

# Our Story. Our Impact.

## 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



# Our Story



## Who We Are

### Our History

The Community Action Agency (CAA) network was established in 1964 to create opportunity and move Americans out of poverty. Today the Minnesota network includes 24 Community Action Agencies and 11 Tribal Nations, serving all 87 counties with social services and wraparound programs specific to their communities' needs. The federally-funded Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) and the Minnesota Community Action Grant (MCAG) provide the backbone funding for CAAs, their identity and core mission. CAAs receive additional funding through various federal and state programs and private grants but CSBG and MCAG funds provide the flexibility necessary to meet each community's evolving needs.

## What We Do

### Local Poverty Solutions

Community Action Agencies (CAAs) serve Minnesotans from birth through older adulthood, focusing on wrap-around services that support whole families. In addition to their community-specific programs, many CAAs operate or refer people to these core services: Head Start and child development, Energy Assistance (utility bills) and Weatherization, food and nutrition assistance, housing and homeless services, employment and training programs, financial asset building, and transportation. CAAs' approach poverty with integrated and comprehensive solutions that partner with our participants to help them help themselves and build resiliency and hope for our communities.

### What Makes Us Unique:



#### Local Tripartite Board

Comprised of:

- 1/3 local individuals with low incomes,
- 1/3 local elected officials, and
- 1/3 local community leaders



#### Locally-Based Services

Programs are tailor-made to local needs based on Community Needs Assessments done every 2-3 years.



#### Generate Local Jobs & Funding

CAAs leverage federal, state, local, individual and private funding sources and bring jobs and dollars into Minnesota communities.



## 2019 Highlights

### Building Community Resiliency

Minnesota's 24 Community Action Agencies and 11 Tribal Nations used **\$7.5 million in federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funding** and **\$4.4 million in flexible Minnesota Community Action Grant (MCAG) funding**, along with other state and federal funding sources including \$76.8 million in federal weatherization/energy funds and \$109 million in federal and state Head Start funding to make their communities more resilient and self-sufficient in 2019. Included in this report are some highlights of the number of people that were served and resources that were leveraged with these resources, along with stories of the lives that were changed.



Nearly  
**380,000**  
people  
and about  
**155,000**  
households  
received services



Over  
**1.8 Million**  
volunteer  
hours  
donated



Leveraged over  
**\$128.5 Million**  
additional  
funding  
from state, federal,  
local and private sources

## Our Mission

To remove obstacles and solve problems that block the achievement of self-sufficiency. In order to reduce poverty in its community, a Community Action Agency works to better focus available local, state, private and federal resources to assist individuals and families with low incomes to acquire useful skills and knowledge, gain access to new opportunities and achieve economic self-sufficiency.

## Our Promise

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.



# Our Results



## Nutrition Services

- Almost **600,000 prepared meals** were provided to people
- Over **34,000 meals** were **delivered directly** to people
- Over **9,400 people** **improved their nutrition skills** (shopping, food preparation and gardening) after working with Community Action.



## Emergency Services

- Over **2,000 people** who were experiencing homelessness obtained safe, **temporary shelter**
- Over **6,300 people** received food from a CAA **food shelf**
- Over **5,000 people** received **mental health assessments and counseling**
- Over **3,600 people** received emergency **clothing** assistance



## Housing Assistance

- **3,200 MN households** experienced **improved home health**, leading to safer and more stable housing (i.e. radon, lead or carbon mitigation)
- Almost **8,000 people** received **eviction counseling** and/or **rental assistance**, helping people remain safely housed
- Over **3,000 people** **avoided eviction or foreclosure** with assistance from CAAs.



