Since that time Larry has received support from the Community Action Duluth coach to pass his driver's test and obtain his license. His coach also helped him connect with an ideal employment opportunity as an outdoor maintenance worker, which requires a current driver's license. Today Larry is gainfully employed by the City of Duluth as a Parks and Recreation worker and is happy to be in a position where he can move forward on his employment and financial goals, which include being able to pay the child support that he owes.

Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties



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Results Oriented Management and Accountability - Selected Outcomes

Individual and Family Outcomes

Individuals who have obtained pre-employment skills/competencies required for employment and received certificate or diploma.	39
Individuals who obtained care for a child or other dependant to acquire or maintain employment.	344
Individuals who obtained safe and affordable housing needed to gain or retain employment and/or in support of family stability.	29
Individuals receiving emergency car or home repair.	1,886
Children who participate in preschool activities to develop school readiness.	1,765

Community Outcomes

Safe and affordable housing units preserved or improved through construction, Weatherization or rehabilitation.	162
Community members mobilized that participate in revitalization and anti-poverty initiatives.	249
Number of volunteer hours donated to the agency.	26,426
Community Partnerships	363



Program Activity	Number of People Served
EMPLOYMENT	
D9 Employment & Training Services	162
INCOME MANAGEMENT	
M2 Financial Education	148
M4 Asset Development & Savings Programs	56
HOUSING	
B1 Weatherization	519
B7 Energy Related Repairs	1,886
B9 Energy Conservation Services	28
C3 Home Repair/Rehabilitation	185
EMERGENCY SERVICES	
B5 Energy Assistance	65,195
B6 Energy Crisis	20,869
B8 Fuel Fund	180
C10 Homeless Assistance	134
G1 Emergency Family Services	434
G3 Abuse & Neglect	154
G8 Crisis Intervention	439
NUTRITION	
H10 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Outreach	318
H11 Food Assistance	299
LINKAGES	
E1 Transportation System	1,781
E3 Transportation Assistance	89
E4 Vehicle Program	129
K1 Information & Referral	33,480
K2 Outreach	86,583
K3 Public Education, Information & Advocacy	32,981
K5 Leadership Development	70
SELF-SUFFICIENCY	
J1 Head Start	1,781
J3 Child Care Administration	129
M1 Self-Sufficiency	651
HEALTH	
I1 Health Care Assistance (Non-Financial)	1,182
I2 Health Care Assistance (Financial)	178

Success Story

Imagine being 16 years old and pregnant with your first child. Julie had struggled all of her young life, and knew she wanted more for her son. Determined to make a better life, she was able to get off welfare and worked for the State of Minnesota. By her early twenties, she was pregnant again and health issues had forced her to leave work.

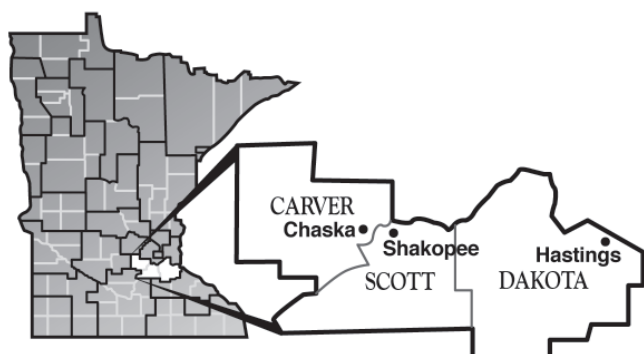
Julie worked hard to make ends meet for her two children. She recalls feeling like she never had enough energy and focus during her daughter's first few years. However, things began to change when Julie enrolled her daughter in Community Action's Head Start program. Julie's daughter performed extremely well in Head Start and was soon ready for kindergarten. Julie's experience motivated her to volunteer and become president of the Battle Creek Parent Meeting Group.

After serving on the Resident Advisory Board of the Washington County Housing and Redevelopment Authority, Julie accepted a position on Community Action's Board in January 2008. She recalls, "I had no idea what I was getting myself into." Julie was undeterred and forged ahead through what she called "a great deal of on-the-job training." Having lived in low-income circumstances, Julie has a unique understanding of the issues and needs in her community and believes she can make a difference.

Julie participated in both Energy Assistance and Financial Literacy programs. In her quest for financial independence, Julie plans to become an Office Administrative Professional and recently earned her professional certification through Crown College's Promise Program.

Reflecting on her time at Community Action, more than anything she appreciates what it has meant for her children. She says that her son, now 18, and her daughter, 11, are so much better for the experience. "Having a place like Community Action, where a family can access much needed services, helps low-income residents transition out of poverty much quicker than they would otherwise."

Community Action Partnership of Scott, Carver, and Dakota Counties



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Results Oriented Management and Accountability - Selected Outcomes

Individual and Family Outcomes

Individuals who were unemployed and obtained a job.	83
Individuals who obtain an increase in employment income and/or benefits.	105
Individuals who obtained food assistance.	57,613
Individuals who obtained safe and affordable housing needed to gain or retain employment and/or in support of family stability.	79
Children who participate in preschool activities to develop school readiness.	519
Parents who learn and exhibit improved parenting skills.	381

Community Outcomes

Safe and affordable housing units preserved or improved through construction, Weatherization or rehabilitation.	38
Community members mobilized that participate in revitalization and anti-poverty initiatives.	1,418
Number of volunteer hours donated to the agency.	36,789
Community Partnerships	169



Program Activity	Number of People Served
HOUSING	
B1 Weatherization	90
B7 Energy Related Repairs	605
B9 Energy Conservation Services	846
EMERGENCY SERVICES	
B5 Energy Assistance	18,420
B8 Fuel Fund	42
C10 Homeless Assistance	488
C11 Transitional Housing	43
G1 Emergency Family Services	150
G3 Abuse & Neglect	17
G6 Donated Articles	336
G8 Crisis Intervention	6,538
NUTRITION	
H3 Holiday Projects	280
H4 Women, Infants, Children (WIC)	4,479
H6 Home Delivered Meals	645
H7 Congregate Meals	930
H10 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Outreach	15,855
H11 Food Assistance	9,900
LINKAGES	
E3 Transportation Assistance	75
F3 Chore Services	130
K1 Information & Referral	39,440
K2 Outreach	1,905
K4 Benefit Enrollment & App Assistance	1,332
SELF-SUFFICIENCY	
J2 Early Childhood Care & Education	53
J8 Parenting	53
J10 Crisis Nursery	219
M1 Self-Sufficiency	135
HEALTH	
I2 Health Care Assistance (Financial)	243

Success Story

Community Action of Scott, Carver, and Dakota Counties' Head Start program made a difference in Tychonne's overall wellbeing and his kindergarten readiness. Tychonne's kindergarten teacher writes that:

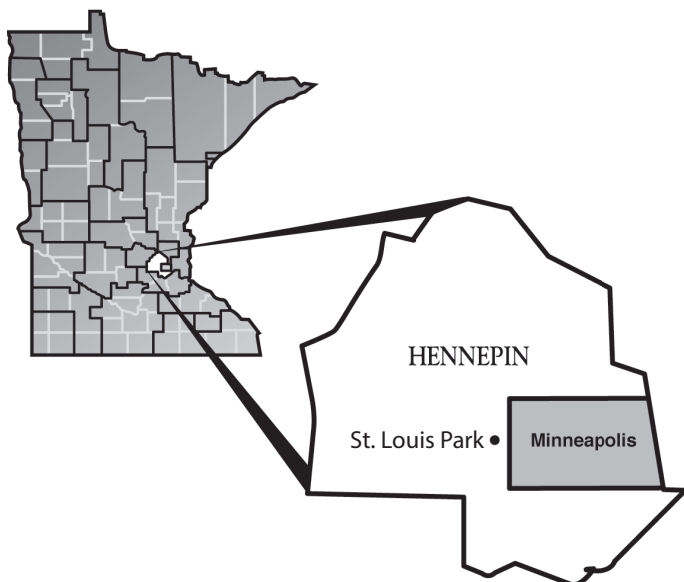
"Tychonne came to our class completely ready to learn. He understood how to listen, take turns, follow classroom procedures, and he possessed all the tiny self-help skills that are necessary to be independent in kindergarten.

Tychonne was also ready academically. He knew how to write his name, how to count, and most of the letters of the alphabet. Most importantly, he came with a huge hunger to learn more.

The academic, attitude and readiness skills were in place for Tychonne. He seemed very advanced in his awareness that school and learning are important to him and his future. One day when we were talking about what we would like to be when we grew up, Tychonne said, "I want to be an FBI agent when I grow up because they are the best policemen. They catch the really bad guys." Tychonne has all it takes to reach that goal. He works hard, knows that school and learning are worthwhile, and he knows that he can be a leader when he does what is right. He is a very bright boy who has a supportive home and also got a great start in school with Head Start.

Tychonne's mom is so proud of her boy and grateful for the Head Start program because she and her husband were not able to send Tychonne to preschool. She and I speak often of how he continues to grow and surprise her with his vocabulary and knowledge. I am also very proud of Tychonne and am thankful for the opportunity that Head Start provided for Tychonne and many other deserving children who come to my classroom."

Community Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin



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Results Oriented Management and Accountability - Selected Outcomes

Individual and Family Outcomes

Individuals who were unemployed and obtained a job.	70
Individuals who have obtained pre-employment skills/competencies required for employment and received certificate or diploma.	347
Individuals who obtained safe and affordable housing needed to gain or retain employment and/or in support of family stability.	241
Households in tax preparation programs who obtained any Federal or State tax credit.	662
Amount of tax credits:	\$1,268,563
Households who demonstrate good or restored credit.	1,132
Individuals who avert foreclosure and maintain their home.	326

Community Outcomes

Safe and affordable housing units preserved or improved through construction, Weatherization or rehabilitation.	84
Community members mobilized that participate in revitalization and anti-poverty initiatives.	83
Number of volunteer hours donated to the agency.	1,483
Community Partnerships	62



Program Activity	Number of People Served
EMPLOYMENT	
D9 Employment & Training Services	739
A1 Community Development	26
INCOME MANAGEMENT	
M2 Financial Education	3,219
M3 Tax Preparation Assistance	1,026
M4 Asset Development & Savings Programs	7
HOUSING	
B7 Energy Related Repairs	864
C1 Housing Grants & Loans	131
C3 Home Repair/Rehabilitation	112
C6 Rental Housing Assistance	381
C9 Community Homeownership Ed	1,238
C12 Low-Income Housing Develop & Stab	8,765
EMERGENCY SERVICES	
B5 Energy Assistance	40,523
B6 Energy Crisis	12,150
B8 Fuel Fund	294
C10 Homeless Assistance	456
C11 Transitional Housing	162
G1 Emergency Family Services	490
G6 Donated Articles	6,812
G8 Crisis Intervention	1,277
NUTRITION	
H10 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Outreach	3,360
H11 Food Assistance	227
LINKAGES	
E3 Transportation Assistance	66
E4 Vehicle Program	32
F1 Senior Oriented Services	458
K1 Information & Referral	27,632
K2 Outreach	7,740
K3 Public Education, Information & Advocacy	49,760
K4 Benefit Enrollment & App Assistance	2,057
SELF-SUFFICIENCY	
J4 At Risk Youth	72
HEALTH	
I1 Health Care Assistance (Non-Financial)	77

Success Story

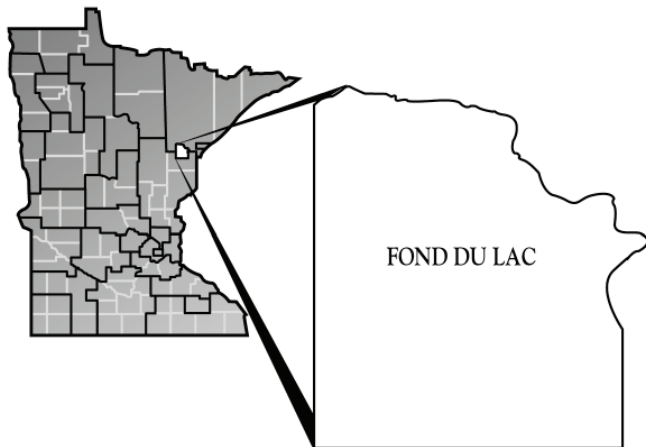
Homeless families face limited options and are sometimes forced to split up because of shelter policies. This is the position the “Johnson” family found itself in: “Sally,” a teen mother, homeless with an autistic baby, wanted to continue her education. Her mother was willing to watch after the child, but they needed a place to live. In order to be placed in a shelter, the grandmother and her dependent autistic grandson would be allowed to move into a shelter, but Sally would not be able to live with them. Sally’s high school social worker, aware of CAPSH’s Homeless Services, contacted Community Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin’s (CAPSH) Homeless Services Case Manager.

This family’s story is one of cooperation, vision and tenacity and demonstrates the effectiveness of CAPSH’s Homeless Services model, based on one-on-one intensive case management, to stabilize a family in crisis. As a result of the case manager’s invaluable network of service provider resources, and the vision and persistence of Sally and her mother, the grandmother and baby were able to move out of the shelter.

Working together, CAPSH staff and the family were able to find permanent rental housing through a compassionate property manager. The property manager worked diligently with Hennepin County to secure approval for the first month rent and damage deposit. Within four days the family was moving into an apartment where they have remained model tenants for over a year. Sally stayed in high school, graduating last summer. She persisted in finding a job at a shopping center located across the street from their apartment. She obtained part time employment that allowed the family to eventually assume full rent payment.

Once the family had a permanent address they were able to apply for SSI benefits for the disabled child, enroll him in a special needs preschool and access other county benefits and community services that have allowed them to achieve and maintain a stable family life.

Fond du Lac Reservation



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The Fond du Lac Reservation is located in Carlton and St. Louis counties adjacent to the City of Cloquet on the east, and 15 miles west of Duluth. The tribal headquarters are located at 1720 Big Lake Road near the City of Cloquet.

The Fond du Lac Reservation Business Committee is the Tribal Governing body. The Chairman and Secretary- Treasurer are elected at large. The three districts are Cloquet, where tribal headquarters are located, and the communities of Brookston and Sawyer. The reservation is a part of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. Criminal and some civil jurisdiction on the reservation were transferred to the State of Minnesota under Federal Law (PL-280). Other civil jurisdiction remains with the Tribe.

In 1997, the Tribe was engaged in negotiations with the Federal Government to assume control of BIA programs under the Self-Governance Law. Conservation codes are enforced for the reservation and the 1854 Treaty area, by tribal game wardens and courts. The Tribe is a participant in the 1837 Treaty case. The Tribe has its own automobile license plates. Fond du Lac negotiated the first general revenue bond issued to an Indian tribe for funds to expand their clinic. The Tribe charges a license tax on major businesses located on the reservation.

The reservation is divided among four Minnesota public schools districts. The Tribe has a Head Start program and operates the Ojibwe School, K-12. Transportation to the school is provided for Duluth students. The unique Fond du Lac Tribal/Community College with a 150-bed dormitory is both a tribal college and a state community college.

This information was provided by the MN Indian Affairs Council (www.indianaffairs.state.mn.us/tribes.html).



Program Activity	Number of People Served
EMPLOYMENT	
D3 Youth Employment	126
A1 Community Development	16
EDUCATION	
L5 GED, ABE & Educational Services	40
HOUSING	
B1 Weatherization	55
B7 Energy Related Repairs	121
C3 Home Repair/Rehabilitation	56
C6 Rental Housing Assistance	18
EMERGENCY SERVICES	
B5 Energy Assistance	471
B6 Energy Crisis	238
B8 Fuel Fund	206
H5 Gardening	173
K2 Outreach	1,000
J1 Head Start	165

Success Story

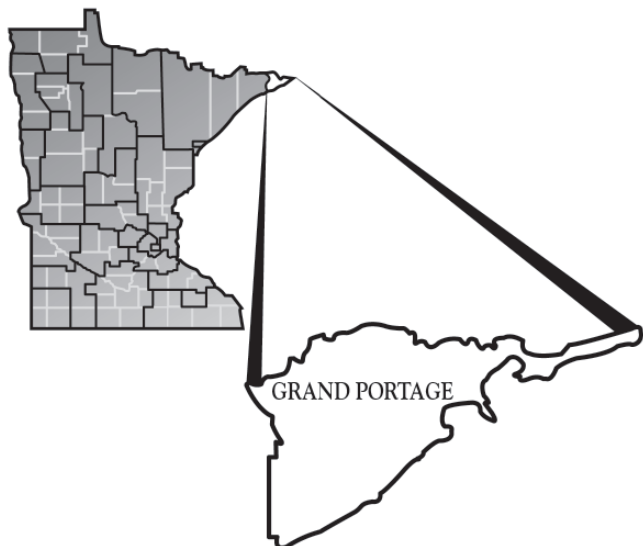
The Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa became a Blandin Broadband Community through the Blandin Foundation in 2012. As part of a Blandin Broadband Community, the Band has been able to apply for funding for various projects. The first round of funding was used to hire a consultant and conduct a study on the Broadband needs of the community. As a result, the Fond du Lac Band decided to offer community computer classes to all community members. Along with the classes, the Fond du Lac Band participated in the PCs for People Program and was able to give away 50 free computers to qualified community members who attended a community computer class. The funding allowed for six weeks total of community computer trainings between January and May, 2014 and had over 200 attendees. The trainings ranged from basic computer skills to advanced internet usage. Attendees were able to learn about word processing, social media, blogging, creating online businesses, researching their ancestry and much more.

The second round of proposals funded three more projects including the installation of 13 Hot Spots around the Reservation for community members, incorporating iPads in the classrooms at the Ojibwe School, and a two week "App" camp where middle school students learned how to make apps for mobile devices.

As a third round of funding, the Ojibwe School increased their connectivity to support the advancement of technology and the increased use of mobile devices.

The Fond du Lac Band is committed to expanding Broadband throughout the Reservation and is looking forward to continuing as a Blandin Broadband Community through 2016. Increasing broadband access is a huge step towards bettering the lives of Band members and the surrounding community and opens up the opportunity to new jobs, education and economic development.

Grand Portage Reservation



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The Grand Portage Reservation is located in Cook County in the extreme northeast corner of Minnesota, approximately 150 miles from Duluth. It is bordered on the north by Canada, on the south and east by Lake Superior and on the west by Grand Portage State Forest.

The Grand Portage Reservation encompasses a historic fur trade site with spectacular Northwood's Lake Superior shoreline. The reservation extends about 18 miles along the lakeshore and from nine miles to a quarter mile inland. The community of Grand Portage is the location of the tribal buildings and home sites. Grand Marais is the closest city, 36 miles to the southwest, and Thunder Bay, Canada, is 37 miles to the north.

The Grand Portage Tribal Council is the governing body of the reservation and is a member of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT). The Tribal Council consists of a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary/Treasurer, Council man, and Council woman. In 1996, Grand Portage entered the Self-Governance Program by contracting to administer its own programs from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). The State of Minnesota is responsible for criminal and some civil jurisdictions. The Tribe established its own court in September 1997. It collects its own sales tax.

The Tribe, working with the local residents, the State, and the Environmental Protection Agency, established a Land Use Ordinance for the reservation that was approved in 1996. This ordinance designates areas of land use according to tribal priorities for wildlife habitat, timber production, and protection of the resources for recreational purposes. A primitive area had been set aside in an eastern portion of the reservation in 1956. The hunting and fishing rights of tribal members in the ceded lands of the 1854 Treaty are regulated under the Tribal Code and enforced by the 1854 Authority.

This information was provided by the MN Indian Affairs Council (www.indianaffairs.state.mn.us/tribes.html).



Program Activity	Number of People Served
EMPLOYMENT	
D3 Youth Employment	22
EDUCATION	
L5 GED, ABE & Educational Services	3
INCOME MANAGEMENT	
M3 Tax Preparation Assistance	80
EMERGENCY SERVICES	
B5 Energy Assistance	191
B6 Energy Crisis	191
NUTRITION	
H4 Women, Infants, Children (WIC)	40
H6 Home Delivered Meals	12
H9 USDA Commodity Assistance	41
SELF-SUFFICIENCY	
J1 Head Start	16
J7 Youth Recreation	22

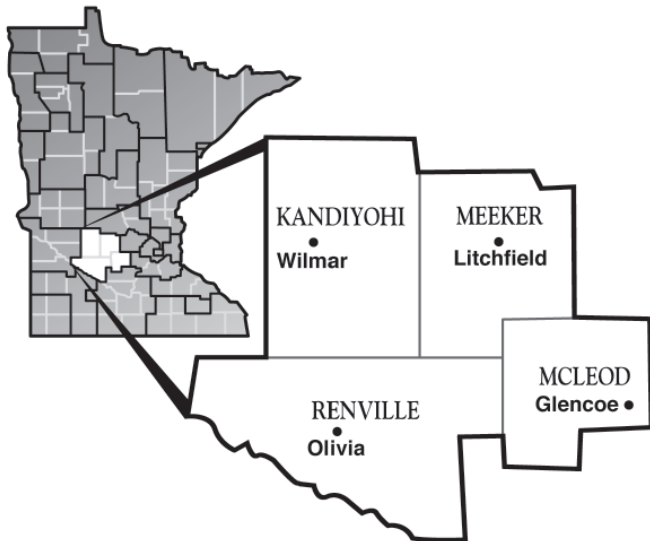
Success Story

The Grand Portage Band leverages Community Action funding to support critical self-sufficiency services such as emergency food, temporary shelter, and utility assistance. Funds are also used to support the elders Christmas party and dinner. All of them in coordination with other programs address unmet needs and help promote increased self-reliance within the community as in the case of one young woman.

This young woman lived at Grand Portage most of her life. She started working with the Grand Portage Mentorship program, which is a program that introduces teens to all the entities of our enterprise. It also introduces them to work ethics and a sense of pride by learning and earning money. It also encourages them to stay in school. She worked Mentorship every year until she was able to work in a restaurant. She then moved away, got married, and had children. She went to college and graduated, but had a setback and came home. After she started working a full-time minimum wage job, she acquired an apartment but couldn't keep up with the bills. She received help from EAP/Community Services, as well Human Services and through her hard work, determination and the support of these services she gained enough motivation to apply for an Assistant Manager position in one of our entities. She got the position and is completely independent. She won't need our services this year.

The Grand Portage Reservation also uses Community Action funding to support the critical services provided by the Elderly Assistance Program and the Elderly Nutrition Program. These important programs help create a safe and healthy living environment for elders in the community. Minor home maintenance, 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.

Heartland Community Action Agency



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Results Oriented Management and Accountability - Selected Outcomes

Individual and Family Outcomes

Individuals who were unemployed and obtained a job.	23
Individuals who obtained safe and affordable housing needed to gain or retain employment and/or in support of family stability.	28
Households in tax preparation programs who obtained any Federal or State tax credit.	39
Amount of tax credits:	\$58,500
Children who participate in preschool activities to develop school readiness.	334
Parents who learn and exhibit improved parenting skills.	336

Community Outcomes

Number of community members mobilized by Community Action that participate in community revitalization and anti-poverty initiatives.	1,276
Number of volunteer hours donated to the agency.	14,668
Community Partnerships	407



Program Activity	Number of People Served
EDUCATION	
L5 GED, ABE & Educational Services	40
INCOME MANAGEMENT	
M2 Financial Education	44
HOUSING	
B1 Weatherization	190
B7 Energy Related Repairs	317
B9 Energy Conservation Services	159
C12 Low-Income Housing Develop & Stab	28
EMERGENCY SERVICES	
B5 Energy Assistance	8,889
B6 Energy Crisis	2,758
C10 Homeless Assistance	653
C11 Transitional Housing	21
G6 Donated Articles	4,029
G8 Crisis Intervention	9
NUTRITION	
H3 Holiday Projects	855
LINKAGES	
E3 Transportation Assistance	150
E4 Vehicle Program	41
K1 Information & Referral	4,903
K2 Outreach	29,270
K3 Public Education, Information & Advocacy	287,876
K4 Benefit Enrollment & App Assistance	1,595
SELF-SUFFICIENCY	
J1 Head Start	1,595
J2 Early Childhood Care & Education	20
J6 Child Care Aware	11
J8 Parenting	103
M1 Self-Sufficiency	70

Success Story

How do I get there?

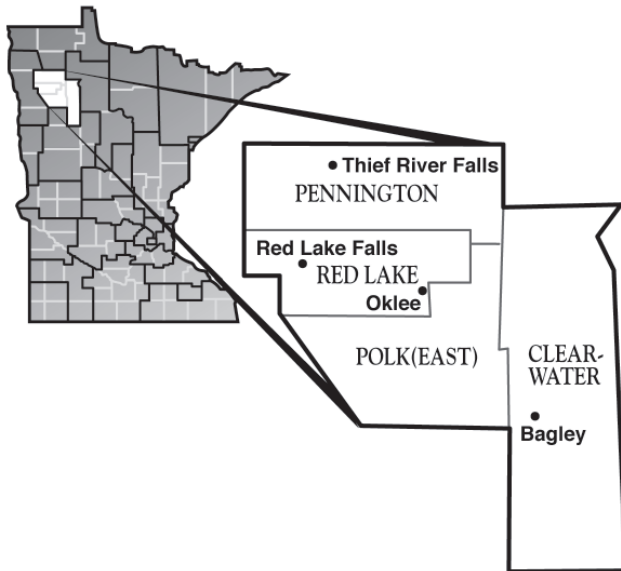
This is a question that is asked multiple times a day by rural, low-income families. Whether it is for work, medical appointments, shopping for basic needs such as groceries, or bringing children to school or child care, the absence of reliable transportation puts a solution far out of reach. The lack of a personal vehicle, the go-to resource in rural areas without readily accessible public transportation, continues to be a significant barrier to employment for low-income families served by Heartland Community Action Agency.

Helping People Get There is a grassroots program that exists through multiple partnerships and strong community building efforts. Heartland's partners include ten repair shops, two banks, Ridgewater College, Kandiyohi County Power Cooperative, Rohner's Auto Salvage, four WorkForce Centers, three Foundations, and most importantly, community members who graciously donate their used vehicles.

In total, 87 families have received a vehicle since the program's inception in 2008. Of those families, 86% report moving off county cash assistance and into self-sufficiency. These numbers reflect the promise of community action and are exemplified by families such as Nick's.

Nick is a single father of two who had been without transportation since an automobile accident on his way to work left his family without a car. After a period of unemployment, Nick found a job locally that he was able to walk to, but he still had to walk with his children to school, to shop, to do things that are often taken for granted by those with reliable transportation. A quick trip to the post office in winter meant a 20-minute walk in sub-zero temperatures for all three family members. With the help of Heartland's partners, Nick received a vehicle that allows him to increase his work hours, get to his family's destinations, and move back into the world of self-sufficiency. "Being able to pick my kids up from school; it may seem like nothing, but it's everything to them."

Inter-County Community Council



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Results Oriented Management and Accountability - Selected Outcomes

Individual and Family Outcomes

Individuals who obtained safe and affordable housing needed to gain or retain employment and/or in support of family stability.	175
Individuals receiving emergency car or home repair.	67
Individuals who avert foreclosure and maintain home.	12
Children who participate in preschool activities to develop school readiness.	206

Community Outcomes

Safe and affordable housing units preserved or improved through construction, Weatherization or rehabilitation.	99
Accessible or increased educational and training placement opportunities that are available for low-income people in the community.	7
Number of community members mobilized by Community Action that participate in community revitalization and anti-poverty initiatives.	40
Number of volunteer hours donated to the agency.	6,924
Community Partnerships	390



Program Activity	Number of People Served
EMPLOYMENT	
D3 Youth Employment	165
D6 Senior Employment Programs	18
EDUCATION	
L2 Literacy	15
L5 GED, ABE & Educational Services	14
INCOME MANAGEMENT	
M2 Financial Education	172
M3 Tax Preparation Assistance	18
M4 Asset Development & Savings Programs	7
HOUSING	
B1 Weatherization	136
B7 Energy Related Repairs	204
B9 Energy Conservation Services	1
C6 Rental Housing Assistance	347
EMERGENCY SERVICES	
B5 Energy Assistance	4,058
B6 Energy Crisis	1,468
B8 Fuel Fund	25
C10 Homeless Assistance	347
C11 Transitional Housing	43
G1 Emergency Family Services	347
G6 Donated Articles/Computers for the community	138
G8 Crisis Intervention	120
NUTRITION	
H3 Holiday Projects	25
H10 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Outreach	3,213
H11 Food Assistance	204
LINKAGES	
E3 Transportation Assistance	5
E5 Transportation Safety Programs	1
SELF-SUFFICIENCY	
J1 Head Start	206
J8 Parenting	206
M1 Self-Sufficiency	12
HEALTH	
I1 Health Care Assistance (Non-Financial)	206
I2 Health Care Assistance (Financial)	57

Success Story

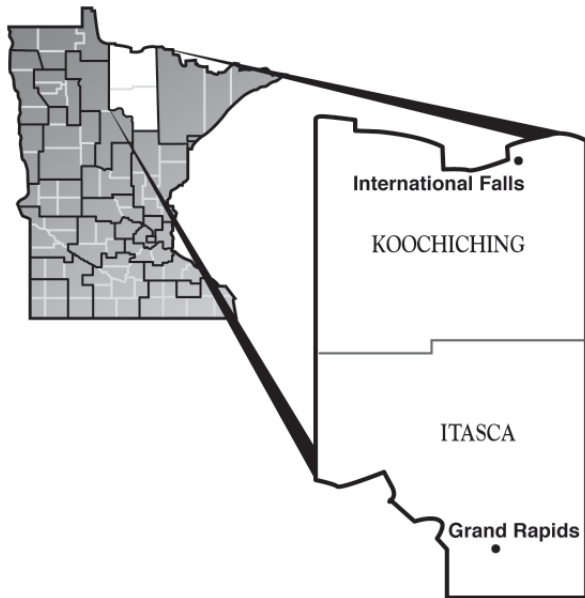
Savannah was referred to Inter County Community Council (ICCC) Employment & Training Programs staff by her learning disabilities case manager and the principal from the school district. She was a 17 year old high school junior and on an individualized education plan (IEP). Savannah was reluctant to apply for the Minnesota Youth Program, but after visiting about the opportunities and consulting with her parents, Savannah decided it would be a good idea.

Savannah and ICCC staff discussed possible job sites that would offer her an opportunity to receive work readiness skill training and a chance to challenge herself in a supportive environment. Together they made the decision that she would interview with a local County Museum and Focus Corps. She was immediately hired by Focus Corps, a non-profit that provides constant supervision and training for individuals with severe disabilities.

Savannah started with maintenance duties to include: mowing and yard work, bus washing and cleaning, then progressed to working with participants. Savannah really enjoyed working with clients and her peers and supervisors. When school resumed in the fall she was hired through the Minnesota Youth Program to assist with the School Age Children program at the school. Her summer supervisor had given her an excellent reference and Savannah's capabilities with younger children helped her excel in the afterschool program. ICCC staffed watched as she interacted with young children and was spell bound with the way she could handle young children, especially during periods of aggressive behavior and disputes. It was fantastic to watch Savannah grow in her confidence and strengths in just a short time.

Savannah decided to wait a year after graduation before attending college. At this time she has been hired on program by her first employer, Focus Corps. Her immediate goal is to save money and then apply for the Early Childhood Education program. She believes the experience and learning opportunities she gained from working with youth programs helped her further her decision making skills and facilitated her future career decision.

KOOTASCA Community Action



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Results Oriented Management and Accountability - Selected Outcomes

Individual and Family Outcomes

Individuals who were unemployed and obtained a job.	70
Individuals who obtain an increase in employment income and/or benefits.	19
Households receiving budget counseling and financial literacy services.	33
Children who participate in preschool activities to develop school readiness.	235
Infants and children obtain age appropriate immunizations, medical, and dental care.	247

Community Outcomes

Safe and affordable housing units preserved or improved through construction, Weatherization or rehabilitation.	71
Number of community members mobilized by Community Action that participate in community revitalization and anti-poverty initiatives.	862
Number of volunteer hours donated to the agency.	54,099
Community Partnerships	254



Program Activity	Number of People Served
EMPLOYMENT	
D9 Employment & Training Services	70
EDUCATION	
L2 Literacy	235
L5 GED, ABE & Educational Services	19
INCOME MANAGEMENT	
M2 Financial Education	33
HOUSING	
B1 Weatherization	95
B7 Energy Related Repairs	614
B9 Energy Conservation Services	12
C1 Housing Grants & Loans	5
C3 Home Repair/Rehabilitation	57
C6 Rental Housing Assistance	206
C9 Community Homeownership Ed	99
EMERGENCY SERVICES	
B5 Energy Assistance	7,818
B6 Energy Crisis	2,630
C11 Transitional Housing	20
G6 Donated Articles	185
NUTRITION	
H3 Holiday Projects	103
LINKAGES	
E3 Transportation Assistance	73
E4 Vehicle Program	2
K1 Information & Referral	6,859
K3 Public Education, Information & Advocacy	4,462
K5 Leadership Development	70
SELF-SUFFICIENCY	
J1 Head Start	271
J2 Early Childhood Care & Education	14
J10 Crisis Nursery	247
M1 Self-Sufficiency	34

Success Story

Our client's story is one of hard work, perseverance, and success.

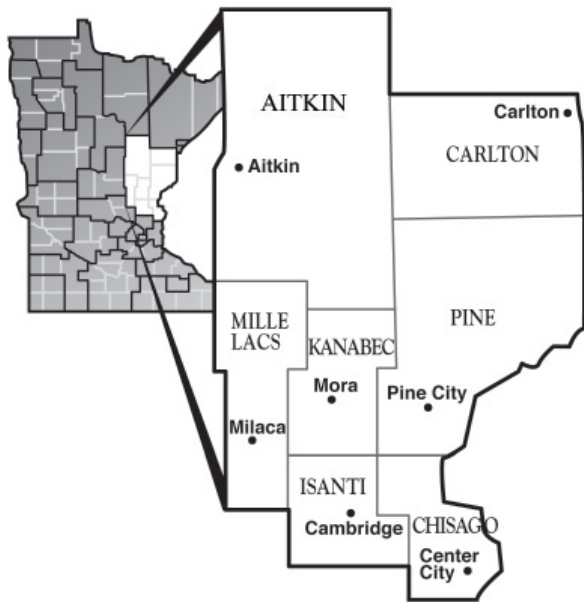
When she first came to KOOTASCA, she had a specific goal in mind; a place to call home for herself and her two young daughters. She started this process by enrolling in KOOTASCA's Family Assets for Independence in Minnesota Program (FAIM), and used the matched savings to propel her towards her effort to purchase a home. During the FAIM program, she focused on goals such as saving a portion of her income deposited into an Individual Development Account (IDA) every month, working with a bank to establish a better credit rating, and getting involved in programs such as KOOTASCA's HomeStretch workshop.

At the HomeStretch workshop she learned that KOOTASCA would be taking applications for the Minnesota Urban and Rural Homesteading Program (MURL), and there was a house just the right size for her family.

She applied for the MURL home in 2006, and was asked why she wanted to own a home. She responded "to have a home to call home". She was approved, and the three programs really came together for her. She used the money in her IDA to help reduce the initial principal of the home, and the knowledge gained during HomeStretch has helped every step of the way.

In less than 8 years, she was able to completely pay off her loan! During those eight years, her income increased, which made it possible for her to pay substantial payments every month and still put enough into savings so she never missed a payment. She credits her accomplishment to her ability to follow through on the goals that were set in these programs. She commends the KOOTASCA staff and programs that helped her get started, saying that they pointed her in a good direction, graciously helped her find supportive resources along the way, gave her a boost to reach her goals, and ultimately made it possible to better herself.

Lakes and Pines Community Action Council



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Results Oriented Management and Accountability - Selected Outcomes

Individual and Family Outcomes

Individuals who were unemployed and obtained a job.	381
Individuals who obtained safe and affordable housing needed to gain or retain employment and/or in support of family stability.	537
Households in tax preparation programs who obtained any Federal or State tax credit.	656
Amount of tax credits:	\$1,008,769
Individuals who avert foreclosure and maintain home.	6
Children who participate in preschool activities to develop school readiness.	573

Community Outcomes

Safe and affordable housing units preserved or improved through construction, Weatherization or rehabilitation.	195
Number of community members mobilized by Community Action that participate in community revitalization and anti-poverty initiatives.	519
Number of volunteer hours donated to the agency.	37,832
Community Partnerships	275



Program Activity	Number of People Served
EMPLOYMENT	
D9 Employment & Training Services	381
EDUCATION	
L5 GED, ABE & Educational Services	57
INCOME MANAGEMENT	
M2 Financial Education	169
M3 Tax Preparation Assistance	2,099
M4 Asset Development & Savings Programs	6
HOUSING	
B1 Weatherization	91
B7 Energy Related Repairs	1,115
C1 Housing Grants & Loans	243
C5 Small Cities Development. Grants (SCDG)	90
EMERGENCY SERVICES	
B5 Energy Assistance	18,061
B6 Energy Crisis	6,558
C10 Homeless Assistance	799
C11 Transitional Housing	81
G8 Crisis Intervention	65
NUTRITION	
H5 Gardening	5,162
H10 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Outreach	554
H11 Food Assistance	26
LINKAGES	
E4 Vehicle Program	13
K1 Information & Referral	14,880
K2 Outreach	8,550
K3 Public Education, Information & Advocacy	172,275
K4 Benefit Enrollment & App Assistance	48
SELF-SUFFICIENCY	
J1 Head Start	533
J6 Child Care Aware	111
M1 Self-Sufficiency	3,636

Success Story

There is no doubt that what Minnesota witnessed in the winter of 2013-2014 in regards to the propane shortage supply and high demand is unlike anything any of us can recall in recent memory -- not since the gas lines of the 1970's. On top of the propane shortage, Minnesota's winter brought severe, below freezing temperatures beyond belief. The word "crisis" can't help but come to mind.

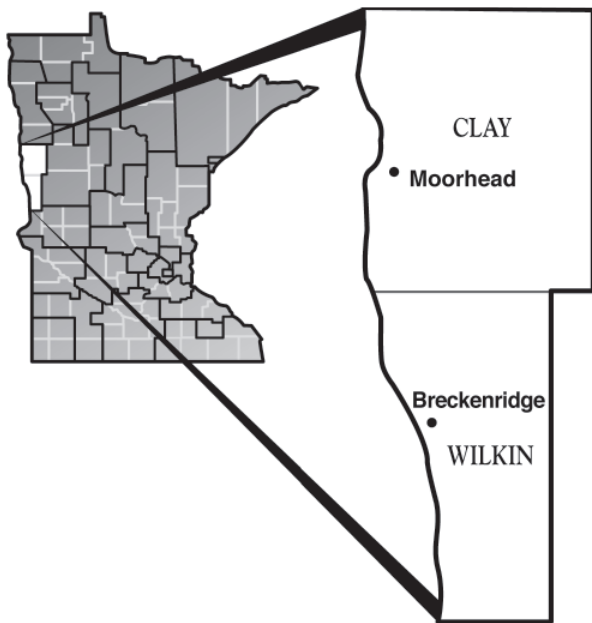
What was called the "propane crisis" reached beyond families with low-wage earners. Lakes and Pines, much like other Energy Assistance providers, experienced an increase in requests for help in getting propane when propane couldn't be delivered or the cost was beyond what the family had budgeted for the winter.

Lakes and Pines staff, and Community Action staff across the state, worked tirelessly to provide families opportunities to safely and adequately heat their homes. This high level of customer service, with a can-do, upbeat attitude is not outside of normal business and could not be achieved each day without careful planning, management and retention of skillful, compassionate employees.

Staff at Lakes and Pines see crisis every day. What can be more of a crisis than losing your home or job? What can be more of a crisis than wondering if your child is ready for school? What can be more of a crisis than working with a staff person who is faced with a life changing event and needs help to continue to work and contribute as an employee?

When the once in a life time crisis situation caused by a flood, rising fuel costs, family issues or job loss reach deeper levels throughout the community, Community Action uses the expertise of dealing with crisis from the people we serve each day to help the entire community in the aftermath.

Lakes and Prairies Community Action Partnership



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Results Oriented Management and Accountability - Selected Outcomes

Individual and Family Outcomes

Individuals who were unemployed and obtained a job.	26
Individuals who have obtained care for child or other dependant needed to gain or retain employment.	5,149
Individuals who obtained safe and affordable housing needed to gain or retain employment and/or in support of family stability.	351
Households in tax preparation programs who obtained any Federal or State tax credit.	575
Amount of tax credits:	\$681,384
Children who participate in preschool activities to develop school readiness.	302
Parents who learn and exhibit improved parenting skills.	518

Community Outcomes

Number of community members mobilized by Community Action that participate in community revitalization and anti-poverty initiatives.	769
Number of volunteer hours donated to the agency.	54,672
Community Partnerships	304



Program Activity	Number of People Served
EDUCATION	
L3 English/Second Language (ESL)	4
L5 GED, ABE & Educational Services	10
INCOME MANAGEMENT	
M2 Financial Education	349
M3 Tax Preparation Assistance	1,051
M4 Asset Development & Savings Programs	9
HOUSING	
C3 Home Repair/Rehabilitation	74
EMERGENCY SERVICES	
C10 Homeless Assistance	462
C11 Transitional Housing	52
G1 Emergency Family Services	270
G3 Abuse & Neglect	110
G8 Crisis Intervention	18
NUTRITION	
H3 Holiday Projects	25
H10 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Outreach	1,753
H11 Food Assistance	837
LINKAGES	
E3 Transportation Assistance	47
F1 Senior Oriented Services	450
K1 Information & Referral	7,522
K2 Outreach	5,110
K3 Public Education, Information & Advocacy	22,865
K4 Benefit Enrollment & App Assistance	177
SELF-SUFFICIENCY	
J1 Head Start	302
J6 Child Care Aware	7,781
J8 Parenting	522
J9 Fatherhood Initiative	3
M1 Self-Sufficiency	60
HEALTH	
I1 Health Care Assistance (Non-Financial)	155

Success Story

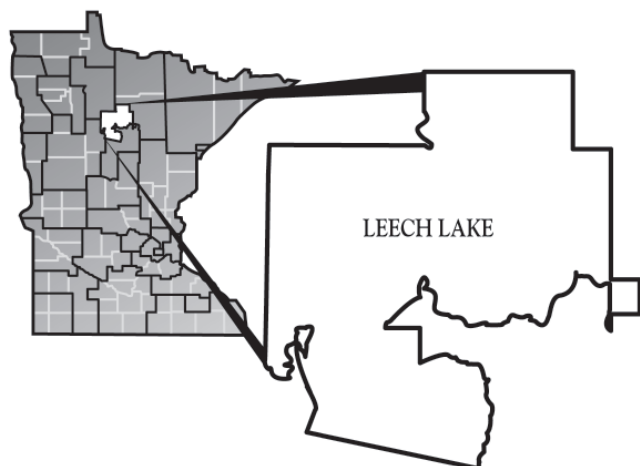
“Angie” was a young single mom attending college full-time working toward a social work degree. Angie knew that completing college would ultimately lead to the life that she wanted for her and her young son. Angie was working as many hours as she could manage between classes and on the weekends to pay the bills but was barely scraping by.

Angie’s son was able to attend Head Start classes which changed their lives in so many ways far beyond the preschool education that was provided. Angie’s son was having some behavioral problems and the Head Start teachers worked with Angie on a plan to address the issues. This plan ultimately resulted in a medical diagnosis and a simple, routine surgery that resolved the issues for Angie’s son. Angie acknowledges that with the help of the Head Start teachers her son was able to enter public school ready to learn.

In addition to the education provided to Angie’s son, the family support staff that worked in the classroom also became great advocates for Angie. When Angie completed her social work degree, she was hired for her first professional job as a Classroom-Family Support staff at Head Start! Angie was also referred to the FAIM program to work toward her long-term goals for her and her family. Angie was able to become a trainer for the 4 Cornerstones of Financial Literacy training which instilled in her the desire to pass these basic financial skills on to other people in need. These desires led Angie to continue her education and she was able to use her matched savings from FAIM toward her first semester of graduate school.

Now, 10 years later, Angie has earned her Master’s Degree in Family Financial Planning, and has been promoted to a leadership position within Lakes & Prairies Community Action. Angie has achieved her goals and has fulfilled her dreams to provide the life she always dreamed of for her and her family!

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe



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The Leech Lake Reservation is located in north central Minnesota in the counties of Beltrami, Cass, Hubbard, and Itasca. The tribal headquarters is in Cass Lake, Minnesota.

Located along US Highway 2, the reservation is southeast of Bemidji with Walker just outside on the southwest corner. Cass Lake is the largest community within the reservation. Eleven communities make up the reservation. In addition to Cass Lake, there are Ball Club, Bena, Inger, Onigum, Mission, Pennington, Smokey Point, Sugar Point, and Oak Point. Oak Point was renamed in 1995.

The Leech Lake Tribal Council is the governing body with their offices in Cass Lake and is a member of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. In the early 1990's, the Tribe contracted with the BIA to operate programs under self-governance procedures as one of the second groups of ten tribes allowed into the pilot project. The State is responsible for criminal and some civil jurisdiction over Indians on the reservation.

The smaller communities have facilities for community events and services such as medical clinics and programs for elders. The people have organized their own community councils to give a political voice to their concerns. Health services are provided at the IHS hospital and clinic in Cass Lake and clinics in the other communities. If care that is more extensive is needed, the hospitals in neighboring cities are used. The Tribe operates a halfway house and an ambulance service, however, fire protection is from neighboring communities. In 1995, the Tribe began a burial insurance program for all enrolled members.

Education and programs for children are provided by two tribally run child care facilities, Head Start programs in seven communities and the K-12 Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig tribal school. The Tribe sponsors and provides funding for the Leech Lake Tribal College that began in 1990. The college is located in Cass Lake and offers AA degrees with credits transferable to Bemidji State University and other higher education institutions.

This information was provided by the MN Indian Affairs Council (www.indianaffairs.state.mn.us/tribes.html).



Program Activity	Number of People Served
EMERGENCY SERVICES	
G1 Emergency Family Services	73
NUTRITION	
H1 Food Assistance	33
H6 Home Delivered Meals	130
H7 Congregate Meals	36
LINKAGES	
K1 Information & Referral	230
K2 Outreach	230
HEALTH	
I2 Health Care Assistance (Financial)	32

Success Story

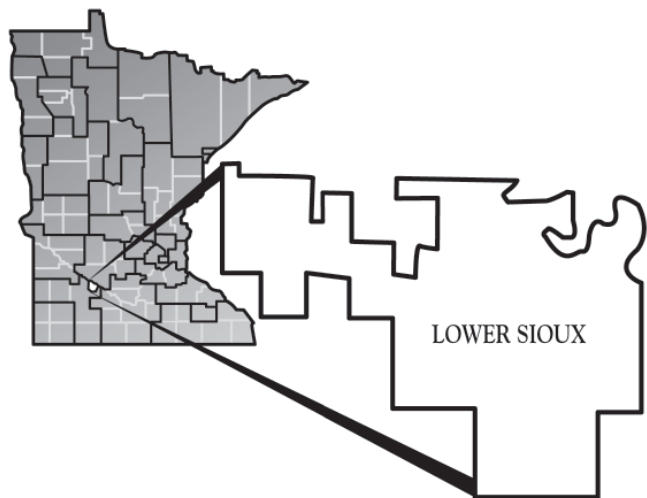
Tribal Elders and disabled individuals may be the most underserved citizens of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. Often physical impairment, working in low paying jobs, or lack of transportation can contribute to the reasons many Tribal Elders experience barriers to building a worry free and healthy life. Medical equipment is often required for an elder to have a quality of life that is close to that which the average community member experiences. The other important factor that reduces access to services for Tribal Elders is that medical insurance is often a cumbersome and confusing system for them to navigate.

The Tribal Assistance program worked with Economic Development and the Health division to find the best place to seat the medical equipment for low-income earners program. These funds are provided as part of the Community Services Block Grant that is matched by the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe government. It did not fit well with the mental health program as they were in close proximity to the Indian Health Service building. It was finally decided since the Elder Advocate program served many of the elder and disabled citizens, that it would best serve the citizens who would need access to medical equipment or equipment repairs and service.

Band sponsored medical equipment distribution is the most positive way we have impacted Tribal elders and disabled band members. Low-income earners who are 55 or older or who are disabled can now easily and efficiently receive much needed medical equipment such as walkers, wheel chairs, bathtub transfer seats and so on.

While accessing this service an elder or disabled band member can also be provided with referrals to our Patient Benefits program to receive advocacy with medical insurance needs as well. These Leech Lake citizens can now easily access services that are often necessary to have a better quality of life while receiving advocacy and assistance navigating the often confusing and cumbersome medical insurance systems.

Lower Sioux Indian Community



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The Lower Sioux Indian Community is located on the south side of the Minnesota River at the site of the U.S. Indian Agency and the Bishop Whipple Mission, a part of the original reservation established in the 1851 Treaty. It is in Redwood County, two miles south of Morton and six miles east of Redwood Falls. Across the river is the Birch Coulee battle site of the 1862 Sioux War. The Community, for purposes of determining membership and qualifying for some services, has a service area 10 miles beyond the actual trust lands.

The Lower Sioux Community Council is elected and operates under an IRA constitution. The State exercises criminal and some civil jurisdiction on the reservation. The tribal court was organized in 1993. It deals with civil cases including contract law and workers' compensation cases as well as tribal governance matters.

Social programs and community health services are administered by the Tribe, funded by various governmental programs and the Tribe. Tribally funded health insurance policies cover the medical costs for resident members as well as tribal and casino employees.

Redwood Falls and Cedar Mountain are the public schools for the community Indian children. In response to parental concern about their children's education, an Indian Education Tribal Liaison is in each school to assist Indian students. The Tribe provides financial help to any member wishing to get further education beyond high school.

This information was provided by the MN Indian Affairs Council (www.indianaffairs.state.mn.us/tribes.html).



Program Activity		Number of People Served
EDUCATION		
L5	GED, ABE & Educational Services	15
NUTRITION		
H11	Food Assistance	100
SELF-SUFFICIENCY		
J7	Youth Recreation	210

Success Story

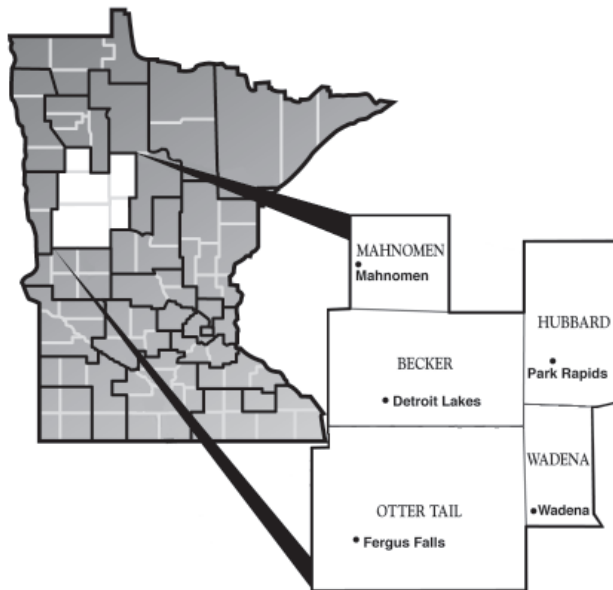
After School Tutor

The Lower Sioux Indian Community provides a tutor who works with school aged children after school at the Community's Recreation Building. The tutor assists children with their weekly homework assignments and any additional school help they may need. The attendance of the after school program is utilized by children ages 6-17. A room that is free of distractions and has a large work space is made available each week during the scheduled times. We have seen a decrease of student who are being held back due to the availability of the after school tutor.

GED Graduates

The Lower Sioux Indian Community provides a room that is free of distractions and has internet access as well as laptops to be used for GED test preparation. This service is provided to individuals age 17 and above who wish to pursue a GED Certificate. There were three such individuals who received their GED Certificate after being out of school for over two years. These individuals now have more employment opportunities and are better suited for what lies ahead of them.