## Energy Assistance

- Over **235,000 individuals** received assistance with their **utility bills** through the LIHEAP program, ensuring Minnesotans could **maintain their heat** throughout the winter and stay safely housed.
- Nearly **10,000 MN households** achieved greater **energy efficiency** or a reduced energy burden by weatherizing their homes with help from Community Action Agencies





## Employment & Benefits Enrollment

## Childcare & Head Start

## Older Adults & People with Disabilities

## Financial Asset Building & more

- Over **2,500 unemployed adults found and maintained employment**, with over 1,150 of them finding employment paying a living wage or higher
- Over **9,000 people** assisted in enrolling in **health insurance**
- **13,500 people** assisted in enrolling in **SNAP** food benefits and over **1,000 people** assisted in enrolling in **TANF/ MFIP** assistance for families

- Over **12,500 children** served by **Head Start** and Early Head Start
- Over **6,200 children** received either **childcare subsidies** or payments, helping make childcare more affordable and accessible to Minnesotans with the lowest incomes.
- Over **12,500 children** served with **dental screenings**, exams and services. Oral health is vital to overall physical health

- Almost **25,000 people with disabilities** and over **30,000 older adults** maintained independent living with the services provided by local Community Action, including **help with activities of daily living** (bathing, cleaning, etc.), **transportation to doctors' visits, or home-delivered meals**
- **1,500 people** received **home modifications** (handrails, ramps, etc.) so they could live independently safely

- Over **18,500 people** received **free tax preparation services**
- Nearly **375** completed **asset-building** programs
- Over **1.48 million transportation rides accessed** (buses, passes, auto repairs)
- Nearly **43,000 people** received **voter education**
- Nearly **290,000 referrals** made to additional services

# Our Impact

I do not know what I would have done if it were not for the nutrition program. I get to eat a good meal and I visit with my friends every day. I would have imagined I would have eaten a lot of cheese sandwiches," stated the

**98-year-old participant, who had eaten at the congregate meal site for 32 years.**

## Nutrition Services



Sarah has spent many sleepless nights in homeless shelters, incarceration and treatment facilities. She knows the challenges of addiction. At a Transitional Housing program she stayed focused on her goals of sobriety and therapy, learning budgeting and obtaining transportation. After

**graduating her sobriety program, Sarah gained access to affordable housing and transportation.**

Sarah was able to enroll in college where she is getting top grades while maintaining a living-wage job.

## Emergency Services



**At age 17, Mike was abandoned by his family.**

Before leaving, they told him he had to be out of the apartment by the end of the month. It was the middle of winter. He turned to his school's guidance counselor and coach who referred him to Community Action who helped him secure housing, household items, groceries, and health insurance. Community Action also helped him put in an application with a community partner to help with transportation so he could get to school and his job. Mike is now balancing living on his own, his job, playing football and getting good grades!

## Housing Assistance



**"Donna," who still lived alone independently in her home, discovered her furnace had a carbon monoxide leak**

and that it wasn't safe to use her furnace until it could be fixed. However, she didn't have the funds on her fixed income to cover the costs. Her local Community Action Agency was able to secure crisis funding to fix her furnace, so she could have safe and consistent heat throughout the winter and stay in her home.

## Energy Assistance





**Through the YouthBuild Program, Jasmine graduated high school and completed the First Aid/CPR training,**

and acquired her driver's license. She was also the Youth Policy Committee Treasurer. Due to her determination, perfect attendance record, and performance in the program, she was promoted to an Intern position while being paid. Her leadership was a great example to her YouthBuild peers and now she is preparing for college.

"My name is Jamie. Drugs, alcohol, and abuse were all I knew growing up.

**I would do anything to ensure my children have better childhoods than what I experienced.**

I enrolled my youngest daughter, Laila, in Head Start to better prepare her for kindergarten. Laila's Head Start teacher introduced me to the Workforce Development Case Manager that had me enroll in the Certified Nursing Assistant program and now I work as a full-time CNA. Community Action also helped get my family into a home with beds for my kids. I hope to someday be a registered nurse."