Mahube-Otwa Community Action Partnership



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Results Oriented Management and Accountability - Selected Outcomes

Individual and Family Outcomes

Individuals who were unemployed and obtained a job.	133
Individuals who obtain an increase in employment income and/or benefits.	108
Individuals who completed ABE, GED, or post-secondary education program and obtained certificate or diploma.	60
Households in tax preparation programs who obtained any Federal or State tax credit.	643
Amount of tax credits:	\$1,244,420
Individuals who obtained safe and affordable housing needed to gain or retain employment and/or in support of family stability.	896
Individuals who avert foreclosure and maintain home.	22
Children who participate in preschool activities to develop school readiness.	330
Parents who learn and exhibit improved parenting skills.	457

Community Outcomes

Number of community members mobilized by Community Action that participate in community revitalization and anti-poverty initiatives.	1,126
Number of volunteer hours donated to the agency.	229,561
Community Partnerships	784



Program Activity	Number of People Served
EDUCATION	
L5 GED, ABE & Educational Services	75
INCOME MANAGEMENT	
M2 Financial Education	11
M3 Tax Preparation Assistance	4,713
M4 Asset Development & Savings Programs	16
HOUSING	
B1 Weatherization	195
B7 Energy Related Repairs	905
B9 Energy Conservation Services	243
C6 Rental Housing Assistance	437
EMERGENCY SERVICES	
B5 Energy Assistance	16,751
B6 Energy Crisis	6,140
B8 Fuel Fund	90
C10 Homeless Assistance	341
C11 Transitional Housing	55
G1 Emergency Family Services	23
G8 Crisis Intervention	870
NUTRITION	
H3 Holiday Projects	1,392
H10 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Outreach	1425
H11 Food Assistance	10,732
LINKAGES	
E3 Transportation Assistance	201
E5 Transportation Safety Programs	2,425
F1 Senior Oriented Services	154
F3 Chore Services	123
F5 Retired Senior Vol (RSVP)	786
K2 Outreach	87,526
K4 Benefit Enrollment & App Assistance	1,135
SELF-SUFFICIENCY	
J1 Head Start	489
J2 Early Childhood Care & Education	123
J8 Parenting	453
J9 Fatherhood Initiative	209
J10 Crisis Nursery	11
M1 Self-Sufficiency	312
HEALTH	
I3 Family Planning	1,462

Success Story

What started out as curiosity about car seat safety has led to a passionate commitment to child traffic safety across the country. Jennifer Booge, the mother of four children, received training paid for by the Head Start program to become certified as a Minnesota Department of Public Safety Child Passenger Safety Restraint professional.

To attain this goal, she attended training sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS). Upon training completion, Jennifer provided training to other parents in her Head Start center. The training was a success and requests for more training began to grow. The interest in training and the need for free and reduced cost car seats prompted the planning and implementation of Mahube-Otwa's nationally recognized Child Passenger Safety (CPS) education and car seat distribution program.

With the support of the Agency, Jennifer began training to become credentialed as a DPS Instructor. As an Instructor, she travels across the State instructing CPS courses to health care and law enforcement professionals.

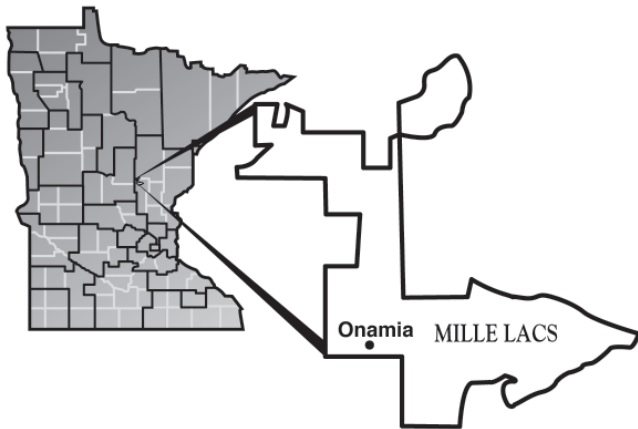
Jennifer was elected to the State of Minnesota Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Advisory Board. Through participation on this board, she has been involved in legislative efforts to promote and support the passage of our State's first booster seat law. During the summer of 2014, she participated in development of a statewide standardized curriculum and traffic safety conference working with the Minnesota DPS officials.

Mahube-Otwa was funded to operate the first Child Passenger Safety Resource Center (CPS) in Minnesota, with Jennifer in the position of CPS Liaison. The Center covers 34 counties and is responsible for training and program development across the State. As a result of her work, Jennifer has developed a strong working relationship with several Indian Reservations, providing program development and car seat education.

Jennifer was elected to the position of Vice Chair of the National CPS Board and will serve as Chairperson beginning in January, 2015.

Jennifer is an outstanding example of perseverance and self-sufficiency. She has taken advantage of opportunities and has worked hard to succeed.

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians



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The Mille Lacs Reservation is located in east central Minnesota, 100 miles north of Minneapolis/St. Paul. The tribal headquarters is near Onamia, Minnesota.

Mille Lacs tribal government consists of executive, judicial and legislative branches. Mille Lacs is a member of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.

The executive branch is responsible for the management and development of all the programs within tribal government. A chief executive is elected for a 4-year term. The Administrative Policy Board (comprised of the commissioners of administration, education, natural resources, health and human services, and the assistant commissioner of administration) is responsible for budget development, personnel oversight and personnel policies.

The legislative branch is made up of the Band Assembly and the assistants of the Band Assembly members. The Band Assembly passes all laws, makes changes or amendments to tribal law, passes tribal resolutions and appropriates funds for all tribal programs.

The judicial branch is made up of the judges and officials of the Tribal Court. The court is headed by a chief justice, and also served by associate justices. Mille Lacs Tribal Law Enforcement Officials have concurrent jurisdiction in Mille Lacs County, meaning that tribal police have the authority to pursue charges either through County Court or Tribal Court.

This information was provided by the MN Indian Affairs Council (www.indianaffairs.state.mn.us/tribes.html).



Program Activity	Number of People Served
EMPLOYMENT	
D3 Youth Employment	30
D9 Employment & Training Services	30
EDUCATION	
L2 Literacy	380
INCOME MANAGEMENT	
M2 Financial Education	50
NUTRITION	
H3 Holiday Projects	380
H7 Congregate Meals	380
LINKAGES	
E3 Transportation Assistance	380
K1 Information & Referral	20
K2 Outreach	380
K3 Public Education, Information & Advocacy	380
K5 Leadership Development	380
SELF-SUFFICIENCY	
J4 At Risk Youth	380
J7 Youth Recreation	380
M1 Self-Sufficiency	380

Success Story

While such historically disadvantaged groups have seen their graduation rates accelerate in recent years, Native Americans have not. Low rates of high school graduation, among other grim educational outcomes, weigh on Native American youth today.

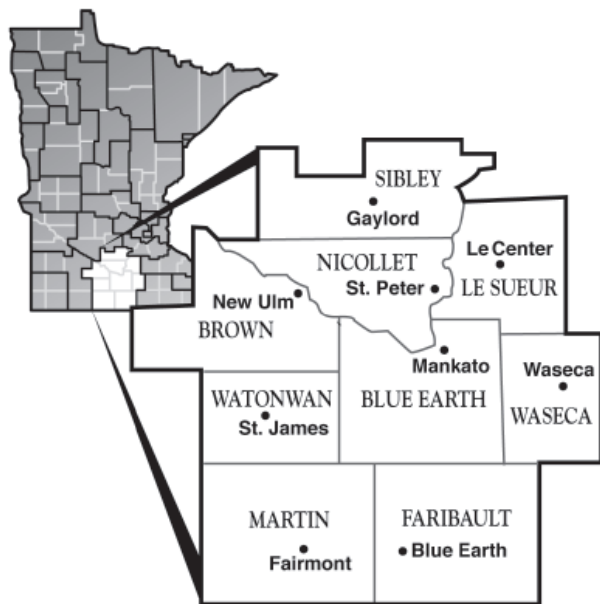
The Niigaan Youth Program (In the Ojibwe language, Niigaan can be translated to ‘leader at the front’) strengthens and supports the values of honesty, humility, truth, wisdom, love, respect, and courage which are rooted in the Ojibwe culture. In addition, staff work very hard to develop creative, engaging, and supportive academic programs that encourage participants to get involved in a blend of sciences and arts, with a significant measure of elementary engineering and applied arts. Niigaan programs reinforce participant academic achievement (e.g. better school attendance and better grades), social skills (e.g. positive relationships with adults, opportunity to make new friends, greater self concept and self esteem), community involvement, physical activity and being a positive role model.

When Ms. Sherraine White started with the Niigaan program, she was a quiet young lady who was struggling academically. Over the years Niigaan staff had observed that Sherraine displayed a natural ability of being a “big sister” to many of the younger participants, which included her siblings. Ms. White’s grades steadily improved throughout the 2013-2014 school year and she completed the year near honors status. She is currently attending Isle High School and is in the 10th grade.

Sherraine’s ability to believe in herself enables her to inspire others to learn, overcome obstacles, and to understand that positive values can be lived each day. Ms. White demonstrates confidence and self-efficacy when she gives freely of her time and her talents to assist and provide guidance to younger participants.

Ms. White continues to excel in her grades throughout this academic year. In addition, she continues to be a positive leader amongst her peers and a positive role model to the younger Niigaan participants which is a most welcomed benefit to the program.

Minnesota Valley Action Council



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Results Oriented Management and Accountability - Selected Outcomes

Individual and Family Outcomes

Individuals who were unemployed and obtained a job.	510
Individuals who completed ABE, GED, or post-secondary education program and obtained certificate or diploma.	131
Households in tax preparation programs who obtained any Federal or State tax credit.	469
Amount of tax credits:	\$1,242,819
Children who participate in preschool activities to develop school readiness.	533
Parents who learn and exhibit improved parenting skills.	550

Community Outcomes

Safe and affordable housing units in the community preserved or improved through construction, Weatherization or rehabilitation achieve by Community Action.	186
Number of community members mobilized by Community Action that participate in community revitalization and anti-poverty initiatives.	1,103
Number of volunteer hours donated to the agency.	65,552
Community Partnerships	671



Program Activity	Number of People Served
EMPLOYMENT	
D3 Youth Employment	313
D6 Senior Employment Programs	71
D9 Employment & Training Services	539
INCOME MANAGEMENT	
M2 Financial Education	14
M3 Tax Preparation Assistance	1,360
M4 Asset Development & Savings Programs	14
HOUSING	
B1 Weatherization	402
B7 Energy Related Repairs	725
C1 Housing Grants & Loans	37
C3 Home Repair/Rehabilitation	19
C5 Small Cities Development. Grants (SCDG)	73
C6 Rental Housing Assistance	353
EMERGENCY SERVICES	
B5 Energy Assistance	18,786
B6 Energy Crisis	4,228
B8 Fuel Fund	84
C10 Homeless Assistance	895
G6 Donated Articles	53,999
NUTRITION	
H10 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Outreach	150
LINKAGES	
E3 Transportation Assistance	1,417
E4 Vehicle Program	389
K1 Information & Referral	59,037
K2 Outreach	19,852
K3 Public Education, Information & Advocacy	1,168
SELF-SUFFICIENCY	
J1 Head Start	654
J8 Parenting	773
M1 Self-Sufficiency	1,200

Success Story

Maria was referred to MVAC in the fall of 2011 as part of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Adult program. After working for nine years at the Fairmont Foods production line, Maria was determined to improve her life and that of her children by furthering her education and learning new job skills.

Maria participated in MVAC's WIA case management program. MVAC staff help individuals identify their dreams, identify barriers, and connect people to services.

Maria enrolled in college while simultaneously working on her GED in the spring of 2012. She was so excited to have the opportunity to take her life in a different direction! In her first semester in the Community College Human Services program she made the Dean's List, and on May 31, 2012, Maria was awarded her GED. MVAC and the WIA program provided funds for Maria's tuition.

Education excited and motivated her. Other students sought her out to study with her.

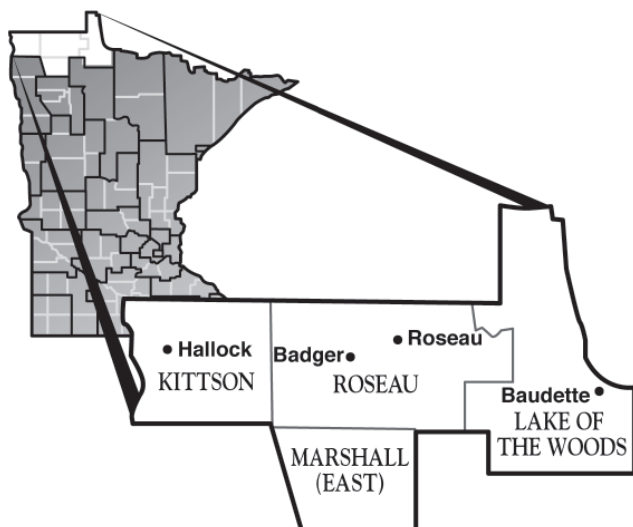
Maria's family is the center of her life. She is passionate about her son and daughter and giving them a good life and education. She strives to be a good mother as well as a good daughter and sister to her family members living in the area.

Maria's success in school influenced her younger sister to also pursue her education. Maria is bilingual and one day while interpreting for a friend applying for a job, the HR person asked Maria to apply for a part-time position at the company herself. Maria was immediately offered work assisting the HR Department, which helps to pay family and educational expenses.

In May of this year, Maria walked with her class through graduation. She will have not only earned her GED but also an AAS degree.

One of Maria's goals was to show, by example, to her children and siblings that there were opportunities outside of factory work for anyone as long as you put in the effort, the work and applied yourself.

Northwest Community Action



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Results Oriented Management and Accountability - Selected Outcomes

Individual and Family Outcomes

Individuals who were unemployed and obtained a job.	62
Individuals who obtain an increase in employment income and/or benefits.	59
Individuals who obtained safe and affordable housing needed to gain or retain employment and/or in support of family stability.	536
Individuals who avert foreclosure and maintain home.	24
Children who participate in preschool activities to develop school readiness.	301
Parents who learn and exhibit improved parenting skills.	426

Community Outcomes

Safe and affordable housing units in the community preserved or improved through construction, Weatherization or rehabilitation achieve by Community Action.	278
Number of community members mobilized by Community Action that participate in community revitalization and anti-poverty initiatives.	504
Number of volunteer hours donated to the agency.	39,144
Community Partnerships	688



Program Activity	Number of People Served
EMPLOYMENT	
A1 Community Development	9
EDUCATION	
L5 GED, ABE & Educational Services	5
INCOME MANAGEMENT	
M2 Financial Education	463
M3 Tax Preparation Assistance	257
M4 Asset Development & Savings Programs	3
HOUSING	
B1 Weatherization	100
B7 Energy Related Repairs	209
B9 Energy Conservation Services	189
C1 Housing Grants & Loans	4
C3 Home Repair/Rehabilitation	9
C5 Small Cities Development. Grants (SCDG)	47
C9 Community Homeownership Ed	57
C12 Low-Income Housing Develop & Stab	
EMERGENCY SERVICES	
B5 Energy Assistance	3,223
B6 Energy Crisis	928
B8 Fuel Fund	350
C10 Homeless Assistance	393
C11 Transitional Housing	9
G6 Donated Articles	288
G8 Crisis Intervention	109
NUTRITION	
H3 Holiday Projects	416
H10 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Outreach	978
H11 Food Assistance	63
LINKAGES	
E3 Transportation Assistance	195
K1 Information & Referral	4,180
K2 Outreach	1,875
K3 Public Education, Information & Advocacy	630
K4 Benefit Enrollment & App Assistance	53
SELF-SUFFICIENCY	
J1 Head Start	301
J2 Early Childhood Care & Education	45
J4 At Risk Youth	122
J7 Youth Recreation	122
M1 Self-Sufficiency	375
HEALTH	
I2 Health Care Assistance (Financial)	205

Success Story

Emily LaPlant is a high school senior at Kittson County Central in Hallock, Minnesota. Emily attended Head Start in the 2000-2001 school year and from that experience developed a desire to work with little kids.

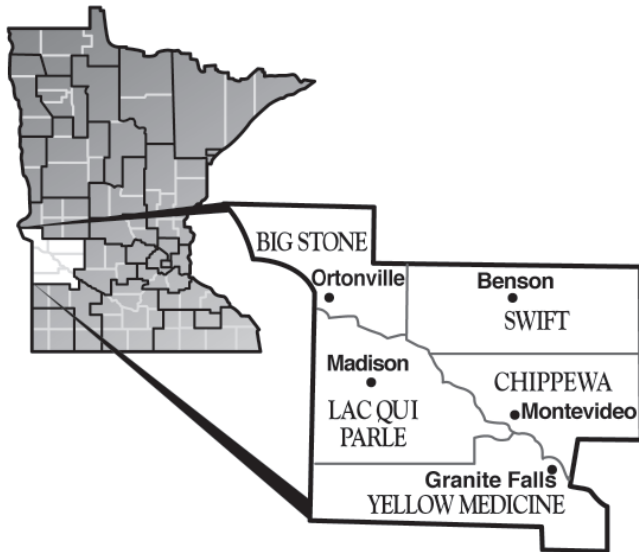
Emily was raised by a single mother and her father had virtually no involvement in Emily's life. Emily has Asperger's Syndrome, but has never let that hinder her life. Through high school she has been actively involved in many extra-curricular activities such as Knowledge Bowl, One Act Play, Golf and singing in the choir. Emily has also excelled in academics and graduated with honors (ranked 10th in her class). One former teacher stated that Emily is a very personable hard worker who always completed her work on time and with high quality.

Emily's experience in Head Start fueled a desire to pursue a career in Early Childhood Education so that she would be able to impact the lives of young children. Emily worked as a student helper with Northwest Community Action's Head Start Program and stated that "they are genuinely excited to see me every day and I am equally as excited to see them. It is fun to see them learn and also sad to see them go when they are done with the year and move on to kindergarten. I am happy though that I have played a small part in developing their lives and readying them for kindergarten."

After high school Emily was accepted into Lake Region State College in Devils Lake, North Dakota and is majoring in Early Childhood Education. Emily recently won the National Hollingshed Taylor Memorial Scholarship completion and was awarded a \$2,500 scholarship.

Emily and her mother lived in a Northwest Minnesota Multi County HRA public housing unit. Northwest Community Action has partnered with the housing authority to administrate a ROSS program (Resident Opportunity and Self-Sufficiency) program. Through this program Emily was able to apply for a scholarship and was awarded an additional \$2,500.

Prairie Five Community Action Council, Inc.



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Results Oriented Management and Accountability - Selected Outcomes

Individual and Family Outcomes

Households in tax preparation programs who obtained any Federal or State tax credit.	485
Amount of tax credits:	\$509,048
Individuals who receive emergency car or home repair.	216
Children who participate in preschool activities to develop school readiness.	273
Parents who learn and exhibit improved parenting skills.	83

Community Outcomes

Safe and affordable housing units in the community preserved or improved through construction, Weatherization or rehabilitation achieve by Community Action.	104
Number of community members mobilized by Community Action that participate in community revitalization and anti-poverty initiatives.	942
Number of volunteer hours donated to the agency.	46,170
Community Partnerships	165



Program Activity	Number of People Served
EMPLOYMENT	
A5 Cottage Industries	147
EDUCATION	
L2 Literacy	2
INCOME MANAGEMENT	
M2 Financial Education	6
M3 Tax Preparation Assistance	485
HOUSING	
B1 Weatherization	159
B7 Energy Related Repairs	216
B9 Energy Conservation Services	95
C1 Housing Grants & Loans	3
C5 Small Cities Development. Grants (SCDG)	15
EMERGENCY SERVICES	
B5 Energy Assistance	5,016
B6 Energy Crisis	1,353
B8 Fuel Fund	164
C10 Homeless Assistance	68
C11 Transitional Housing	15
G3 Abuse & Neglect	20
G6 Donated Articles	156,633
G8 Crisis Intervention	85
NUTRITION	
H3 Holiday Projects	1,570
H6 Home Delivered Meals	460
H7 Congregate Meals	1,949
H10 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Outreach	2,107
H11 Food Assistance	16,464
LINKAGES	
E1 Transportation System	976
E3 Transportation Assistance	953
F1 Senior Oriented Services	863
K1 Information & Referral	21,443
K2 Outreach	11,412
K3 Public Education, Information & Advocacy	11,223
SELF-SUFFICIENCY	
J1 Head Start	273
J2 Early Childhood Care & Education	136
J6 Child Care Aware	2,922
J9 Fatherhood Initiative	273
M1 Self-Sufficiency	4

Success Story

Luke – He was down and out. Every door that he tried to open was quickly closed because of processes and procedures.

He walked into my office hoping that this door would not be closed. His story was like so many. Because of economic uncertainty his options were limited. No one was hiring. Luke wanted to better his life in some way, shape, or form. He needed assistance to find the right path.

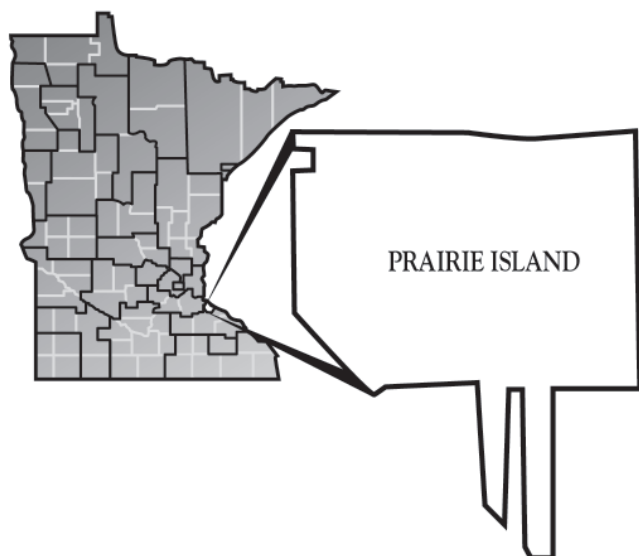
We were able to stabilize his life by helping him tackle hurdles that were preventing him from getting his life back on track. Energy Assistance and food from the food shelf addressed his basic needs. Luke was enrolled in college, but with car issues and the price of fuel he did not think he could continue his education. The pay from odd jobs was barely enough to cover his basic needs. He had nothing left to get him back and forth to truck driving school – a commute of 100 miles per day.

Luke wanted to finish school because he knew that this would open doors for his future. Prairie Five’s assistance allowed him to finish school and look toward a brighter future. Luke graduated and away he went toward a brighter future.

I was waiting in line to make a purchase in a local store recently. I did not recognize this man that came up to me and thanked me for what Prairie Five had done for him. He told me about the countless number of miles he has driven and the States he has seen. He is now married, happy, and has a good life. This man was Luke and he ended the conversation by saying, “you saved my life.”

Each time a person walks into our office we have the opportunity to make a difference in the immediate life and future of the family. In Luke’s life there are no longer doors closed except for the one on his big rig.

Prairie Island Indian Community



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The Prairie Island Indian Community is located on an island in the Mississippi River 14 miles north of Red Wing and 30 miles southeast of St. Paul. The tribal headquarters is located near Welch, Minnesota and has members mainly of the Mdewankanton Band.

History

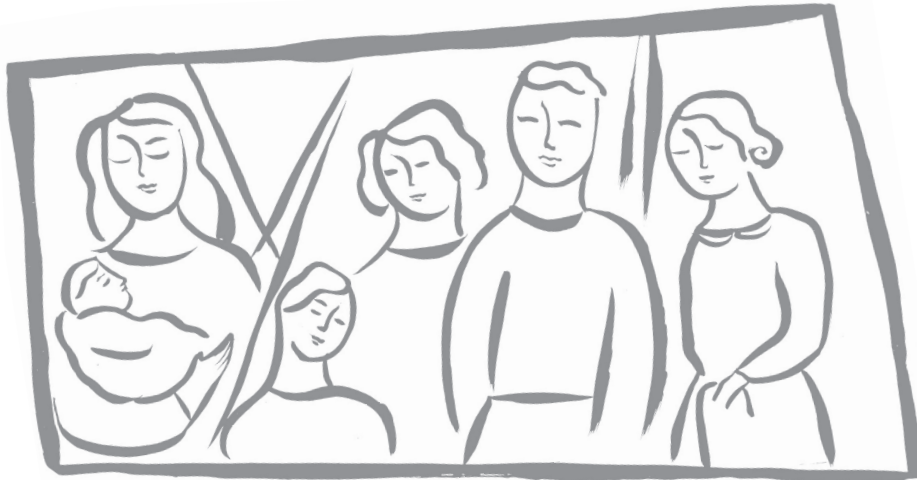
The Mdewakanton, “those who were born of the waters,” have lived on Prairie Island for countless generations. This land, with the wooded shores of the Mississippi and Vermillion Rivers embracing a broad and fruitful prairie, is a spiritual place for our people. The medicine gatherers came here hundreds of years ago and come here still to pick medicines to heal our people, body and spirit. Traditional cultural and spiritual ceremonies are filled with color and dance. The spirit is alive.

Although the rich tribal heritage lives on, an unfortunate series of historical events contributed to great suffering - primarily from the impact of European settlers and the subsequent imposition of government treaties. Many families were faced with countless injustices, forced into poverty, war and imprisonment, and eventually evicted from the Prairie Island territory.

However, hope inspired some families to return to Prairie Island to buy back small parcels of their ancestral home. In 1936, nearly 50 years later, the federal government officially recognized this area as a reservation, awarding them 534 acres. Although poverty was still prevalent, the culture of home was redefining itself. The seeds of self-sufficiency were once again being planted in these sacred grounds.

Economic revival began taking root in 1984 when Treasure Island Bingo opened, and subsequently in 1988 when gaming was expanded - known today as Treasure Island Resort & Casino.

For many years the Prairie Island Indian Community received Community Action 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 Community Action grants were designed.

As the tribe became more self-sufficient, the Community Action grants were primarily used for American Indians from other tribes living in the area. At this time, the Prairie Island Indian Community, while eligible for Community Action funding, has chosen to decline an annual grant so that the grants of other tribal governments would be larger.