**"I have been called an angel because I drove them to a doctor or dental appointment,**

even just shopping because they had no other way to get there. I have gotten more from this program than I can ever pay back. Smiles, or a look of thank you, mean the world to me. I do such a small part in this program, but I get so much." Marvel is one of the volunteer drivers providing rides through the Transportation Program to people who need rides to appointments or places they can't get to with a regular bus route.

"I am very grateful for all the assistance I've received along my journey to financial wellness. The program has taught me the power of choices at an early age and how they impact your financial health in the long term. I've learned that change doesn't happen overnight, but through positivity and perseverance you can achieve your financial goals," said

**Nakeda, a single mother, who completed the first-time HomeBuyer's Workshop**

and Family Assets for Independence (FAIM), working to improve her credit and qualify for a loan.

**Employment & Benefits Enrollment**

**Childcare & Head Start**

**Older Adults & People with Disabilities**

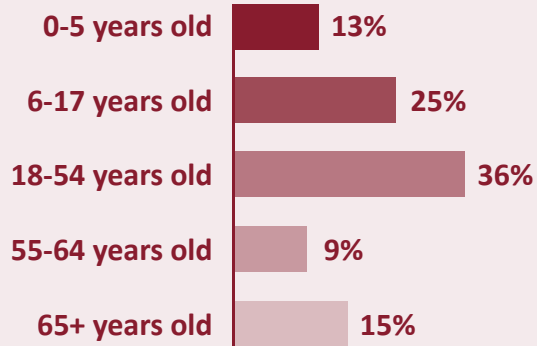