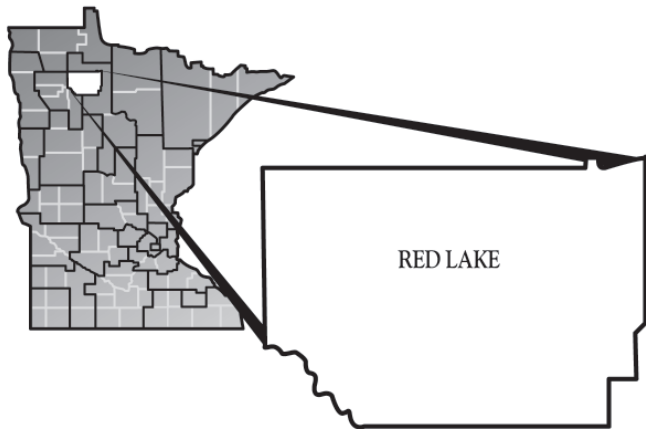
The Prairie Island Indian Community employs more than 1,600 people in rural Minnesota, with an annual payroll of \$45 million. Employees receive benefits, which include: comprehensive health and dental, 401(k), life insurance and employee assistance programs. The positive impact of the tribe's economic development is evident throughout Minnesota. The tribe's casino, Treasure Island Resort & Casino, is the largest employer in Goodhue County and is credited with reducing welfare by 67% in Goodhue County alone.

Prairie Island Indian Community Tribal Giving

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

Funding for tribal government is made possible through the community's gaming efforts. Tribal government gaming has allowed Prairie Island to reinvigorate the traditional Indian custom of sharing, contributing millions of dollars and support to surrounding communities and organizations year after year. Since 1994, the Prairie Island Indian Community has donated more than \$15 million to many Indian and non-Indian causes.

Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians



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The Red Lake Reservation is located in the northern Minnesota almost totally within Beltrami County with a small portion in Clearwater County. The Red Lake "line" is about 25 miles north of Bemidji. The land, slightly rolling and heavily wooded, has many lakes, swamps, peat bogs, and prairies. Land to the west is suitable for farming.

The tribal government has full sovereignty over the reservation, subject only to the federal government. Red Lake, because of its unique status is often referred to as a "closed" reservation. Because the land is held in common, few non-members live at Red Lake. The Tribe has the right to limit who can visit or live on the reservation. The Red Lake Nation is exempt from Public Law 280; consequently the state courts or government has no jurisdiction at Red Lake. Laws are made by the Tribal Council and enforced by the Tribal Council and Federal Courts.

In 1918 the Red Lake General Council Constitution was established. In 1958 a revised Constitution and By-laws was adopted by the members of Red Lake Nation, followed by the first secret ballot election of Tribal Government in 1959.

An eleven member Tribal Council, three officers elected at large and eight council members, two from each of the four communities, governs the Red Lake Band. Seven Hereditary Chiefs, descendants from those who negotiated the 1889 Land Agreement, serve for life in an advisory capacity to the Tribal Council. In 1997, the Tribe began administering its own programs under a Self-Governance Contract with the BIA. Red Lake is not a member of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT).

This information was provided by the MN Indian Affairs Council (www.indianaffairs.state.mn.us/tribes.html).



Program Activity		Number of People Served
INCOME MANAGEMENT		
M2	Budget Counseling	25
HOUSING		
B1	Weatherization	35
B7	Energy Related Repairs	105
EMERGENCY SERVICES		
B5	Energy Assistance	1306
B6	Energy Crisis	1056

Success Story

Northwest Minnesota Foundation Awards Funds to Boys and Girls Club of Bemidji Area

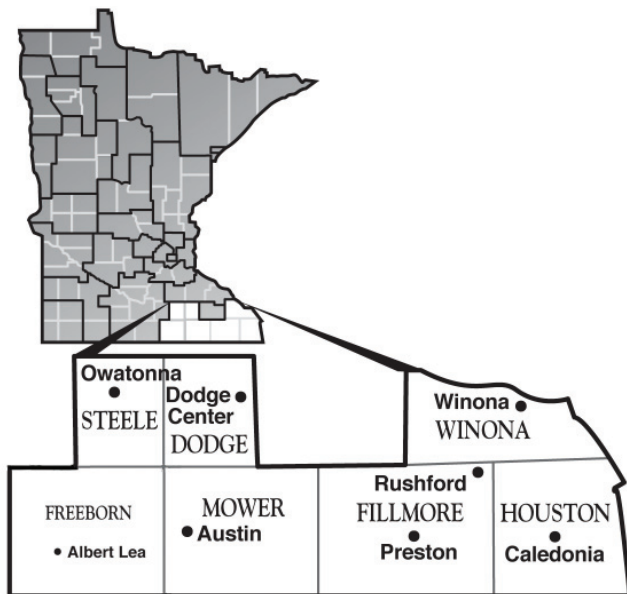
Red Lake Nation News, February 5, 2014, Vol. 10, No. 111

February 4, 2014-Bemidji, MN- The Northwest Minnesota Foundation (NMF) awarded an grant to the Boys and Girls Club of the Bemidji Area (BGCBA) for its Career Launch program, which is designed to help teens gain job readiness skills, prepare for college, and explore careers.

Through this program, teens will participate in activities such as preparing for the ACT/SAT, completing college applications, applying for scholarships, writing a résumé, and connecting with local professionals in order to help prepare them for life after high school.

“Partnering with Northwest Minnesota Foundation through the Community Connections Grant will give the Boys & Girls Club of the Bemidji Area the support needed to expand academic opportunities to not only our teenage club members, but to teens at Voyageurs Expeditionary School and teens in the Department of Corrections Juvenile Justice System through newly developed partnerships,” said Andrea Ohnstad, executive director of the BGCBA.

Career readiness is important throughout our 12-county region and a priority with NMF, according to Nate Dorr, NMF program officer – grants. “Today’s youth need to understand the variety of pathways to a successful career,” Dorr said. “By funding the Career Launch program, we hope that more youth will take control of their future beyond high school.”



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Results Oriented Management and Accountability - Selected Outcomes

Individual and Family Outcomes

Individuals who obtained safe and affordable housing needed to gain or retain employment and/or in support of family stability.	241
Households who enrolled in MinnesotaCare or other health insurance programs.	3
Individuals who avert foreclosure and maintain home.	45
Children who participate in preschool activities to develop school readiness	367
Parents who learn and exhibit improved parenting skills.	474

Community Outcomes

Safe and affordable housing units in the community preserved or improved through construction, Weatherization or rehabilitation achieve by Community Action.	260
Number of community members mobilized by Community Action that participate in community revitalization and anti-poverty initiatives.	1,906
Number of volunteer hours donated to the agency.	113,953
Community Partnerships	937



Program Activity	Number of People Served
INCOME MANAGEMENT	
M2 Financial Education	258
HOUSING	
B1 Weatherization	479
B7 Energy Related Repairs	523
B9 Energy Conservation Services	222
C1 Housing Grants & Loans	31
C5 Small Cities Development. Grants (SCDG)	14
C12 Low-Income Housing Develop & Stab	19
EMERGENCY SERVICES	
B5 Energy Assistance	16,333
B6 Energy Crisis	4,102
B8 Fuel Fund	373
C10 Homeless Assistance	531
G1 Emergency Family Services	595
G6 Donated Articles	696
G8 Crisis Intervention	846
NUTRITION	
H3 Holiday Projects	2,425
H6 Home Delivered Meals	687
H7 Congregate Meals	6,694
H11 Food Assistance	3,728
LINKAGES	
E3 Transportation Assistance	759
F1 Senior Oriented Services	698
F5 Retired Senior Vol (RSVP)	490
K1 Information & Referral	23,453
K2 Outreach	204,815
K3 Public Education, Information & Advocacy	100,178
K4 Benefit Enrollment & App Assistance	697
SELF-SUFFICIENCY	
J1 Head Start	367
J2 Early Childhood Care & Education	43
HEALTH	
I3 Family Planning	1,456

Success Story

Three-year-old “Anton” joined the St. Charles Semcac Head Start classroom in August. Since then, Anton has made tremendous developmental progress, as he manages symptoms of Williams Syndrome. This syndrome is a rare, neurodevelopmental disorder with common symptoms including mental disability, heart problems, failure to gain weight and low muscle tone.

With the guidance of St. Charles’ Early Childhood Special Education, a collaborative approach was constructed to provide Anton a solid path to improvement and advancement. Head Start teachers have continuously assisted and encouraged his learning.

Anton’s mother is a wonderful example of an empowered parent. Our staff supports their healthy relationship. Through a collective effort (including Anton’s determination and positivity) he has mastered numerous skills.

Physically, Anton has grown five inches and gained eight pounds since beginning Head Start. He has evolved from eating a special diet to eating the same foods as his peers. Anton now feeds himself.

When Anton started Head Start, he was able to walk with assistance. He was unable to step onto a stool to wash his hands unless he had adult support. Now, he walks and runs independently, regularly demonstrating increased balance and muscle control. He pedals a tricycle, dribbles a ball and climbs the gym ladder.

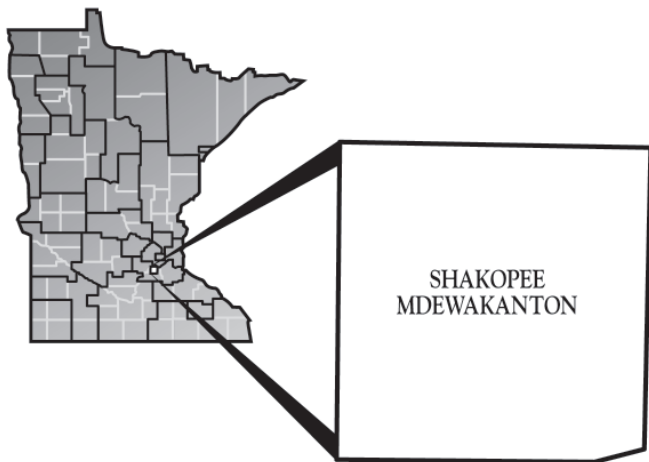
Previously, Anton’s motor skills were quite limited. He had difficulty using his thumb to grasp objects. Anton now holds pegs on puzzle pieces, completing puzzles with little assistance. Anton’s exuberance is evident as he claps his hands to congratulate himself.

Williams Syndrome often causes phonophobia. But, Anton has progressed from simply joining in during the final chorus of a song, to singing Old McDonald Had a Farm, solo.

Semcac Head Start has helped Anton to develop an excitement for learning. Yet, it is through his tremendous spirit and engaging personality that we learn from Anton; he is an inspiration to all.

(To protect the privacy of the student, names have been changed.)

Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community



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Chairman

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The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC) is a federally recognized, sovereign Indian tribe located southwest of the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota. The SMSC provides services for its members in the areas of health, education, and general welfare. With a focus on being a good neighbor, good steward of the earth, and a good employer, the SMSC is committed to community partnerships, charitable donations, a healthy environment, and a strong economy.

The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC) is dedicated to being a good neighbor and a good relative. This Dakota cultural tradition to help others who are less fortunate was passed down through the generations and today is exemplified through a wide variety of services and programs which are offered for the more than 4,200 employees and Community members. The SMSC and its enterprises are the largest employer in Scott County.

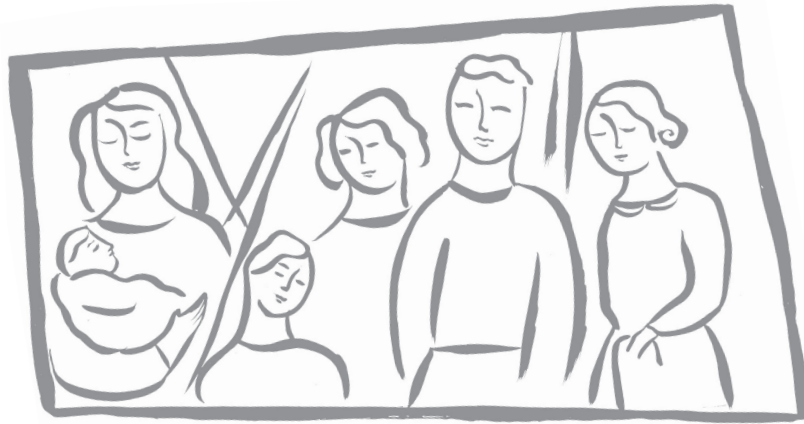
Some services are also provided at no cost to Native Americans living in the service area which is Scott County. Services provided fall into these categories: Children and Family Services, education, mental health, employee assistance, emergency, and dental and health services

Social Services, Education, and Mental Health

The SMSC Children and Family Services Department provides information, referral, case management, parenting education, support groups, child care subsidies, home visits, loaner car seats, prenatal and new baby information, a Giving Tree program, and emergency gas vouchers.

The SMSC NETWORKS Employee Assistance and Mental Health programs provide mental health care, employee assistance, smoking cessation classes, support groups, counseling, referral, and chemical dependency services for employees, Community members, and Native Americans living in Scott County.

The SMSC Education Department conducts tutoring, student support services, an internship program, a summer youth work program, a higher education program, and Young Native Pride programs for Community members. It also runs the Johnson O'Malley program, a federal program providing educational support to schools with Native American youth and administers a supplemental BIA Higher Ed and Adult Vocational and Training Grant.



Emergency Services

Mdewakanton Emergency Services provides ambulance, fire, and paramedic care on the reservation. They also work with area fire departments to provide mutual aid when requested. With a response time of two minutes anywhere on the reservation to the more than 200 calls a month, the full-time professional department stays very busy. Sixty ambulance transports are made each month to area hospitals.

In an effort to help save lives, the SMSC donates Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) to organizations across the state through a program called Mdewakanton LIFE. A joint program with the State of Minnesota provided 200 defibrillators to Minnesota State Patrol cars over a three-year period for rural officers who are often first responders at automobile accidents. Through Mdewakanton LIFE, the SMSC has donated a total of more than 789 AEDs to charitable organizations, schools, government entities, and tribes. The Mdewakanton LIFE Program has recorded 23 documented lives saved.

Health and Dental Services

The SMSC has a health and dental clinic providing no-charge services to Community members, employees, and Native Americans who live in Scott County. The Health Department also runs a hepatitis clinic, flu shot clinics, diabetes and other wellness programs in addition to thousands of patient visits each year. A free annual Native American wellness conference also attracts participants from across the region. Participants learn about living well with chronic illness through a combined western and traditional Indian approach to wellness. For more than twenty years, the SMSC has sponsored blood drives each year.

In recent years the SMSC has increased its health care offerings. An urgent care clinic at Mystic Lake Casino Hotel provides health care for gaming employees. A pharmacy provides reduced cost prescriptions. A Vision Clinic provides eye exams and services for eyeglasses and contact lenses. A Physical Therapy and Chiropractic Clinic provides services at no charge to employees and members. A Mobile Clinic provides mobile mammography and cancer screenings, a diabetes clinic, dental care, and other services to reservation and urban Indian communities. The Mobile Clinic is also equipped to serve as an Incident Command Center in the event of an emergency.

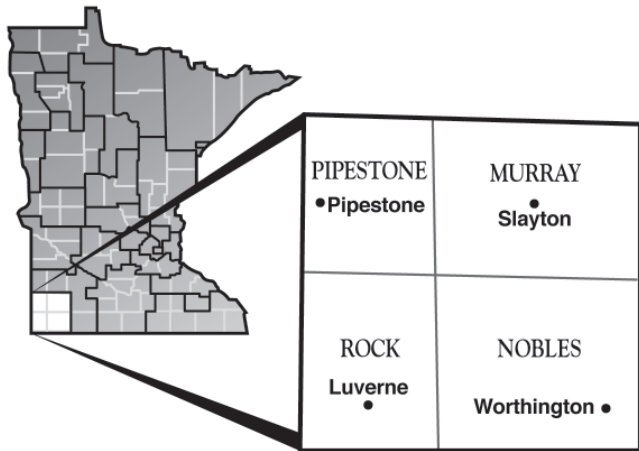
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community Donates Over \$290 Million in Recent Years

The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community has a charitable giving program which comes from a cultural and social tradition to assist those in need. Over the past 20+ years, SMSC has donated more than \$290 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 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, The Meadows at Mystic Lake, and other enterprises on a reservation south of the Twin Cities.

Southwestern Minnesota Opportunity Council



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Results Oriented Management and Accountability - Selected Outcomes

Individual and Family Outcomes

Individuals who obtained non-emergency LIHEAP energy assistance to obtain or maintain employment.	1,825
Children who participate in preschool activities to develop school readiness.	202
Parents who learn and exhibit improved parenting skills.	192

Community Outcomes

Safe and affordable housing units created in the community.	42
Accessible before and after-school program placement opportunities for low-income families created or saved from reduction or elimination.	170
Number of community members mobilized by Community Action that participate in community revitalization and anti-poverty initiatives.	337
Number of volunteer hours donated to the agency.	55,630
Community Partnerships	45



Program Activity	Number of People Served
EMPLOYMENT	
D6 Senior Employment Programs	45
INCOME MANAGEMENT	
M2 Financial Education	106
HOUSING	
B1 Weatherization	107
B7 Energy Related Repairs	140
C1 Housing Grants & Loans	1
C5 Small Cities Development. Grants (SCDG)	99
EMERGENCY SERVICES	
B5 Energy Assistance	4,633
B6 Energy Crisis	470
B8 Fuel Fund	15
C10 Homeless Assistance	165
LINKAGES	
E1 Transportation System	32,287
F3 Chore Services	64
K1 Information & Referral	4,079
SELF-SUFFICIENCY	
J1 Head Start	204
J6 Child Care Aware	1,161
HEALTH	
I3 Family Planning	677

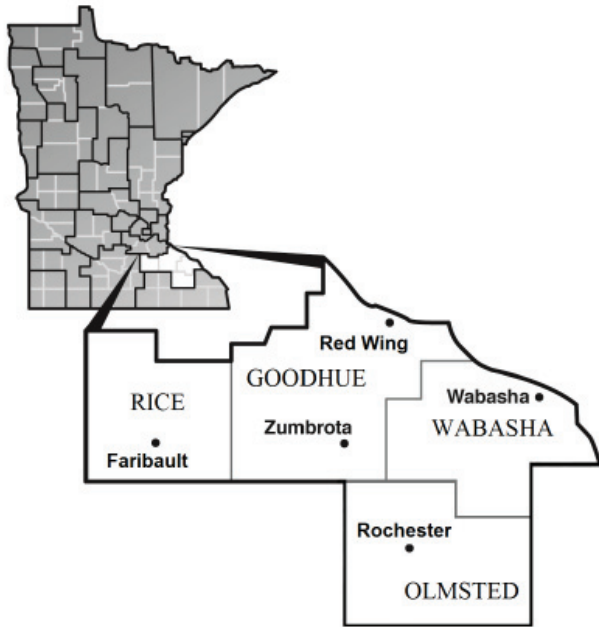
Success Story

Region 8 Child Care Aware at SMOC began implementing the Parent Aware Quality Rating System in January of 2013. The work of strengthening child care and early education programs is important for children, families, and Minnesota's future. Many children spend most of their waking hours in child care. Improving the quality of that care is an investment in their future. Child care programs who receive their star rating through the Parent Aware Quality Coaching process know the latest best practices in early learning and children's development. Quality early childhood experiences last a lifetime and help prepare children for school and life.

Our first group consisted of four family child care providers, a child care center, and a preschool program in Nobles County. Our Parent Aware Quality Coach worked with these programs to improve in the areas of physical health and well-being, teaching and relationships, assessment of child progress, as well as training and education. Through the Parent Aware coaching process, these programs were connected to community resources and encouraged to build the quality of the care they provide to children.

One of the family child care providers involved in Parent Aware is a testament to the importance of this work and the impact that the Parent Aware Quality Rating System can have on children and families. She has been a child care provider for twelve years. Through Parent Aware, she is implementing better communication with her families, including providing support and information about community resources. Through observing the children in her care and assessing that information, she is able to care for the children in an intentional way – based upon the children's skills, needs, and interests. She was awarded a 2-star rating and is currently working on the requirements to receive a 3-star rating. Because of this rating, she is eligible to receive a higher reimbursement through the Child Care Assistance Program and families that choose to enroll their children in her program have access to Minnesota's Early Learning Scholarships (a fund that will pay up to \$5,000 toward the cost of their child's early childhood expenses). By participating in the Parent Aware Quality Rating System, this child care provider has improved the experiences of the children in her care, connected families to financial and supportive resources, and increased the sustainability of her program.

Three Rivers Community Action



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On July 1, 2013, Olmsted County CAP merged with Three Rivers Community Action. Olmsted County CAP's outcome and program activity data were reported separately for the time period of October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013. Individual and combined data from both agencies are reported on these pages.

Results Oriented Management and Accountability - Selected Outcomes

Individual and Family Outcomes	Three Rivers CA	Olmsted County CAP	Total
Individuals who obtained non-emergency LIHEAP energy assistance to gain or retain employment and/or in support of family stability.	7,245		7,245
Individuals or families that received emergency rent or mortgage assistance.	329	64	393
Children who participate in preschool activities to develop school readiness.	236		236
Parents who learn and exhibit improved family functioning skills.	321		321
Community Outcomes			0
Safe and affordable housing units in the community preserved or improved through construction, Weatherization or rehabilitation achieved by Community Action.	100		100
Number of volunteer hours donated to the agency.	12,007	480	12,487
Community Partnerships	508	49	557



Program Activity

Number of People Served

		Three Rivers CA	Olmsted County CAP	Total
	INCOME MANAGEMENT			
M2	Financial Education	608	13	621
M4	Asset Development & Savings Programs		6	6
	HOUSING			0
B1	Weatherization	229		229
B7	Energy Related Repairs	276		276
B9	Energy Conservation Services	78		78
C1	Housing Grants & Loans	79		79
C9	Community Homeownership Ed	608		608
C12	Low-Income Housing Develop & Stab	19		19
	EMERGENCY SERVICES			0
B5	Energy Assistance	7,245		7,245
B6	Energy Crisis	2,131		2,131
B8	Fuel Fund	44		44
C10	Homeless Assistance	291	71	362
C11	Transitional Housing	38		38
G6	Donated Articles		1,664	1,664
G8	Crisis Intervention	518	363	881
	NUTRITION			0
H6	Home Delivered Meals	239		239
	LINKAGES			0
E1	Transportation System	25,952		25,952
E3	Transportation Assistance	591		591
F1	Senior Oriented Services	79		79
K1	Information & Referral	8,245	17,940	26,185
K2	Outreach	16,490	355	16,845
K3	Public Education, Information & Advocacy	49,470	7,540	57,010
	SELF-SUFFICIENCY			0
J1	Head Start	589		589
M1	Self-Sufficiency		195	195

Success Story

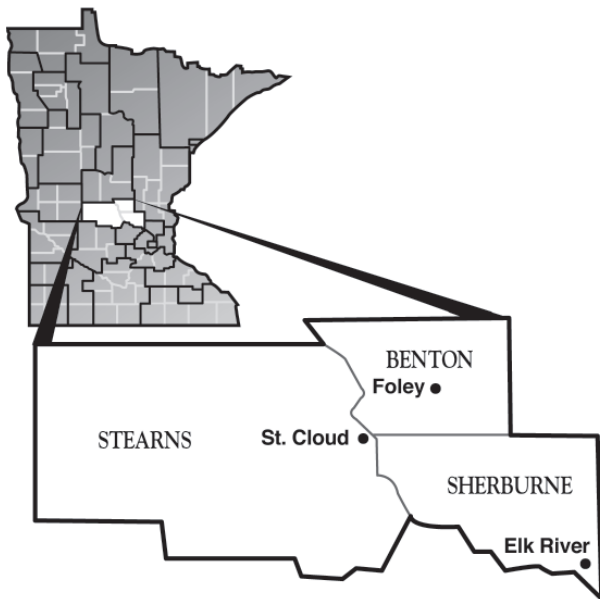
High quality, affordable housing is at the core of stable families and strong communities. In 2014, Three Rivers collaborated with 3 southeastern Minnesota communities to identify and address local housing needs. Three Rivers worked with partners in this area to raise \$15.8 million in public and private resources to develop housing projects that provide rental housing opportunities to 106 families. As developer and owner of the projects, Three Rivers is making a long-term commitment to permanent, healthy, energy efficient, and affordable housing in southeastern Minnesota.

Spring Creek Townhomes in Northfield is a 28 unit rental townhome development built on land donated by the Northfield Housing and Redevelopment Authority. Financed by the City of Northfield, Northfield HRA, local bank and private investors, the units serve the growing need for large-family affordable rental housing in Northfield. Built to LEED Silver green building standards, the units are a model for healthy, energy efficient housing.

Prairiewood Townhomes in Faribault provide 30 new rental units - four of which provide supportive services to families experiencing long-term homelessness. Developed on a foreclosed site, the community strongly supported the project with contributions from local government and philanthropy, private investors and Greater MN Housing Fund. The homes are designed for the large families of the area's growing immigrant communities. Given the scarcity of large units, they leased immediately and now house over 100 families.

Northbridge Apartments in Albert Lea is an existing rental development providing 48 units of federally assisted housing to low-income residents. With the project at high risk of conversion to market rate, Three Rivers preserved this important rental assistance resource when it acquired and renovated it with financing from USDA Rural Development, MN Housing Finance Agency, Greater MN Housing Fund, and the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Tri-County Action Program (Tri-CAP)



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Results Oriented Management and Accountability - Selected Outcomes

Individual and Family Outcomes

Individuals who were unemployed and obtained a job.	60
Individuals who have obtained pre-employment skills/competencies required for employment and received certificate or diploma.	132
Individuals who completed ABE, GED, or post-secondary education program and obtained certificate or diploma.	8
Individuals who obtained safe and affordable housing needed to gain or retain employment and/or in support of family stability.	48
Households in tax preparation who obtained any type of Federal or State tax credit.	1,842
Amount of tax credits:	\$2,761,234

Community Outcomes

Number of community members mobilized by Community Action that participate in community revitalization and anti-poverty initiatives.	90
Number of volunteer hours donated to the agency.	18,475
Community Partnerships	263



Program Activity	Number of People Served
EMPLOYMENT	
D8 Displaced Homemakers	357
D9 Employment & Training Services	2
INCOME MANAGEMENT	
M2 Financial Education	618
M3 Tax Preparation Assistance	4,236
M4 Asset Development & Savings Programs	157
HOUSING	
B1 Weatherization	818
B7 Energy Related Repairs	777
B9 Energy Conservation Services	197
C3 Home Repair/Rehabilitation	36
C12 Low-Income Housing Develop & Stab	3
EMERGENCY SERVICES	
B5 Energy Assistance	17,723
B6 Energy Crisis	4,626
B8 Fuel Fund	49
C10 Homeless Assistance	1,416
NUTRITION	
H10 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Outreach	917
H11 Food Assistance	101
LINKAGES	
E1 Transportation System	5,150
E3 Transportation Assistance	4,758
K1 Information & Referral	578
SELF-SUFFICIENCY	
M1 Self-Sufficiency	42

Success Story

A client, who is a single mother of two young children and pregnant with her third enrolled in the Displaced Homemaker Program in Feb 2014.

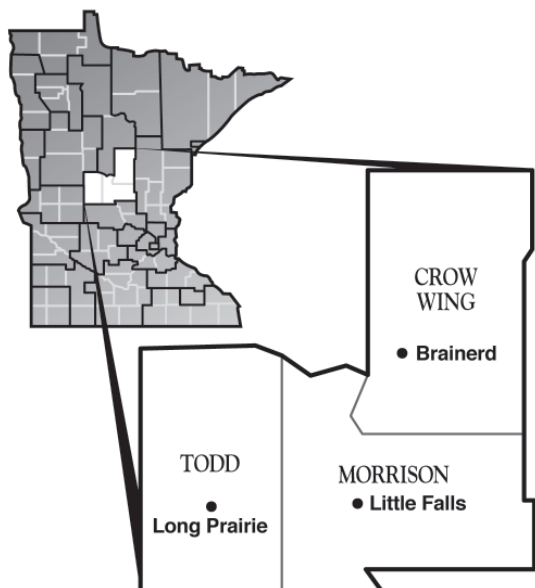
The single mom was in a shelter and struggling to find local resources that could assist her family. At that time, she was attending outpatient mental health treatment due to significant depression issues following leaving a domestic abuse situation. Attending treatment made a world of difference for her mental health. She also had many other goals to keep her family safe and have financial security.

Shortly after being in shelter, she was approved for a local transitional housing program. During this time, she had applied for several income based housing opportunities and was placed on waiting lists. She was also having difficulty finding work because of her pregnancy. Her Self-Sufficiency Counselor suggested she consider Pathways to Advancement training through a partnership with the Minnesota Resource Center where she received a scholarship to obtain her health care technician and office support certification.

Based on her success thus far in the program, there are no doubts that she will be highly employable once she has completed her certification. She also received a scholarship through a domestic violence agency to obtain her CNA once she has completed her Pathways training in the fall. The Self-Sufficiency Counselor was able to refer her to a program in the community that assisted with a small outstanding tuition bill, so she could obtain her CNA at a local college. She would not have been able to attend the college, if not for this payment and the hold being lifted from her account. Her eventual goal is to obtain her nursing degree to secure a high paying job in the medical field.

This family is making tremendous progress toward self-sufficiency goals and is a great example of why the Displaced Homemaker Program is such an essential piece of the puzzle to assist families in need and move them out of poverty.

Tri-County Community Action (TCC)



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Results Oriented Management and Accountability - Selected Outcomes

Individual and Family Outcomes

Individuals who obtained safe and affordable housing needed to gain or retain employment and/or in support of family stability.	18
Households in tax preparation programs who obtained any Federal or State tax credit.	467
Amount of tax credits:	\$1,207,085
Household who demonstrate good or restored credit.	114
Children who participate in preschool activities to develop school readiness.	222
Parents who learn and exhibit improved parenting skills.	491

Community Outcomes

Safe and affordable housing units in the community preserved or improved through construction, Weatherization or rehabilitation achieve by Community Action.	76
Number of community members mobilized by Community Action that participate in community revitalization and anti-poverty initiatives.	613
Number of volunteer hours donated to the agency.	95,533
Community Partnerships	157



Program Activity	Number of People Served
INCOME MANAGEMENT	
M2 Financial Education	114
M3 Tax Preparation Assistance	900
HOUSING	
B1 Weatherization	158
B9 Energy Conservation Services	52
C1 Housing Grants & Loans	3
C3 Home Repair/Rehabilitation	9
EMERGENCY SERVICES	
G3 Abuse & Neglect	17
G6 Donated Articles	100
G8 Crisis Intervention	416
NUTRITION	
H3 Holiday Projects	162
H10 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Outreach	1,232
H11 Food Assistance	5,500
LINKAGES	
E3 Transportation Assistance	57
E4 Vehicle Program	167
E5 Transportation Safety Programs	1
K1 Information & Referral	19,487
K2 Outreach	22,280
K3 Public Education, Information & Advocacy	20,048
K4 Benefit Enrollment & App Assistance	16
SELF-SUFFICIENCY	
J1 Head Start	1,687
J2 Early Childhood Care & Education	36
J7 Youth Recreation	172
J8 Parenting	491
J9 Fatherhood Initiative	457
M1 Self-Sufficiency	1
M5 Family Loan Fund	50
HEALTH	
I1 Health Care Assistance (Non-Financial)	64
I2 Health Care Assistance (Financial)	3

Success Story

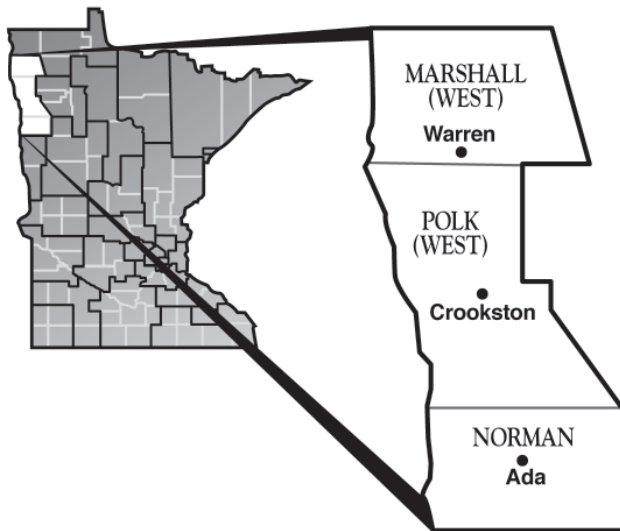
The Gundersons signed up for Early Head Start and Head Start for their grandchildren. They are caring for their disabled grandchildren because Tom and Lori's two sons and their grandchildren's mothers were experiencing mental health and chemical dependency issues. None of the grandchildren's parents were able to provide a stable home environment. The family grew from just Tom and Lori to a new family of six.

Grandpa Tom commutes to work to a maintenance job. Grandma Lori needs to be able to take the children to doctor's appointments. Lori's car needed repairs, but they were unable to find the funds to fix the vehicle due to past-due household utility bills for their new large family. Their home was poorly insulated and they were experiencing frozen pipes while energy costs soared because of inadequate heat forcing them to use space heaters.

TCC staff worked with the family to get assistance from the county to help with their past-due utility bills and create a new household budget. TCC had allocated some CSBG funds for emergencies and utilized those funds to tow and repair Lori's car so that both cars are available for work and medical appointments. TCC did an energy audit of the home and was able to increase their energy efficiency by insulating the home and water pipes, along with repairing the furnace and providing a new energy efficient refrigerator.

Three of the grandchildren are now enrolled in public school and TCC helped the family access special education services. A future goal is to find a specially equipped van that can accommodate the whole family. The family is currently achieving their parenting, housing, education, employment and family goals.

Tri-Valley Opportunity Council



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Results Oriented Management and Accountability - Selected Outcomes

Individual and Family Outcomes

Individuals who were unemployed and obtained a job.	720
Individuals who completed ABE, GED, or post-secondary education program and obtained certificate or diploma.	53
Individuals who obtained safe and affordable housing needed to gain or retain employment and/or in support of family stability.	204
Children who participate in preschool activities to develop school readiness.	448
Parents who learn and exhibit improved parenting skills.	1,378

Community Outcomes

Number of community members mobilized by Community Action that participate in community revitalization and anti-poverty initiatives.	122
Number of volunteer hours donated to the agency.	762,411
Community Partnerships	1,893



Program Activity	Number of People Served
HOUSING	
B7 Energy Related Repairs	208
C6 Rental Housing Assistance	78
EMERGENCY SERVICES	
B5 Energy Assistance	4,095
B6 Energy Crisis	1,150
B8 Fuel Fund	70
C10 Homeless Assistance	260
C11 Transitional Housing	10
G3 Abuse & Neglect	80
G6 Donated Articles	217
NUTRITION	
H11 Food Assistance	794
LINKAGES	
E1 Transportation System	15,328
E3 Transportation Assistance	1,764
F3 Chore Services	527
F6 Senior Companion/Foster Grandparent	948
K1 Information & Referral	11,245
K2 Outreach	6,312
K3 Public Education, Information & Advocacy	21,726
SELF-SUFFICIENCY	
J1 Head Start	1,490
J2 Early Childhood Care & Education	1,653
J6 Child Care Aware	280
J8 Parenting	5,186
J9 Fatherhood Initiative	210
M1 Self-Sufficiency	1,597
HEALTH	
I1 Health Care Assistance (Non-Financial)	1,095

Success Story

Young and old foster a bond

Alberta Johnson may be in church, walking back to her pew from communion and she'll hear, "Grandma A." She may be at the grocery store with her husband and a kid will call him "Grandpa A. After all, he's with Grandma A."

Johnson is one of three foster grandparents who serve at St. Bernard's Catholic School in Thief River Falls. They participate in the Tri-Valley Foster Grandparent Program. About 80 foster grandparents participate in the program, which serves 11 counties in NW Minnesota.

"It's a win-win for the foster grandparents and for the students," said Jean Halvorson, foster grandparent coordinator for the local area.

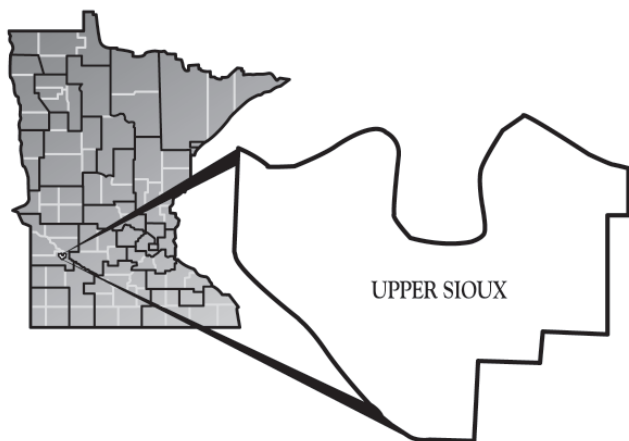
It's also a winning situation for the teachers. Laura Brickson, St. Bernard's fourth grade teacher, said the teachers appreciate the help provided by the foster grandparents. "The foster grandparents are really heroes to these kids," she said.

Alberta said she gets more out of being a foster grandparent than she receives. "I recommend it to everybody," she said. "I love being around kids. I always have. I know way more about phonics than I ever did in school," she said.

In the past, Alberta also collected and planted orange seeds. It started one day in the school cafeteria. The kids were eating orange quarters and came across orange seeds. Soon, the kids were giving the seeds to Alberta. She brought them home and began planting the seeds.

Before long, one of the orange seeds began growing into a tree. Like the kids, "Orangey" graduated from St. Bernard's this fall. The tree was featured in a picture of the class and was the subject of a poem read at the fifth graders' graduation ceremony. "Orangey" will now follow the students to Franklin Middle School, where they will be sixth graders this fall. The orange tree hasn't borne fruit, but it has borne a fruitful relationship with the foster grandparents, particularly Alberta.

Upper Sioux Community



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The Upper Sioux Community Tribal Headquarters is located five miles south of Granite Falls, Minnesota, on the Minnesota River in Yellow Medicine County. The reservation is about 115 miles west of the Twin Cities. The Tribal leaders continually strive to improve the standard of living and the quality of life on the reservation.

The development of the tribal enterprises over the last several years has helped to revitalize and energize the Upper Sioux Community, allowing us an opportunity to obtain economic independence. During this dynamic period for the Upper Sioux Community, we have seen substantial growth in employment opportunities and Tribal services. Through the creation of our Tribal Police Department, we can now exercise our inherent sovereign rights for the protection of Tribal Members and Tribal lands. The Upper Sioux Community has been able to reacquire over 900 acres of our historic homelands, further strengthening our ability to address the growth of the Tribal membership, which stands at 486 as of August 2012. Through their efforts, the People of the Yellow Medicine, now and into the future, will continue to enhance and strengthen our culture and traditions; and establish a stable future for generations to come of the Upper Sioux Community.

Elders on a budget may worry that they can't afford the groceries necessary to cook balanced, healthy meals. Physical limitations related to age may also make the practical preparation of meals challenging and elders who find themselves newly single may not know how to cook or may not be motivated to cook or eat. At any time—but especially later in life – eating the right foods can help people to stay mentally sharp, emotionally balanced and full of energy while keeping a positive attitude and maintaining a healthy immune system.

The Upper Sioux Community Indian Health Services has responded to this need by utilizing Community Action (CSBG) funding to offer meals to all elders of the community. More specifically the USC used CSBG funds to prepare healthy meals for the Elders of the community five days of the week.



Program Activity	Number of People Served
NUTRITION	
H3 Holiday Projects	46
H6 Home Delivered Meals	34
H7 Congregate Meals	5
LINKAGES	
E3 Transportation Assistance	46
K3 Public Education, Information & Advocacy	487
HEALTH	
I1 Health Care Assistance (Non-Financial)	46

This essential service ensures that the elders receive one hot nutritious meal each day of the five day work week at no cost to them. The cook at our community meal site has incorporated diabetic and heart-healthy choices in the meal menu in order to lengthen lives and encourage healthy behaviors. Most often the meals are delivered by health staff to Elder’s homes but there are also a number of members who still come to the congregate dining area at the “Round House” on Wednesday and Friday each week. The “Round House” allows an elder to socialize and avoid feelings of isolation and loneliness.

This critical service is keeping the elderly community members in their homes and our community. The meal delivery is accomplished by the USC Indian Health Service Staff so our staff also maintains a daily contact with each Elder or Disabled person we serve; about 70% of the Elders receive a daily meal. Since our community is small the dollar allotment is often times not large enough to cover the annual cost of the meals so the Tribal Leaders will authorize a supplemental fund to complete the program.

Success Story

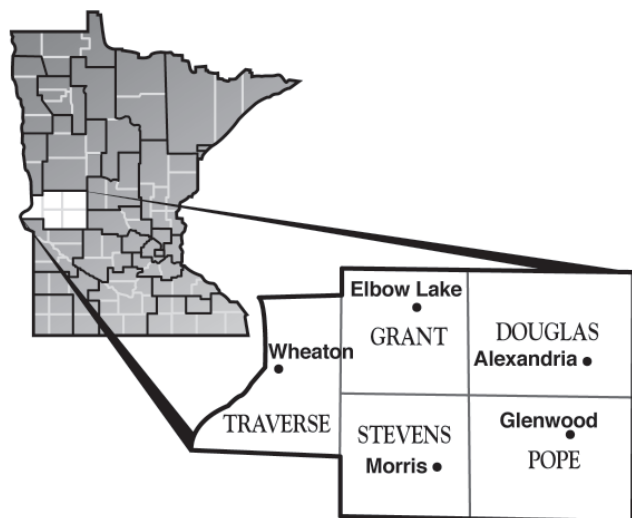
Elder’s Meal Program

Physical limitations related to age may make the practical preparation of meals challenging and elders who find themselves newly single may not know how to cook or may not be motivated to cook or eat a regular meal. At any time- but especially later in life- eating the right foods can help people to stay mentally sharp, emotionally balanced and fully maintain a healthy immune system.

The Upper Sioux Community has responded to this need by utilizing Community Action funding to offer meals to all elders or disabled members of the community. This essential service ensures that each qualified member receive one hot nutritious meal each day of the five day work week at no cost to them. The cook at our community meal site has incorporated diabetic and heart healthy choices in the meal menu in order to lengthen lives and encourage healthy behaviors; delivery of these meals also allows a daily contact with the recipient.

This service is keeping the elder independent and in their own home longer. About 70 % of the USC Elders currently receive meals so the program will continue with the help of Community Action dollars.

West Central Minnesota Communities Action, Inc.



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Results Oriented Management and Accountability - Selected Outcomes

Individual and Family Outcomes

Individuals who obtain an increase in employment income and/or benefits.	45
Individuals who have obtained pre-employment skills/competencies required for employment and received certificate or diploma.	60
Individuals who obtained safe and affordable housing needed to gain or retain employment and/or in support of family stability.	562
Household who demonstrate good or restored credit.	16
Individuals who avert foreclosure and maintain home.	65
Children who participate in preschool activities to develop school readiness.	282
Parents who learn and exhibit improved parenting skills.	405

Community Outcomes

Number of community members mobilized by Community Action that participate in community revitalization and anti-poverty initiatives.	425
Number of volunteer hours donated to the agency.	80,000
Community Partnerships	129



Program Activity	Number of People Served
INCOME MANAGEMENT	
M2 Financial Education	1,113
M3 Tax Preparation Assistance	1,446
M4 Asset Development & Savings Programs	23
HOUSING	
B1 Weatherization	471
B7 Energy Related Repairs	832
B9 Energy Conservation Services	290
C5 Small Cities Development. Grants (SCDG)	86
C9 Community Homeownership Ed	231
C12 Low-Income Housing Develop & Stab	105
EMERGENCY SERVICES	
B5 Energy Assistance	13,305
B6 Energy Crisis	5,543
B8 Fuel Fund	405
C10 Homeless Assistance	2,526
C11 Transitional Housing	7
G6 Donated Articles	607
G8 Crisis Intervention	435
NUTRITION	
H10 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Outreach	1,269
H11 Food Assistance	1,397
LINKAGES	
F1 Senior Oriented Services	68
F5 Retired Senior Vol (RSVP)	551
K1 Information & Referral	244,400
K2 Outreach	1,509,828
K3 Public Education, Information & Advocacy	6,251
SELF-SUFFICIENCY	
J1 Head Start	282
M5 Family Loan Fund	4

Success Story

A case manager of West Central Minnesota Communities Action (WCMCA) first met with S in October of 2013. She and her two girls, ages 3 and 4, were living in transitional housing, after having fled domestic abuse and becoming homeless. S was working hard trying to manage a full time job and the demands of raising two preschoolers, both enrolled in Head Start.

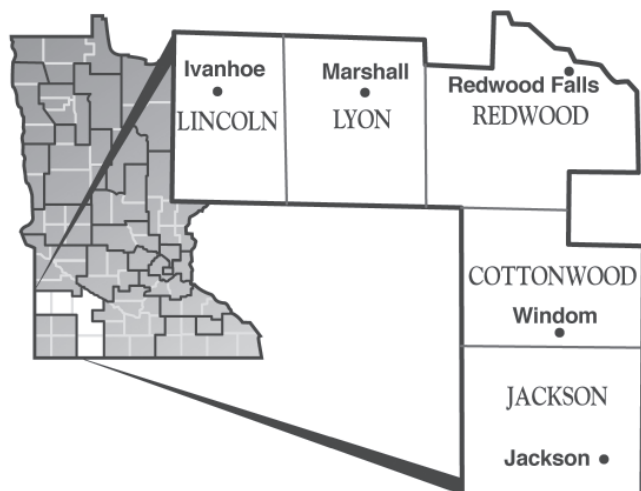
S was highly focused on finding permanent housing that was a good fit for her family, housing that was safe and affordable. She worked with her counselor to explore and apply for many affordable housing opportunities, but there were no openings. She worked hard on budgeting and finding resources to help her manage her expenses, always making housing stability and family needs the priority for her family.

In the spring, S took a risk, and accepted a higher paying job with advancement opportunities that was a further distance from her current residence. S planned her finances carefully to afford the gap in paychecks, transportation costs, and extra time in daycare to make sure her family was stable. Her case manager at WCMCA, Inc. helped her locate resources to address her needs.

A year later, S's hard work is paying off. Her children are both thriving at school, and she is enjoying her work. Through the MURL (Minnesota Urban and Rural Homesteading program) at WCMCA, Inc., she is becoming a homeowner – a two-bedroom house in the community where she works and where her children attend school. The MURL program is for first time homeowners, there is no down payment, no interest and the payments are based on income, 25% of the home owners income is the payment for the house. She has applied for a FAIM savings account that she will use to pay down her mortgage. She is excited to have income-based payments, and to feel more a part of a local community.

West Central Minnesota Communities Action is thrilled to be a part of S's success.

Western Community Action



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Results Oriented Management and Accountability - Selected Outcomes

Individual and Family Outcomes

Individuals who were unemployed and obtained a job.	41
Individuals who obtain an increase in employment income and/or benefits.	41
Individuals who obtained safe and affordable housing needed to gain or retain employment and/or in support of family stability.	387
Household who demonstrate good or restored credit.	188
Children who participate in preschool activities to develop school readiness.	253
Parents who learn and exhibit improved parenting skills.	242

Community Outcomes

Safe and affordable housing units in the community preserved or improved through construction, Weatherization or rehabilitation achieve by Community Action.	165
Number of community members mobilized by Community Action that participate in community revitalization and anti-poverty initiatives.	903
Number of volunteer hours donated to the agency.	84,988
Community Partnerships	846



Program Activity	Number of People Served
EMPLOYMENT	
D9 Employment & Training Services	41
EDUCATION	
L2 Literacy	60
L5 GED, ABE & Educational Services	46
INCOME MANAGEMENT	
M2 Financial Education	16
M3 Tax Preparation Assistance	947
M4 Asset Development & Savings Programs	45
HOUSING	
B1 Weatherization	103
B7 Energy Related Repairs	183
B9 Energy Conservation Services	12
C1 Housing Grants & Loans	23
C5 Small Cities Development. Grants (SCDG)	98
C6 Rental Housing Assistance	87
C12 Low-Income Housing Develop & Stab	13
EMERGENCY SERVICES	
B5 Energy Assistance	6,182
B6 Energy Crisis	1,518
B8 Fuel Fund	241
C10 Homeless Assistance	412
C11 Transitional Housing	62
G3 Abuse & Neglect	3
G6 Donated Articles	591
NUTRITION	
H3 Holiday Projects	269
H5 Gardening	89
H10 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Outreach	26,078
H11 Food Assistance	5,660
LINKAGES	
E1 Transportation System	3,713
E3 Transportation Assistance	511
F6 Senior Companion/Foster Grandparent	33
K1 Information & Referral	22,464
K2 Outreach	906
K3 Public Education, Information & Advocacy	26,190
K4 Benefit Enrollment & App Assistance	108
K5 Leadership Development	38
SELF-SUFFICIENCY	
J1 Head Start	253
J4 At Risk Youth	408
J5 Campership	7
J6 Child Care Aware	244
M1 Self-Sufficiency	227

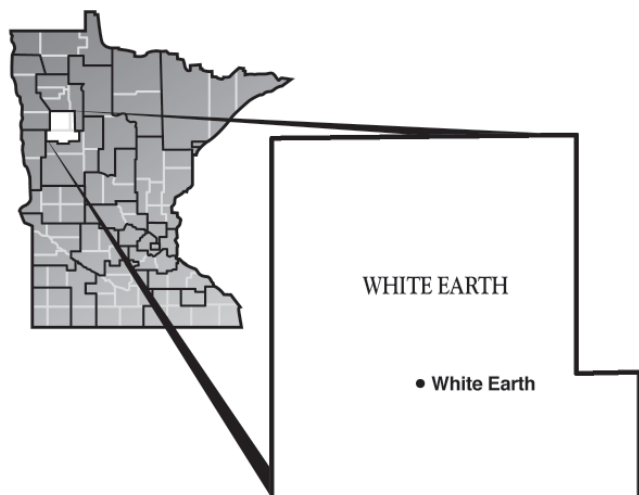
Success Story

“Justin” came to Western Community Action in 2013, homeless and couch hopping from place to place. Working minimal hours as a dishwasher, he couldn’t find enough employment to support himself. Once in a while he would stop in and visit staff to discuss housing options but continued to stay with various people, in the park, or wander around the local casino throughout the night. As winter approached, he had nowhere to go. He decided to go to a shelter in Sioux Falls for thirty days. After that he found a trailer that was not really habitable but was shelter and did have heat, if nothing else.

After spending a few months in the trailer house he decided it was unsafe to be there. He called his old boss and got his dishwashing job back. He worked, but continued to couch hop on the nights he could and walked around Walmart all night when he couldn’t. In April 2014, he finally came back to WCA, and together we found a landlord that would take a chance on him, though it would be a few days. He also was going to be given more hours at his job. WCA helped him with a few nights of motel vouchers then helped him with move-in costs. Staff brought him and his three garbage bags of belongings to his new efficiency apartment. He said he felt like a king with a place of his own. After three months of meeting and reviewing his budget, staff helped him find better employment.

After six months of financial assistance and case management, Justin successfully exited WCA’s program and is now paying his own rent, with no subsidy. He still visits his case manager to let her know how well he is doing.

White Earth Reservation



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The White Earth Reservation contains 829,440 acres and is located in the northwestern Minnesota. It encompasses all of Mahnomen County and portions of Becker, and Clearwater Counties. The reservation is located 68 miles east of Fargo and 225 miles northwest of Minneapolis/St. Paul. The Tribal headquarters is located in White Earth, Minnesota.

The White Earth Tribal Council is the governing body and the Tribe is a member of the MCT. White Earth Village is the location of the new tribal headquarters which opened in 2008, the IHS clinic, (which underwent a fivefold expansion in 1995), the Circle of Life K-12 tribal school, and a senior's housing project and a new community center (2008). Because of the widely scattered settlement pattern on the reservation, government services, social programs, Head Start and daycare are provided at various centers, Nay-tah-waush, Pine Point, and Rice Lake. There is an additional Head Start at Waubun and health stations at Nay-tah-waush and Pine Point. Hospitals are in communities off the reservation and in Mahnomen. The Tribe assists various services such as the hospital, fire departments, rescue squads and ambulance with some funding, with major funding going to law enforcement on the Reservation.

Seven Minnesota public school districts serve Indian children: Bagley, Detroit Lakes, Fosston, Mahnomen, Park Rapids, Waubun, and Nay-tah-waush. The White Earth Community Service Center serves as a recreational building, swimming pool and gymnasium. The center is operated by the Tribe and on tribal. The Pine Point School, K-8, is a part of the State system; it started as an Indian experimental school in 1969. Under special legislation, the Tribe administers it. In 2005 a new charter school was started in the community of Nay-tahwaush. Criminal jurisdiction of Indians is provided by the state, the Tribe has civil jurisdiction. The Tribe has a conservation department, a police department and a civil court and is working on developing its own criminal code.

This information was provided by the MN Indian Affairs Council (www.indianaffairs.state.mn.us/tribes.html).