**Financial Asset Building & more**



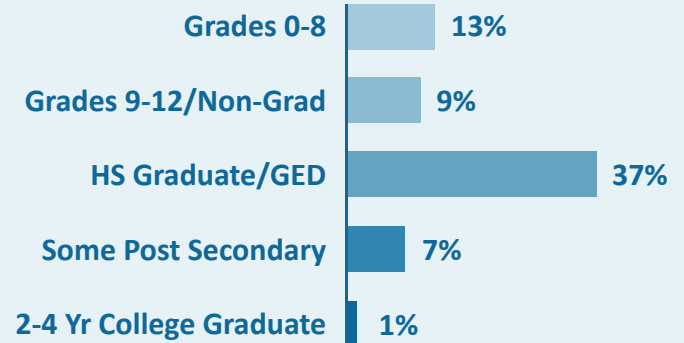
# Our Clients



## Age

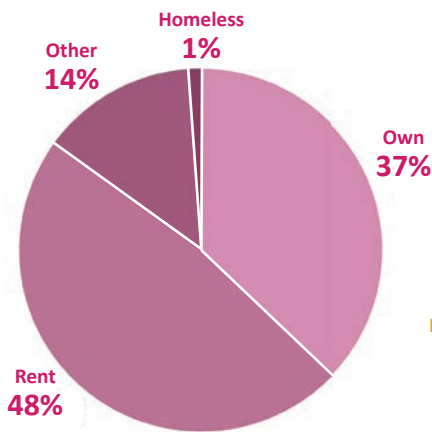


## Education Level\*

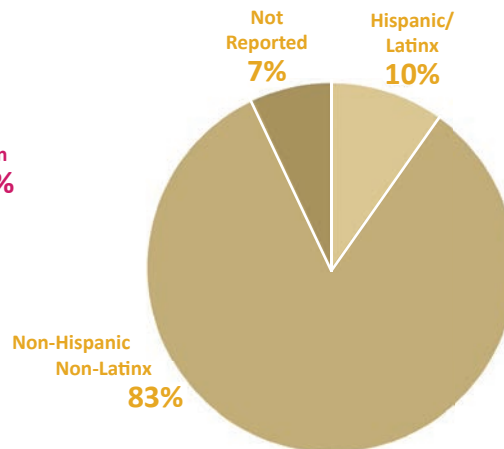


\*People age 25+

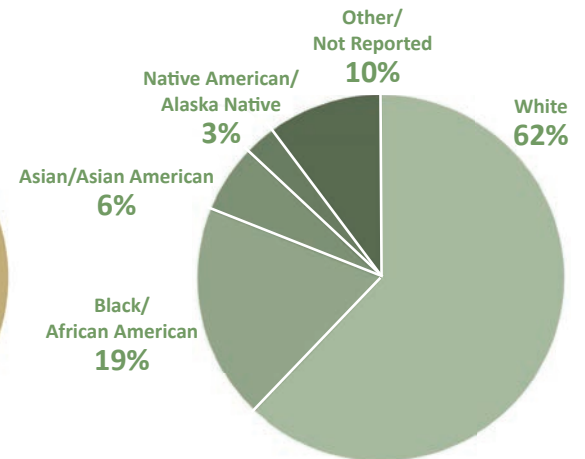
## Housing



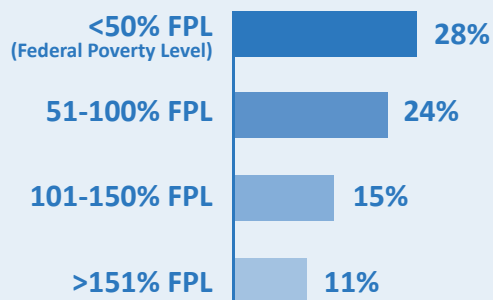
## Ethnicity



## Race

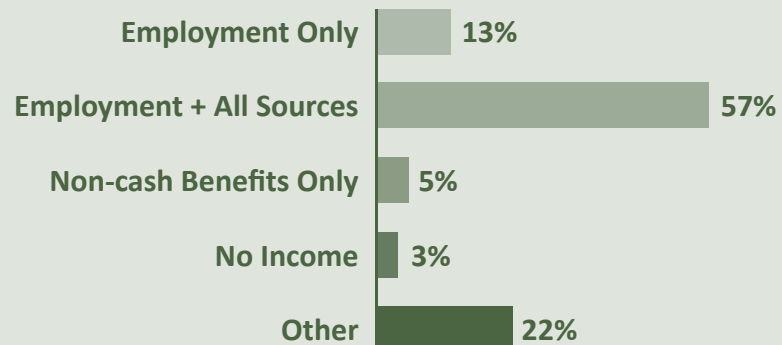


## Income Levels\*



\*In 2019, 100% of the annual Federal Poverty Limit in Minnesota was \$12,490 for a single person; \$16,910 for a family of two; and \$25,750 for a family of four.

## Sources of Income

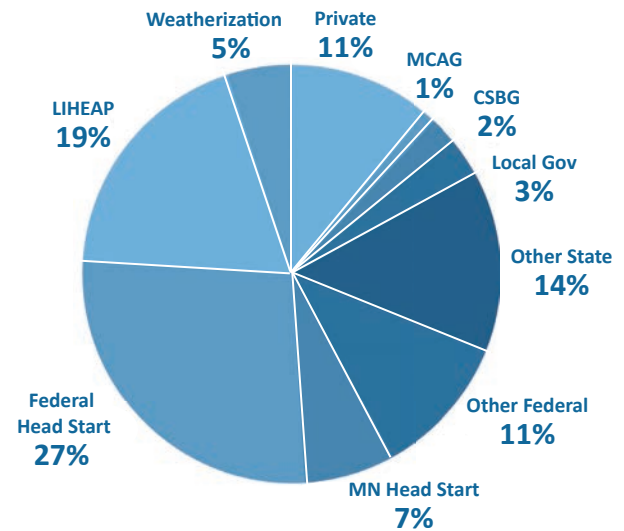






## 2019 MN CAA Network Funding Sources

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)	\$7,457,601
Minnesota Community Action Grant (MCAG)	\$4,441,385
Weatherization (DOE & HHS)	\$14,842,408
LIHEAP	\$62,032,062
Federal Head Start & Early Head Start	\$86,232,948
State Head Start	\$23,036,389
Other Federal funds	\$35,436,103
Other State funds	\$43,828,097
Local government funds	\$11,206,987
Private funds	\$34,366,491
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$322,880,470</b>