Program Activity	Number of People Served
EMPLOYMENT	
D3 Youth Employment	34
D9 Employment & Training Services	247
EDUCATION	
L2 Literacy	2,887
L5 GED, ABE & Educational Services	142
HOUSING	
B1 Weatherization	18
B7 Energy Related Repairs	36
C1 Housing Grants & Loans	39
C3 Home Repair/Rehabilitation	600
C6 Rental Housing Assistance	16
EMERGENCY SERVICES	
B5 Energy Assistance	3,880
B6 Energy Crisis	2,982
C10 Homeless Assistance	190
G1 Emergency Family Services	90
G3 Abuse & Neglect	90
G8 Crisis Intervention	522
NUTRITION	
H3 Holiday Projects	356
H4 Women, Infants, Children (WIC)	10,440
H6 Home Delivered Meals	160
H7 Congregate Meals	328
H9 USDA Commodity Assistance	10,202
H10 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Outreach	4,885
H11 Food Assistance	3,734
LINKAGES	
E1 Transportation System WE Transit	1,080
E3 Transportation Assistance - Community Health Representatives	6,157
F3 Chore Services	28
F5 Retired Senior Vol (RSVP)	4
K1 Information & Referral	1,840
K2 Outreach	1,913
K3 Public Education, Information & Advocacy	3,903
SELF-SUFFICIENCY	
J1 Head Start	241
J2 Early Childhood Care & Education	1,441
J3 Child Care Administration	317
J4 At Risk Youth	1300
J6 Child Care Aware	325
J7 Youth Recreation	1300
J8 Parenting	190
HEALTH	
I2 Health Care Assistance (Financial)	16

Success Story

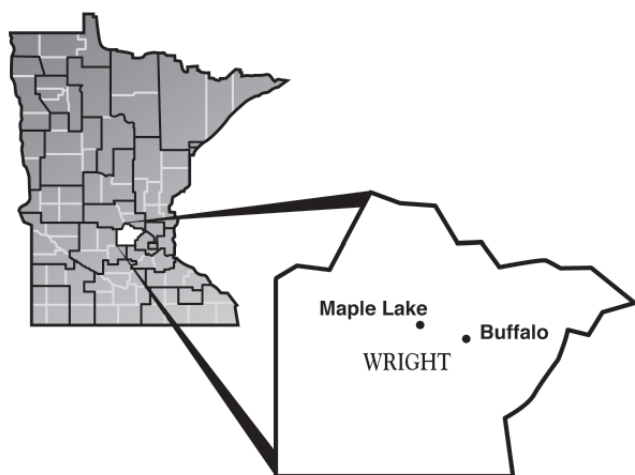
Veteran Recognized for Community Involvement

White Earth enrollee Muriel Alexander-Alvarez, of Waubun, was one of 30 Minnesota Veterans from across the state recently nominated for making outstanding contributions to their community. Alvarez was the first woman to serve in her National Guard Unit. She supports Wisdom Steps- an elder health care program and the White Earth Council of Elders program. Muriel served in the Army, Army reserves and the National Guard. Muriel serves as a role model for all women, especially the young that are looking for guidance.

Elderly Nutrition Program (ENP) Building

A long needed building at our Elbow Lake ENP site will open in October. This has been a long process of 2 years or more. The building will house the ENP nutrition program that serves congregate as well as Home delivered meals. The staff will be better able to serve the Elders nutritious meals and the building will be available to all of the White Earth nation and surrounding community to use. This building is also more secure, and can hold more people in the dining area.

Wright County Community Action



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Results Oriented Management and Accountability - Selected Outcomes

Individual and Family Outcomes

Individuals who obtained safe and affordable housing needed to gain or retain employment and/or in support of family stability.	31
Households in tax preparation programs who obtained any Federal or State tax credit.	244
Amount of tax credits:	\$344,852
Household who demonstrate good or restored credit.	83
Individuals who avert foreclosure and maintain a home.	630
Children who participate in preschool activities to develop school readiness.	327
Parents who learn and exhibit improved parenting skills.	445

Community Outcomes

Number of community members mobilized by Community Action that participate in community revitalization and anti-poverty initiatives.	3,514
Number of volunteer hours donated to the agency.	22,423
Community Partnerships	1,294



Program Activity	Number of People Served
EDUCATION	
L2 Literacy	772
L5 GED, ABE & Educational Services	772
INCOME MANAGEMENT	
M2 Financial Education	887
M3 Tax Preparation Assistance	389
HOUSING	
B1 Weatherization	125
B7 Energy Related Repairs	260
B9 Energy Conservation Services	10
C5 Small Cities Development. Grants (SCDG)	1
C9 Community Homeownership Ed	99
EMERGENCY SERVICES	
B5 Energy Assistance	6,478
B6 Energy Crisis	2,886
C10 Homeless Assistance	630
C11 Transitional Housing	24
G6 Donated Articles	14,815
NUTRITION	
H3 Holiday Projects	234
H4 Women, Infants, Children (WIC)	3,536
H11 Food Assistance	950
LINKAGES	
F6 Senior Companion/Foster Grandparent	209
K1 Information & Referral	56,063
K2 Outreach	56,063
K3 Public Education, Information & Advocacy	56,063
SELF-SUFFICIENCY	
J1 Head Start	1,201
HEALTH	
I1 Health Care Assistance (Non-Financial)	929
I3 Family Planning	624

Success Story

Wright County Community Action's (WCCA) Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Specialist worked with a couple this year who was experiencing a hardship due to job relocations and medical issues. The wife was diagnosed with MS in March of 2012 and her health had steadily gone downhill since. For this reason she was unable to work. Relying only on the husband's income they were struggling to keep up with the mortgage payments. Her husband had been working on and off in the oil fields in Williston, ND. He tried to work as much as he could, but was very much needed at home to take care of his ailing wife.

Winter months were especially hard, due to the extreme cold weather, high propane cost, and lack of work. WCCA's Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Specialist referred them to the Energy Assistance Program where they were able to get assistance with their propane bill. The specialist also assisted the couple with family budgeting as this couple had already sold every asset they had and depleted all savings and retirement accounts to continue to pay the mortgage.

The specialist also assisted the couple by encouraging them to apply for the SNAP program, and had WCCA's MNsure navigator assist them in applying for health insurance. As soon as they were 3 months behind, the bank stopped taking payments from them. They continued to send in cashiers checks for the delinquent payments and the bank sent all of the checks back as "rejected".

WCCA's Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Specialist immediately went to work knowing that they were in a pre-foreclosure status. Within 28 days of working with the bank, they were granted a loan modification which brought their current house payment of \$1,165 per month down to \$800 per month, a \$365 savings per month. This couple has lived in their house for 14 years and were very grateful for the chance to start fresh.



Reference and Contact Information

Community Action Program Activity Reporting Codes and Descriptions

Codes and descriptions of the Program Activities reported for the state on pages 26-27 and individual agencies and tribal governments on pages 74-145 are below.

EMPLOYMENT

- 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):** 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
- 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
- D9 EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING SERVICES:** Adult placement, training and education services including Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), job training and placement assistance to income eligible adults and youths through employment services, OJT contracts, Food Stamp Employment and Training (FSET), AmeriCorps VISTA and subsidized employment including industry specific grants to assist in relocating workers.
Times Service Provided: Number of Participants Assisted
- A1 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:** Business ventures to increase the employment opportunities for 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

EDUCATION

- L2 LITERACY:** Educational services provided to low-income adults or children, when these services are not part of another program and not reported in L5.
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
- L5 GED, ABE 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

INCOME MANAGEMENT

- M2 FINANCIAL EDUCATION:** Programs to provide people with financial education, financial coaching, budget counseling and/or credit repair. Includes FAIM participants.
Times Service Provided: Number of Counseling Sessions
- M3 TAX PREPARATION ASSISTANCE:** Assistance to low-income individuals in filing taxes, including applications for rent tax refunds.
Times Service Provided: Number of Households Assisted
- M4 ASSET DEVELOPMENT AND SAVINGS PROGRAMS:** Assistance to low-income individuals in building financial assets such as a home, college education, or a small business through a combination of savings and financial education and training. Includes Family Assets for Independence in Minnesota (FAIM) and other individual development account and savings programs.
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
- B7 ENERGY RELATED REPAIR:** Energy related repairs to EAP households to maintain heat in the dwelling or repair a potentially hazardous energy-related situation. (May also be served in B5 – Energy Assistance.)
Times Service Provided: Number of Households Served
- B9 ENERGY CONSERVATION SERVICES:** Activities to reduce home energy consumption including Minnesota Energy Conservation Services (MECS), Conservation Improvement Programs (CIP) and or other services on low-income residences indicating areas needing conservation measures.
Times Service Provided: Number of Households Served
- C1 HOUSING GRANTS AND LOANS:** Non-emergency housing loans and grants for home repair, 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
- C9 COMMUNITY HOMEOWNERSHIP EDUCATION:** Educate households on the process and steps for purchasing and selling a residential home. For example, homebuyer workshops/counseling, escrow accounts, closing, realtor fees etc. Include FAIM Participants.
Times Service Provided: Number of Households served

C12 LOW-INCOME HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AND STABILIZATION: The increase, development and stabilization low-income housing, including the rehabilitation of unoccupied housing as well as the acquisition, rehabilitation and resale of homes. Example includes MURAL.

Times Service Provided: Number of Units Made Available

EMERGENCY SERVICES & OTHER ASSISTANCE

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, ESP, and HYA (formerly known as Runaway and Homeless Youth). Types of activities included are prevention, emergency shelter and permanent housing placement assistance.

Times Service Provided: Number of Individuals Assisted

C11 MINNESOTA 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, interpretation/translation services, 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; including the use of an agency operated thrift store.

Times Service Provided: Number of Times Household (Duplicative) was 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 and Minnesota Community Action Grant. Does not include loans. (Not also reported under B6 – Energy Crisis.)

Times Service Provided: Number of Households Assisted

NUTRITION

- 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
- H10 SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) OUTREACH:** Efforts designed to provide information and outreach to eligible populations regarding the Supplement Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) with the end goal of increased participation.
Times Service Provided: Number of Households Contacted
- H11 FOOD ASSISTANCE:** Food for households experiencing emergencies and anti-hunger efforts including food shelves or pantries, food vouchers, food co-op projects, reduced cost food packages and Fare Share.
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 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
- E5 TRANSPORTATION SAFETY PROGRAMS:** Program services that are directed at vehicle safety such as the Child Passenger Safety (CPS) program.
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/or community services.
Times Service Provided: Number of Households Contacted
- K3 PUBLIC EDUCATION, INFORMATION AND ADVOCACY:** 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, Claim IT!, and voter registration.
Times Service Provided: Number of people receiving publications or attending an educational engagement.
- K4 BENEFIT ENROLLMENT AND APPLICATION ASSISTANCE:** Intake or application services provided to help households access or determine eligibility for programs not directly administered by the agency, e.g.: MHFA loan application, and SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR).
Times Service Provided: Number of Services (3)
- K5 LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT:** Services or programs designed specifically for the leadership development of clients (i.e. community engagement initiatives, fellows programs, leadership programs or initiatives).
Times Service Provided: Number of Participants enrolled

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 EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION:** The education and care of a child by someone other than a parent or legal guardian in or outside the child's home (includes non-Head Start early childhood education).
Times Service Provided: Number of Children Enrolled
- J3 CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE:** The administration of a county child care program (Basic Sliding Fee, MFIP, Child Care or Transitional Year Child Care) where direct client services are not performed.
Times Service Provided: Number of Children Enrolled
- J4 AT RISK YOUTH:** Education and prevention activity relating to drugs, gangs and delinquency.
Times Service Provided: Number of Individuals Assisted

- J5 CAMPERSHIP:** Low-income children are given chance to attend camp by subsidizing camp costs.
Times Service Provided: Number of Children Assisted
- J6 CHILD CARE AWARE (previously known as Child Care Resource & Referral):** 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 ASSISTANCE - 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 ASSISTANCE - FINANCIAL:** Financial aid for medical costs, i.e. Rural Emergency Medical Assistance. Payment for health services of outpatient visits, eye examinations, eye glasses, prescription medicine, dental care, 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

Commonly Used Acronyms

ABE	Adult Basic Education	HYA	Homeless Youth Act (formerly known as Runaway and Homeless Youth)
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act	ICAP	Indian Community Action Program
AMC	Association of Minnesota Counties	IDA	Individual Development Account
CAA	Community Action Agency	ISN	Integrated Service Network
CAC	Community Action Council	LIHEAP	Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program
CAP	Community Action Program	MA	Medical Assistance
CAMIS	Community Action Management Information System	MAPA	Minnesota Alliance for Progressive Action
CCA	Child Care Aware (previously known as Child Care Resource & Referral)	MCADS	Minnesota Community Action Data System
CDC	Community Development Council	MDE	Minnesota Department of Education
CDF	Children’s Defense Fund	MFIP	Minnesota Family Investment Program
CIP	Conservation Improvement Program	MHFA	Minnesota Housing Finance Agency
CISN	Community Integrated Services Network	MHSA	Minnesota Head Start Association
COLA	Cost of Living Adjustment	MinnCAP	Minnesota Community Action Partnership
CSBG	Community Services Block Grant	MNAEYC	Minnesota Association for the Education of Young Children
CWF	Community Worker’s Fund	MWAG	Minnesota Weatherization Advisory Group
DHS	MN Department of Human Services	NCAF	National Community Action Foundation
DOE	U.S. Department of Energy	OCD	Office of Child Development
DOF	MN Department of Finance	OEO	Office of Economic Opportunity
DOL	U.S. Department of Labor	OHD	Office of Human Development
DOT	MN Department of Transportation	OMB	Office of Management and Budget
EACA	Energy Assistance Coordinators Association	PAC	Political Action Committee
EAP	Energy Assistance Program	PC	Policy Council
ECFE	Early Childhood & Family Education	PUC	Public Utilities Commission
FAIM	Family Assets for Independence in Minnesota	S.F.	Senate File
FFY	Federal Fiscal Year	SFY	State Fiscal Year
FHA	Farmers Home Administration	SOB	State Office Building
FHA	Federal Housing Authority	SNAP	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
FICA	Federal Insurance Contribution Act (Social Security)	SR	Senate Register
FSC	Family Service Center	SSI S	Supplemental Security Income
FY	Fiscal Year	T&TA	Training and Technical Assistance
GA	General Assistance	TEFAP	Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program
H.F.	House File	USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
H.R.	House Register	VISTA	Volunteers in Service to America
HH	Household	WAP	Weatherization Assistance Program
HHS	Health & Human Services	WIC	Women, Infants and Children Program
HRA	Housing and Redevelopment Authority	WIOA	Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
HUD	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	WX	Weatherization

Minnesota Community Action Partners

Contact Information

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National Community Action Partners and Associations Contact Information

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Bois Forte Reservation Head Start

Christine Bloom, Director
PO Box 16
Nett Lake, MN 55772
Phone: (218) 757-3265
Fax: (218) 757-3394
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Child Care Resource and Referral

Sandy Simar, Director
126 Woodlake Drive Southeast
Rochester, MN 55904-5533
Phone: (507) 287-2020
Fax: (507) 287-2411
Email: sandys@c2r2.org

Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties Head Start

Deb Moses, Director
450 North Syndicate Street
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Community Action Partnership of Scott, Carver, and Dakota Counties

Laura Gilkey, Director
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Duluth Head Start

Pam Rees, Director
Barnes EC Center, 2102 Blackman Avenue
Duluth, MN 55811
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Fond du Lac Reservation

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105 University Road
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Grand Portage Reservation

Business Committee
Debbie Petty, Director
PO Box 428
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Fax: (218) 475-2693
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Heartland Community Action Agency

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Fax: (320) 877-7483
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Inter-County Community Council Head Start

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Email: djohnson@intercountycc.org

KOOTASCA Community Action Head Start

Maureen Rosato, Director
1213 Southeast Second Avenue
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
Phone: (218) 327-6700
Fax: (218) 327-6733
Email: maureenr@kootasca.org

Lakes & Pines Community Action Council

Becky Hanson, Director
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Phone: (320) 679-1800
Fax: (320) 679-4139
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**Lakes & Prairies Community Action
Clay Wilkin Head Start**

715 11th Street North
Moorhead, MN 56560
Phone: (218) 299-7017
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Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

Lee Turney, Director
EC Development Program
115 6th Street Northwest, Suite E
Cass Lake, MN 56633
Phone: (218) 335-8336
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Mahube-Otwa Community Action Partnership

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Phone: (218) 847-1385
Fax: (218) 847-1388
Email: maho@mahube.org

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

Tammy Wickstrom, Director
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Fax: (320) 532-7862
Email: twickstrom@nas.k12.mn.us

Minnesota Valley Action Council

Chris Marben, Director
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Fax: (507) 345-2414
Email: cmarben@mnvac.org

Northwest Community Action Head Start

Mark Carlson, Director
312 North Main Street
PO Box 67
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Phone: (218) 528-3227
Fax: (218) 528-3259
Email: mcarlson@nwcaa.org

Parents in Community Action

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Fax: (612) 374-8311
Email: adillon@picaheadstart.org

Prairie Five Community Action Council

Darcy Kleven, Director
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Reach-Up Head Start

Linda Maron, Director
1250 Johnson Road
St. Cloud, MN 56304
Phone: (320) 253-8110
Fax: (320) 253-1107
Email: lmaron@reachupinc.org

Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians

Beverly King, Director
PO Box 53
Red Lake, MN 56671
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Fax: (218) 679-2923
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Semcac

Beth Stanford, Director
204 South Elm Street
PO Box 549
Rushford, MN 55971
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Southwestern Minnesota Opportunity Council

Lori Gunnink, Director
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Phone: (507) 376-4195
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Three Rivers Head Start

Kim Scanlan, Director
1414 North Star Drive
Zumbrota, MN 55992
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Fax: (507) 732-8547
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Tri-County Community Action (TCC)

Larry Ketchum, Director
501 Le Mieur Street
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Fax: (320) 632-3695
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Tri-Valley Opportunity Council

Laurie Coleman, Director
102 North Broadway
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Crookston, MN 56716
Phone: (218) 281-5832
Fax: (218) 281-6676
Email: lauriec@TVOC.org

Upper Midwest American Indian Center

Gertrude Buckanaga, Director
1035 West Broadway
Minneapolis, MN 55411
Phone: (612) 522-4436
Fax: (612) 529-5265
Email: gbuckanaga@yahoo.com

West Central Minnesota

Communities Action, Inc.
Valerie Arnquist, Director
411 Industrial Park Boulevard
Elbow Lake, MN 56531
Phone: (218) 685-4486
Fax: (218) 685-6741
Email: vala@wcmca.org

Western Community Action

Christine (Tina) Hamilton, Director
1400 South Saratoga Street
Marshall, MN 56258
Phone: (507) 537-1416
Fax: (507) 537-1849
Email: christine.hamilton@wca.org

White Earth Reservation Tribal Council

Angela Soyring, Director
40560 County Highway 34
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Phone: (218) 983-3285
Fax: (218) 983-4106
Email: angelas@whiteearth.com

Wright County Community Action

Cindy Boman, Director
130 Division Street West PO Box 787
Maple Lake, MN 55358-0787
Phone: (320) 963-6500
Fax: (320) 963-5745
Email: cboman@wccaweb.com

Minnesota Energy Assistance Programs

Anoka County Community Action Programs

Donna Mattson
1201 89th Avenue Northeast
Blaine, MN 55434
Phone: (763) 783-4712
Email: eapmail@accap.org
Counties served: Anoka

Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency

Scott Zahorik
702 Third Avenue South
Virginia, MN 55792-2797
Phone: (218) 749-2912
Counties served: Cook, Lake and St. Louis (including Duluth and Grand Portage Reservation)

Bi-County Community Action Programs

Linda Lien
6603 Bemidji Avenue North
Bemidji, MN 56601
Phone: (218) 751-4631
Fax: (218) 751-8452
Counties served: Beltrami and Cass

Bois Forte Reservation

Shelley Strong
5344 Lake Shore Drive
PO Box 16
Nett Lake, MN 55772
Phone: (218) 757-3261
Email: smstrong@boisforte.nsn.gov
Counties served: Reservation

Clearwater County

Department of Human Services
Tammy Kortan
PO Box X
Bagley, MN 56621-0682
Phone: (218) 694-6164
Counties served: Clearwater

Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties

Catherine Fair
450 Syndicate Street North, Suite 122
St. Paul, MN 55104
Phone: (651) 645-6470
Email: cfair@caprw.org
Counties served: Ramsey and Washington

Community Action Partnership of Scott, Carver, and Dakota Counties

Susan Hilla
496 145 Street West
Rosemount, MN 55068
Phone: (651) 322-3500
Email: shilla@capagency.org
Counties served: Carver, Dakota and Scott

Community Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin

Karen Moe
8800 Highway 7, Suite 401
St. Louis Park, MN 55426
Phone: (952) 930-3541
Email: kmoe@capsh.org
Counties served: Hennepin (Suburban – excluding City of Minneapolis)

Fond du Lac Reservation

Joan Markon
1720 Big Lake Road
Cloquet, MN 55720
Phone: (218) 879-4593
Email: joanmarkon@fdlrez.com
Counties served: Reservation

Heartland Community Action Agency

Patricia Elizondo
200 SouthWest 4th Street
Willmar, MN 56201
Phone: (320) 235-0850
Email: patriciae@heartlandcaa.org
Counties served: Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker

Inter-County Community Council

Wesley Roland
207 Main Street
PO Box 189
Oklee, MN 56742
Phone: (218) 796-5144
Email: wroland@intercountycc.org
Counties served: Pennington, Polk (East) and Red Lake

KOOTASCA Community Action

Dana Herschbach
201 NW 4th Street, Suite 130
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
Phone: (218) 327-6703
Counties served: Itasca and Koochiching

Lakes & Pines Community Action Council

Richard Fuchs
1700 Maple Avenue East
Mora, MN 55051-1227
Phone: (320) 679-1800
Email: richardf@lakesandpines.org
Counties served: Aitkin, Carlton, Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs and Pine

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

Connie Littlewolf
115 6th Street Northwest
Cass Lake, MN 56633
Phone: (218) 335-3783
Counties served: Reservation

Lutheran Social Services (LSS)

Judy Steinke
716 East Street
Brainerd, MN 56401
Phone: (218) 829-5000
Email: energy@lssmn.org
Counties served: Crow Wing

Mahube-Otwa Community Action Partnership

Cal Mayfield
1125 West River Road
PO Box 747
Detroit Lakes, MN 56502-0747
Phone: (218) 847-1385
Email: cmayfield@mahube.org
Counties served: Becker, Hubbard, Mahnomen, Otter Tail, and Wadena

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians

Freedom Porter
43408 Odena Drive
Onamia, MN 56359
Phone: (320) 532-4181
Counties served: Reservation

Minnesota Valley Action Council

Judd Schultz
706 North Victory Drive
Mankato, MN 56001
Phone: (507) 345-6822
Email: jschultz@mnavac.org
Counties served: Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, Le Sueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Waseca and Watonwan

Northwest Community Action

Yvonne Erickson
312 North Main Street
Badger, MN 56714
Phone: (218) 528-3258
Email: pczak@nwcaa.org
Counties served: Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Marshall (East) and Roseau

Prairie Five Community Action Council

Kathy Sundstedt
719 North 7th Street, PO Box 159
Montevideo, MN 56265-0159
Phone: (320) 269-6578
Counties served: Big Stone, Chippewa, Lac qui Parle, Swift and Yellow Medicine

Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians

Ramona Desjarlait
15531 Main Avenue, PO Box 190
Red Lake, MN 56671
Phone: (218) 679-1880
Email: ramonad@paulbunyan.net
Counties served: Reservation

Renville County Human Services

Peggy Markgraf
105 South 5th Street
Olivia, MN 56277
Phone: (320) 523-5522
Counties served: Renville

Semcac

Gerry Krage
 204 South Elm Street
 PO Box 549
 Rushford, MN 55971
 Phone: (507) 864-8240
 Email: gerry.krage@semcac.org
 Counties served: Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Houston,
 Mower, Steele and Winona

Southwestern Minnesota Opportunity Council

Doug Mead
 1106 3rd Avenue
 Worthington, MN 56187
 Phone: (507) 376-4195
 Email: dmead@smoc.us
 Counties served: Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Rock

Three Rivers Community Action

Marla Lodermeier
 1414 North Star Drive
 Zumbrota, MN 55992
 Phone: (507) 732-8523
 Email: marla.lodermeier@threeriverscap.org
 Counties served: Goodhue, Rice and Wabasha

Todd County Social Services

Phil Johnson
 Courthouse Annex
 212 2nd Avenue South
 Long Prairie, MN 56347-1640
 Phone: (320) 732-4500
 Email: phil.johnson@co.todd.mn.us
 Counties served: Todd

Tri-County Action Program

Dan Roberts
 1210 23rd Avenue South, PO Box 683
 Waite Park, MN 56387
 Phone: (320) 251-1612
 Email: dan.roberts@tricap.org
 Counties served: Benton, Morrison, Sherburne and
 Stearns

Tri-Valley Opportunity Council

Phil Wold
 1407 Erskine Street
 Crookston, MN 56716
 Phone: (218) 281-0190
 Email: phil@tvoc.org
 Counties served: Marshall (West), Norman and Polk
 (West)

West Central Minnesota Community Action

Mandy Braaten
 411 Industrial Park Boulevard
 Elbow Lake, MN 56531
 Phone: (218) 685-4486
 Email: mandyb@wcmca.org
 Counties served: Clay, Douglas, Grant, Pope, Stevens,
 Traverse and Wilkin

Western Communities Action

Rachel Bagley
 1400 South Saratoga Street
 Marshall, MN 56258
 Phone: (507) 537-1416
 Email: rachel.bagley@wcainc.org
 Counties served: Cottonwood, Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon
 and Redwood

White Earth Reservation

Christine Fairbanks
 3303 US Highway 59
 White Earth, MN 56589
 Phone: (218) 473-2711
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 Counties served: Reservation

Wright County Community Action

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 130 Division Street West
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 Maple Lake, MN 55358
 Phone: (320) 963-6500
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 Counties served: Wright

Minnesota Weatherization Programs

Anoka County Community Action Programs

Donna Mattson
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Phone: (763) 783-4739
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Counties served: Anoka

Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency

Scott Zahorik
702 Third Avenue South
Virginia, MN 55792-2797
Phone: (218) 749-2912
Email: dave.johnson@aeoa.org
Counties served: Cook, Lake and St. Louis