## The Role of the Community Action Grant

The Minnesota Community Action Grant (MCAG) is a state-funded grant through the MN Dept. of Human Services, Office of Economic Opportunity. MCAG funds all 24 Community Action Agencies (CAAs) and 11 Tribal Nations across all 87 counties with flexible funding. MCAG is allocated by a formula that is based on poverty in each area.



### Provides essential services to families in need

CAAs use MCAG as a **stopgap funding source for emergency**, one-time services, often in times of economic or natural disasters, or to provide needed services that do not receive sufficient funding from other sources such as food shelves.



### Leverages additional dollars and grants

**MCAG is the backbone funding source** for CAAs providing them the flexibility to leverage other funding opportunities. CAAs can use MCAG to help state agencies quickly get funding distributed to those in need during an emergency, provide administrative support to community-based organizations in their areas, or provide a match for federal, local or private dollars. **In 2019, MCAG helped the network leverage over \$128.5 million in additional funding.**



### Meets the needs of each individual community

As part of MCAG, CAAs must **regularly create and update a Community Action Plan** based on a Community Needs Assessment to ensure CAAs are responding to the needs identified by members of their communities with low incomes, and are **adapting their programs as those needs change.**



# Our Programs

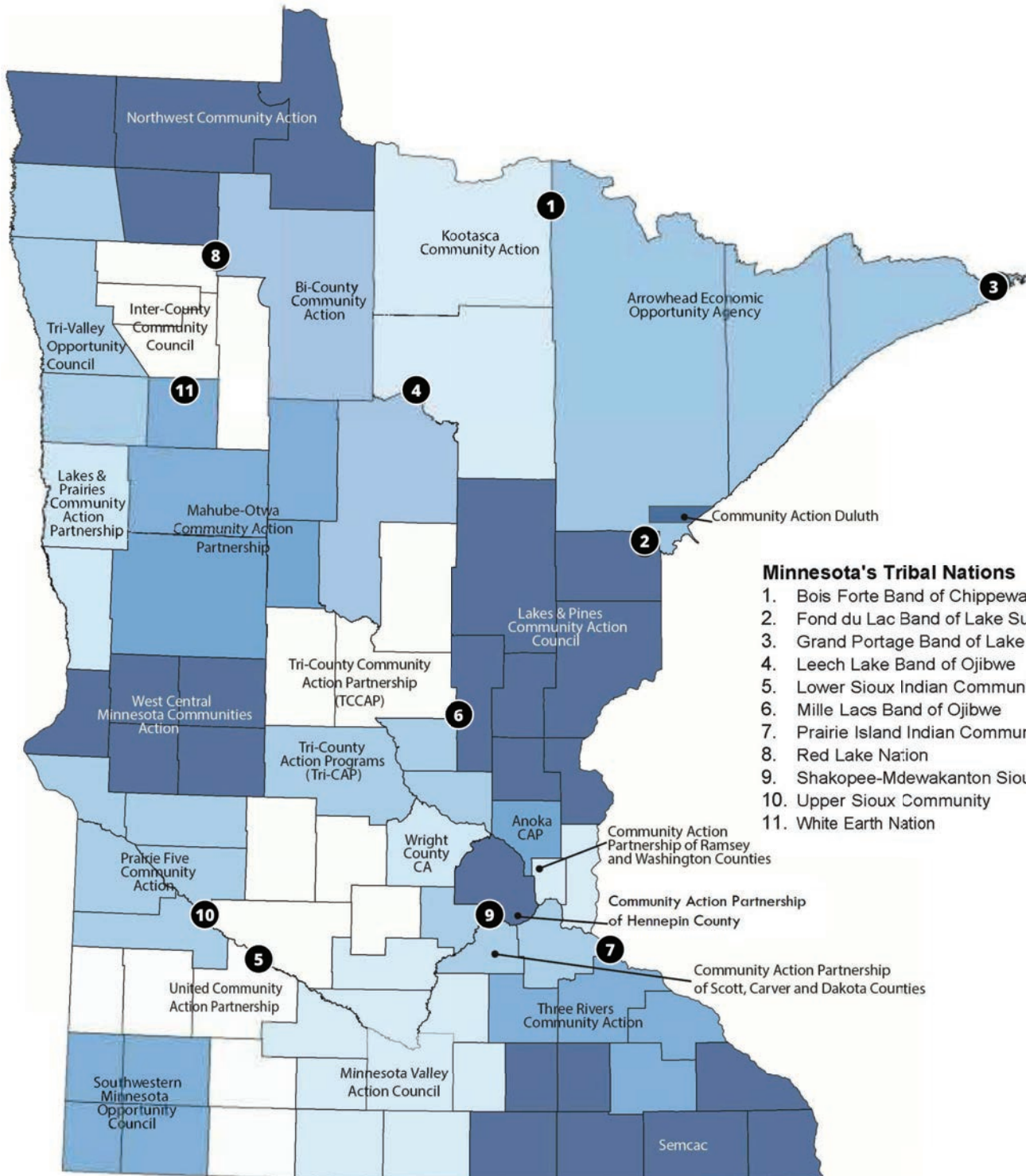


	Anoka County CAP	AEOA	Bi-County CAP	Duluth	CAP Ramsey & Washington	Scott Carver Dakota CAP	CAP Hennepin County	Inter-County	KOOTASCA	Lakes & Pines	CAP-LP	MAHUBE-OTWA	MVAC	Northwest	Prairie Five	Semac	Southwestern	Three Rivers	Tri-County (TCCAP)	Tri-CAP	Tri-Valley	United CAP	West Central	Wright County	Bols Forte Tribe	Fond du Lac B&B	Gr&R Portage Reservation	Leech Lake B&B	Lower Sioux Indian	Millie Lacs B&B	Prairie Isle Indian	Red Lake	Upper Sioux	White Earth Reservation
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EMPLOYMENT																																			
Youth Employment			x					x				x	x								x					x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	
Senior Employment Programs	x							x					x					x															x	x	
Displaced Homemakers	x							x																											
Employment & Training Services	x		x	x			x	x				x						x																	
Community Development	x		x					x	x			x	x		x			x	x				x	x	x										
Cottage Industries	x																																		
EDUCATION & TRAINING																																			
Literacy		x						x	x			x						x						x											
English/Second Language (ESL)		x																																	
GED, ABE, & Educational Services		x		x					x	x		x																							
INCOME MANAGEMENT																																			
Financial Education	x	x		x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Tax Preparation Assistance	x		x	x						x	x	x	x	x	x																				
Asset Development & Savings Programs	x	x		x	x					x	x	x	x	x	x																				
HOUSING SERVICES																																			
Weatherization		x	x		x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Energy Related Repairs	x	x	x		x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Energy Conservation Services	x	x	x		x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Housing Grants & Loans		x																																	
Home Repair/Rehabilitation	x	x																																	
Small Cities Development Grants (SCDG)		x																																	
Rental Housing Assistance		x	x																																
Community Homeownership Education	x	x		x																															
Low-Income Housing Development	x	x																																	
EMERGENCY SERVICES																																			
Energy Assistance (EAP)	x	x	x		x	x																													
Energy Crisis	x	x	x		x	x																													
Fuel Fund	x	x																																	
Homeless Assistance	x	x	x		x	x																													
Transitional Housing	x	x	x		x	x																													
Emergency Family Services	x	x	x		x	x																													
Abuse & Neglect Services																																			
Providing Donated Articles		x																																	
Crisis Intervention	x	x																																	
NUTRITION																																			
Holiday Projects		x	x																																
Women, Infants, Children (WIC)			x																																
Gardening		x		x																															
Home Delivered Meals		x																																	
Congregate Meals		x																																	
USDA Commodity Assistance																																			
SNAP Nutrition Outreach		x	x	x																															
Food Assistance (e.g. Food Shelf)		x																																	
LINKAGES																																			
Transportation System		x																																	
Transportation Assistance		x	x	x	x																														
Vehicle Program																																			
Transportation Safety Programs		x																																	
Senior Oriented Services		x	x																																
Chore Services		x																																	
Senior Volunteer Program		x																																	
Senior Companion program		x																																	
Information & Referral		x	x	x	x	x																													
Outreach		x	x	x	x	x																													
Public Education & Advocacy		x	x	x	x	x																													
Benefit Enrollment Assistance		x	x	x	x	x																													
Leadership Development for clients		x	x	x	x	x																													
SELF SUFFICIENCY																																			
Head Start		x	x	x																															
Early Childhood Care & Education		x	x	x																															
Child Care Administration																																			
At Risk Youth Programming		x	x																																
Campership Youth Program																																			
Child Care Resource Referral		x																																	
Youth Recreation																																			
Parenting resources		x	x	x																															
Fatherhood Initiative		x																																	
Crisis Nursery																																			
Self Sufficiency Fund		x	x	x																															
Family Loan Fund																																			
HEALTH SERVICES																																			
Health Care Aid (Non-Financial)		x	x	x																															
Health Care Aid (Financial)																																			
Family Planning																																			