Bi-County Community Action Programs

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Counties served: Beltrami and Cass

Bois Forte Reservation Tribal Council

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Phone: (218) 757-3261
Fax: (218) 757-3312
Email: smsstrong@boisforte-nsn.gov
Counties served: Reservation

Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties

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Counties served: Ramsey and Washington

Community Action Partnership of Scott, Carver, and Dakota Counties

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Counties served: Carver and Scott

Dakota County Community Development Agency

Bruce Anderson
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Counties served: Dakota

Fond du Lac Reservation

Joan Markon
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Phone: (218) 879-4593
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Counties served: Reservation

Heartland Community Action Agency

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Counties served: Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker and Renville

Inter-County Community Council

Wesley Roland
207 Main Street, PO Box 189
Oklee, MN 56742
Phone: (218) 796-5144
Email: wroland@intercountycc.org
Counties served: Clearwater, Pennington, Polk (East) and Red Lake

KOOTASCA Community Action

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 Counties served: Itasca and Koochiching

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 Counties served: Aitkin, Carlton, Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs and Pine

Leech Lake Reservation Tribal Council

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 Counties served: Reservation

Mahube-Otwa Community Action Partnership

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 Detroit Lakes, MN 56502
 Phone: (218) 847-1385
 Email: cmayfield@mahube.org
 Counties served: Becker, Hubbard, Mahnomen, Otter Tail, Wadena, and Western Polk

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians

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 Phone: (320) 532-4181
 Email: freedom.porter@millelacsband.com
 Counties served: Reservation

Minnesota Valley Action Council

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 Phone: (507) 345-6822
 Email: jschultz@mnvac.org
 Counties served: Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, LeSueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Waseca and Watonwan

Northwest Community Action

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 Phone: (218) 528-3258
 Email: dchristianson@nwcaa.org
 Counties served: Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Marshall (East) and Roseau

Prairie Five Community Action Council

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 Counties served: Big Stone, Chippewa, Lac qui Parle, Swift and Yellow Medicine

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 Counties served: Reservation

Semcac

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 Counties served: Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Steele and Winona

Southwestern Minnesota Opportunity Council

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 1106 3rd Avenue
 PO Box 787
 Worthington, MN 56187
 Phone: (507) 376-4195
 Email: dmead@smoc.us
 Counties served: Murray, Nobles, Pipestone and Rock

Sustainable Resources Center

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Three Rivers Community Action

Clara Krause
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Counties served: Goodhue, Rice and Wabasha

Tri-County Action Program (Tri-CAP)

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Counties served: Benton, Sherburne and Stearns

Tri-County Community Action (TCC)

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Counties served: Crow Wing, Morrison, and Todd

West Central Minnesota Communities Action

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Email: mandyb@wcmca.org
Counties served: Clay, Douglas, Grant, Pope, Stevens, Traverse and Wilkin

Western Community Action

Rachel Bagley
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Phone: (507) 537-1416
Email: rachel.bagley@wcainc.org
Counties served: Cottonwood, Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon and Redwood

White Earth Reservation Tribal Council

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Wright County Community Action

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Counties served: Wright

Legislative Directory:

State and Congressional Representatives by Community Action Agency, Head Start Program and Tribal Government

Anoka County Community Action Program

Representatives: 31A–Kurt Daudt, 31B–Tom Hackbarth, 35A–Abigail Whelan, 35B–Peggy Scott, 36A–Mark Uglem, 36B–Melissa Hortman, 37A–Jerry Newton, 37B–Tim Sanders, 38A–Linda Runbeck, 41A–Connie Bernardy, 41B–Carolyn Laine

Senators: 31–Michelle Benson, 35–Branden Peterson, 36–John Hoffman, 37–Alice Johnson, 38–Roger Chamberlain, 41–Barb Goodwin

Congressional: 3–Erik Paulsen, 5–Keith Ellison, 6–Tom Emmer, Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken

Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency

Representatives: 3A–David Dill, 3B–Mary Murphy, 6A–Carly Melin, 6B–Jason Metsa, 7A–Jennifer Schultz, 7B–Erik Simonson

Senators: 3–Tom Bakk, 6–David Tomassoni, 7–Roger Reinert

Congressional: 8–Rick Nolan, Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken

Bi–County Community Action Program

Representatives: 2A–Dave Hancock, 5A–John Persell, 5B–Tom Anzelc, 9A–Mark Anderson

Senators: 2–Rod Skoe, 5–Tom Saxhaug, 9–Paul Gazelka

Congressional: 7–Collin Peterson, 8–Jim Nolan, Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken

Bois Forte Reservation Business Committee

Representatives: 3A–David Dill, 5A–John Persell, 5B–Tom Anzelc, 6A–Carly Melin

Senators: 3–Tom Bakk, 5–Tom Saxhaug, 6–David Tomassoni

Congressional: 8–Rick Nolan, Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken

Community Action Duluth

Representatives: 3B–Mary Murphy, 7A–Jennifer Schultz, 7B–Erik Simonson

Senators: 3–Tom Bakk, 7–Roger Reinert

Congressional: 8–Rick Nolan, Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken

Community Action Partnership for Ramsey and Washington Counties

Representatives: 38A–Linda Runbeck, 38B–Matt Dean, 39A–Bob Dettmer, 39B–Kathy Lohmer, 41A–Connie Bernardy, 41B–Carolyn Laine, 42A–Barb Yarusso, 42B–Jason Isaacson, 43A–Peter Fischer, 43B–Leon Lillie, 53A–JoAnn Ward, 53B–Kelly Fenton, 54A–Dan Schoen, 54B–Denny McNamara, 64A–Erin Murphy, 64B–Dave Pinto, 65A–Rena Moran, 65B–Carlos Mariani, 66A–Alice Hausman, 66B–John Lesch, 67A–Tim Mahoney, 67B–Sheldon Johnson

Senators: 38–Roger Chamberlain, 39–Karin Housley, 41–Barb Goodwin, 42–Bev Scalze, 43–Chuck Wiger, 53–Susan Kent, 54–Katie Sieben, 64–Dick Cohen, 65–Sandy Pappas, 66–John Marty, 67–Foung Hawj

Congressional: 2–John Kline, 4–Betty McCollum, 5–Keith Ellison, 6–Tom Emmer, Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken

Community Action Partnership for Suburban Hennepin

Representatives: 29A–Joe McDonald, 30B–Eric Lucero, 33A–Jerry Hartaus, 33B–Cindy Pugh, 34A–Joyce Peppin, 34B–Dennis Smith, 36A–Mark Uglem, 36B–Melissa Hortman, 40A–Mike Nelson, 40B–Debra Hilstrom, 41B–Carolyn Laine, 44A–Sarah Anderson, 44B–Jon Applebaum, 45A–Lyndon Carlson, 45B–Mike Freiberg, 46A–Ryan Winkler, 46B–Cheryl Youakim, 48A–Yvonne Selcer, 48B–Jennifer Loon, 49A–Ron Erhardt, 49B–Paul Rosenthal, 50A–Linda Slocum, 50B–Ann Lenczewski

Senators: 29–Bruce Anderson, 30–Mary Kiffmeyer, 33–David Osmek, 34–Warren Limmer, 36–John Hoffman, 40–Chris Eaton, 41–Barb Goodwin, 44–Terri Bonoff, 45–Ann Rest, 46–Ron Latz, 48–David Hann, 49–Melissa Franzen, 50–Melissa Wiklund

Congressional: 2–John Kline, 3–Erik Paulsen, 5–Keith Ellison, 6–Tom Emmer, Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken

Duluth Head Start

Representatives: 3B–Mary Murphy, 7A–Jennifer Schultz, 7B–Erik Simonson

Senators: 3–Tom Bakk, 7–Roger Reinert

Congressional: 8–Rick Nolan, Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken

Fond du Lac Reservation Business Committee

Representatives: 3A–David Dill, 3B–Mary Murphy, 6A–Carly Melin, 6B–Jason Metsa, 7A–Jennifer Schultz, 7B–Erik Simonson, 11A–Mike Sundin

Senators: 3–Tom Bakk, 6–David Tomassoni, 7–Roger Reinert

Congressional: 8–Rick Nolan, Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken

Grand Portage Reservation

Representative: 3A–David Dill

Senator: 3–Tom Bakk

Congressional 8–Rick Nolan, Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken

Heartland Community Action Agency

Representatives: 16B–Paul Torkelson, 17A–Tim Miller, 17B–Dave Baker, 18A–Dean Urdahl, 18B–Glenn Gruenhagen

Senators: 16–Gary Dahms, 17–Lyle Koenen, 18–Scott Newman

Congressional: 7–Collin Peterson, Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken

Inter–County Community Council

Representatives: 1A–Dan Fabien, 1B–Debra Kiel, 2A–Dave Hancock, 2B–Steve Green

Senators: 1–Leroy Stumpf, 2–Rod Skoe

Congressional: 7–Collin Peterson, Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken

KOOTASCA Community Action

Representatives: 3A–David Dill, 5A–John Persell, 5B–Tom Anzelc, 6A–Carly Melin

Senators: 3–Tom Bakk, 5–Tom Saxhaug, 6–David Tomassoni

Congressional: 8–Rick Nolan, Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken

Lakes & Pines Community Action Council

Representatives: 10B–Dale Lueck, 11A–Mike Sundin, 11B–Jason Rarick, 15A–Sondra Erikson, 31A–Kurt Daudt, 32A–Brian Johnson, 32B–Bob Barrett, 39A–Bob Dettmer

Senators: 10–Carrie Ruud, 11–Tony Lourey, 15–Dave Brown, 31–Michelle Benson, 32–Sean Nienow, 39–Karin Housely

Congressional: 8–Rick Nolan, Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken

Lakes and Prairies Community Action Partnership

Representatives: 4A–Ben Lien, 4B–Paul Marquart, 12A–Jeff Backer

Senators: 4–Kent Eken, 12–Torrey Westrom

Congressional: 7–Collin Peterson, Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken

Leech Lake Reservation Tribal Council

Representatives: 2A–Dave Hancock, 2B–Steve Green, 5A–John Persell, 5B–Tom Anzelc, 6A–Carly Melin, 9A–Mark Anderson

Senators: 2–Rod Skoe, 5–Tom Saxhuag, 6–David Tomassoni, 9–Paul Gazelka

Congressional: 7–Collin Peterson, 8–Rick Nolan, Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken

Lower Sioux Community Council

Representatives: 16A–Chris Swedzinski, 16B–Paul Torkelson, 22B–Rod Hamilton

Senators: 16–Gary Dahms, 22–Bill Weber

Congressional: 1–Tim Walz, 7–Collin Peterson, Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken

Mahube–Otwa Community Action Partnership

Representatives: 2A–Dave Hancock, 2B–Steve Green, 5A–John Persell, 4B–Paul Marquart, 8A–Bud Nornes, 8B–Mary Franson, 9A–Mark Anderson

Senators: 2–Rod Skoe, 4–Kent Eken, 5–Tom Saxhaug, 8–Bill Ingebrigtsen, 9–Paul Gazelka

Congressional: 7–Collin Peterson, 8–Rick Nolan, Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken

Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa Indians

Representatives: 5A–John Persell, 5B Tom Anzelc, 11B–Jason Rarick, 15A–Sondra Erickson, 15B–Jim Newberger

Senators: 5–Tom Saxhuag, 11–Tony Lourey, 15–David Brown

Congressional: 8–Rick Nolan, Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken

Minneapolis Legislators

Representatives: 59A–Joe Mullery, 59B–Raymond Dehn, 60A–Diane Loeffler, 60B–Phyllis Kahn, 61A–Frank Hornstein, 61B–Paul Thissen, 62A–Karen Clark, 62B–Susan Allen, 63A–Jim Davnie, 63B–Jean Wagenius

Senators: 59–Bobby Jo Champion, 60–Kari Dziedzic, 61–Scott Dibble, 62–Jeff Hayden, 63–Patricia Torres Ray

Congressional: 5–Keith Ellison, Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken

Minnesota Valley Action Council

Representatives: 16B–Paul Torkelson, 18B–Glen Gruenhagen, 19A–Clark Johnson, 19B–Jack Considine, 20A–Bob Vogel, 20B–David Bly, 23A–Bob Gunther, 23B–Tony Cornish, 24A–John Petersburg, 27A–Peggy Bennett

Senators: 16–Gary Dahms, 18–Scott Newman, 19–Kathy Sheran, 20–Kevin Dahle, 23–Julie Rosen, 24–Vicki Jensen, 27–Dan Sparks

Congressional: 1–Tim Walz, 7–Collin Peterson, Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken

Northwest Community Action

Representatives: 1A–Dan Fabien, 2A–Dave Hancock

Senators: 1–LeRoy Stumpf, 2–Rod Skoe

Congressional: 7–Collin Peterson, Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken

Parents In Community Action (PICA)

Representatives: 36B–Melissa Hortman, 45B–Mike Freiberg, 50A–Linda Slocum, 59A–Joe Mullery, 59B–Raymond Dehn, 60A–Diane Loeffler, 60B–Phyllis Kahn, 61A–Frank Hornstein, 61B–Paul Thissen, 62A–Karen Clark, 62B–Susan Allen, 63A–Jim Davnie, 63B–Jean Wagenius

Senators: 59–Bobby Jo Champion, 60–Kari Dziedzic, 61–Scott Dibble, 62–Jeff Hayden, 63–Patricia Torres Ray

Congressional: 5–Keith Ellison, Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken

Prairie Five Community Action Council

Representatives: 12A–Jeff Backer, 16A–Chris Swedzinski, 17A–Tim Miller

Senators: 12–Torrey Westrom, 16–Gary Dahms, 17–Lyle Koenen

Congressional: 7–Collin Peterson, Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken

Prairie Island Tribal Council

Representatives: 21A–Tim Kelly, 21B–Steve Drazkowski, 58B–Pat Garofalo

Senators: 21–Matt Schmit, 58–Dave Thompson

Congressional: 1–Tim Walz, 2–John Kline, Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken

Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians

Representatives: 2A–Roger Erickson, 2B–Steve Green, 5A–John Persell

Senators: 2–Rod Skoe, 5–Tm Saxhaug

Congressional: 7–Collin Peterson, 8–Rick Nolan, Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken

Scott–Carver–Dakota CAP Agency

Representatives: 20A–Bob Vogel, 33B–Cindy Pugh, 47A–Jim Nash, 47B–Joe Hoppe, 51A–Sandra Masin, 51B–Laurie Halverson, 52A–Rick Hansen, 52B–Joe Atkins, 54A–Dan Schoen, 54B–Denny McNamara, 55A–Bob Loonan, 55B–Tony Albright, 56A–Drew Christensen, 56B–Roz Peterson, 57A–Tara Mack, 57B–Anna Wills, 58A–Jon Koznick, 58B–Pat Garofalo

Senators: 20–Kevin Dahle, 33–David Osmek, 47–Julianne Ortman, 51–Jim Carlson, 52–James Metzen, 54–Katie Sieben, 55–Eric Pratt, 56–Dan Hall, 57–Greg Clausen, 58–Dave Thompson.

Congressional: 2–John Kline, 4–Betty McCollum, Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken

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Representatives: 21B–Steve Drazkowski, 24A–John Petersburg, 24B–Brian Daniels, 25A–Duane Quam, 27A–Peggy Bennett, 27B–Jeanne Poppe, 28A–Gene Pelowski Jr., 28B–Greg Davids

Senators: 21–Matt Schmit, 24–Vicki Jensen, 25–Dave Senjem, 27–Dan Sparks, 28–Jeremy Miller

Congressional: 1–Tim Walz, Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken

Shakopee–Mdewakanton Sioux Community

Representatives: 47A–Jim Nash, 47B–Joe Hoppe

Senators: 47–Julianne Ortman

Congressional: 2–John Kline, Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken

Southwestern Minnesota Opportunity Council

Representatives: 22A–Joe Schomacker, 22B–Rod Hamilton

Senators: 22–Bill Weber

Congressional: 1–Tim Walz, Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken

Three Rivers Community Action

Representatives: 20B–David Bly, 21A–Tim Kelly, 21B–Steve Drazkowski, 24B–Brian Daniels, 25A–Duane Quam, 25B–Kim Norton, 26A–Tina Liebling, 26B–Nels Pierson, 58B–Pat Garofalo

Senators: 20–Kevin Dahle, 21–Matt Schmit, 24–Vicki Jensen, 25–Dave Senjem, 26–Carla Nelson, 58–Dave Thompson

Congressional: 1–Tim Walz, 2–John Kline, Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken

Tri–County Action Program

Representatives: 12B–Paul Anderson, 13A–Jeff Howe, 13B–Tim O’Driscoll, 14A–Tama Theis, 14B–Jim Knoblach, 15A–Sondra Erikson, 15B–Jim Newberger, 30A–Nick Zerwas, 31A–Kurt Daudt

Senators: 12–Torrey Westrom, 13–Michelle Fischbach, 14–John Pederson, 15–David Brown, 30–Mary Kiffmeyer, 31–Michelle Benson

Congressional: 6–Tom Emmer, 7–Collin Peterson, Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken

Tri–County Community Action

Representatives: 9A–Mark Anderson, 9B–Ron Kresha, 10A–Joshua Heintzeman, 10B–Dale Lueck, 15B–Jim Newberger

Senators: 9–Paul Gazelka, 10–Carrie Ruud, 15–David Brown

Congressional: 7–Collin Peterson, 8–Rick Nolan, Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken

Tri–Valley Opportunity Council

Representatives: 1A–Dan Fabien, 1B–Deb Kiel, 4B–Paul Marquart

Senators: 1–LeRoy Stumpf, 4–Kent Eken

Congressional: 7–Collin Peterson, Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken

Upper Sioux Community

Representatives: 16A–Chris Swedzinski

Senators: 16–Gary Dahms

Congressional: 7–Collin Peterson, Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken

West Central Minnesota Communities Action

Representatives: 8B–Mary Franson, 12A–Jeff Backer, 12B–Paul Anderson

Senators: 8–Bill Ingebrigtsen, 12–Torrey Westrom

Congressional: 7–Collin Peterson, Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken

Western Community Action

Representatives: 16A–Chris Swedzinski, 16B–Paul Torkelson, 22A–Joe Schomacker, 22B–Rod Hamilton, 23A–Bob Gunther

Senators: 16–Gary Dahms, 22–Bill Weber, 23 Julie Rosen

Congressional: 1–Tim Walz, 7–Collin Peterson, Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken

White Earth Reservation Tribal Council

Representatives: 2A–Dave Hancock, 2B–Steve Green, 4B–Paul Marquart

Senators: 2–Rod Skoe, 4–Kent Eken

Congressional: 7–Collin Peterson, Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken

Wright County Community Action

Representatives: 15B–Jim Newberger, 18A–Dean Urdahl, 29A–Joe McDonald, 29B–Marion O’Neill, 30A–Nick Zerwas, 30B–Eric Lucero

Senators: 15–Dave Brown, 18–Scott Newman, 29–Bruce Anderson, 30–Mary Kiffmeyer

Congressional: 6–Tom Emmer, Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken

Minnesota Economic Opportunity Act

MINNESOTA STATUTE

256E.30 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES.

Subdivision 1. Authorization. The commissioner of human services 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. 2a. Merger. In the case of a merger between community action agencies, the newly created agency receives a base funding amount equal to the sum of the merged agencies' base funding amounts at the point of the merger as described in subdivision 2, paragraph (b), unless the commissioner determines the funding amount should be less than the sum of the merged agencies' base funding amount due to savings resulting from fewer redundancies and duplicative services.

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.

History: 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; 2008 c 361 art 3 s 11; 2014 c 291 art 11 s 7

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.

History: 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; 1994c 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

256E.32 COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMS.

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

(1) 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;

(2) 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

(3) 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.

History: 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 468s 21; 2005 c 98 art 1 s 24

Minnesota Community Action Programs State Rule

CHAPTER 9571

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMS

9571.0010 PURPOSE.

9571.0020 DEFINITIONS.

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9571.0150 GRANT APPLICATIONS.

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9571.0170 RECORD KEEPING.

9571.0180 MONITORING.

9571.0010 PURPOSE.

This chapter establishes procedures to recognize and fund community action programs. Entities eligible to receive, recognize, and operate community action programs include community action agencies, Indian tribal governments, and migrant and seasonal farmworker organizations.

Statutory Authority: MS s 256.01; 268.0122; 268.021
History: 16 SR 2319; 33 SR 1300
Posted: February 6, 2009

9571.0020 DEFINITIONS.

Subpart 1. Scope. The terms used in this chapter have the meanings given them in this part.

Subp. 2. Act. “Act” means Minnesota Statutes, sections 256E.30 to 256E.32.

Subp. 3. Applicant. “Applicant” means a community action agency, an Indian tribal government, or a migrant and seasonal farmworker organization, which applies for a grant under the act from the department to fund a community action program.

Subp. 4. Cessation. “Cessation” means a voluntary end to the performance of all community action program services by a community action agency in a service area as provided for in part 9571.0050 and the removal of the agency’s designation for the entire area that does not create the right of appeal.

Subp. 5. Commissioner. “Commissioner” means the commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

Subp. 6. Community. “Community” means the people to be served by the community action agency, Indian tribal government, or migrant and seasonal farmworker organization in its service area.

Subp. 7. Community action agency. “Community action agency” means an entity that:

A. has the authority to receive funds under Minnesota Statutes, section 256E.30, to support community action programs as described in Minnesota Statutes, section 256E.32;

B. has previously been determined eligible under federal law and regulations or is eligible under federal law and regulations; and C. has previously been designated and recognized or is designated as provided under part 9571.0030 and recognized as provided under part 9571.0040.

Subp. 8. Community action program. “Community action program” means activities consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 256E.32.

Subp. 9. Community services block grant. “Community services block grant” means federal funds authorized by United States Code, title 42, chapter 106, sections 9901-9926, and disbursed to grantees by the formula in the act.

Subp. 10. Denial. “Denial” means the department’s rejection of a proposed application for grant funds due

to the applicant's failure to meet the requirements of part 9571.0150, subpart 5.

Subp. 11. Department. "Department" means the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

Subp. 12. Designation. "Designation" means selection of an entity as a service area's exclusive community action agency by a governing body after a public hearing has been held.

Subp. 13. Designee. "Designee" means an entity nominated by a governing body to become a community action agency.

Subp. 14. Governing body. "Governing body" means the elected governmental authority of a political subdivision, as defined in subpart 19, which has the power to designate a community action agency.

Subp. 15. Grant. "Grant" means an allocation of Minnesota community action grant or community services block grant funds or both to an applicant in support of a community action program described in the application, approved by the department, and embodied in a grant contract.

Subp. 15a. Grant contract. "Grant contract" means a written instrument that defines the legal relationship between the department and a grantee when the principal purpose of the relationship is to transfer Minnesota community action grant funds or community services block grant funds or both to the grantee to support a community action program. The grant contract must contain the following contract clauses:

- A. how often the grantee must submit client and fiscal performance reports and financial status reports;
- B. audit requirements as specified by state and federal law;
- C. that any alteration to the grant contract and its attachments must be made in writing and executed by the same parties who executed the original grant contract, or their successors in office; and
- D. how long records must be kept by the grantee according to state and federal law.

Subp. 16. Grantee. "Grantee" means a community action agency, an Indian tribal government, or a migrant and seasonal farmworker organization, whose application to receive Minnesota community action grant money or community service block grant money, or both, has been approved by the department.

Subp. 17. Local unit of government. "Local unit

of government" means counties, Indian tribal governments, cities, and townships.

Subp. 18. Minnesota community action grant. "Minnesota community action grant" means state appropriated funds disbursed to grantees by the formula in the act.

Subp. 19. Political subdivision. "Political subdivision" means a local unit of government that has jurisdiction over the entire area served by a community action agency. Under no circumstances will the governmental unit be smaller than a county unless the service area of the community action agency coincides with the jurisdictional boundaries of the local unit of government.

Subp. 20. Recognition. "Recognition" means a process of:

- A. review by the department to assure compliance with applicable state and federal law and the designation procedures in part 9571.0040, subpart 1;
- B. referral to the governor of the department's request for recognition in part 9571.0040, subpart 3; and
- C. approval by the governor of the request for recognition.

Subp. 21. Service area. "Service area" means the geographic boundaries in which a community action agency is designated to operate.

Subp. 22. Subgrantee. "Subgrantee" means any entity that a grantee contracts to perform some or all of the community action program services authorized under a grant.

Subp. 23. Termination. "Termination" means the involuntary and permanent elimination of or reduction in available grant money to a grantee that gives rise to a grantee's right of appeal under part 9571.0060, subpart 5, and which may also coincide with the removal of a community action agency's designation or recognition.

Subp. 24. Withholding. "Withholding" means the department's reservation of funds available under a grant as provided in part 9571.0090 until corrective action by a grantee has successfully remedied a defect identified by the department.

Statutory Authority: MS s 256.01; 268.0122; 268.021
History: 16 SR 2319; L 1994 c 483 s 1; L 1998 c 397 art 11 s 3; L 2005 c 98 art 1 s 24; L 2005 c 112 art 2 s 41; 33 SR 1300
Posted: February 6, 2009

9571.0030 DESIGNATION OF COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES.

Subpart 1. Authority to designate. The designation of a community action agency must be made by the political subdivision or combination of political subdivisions having jurisdiction over the entire area to be served. A designation must be made by the governing body of a political subdivision whose boundaries are at least coextensive with the proposed service area. The power to designate may not be delegated.

Subp. 2. Notice and documents. Before a designee may be designated as a community action agency by a political subdivision, the governing body of the political subdivision having the requisite authority must prepare and file with the department a notice of intent to designate and eligibility documents applicable to the designee. The notice of intent to designate must state how the designee meets the requirements for an eligible entity established under the Community Services Block Grant Act. Eligibility documents are the following:

- A. evidence of designee's incorporation or proposed efforts toward incorporation, if applicable;
- B. evidence of tax exempt status or proposed efforts toward achieving tax exempt status, if applicable;
- C. assurance of compliance with the act, including requirements for the composition of the designee's existing or proposed board of directors;
- D. a statement that describes the proposed area to be served; and
- E. a proposed mission statement.

Subp. 3. Notice of public hearing. After the notice of intent to designate and the eligibility documents have been filed with the department, the governing body must hold a public hearing on the proposed designation. Notice of the hearing must be given according to items A to D.

- A. At least 30 calendar days before the hearing date, the governing body must send a copy of the notice of intent to designate and information on the date, time, location, and subject matter of the public hearing to all local units of government within the designee's intended service area. During the 30 days before the hearing, the affected local units of government will have an opportunity to respond in writing to the proposed designation. All comments received will be included in the official record of the hearing.

B. During the 30-day period and at least ten calendar days before the hearing, the governing body must also publish a notice of public hearing in a daily newspaper of general circulation at the county seat of each county in the designee's proposed service area. The published notice must describe the time, date, location, and subject matter of the public hearing.

C. The governing body must inform the department of the public hearing at least 30 calendar days before the hearing date.

D. Within the 30-day period and at least ten calendar days before the public hearing, the department must mail notice of the public hearing to all low-income households identified in the proposed service area. This mailed notice must contain the date, time, location, and subject matter of the public hearing. Identified low-income households are those specified on the previous community action agency's list or lists of clients.

Subp. 4. Public hearing. A public hearing must be held 30 calendar days before designation may occur. If the area to be served by the designee includes more than one county, a public hearing in conformity with this part must be held in each county to be served.

Subp. 5. Hearing procedure. The governing body will appoint a presiding officer to conduct the public hearing. The governing body, however, may not appoint one of its current members as the presiding officer. The presiding officer will not have a vested interest in the outcome of the proposed designation and will ensure that all persons involved in the hearing are treated fairly and impartially. At the public hearing, the representative of the designee and a representative of the governing body will make an affirmative presentation of facts establishing the designee's qualifications, expertise, and experience in providing community action program services to low-income people. Furthermore, the designee's representative will describe the mission of the community action program, the focus and direction of proposed services, and the goals for outreach to and participation by low-income people. The designee may rely upon facts presented by others on the record during the hearing to support its proposed designation. At the hearing, any interested person will be given the opportunity to present testimony and to ask questions of the designee's representative and of the governing body's representative. Furthermore, any interested party may submit written comments or exhibits.

Subp. 6. Official record. An official record of the hearing consisting of an electronic recording and minutes of the proceedings must be kept. The official record must also include all testimony, written comments, and exhibits received pertaining to the proposed designation. The hearing record must remain open to receive written comments and exhibits for 20 calendar days following the date of hearing.

Subp. 7. Official resolution. Once the official record of the public hearing is received and 30 calendar days have passed from the date of the hearing, the governing body may act to designate the designee as a community action agency. The governing body must pass a resolution designating the designee as a community action agency if after review of the official record the governing body finds that:

- A. the opinion of the community was fairly and impartially expressed;
- B. the opinion of low-income people in particular was actively encouraged, representatively sampled, and fairly expressed during the whole process;
- C. the designee established the qualifications, expertise, and experience necessary to be an effective community action agency; and
- D. the designee's proposed mission, services, and goals were supported by testimony and written comments received as a result of the public hearing process.

Subp. 8. Review by department. Before provisional recognition may occur in part 9571.0040, subpart 1, the governing body must have submitted to the department for review copies of the following documents:

- A. eligibility documents required in subpart 2;
- B. official resolution of the governing body designating the designee;
- C. notices of public hearing and a list of all publications and dates of publication of notices of hearing;
- D. list of all local units of government sent copies of the notice of intent to designate and the notice of public hearing, including any responses received;
- E. affidavit of service of the notice of public hearing upon low-income households identified in the service area; and
- F. official record of the hearing.

Subp. 9. Costs. Costs attributable to the designation

process, including costs associated with public hearings other than contested case hearings, are the responsibility of the governing body.

Statutory Authority: MS s 256.01; 268.0122; 268.021
History: 16 SR 2319; 33 SR 1300

Posted: February 6, 2009

9571.0040 RECOGNITION OF COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES.

Subpart 1. Provisional recognition. The department will provisionally recognize a designation if the department establishes compliance with applicable state law, federal law, all the designation requirements of part 9571.0030, and, where applicable, with the change of designation requirements of part 9571.0050. Provisional recognition may occur within 60 calendar days of the department's receipt of the documents required in part 9571.0030, subpart 8, an approved transition plan, where applicable, as specified in part 9571.0050, subpart 4, and the most current copies of the following:

- A. articles of incorporation and bylaws;
- B. Internal Revenue Service certificate of 501(c)(3) tax exempt status and Minnesota Department of Revenue certificate of tax exempt status where applicable to nonprofit community action agencies; and
- C. list of board of directors, including their addresses and telephone numbers, that indicates officers and committee memberships, and the sector each director represents. If the department finds noncompliance it must inform both the governing body and the designee within the 60-day period and, if possible, offer remedies for achieving compliance.

Subp. 2. Governor's recognition. After the requirements in subpart 1 have been met and the department has provisionally recognized a designation, the department will request recognition by the governor.

Subp. 3. Maintenance of recognition records. To maintain recognition, a community action agency must maintain the following records and make current copies available to the department as requested:

- A. articles of incorporation with any amendments and bylaws with any amendments;
- B. Internal Revenue Service certificate of 501(c)(3) tax exempt status and Minnesota Department of Revenue certificate of tax exempt status where applicable to nonprofit community action agencies;

C. list of board of directors, including their addresses and telephone numbers, that indicates officers and committee memberships, tenure on the board, and the sector each director represents as required by the act;

D. board minutes of the past year and latest annual corporate report;

E. organizational chart, personnel policies, data privacy policies, affirmative action plan, voter registration plan, and client service appeals policy; and

F. the planning and evaluation processes described in parts 9571.0120 and 9571.0130.

Subp. 4. Merging of designated and recognized community action agencies. Two or more community action agencies previously designated by one or more governing bodies and recognized by the state may seek approval to merge their organizations. The boards of directors of the community action agencies seeking to merge must:

A. notify the department of their intent to merge;

B. submit to the department a transition plan for the composition of the board of directors, the leadership and staffing of the merged agency, and the uninterrupted continuation of services; and

C. provide documentation showing that the board of directors of each community action agency involved in the proposed merger supports the merger.

Subp. 5. Review and approval of merger transition plan. The department has 60 days from the date of receipt of the transition plan to either approve or disapprove the plan. The department may request additional information and meetings with the boards of directors or their representatives and with the leadership of the agencies. The department will consider the proximity of the service areas and the priorities listed in part 9571.0050, subpart 2, when it reviews proposed merger plans. If the transition plan is not approved, the department must provide written comments and the options for remedy of the department's concerns. The boards of directors may submit a subsequent transition plan consistent with the department's comments.

Statutory Authority: MS s 256.01; 268.0122; 268.021
History: 16 SR 2319; 33 SR 1300
Posted: February 6, 2009

9571.0050 CESSATION AND CHANGE OF DESIGNATION.

Subpart 1. Circumstances for cessation. A governing body may change its designation of a community action agency to serve the area under its jurisdiction after a request to cease all community action program operation in the entire area has been received from the designated community action agency.

Subp. 2. Priority among possible designees. A governing body may choose a designee under this part, in descending order of priority, by:

A. requesting an existing community action agency that is located and is providing services in a contiguous area to expand its program operations into the service area;

B. requesting an existing community action agency closest to the service area or an existing community action agency within reasonable proximity to the service area to expand its program operations into the service area, if no existing community action agency in a contiguous area agrees to expand its operations; and

C. nominating any entity eligible or potentially eligible to be designated under federal law and regulations and to be recognized under part 9571.0040, when no community action agency accepts the request to operate in the service area.

Subp. 3. Procedure. The governing body must follow the procedure in part 9571.0030 in order to change designation and must also prepare a transition plan for continuation of community action program services. The governing body must submit the transition plan to the department simultaneously with the notice of intent to designate. In addition to the notice requirements in part 9571.0030, subpart 3, the governing body must also serve copies of the notice of intent to designate and the notice of public hearing upon any existing community action agency concurrently operating in the same political subdivision and all subgrantees in the service area. Upon request, copies of the designee's eligibility documents and the transition plan must be made available by the governing body to any interested party.

Subp. 4. Additional review by department. In addition to the review requirements in part 9571.0030, subpart 8, the department must also review the transition plan for service delivery in the interim before the governor's recognition as provided in part 9571.0040, subpart 2. The department has 30 calendar days from the date of receipt of the transition plan to either

approve or disapprove of the plan. If the transition plan is not approved, the governing body may not proceed to designate a community action agency under the procedure of part 9571.0030. Without an approved transition plan in operation, the department will not forward to the governor a request for recognition as provided in part 9571.0040. If the transition plan is not approved, the governing body may submit a subsequent transition plan consistent with the department's comments. Along with the transition plan, the department must also receive evidence of service of additional notice on interested parties as required in subpart 3.

Statutory Authority: MS s 256.01; 268.0122; 268.021
History: 16 SR 2319; 33 SR 1300
Posted: February 6, 2009

9571.0060 TERMINATION FOR CAUSE.

Subpart 1. Cause. A community action agency's funding, as well as its designation or recognition, will be terminated for cause. An Indian tribal government's or a migrant seasonal farmworker organization's funding will be terminated for cause. There may be multiple causes which apply. Termination for cause includes the following:

A. actions threatening imminent danger to health or safety of members of the community;

B. failure to involve low-income people in planning, oversight, and evaluation of programs and services;

C. violation of the terms of the grant contract by the grantee including:

(1) failure to maintain financial procedures, reports, and audits according to part 9571.0140, subparts 1 and 2;

(2) failure to maintain recognition according to part 9571.0040, subpart 3; and

(3) failure to follow the requirements of federal and state laws;

D. failure to remedy a defect after withholding or funding termination as provided in part 9571.0090, subparts 2 and 4; or

E. denial of an application as provided in part 9571.0150, subpart 5.

Subp. 2. Termination by governing body of community action agency designation. A governing body may terminate a community action agency's designation for cause under subpart 1, item A or B.

A. The governing body must follow the steps in ubitems (1) to (4):

(1) adopt termination as the official action;

(2) notify the department of its intent to terminate the community action agency's designation;

(3) serve notice of termination upon the community action agency to be terminated and provide a copy to the department. The notice of termination must:

(a) explain the cause for termination;

(b) describe how the community action agency's funding may be affected; and

(c) provide a description of the community action agency's appeal rights according to subpart 5; and

(4) prepare a transition plan for phasing out currently provided services and for substituting services in the interim until a successor community action agency is recognized. The transition plan must be provided to the department no later than the close of the contested case hearing on the appeal of the terminated community action agency or, if no hearing is held, filing with the department the notice of intent to designate a successor community action agency. The department must approve the plan as well as the interim community action agency providing community action program services.

B. The department will notify low-income households of the termination. Upon request from the department, the community action agency must provide its current list or lists of identified low-income households to the department. Identified low-income households are those specified on the community action agency's list or lists of clients.

C. If a community action agency's designation is terminated and the community action agency's appeal rights have also been exhausted, the department must terminate funding. Where the department intervenes as a party in a contested case concerning termination of designation, funding by the department may be immediately terminated.

Subp. 3. Termination by department of community action agency funding or recognition. The department may terminate for cause a community action agency's funding or recognition or both under subpart 1.

A. The department may terminate all or part of current or future funding for a community action agency. If the department terminates all future

funding, it must also terminate a community action agency's recognition. If the department terminates a community action agency's recognition it must also terminate funding.

B. If the department decides to terminate a community action agency's funding or recognition, it will serve notice of termination upon the community action agency to be terminated and provide a copy to the governing body. The notice of termination must:

- (1) explain the cause for termination;
- (2) describe how the funding may be affected; and
- (3) provide a description of the community action agency's appeal rights according to subpart 5.

C. The department will notify identified low-income households of the termination. Upon request from the department, the community action agency must provide its current list or lists of identified low-income households to the department. Identified low-income households are those specified on the community action agency's list or lists of clients.

Subp. 4. Termination by department of Indian tribal government or migrant and seasonal farmworker organization funding. The department may terminate for cause an Indian tribal government's or migrant and seasonal farmworker organization's funding under subpart 1. The department may terminate all or part of current or future funding for an Indian tribal government or migrant and seasonal farmworker organization.

A. If the department decides to terminate an Indian tribal government's or migrant and seasonal farmworker organization's funding, it will serve notice of termination upon the Indian tribal government or migrant and seasonal farmworker organization to be terminated and provide a copy to the tribal council or the migrant and seasonal farmworker organization's board of directors. The notice of termination must:

- (1) explain the cause of termination;
- (2) describe how the funding may be affected; and
- (3) provide a description of the Indian tribal government's or migrant and seasonal farmworker organization's appeal rights according to subpart 5.

B. The department will notify identified low-income households of the termination. Upon request from the department, the Indian tribal government or migrant and seasonal farmworker organization must provide its current list or lists of identified low-income households to the department. Identified low-income households are those specified on the Indian tribal government's or migrant and seasonal farmworker organization's list or lists of clients.

Subp. 5. Appeal procedure. If, after receipt of the notice of termination, a grantee is aggrieved, the grantee may request a contested case hearing from the department within 30 calendar days of the receipt of the notice. If the grantee's request for a contested case hearing is not received by the department during the 30-day period the grantee loses its right of appeal under this subpart. The hearing will be initiated and conducted according to parts 1400.8505 to 1400.8612 unless the grantee objects within ten business days. If the grantee objects, the hearing will be conducted according to parts 1400.5010 to 1400.8401. The request for a contested case hearing before an administrative law judge must be in writing. As provided for in part 1400.6200 or 1400.8570, the department will have the right to intervene as a party in a contested case hearing on termination of designation by a governing body.

Subp. 6. Federal appeal rights. Federal appeal rights may also exist for an aggrieved grantee under the Community Services Block Grant Act, United States Code, title 42, chapter 106, section 9915, subsection (b).

Subp. 7. Successor. If a community action agency's designation or recognition is terminated, the governing body will follow the priority guidelines in part 9571.0050, subpart 2, and the procedure in part 9571.0030 to designate a successor.

Subp. 8. Costs. Only costs directly attributable to the contested case hearing process in subpart 5 are the responsibility of the department.

Statutory Authority: MS s 256.01; 268.0122; 268.021
History: 16 SR 2319; 33 SR 1300
Posted: February 6, 2009

9571.0070 ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.

Subpart 1. Formula. The department will allocate funds under the act according to the formula in Minnesota Statutes, section 256E.30, subdivision 2.

Subp. 2. Poverty level population. For purposes of the formula in subpart 1, the poverty level population will be based on Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, statistics, as revised.

Statutory Authority: MS s 256.01; 268.0122; 268.021
History: 16 SR 2319; L 1998 c 397 art 11 s 3; L 2005 c
98 art 1 s 24; 33 SR 1300
Posted: February 6, 2009

9571.0080 DUE DATES FOR MONTHLY, PERIODIC, AND FINAL REPORTS.

Monthly, periodic, and annual reports are due on the dates specified in the grant contract. If reports are delinquent, incomplete, or inaccurate, the department must proceed to withhold available funds from a grantee under part 9571.0090.

Statutory Authority: MS s 256.01; 268.0122; 268.021
History: 16 SR 2319; 33 SR 1300
Posted: February 6, 2009

9571.0090 WITHHOLDING OF CASH DISBURSEMENTS.

Subpart 1. Circumstances for withholding. The department will withhold cash disbursements available for drawdown under a grant, wherever appropriate, in lieu of termination under part 9571.0060 if a grantee is not:

- A. complying with the reporting requirements of the grant as required by its grant contract with the department;
- B. following its submitted and approved work plan or budget or both;
- C. fulfilling the terms of its grant contract; or
- D. maintaining recognition as provided in part 9571.0040, subpart 3.

Subp. 2. Notice, of withholding. Before withholding cash disbursements, the department will notify the grantee of its defective action or omission, inform the grantee of potential withholding and specify a reasonable date by which corrective action should occur. The specified date must be at least ten working days from the date of the grantee's receipt of the notice of withholding. If the defect is not remedied satisfactorily by the date specified in the notice, the department will begin to withhold available funds after that date. Upon remedying the defect, the department will reimburse the grantee for the time period between the date of the withholding in the notice to the date the defect was remedied if the grantee submits a cash request, with documentation, that clearly substantiates that expenses were used by the grantee to perform services according to the grant contract.

Subp. 3. Conversion option. During any time within 90 calendar days following the department's actual withholding of funds, the grantee may, at its option, convert the withholding to a termination under part 9571.0060, subpart 1, item C, with right to a contested case hearing. A grantee must request in writing both a conversion to termination and a contested case hearing. After receipt of a grantee's request for conversion to termination and a contested case hearing, the department must initiate a contested case hearing and the department must initiate contested case proceedings as provided in part 9571.0060, subpart 5. The department will also send the grantee a notice of termination and comply with the other procedural requirements of part 9571.0060, subpart 3 or 4.

Subp. 4. Notice and termination. If the grantee has not exercised its right of conversion during 90 days of withholding and if the defect has not been remedied during 90 days of withholding, the department will proceed under part 9571.0060, subpart 1, item D, to terminate the grantee's available funding for a period covering the total of:

- A. the time during which the funds have been withheld; and
- B. the time remaining before the grant expires. The department must first issue a final notice ten calendar days before proceeding to termination under part 9571.0060. If following a period of funding termination for failure to remedy a defect, the grantee has still not successfully remedied the identified defect, the department will deny subsequent applications by the grantee under part 9571.0150, subpart 5, item D, until corrective action has occurred.

Statutory Authority: MS s 256.01; 268.0122; 268.021
History: 16 SR 2319; 33 SR 1300
Posted: February 6, 2009

9571.0100 PROGRAM GUIDELINES AND ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.

Subpart 1. Program guidelines. Each community action program must:

- A. be of benefit to low-income persons;
- B. represent progress toward the elimination of poverty;
- C. utilize resources from other programs operating in the service area; and
- D. be of sufficient scope and size for maximum effectiveness and efficiency.

Subp. 2. Eligible grant activities. A variety of activities as determined by the local planning process may be included in a community action program funded by a grant. Eligible activities are those designed to help low-income persons to:

- A. secure and retain meaningful employment;
- B. attain an adequate education;
- C. obtain and maintain adequate housing and a suitable living environment;
- D. make better use of available income;
- E. obtain emergency assistance through loans or grants;
- F. meet immediate and urgent individual and family needs, including the need for health services, nutritious food, housing, and employment-related assistance;
- G. remove obstacles and solve problems which block the achievement of self-sufficiency;
- H. achieve greater participation in the affairs of the community; and I. make more effective use of other programs related to the purposes of the Community Services Block Grant Act.

Subp. 3. Federal prohibitions. Activities ineligible for funding with community services block grant money are those listed in the community services block grant state plan. A copy of the community services block grant state plan is available by request from the Department of Human Services, Office of Economic Opportunity, P.O. Box 64962, St. Paul, MN 55164-0962.

Statutory Authority: MS s 256.01; 268.0122; 268.021
History: 16 SR 2319; L 1994 c 483 s 1; L 2005 c 112 art 2 s 41; 33 SR 1300
Posted: February 6, 2009

9571.0110 PARTICIPATION BY LOW-INCOME PERSONS.

Grantees must ensure maximum feasible participation of low-income persons in the local planning process of part 9571.0120, the annual work plan of part 9571.0150, subpart 1, and the evaluation process of part 9571.0130. Each grantee must devise specific opportunities for involvement of low-income people in proposing, planning, approving, and evaluating the activities of community action programs.

Statutory Authority: MS s 256.01; 268.0122; 268.021
History: 16 SR 2319; 33 SR 1300
Posted: February 6, 2009

9571.0120 LOCAL PLANNING PROCESS.

Each grantee must develop and maintain a written plan for submission to the department as part of its grant application. The plan must include a description of how the local planning process will be implemented, how the grantees will publicize major planning activities to encourage community participation, and how the grantee will involve low-income persons in the planning process. Each work plan submitted as part of a grant application under part 9571.0150, subpart 1, must be consistent with, and complementary to, this local planning process. The local planning process of a grantee includes the following activities:

- A. develop a mission statement which defines the overall grantee's purposes and which represents the views and opinions of the grantee's board of directors or tribal council, low-income groups, and representatives of the community;
- B. identify and analyze community needs in order to respond to the poverty in the community and its causes;
- C. assess available resources from both the public and private sectors which are available to solve the causes of poverty;
- D. establish priorities and set goals for the program year;
- E. develop strategies, to implement the specified goals;
- F. identify programs to achieve the specified goals;
- G. select the program or combination of programs to be undertaken during a program year; and
- H. analyze evaluation and monitor information to influence the structure of future programming.

Statutory Authority: MS s 256.01; 268.0122; 268.021
History: 16 SR 2319; 33 SR 1300
Posted: February 6, 2009

9571.0130 EVALUATION PROCESS.

Each grantee must develop and maintain a written process for evaluating its own community action program using the results of the evaluation to influence the grantee's future planning. The grantee must involve low-income persons in the evaluation process. The written evaluation process must be approved by the grantee's board of directors or tribal council. The written evaluation process must be maintained and available to the department upon request in order to maintain community action agency recognition under part 9571.0040, subpart 3.

Statutory Authority: MS s 256.01; 268.0122; 268.021
History: 16 SR 2319; 33 SR 1300
Posted: February 6, 2009

9571.0140 ADMINISTRATION OF GRANTS.

Subpart 1. Grantee financial control system. Grantees must establish and use a financial control system that complies with federal and state reporting and fiscal procedures and the grant contract.

Subp. 2. Grantee audit. Each grantee must follow the audit requirements contained in the grant contract with the department.

Subp. 3. Alterations. A grantee must obtain prior written approval from the department before changing its work plan and budget as described in its grant contract.

Statutory Authority: MS s 256.01; 268.0122; 268.021
History: 16 SR 2319; 33 SR 1300
Posted: February 6, 2009

9571.0150 GRANT APPLICATIONS.

Subpart 1. Forms and documents. Forms necessary for completion of the application will accompany the guidelines mailed to all grantees. Assistance in completing the forms may be requested directly from the department at its central office. A grantee will submit to the department a work plan and budget on forms supplied by the department as part of the grant application process.

Subp. 2. Waiver of application deadline. Upon written request, the department may waive the application deadline and allow an applicant to submit its grant application after that date. A request for a waiver must be signed by the chair of the applicant's board of directors or chair of the tribal council and contain justification for a waiver. The request for a waiver must be received by the department on or before the original application deadline. The department will respond to the request in writing. The department will grant a waiver if the grantee has shown good cause for why the application deadline was not met. If the department has determined that the grantee has shown good cause for missing the application deadline, the department will establish another deadline for receipt of the application.

Subp. 3. Approval of application. The department will review all submitted applications. When the department approves an application for a grant, it will provide written notification of approval to the applicant. Requests for cash cannot be processed until an application has been approved. After applications

have been approved, the department and the applicant will enter into a grant contract.

Subp. 4. Late, incomplete, or noncomplying application. A previously funded grantee must submit an application within 45 calendar days of the application deadline or the waiver deadline established by the department, or the department will deny the application under subpart 5. If a submitted application remains incomplete or noncomplying for 30 calendar days after the department's request for a revision of the application, supplementary information, or other required documents or 45 calendar days from the application deadline or the waiver deadline, whichever period is greater, the department will deny the application under subpart 5.

Subp. 5. Denial of application. Before the department denies an application, it will, as soon as possible, provide written notification of the deficiency leading to a possible denial and, where appropriate, request a revision of the application, supplementary information, or other required documents. An application will be denied if any of the following occur:

- A. application is submitted after the deadlines in subpart 4;
- B. applicant submits an incomplete application;
- C. applicant submits a noncomplying application where:
 - (1) applicant's annual work plan activities are:
 - (a) inconsistent with community action program activity as defined in the act and part 9571.0100;
 - (b) not demonstrative of participation by low income persons as required by part 9571.0110; or
 - (c) inconsistent with the local planning process in part 9571.0120;
 - (2) applicant cannot demonstrate adequate fiscal management capabilities as required in part 9571.0140; or
 - (3) applicant's budget does not support, or is inconsistent with, the work plan activities; or
- D. applicant, after a period of funding termination, has not remedied a defect that first led to withholding under part 9571.0090, subpart 2. The department's denial of an application based on items A, B, and C is cause for termination of available funds for two years under part 9571.0060, subpart 1, item E. Depending on the circumstances,

the department's denial of an application based on item D is cause for termination of available funds for two years under part 9571.0060, subpart 1, item E.

Statutory Authority: MS s 256.01; 268.0122; 268.021

History: 16 SR 2319; 33 SR 1300

Posted: February 6, 2009

9571.0160 SUBGRANTEES.

All grantees will obtain written approval from the department before delegating any part of their service delivery to a subgrantee. Grantees must enter into contracts with subgrantees outlining which community action program services the subgrantees will provide. Subgrantees must meet the same reporting and fiscal requirements as grantees. Grantees are responsible for acts or omissions of their subgrantees.

Statutory Authority: MS s 268.0122; 268.021

History: 16 SR 2319; 33 SR 1300

Posted: February 6, 2009

9571.0170 RECORD KEEPING.

All records and books of account related to grants must be kept by the grantee for the time period specified in the grant contract.

Statutory Authority: MS s 256.01; 268.0122; 268.021

History: 16 SR 2319; 33 SR 1300

Posted: February 6, 2009

9571.0180 MONITORING.

The department will perform on-site monitoring activities to ensure that grantees are in compliance with parts 9571.0010 to 9571.0180, the act, and other federal and state requirements.

Statutory Authority: MS s 256.01; 268.0122; 268.021

History: 16 SR 2319; 33 SR 1300

Posted: February 6, 2009

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877-396-6383	Mary Kuehn	Cash Requests	(651) 431-3820	mary.kuehn
<i>Main Number</i>	Francie Mathes	Homeless Programs	(651) 431-3814	francie.mathes
651-431-3808	Ty Morris	Food Programs/TEFAP	(651) 431-3821	ty.morris
<i>Fax – Regular</i>	David Nicholson	Farmers Markets	(651) 431-2084	david.nicholson
651-431-7509	Roy Murphy	Bonding	(651) 431-3883	roy.murphy
<i>Fax – Cash Request</i>	Jessica Rochester	Community Action	(651) 431-3819	jessica.rochester
651-431-7510	Andrea Simonett	Homeless Programs	(651) 431-3808	andrea.simonett
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Website:	Isaac Wengerd	Homeless Programs	(651) 431-3815	isaac.wengerd
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