# Our Network



## Agencies

### Anoka County CAP

*Service Area: Anoka County*  
1201 89th Ave. NE, Suite 345  
Blaine, MN 55434  
763-783-4747  
[www.accap.org](http://www.accap.org)

### Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (AEOA)

*Service Area: Cook, Lake & St. Louis Counties*  
702 3rd Ave. S.  
Virginia, MN 55792  
218-749-2912  
[www.aeoa.org](http://www.aeoa.org)

### Bi-County CAP

*Service Area: Beltrami and Cass Counties*  
6603 Bemidji Ave. N.  
Bemidji, MN 56601  
218-751-4631  
[www.bicap.org](http://www.bicap.org)

### Community Action Duluth

*Service Area: City of Duluth*  
2424 W 5th St., Suite 102  
Duluth, MN 55806  
218-726-1665  
[www.communityactionduluth.org](http://www.communityactionduluth.org)

### CAP Ramsey & Washington Counties

*Service Area: Ramsey & Washington Counties*  
450 Syndicate St. N.  
St. Paul, MN 55104  
651-645-6445  
[www.caprww.org](http://www.caprww.org)

### CAP Scott, Carver & Dakota Counties

*Service Area: Carver, Dakota & Scott Counties*  
712 Canterbury Road S.  
Shakopee, MN 55379  
952-402-9849  
[www.capagency.org](http://www.capagency.org)

### CAP Hennepin County

*Service Area: Hennepin County*  
8800 Hwy 7, Suite 401  
St. Louis Park, MN 55426  
952-933-9639  
[www.caphennepin.org](http://www.caphennepin.org)

### Inter-County Community Council

*Service Area: Clearwater, Pennington, Polk & Red Lake Counties*  
207 Main St.  
Oklee, MN 56742  
218-796-5144  
[www.intercountycc.org](http://www.intercountycc.org)

### KOOTASCA Community Action

*Service Area: Itasca & Koochiching Counties*  
201 NW 4th St., Suite 130  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744-2746  
218-999-0800  
[www.kootasca.org](http://www.kootasca.org)

### Lakes & Pines Community Action

*Service Area: Aitkin, Carlton, Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs & Pine Counties*  
1700 Maple Ave. E.  
Mora, MN 55051  
320-679-1800  
[www.lakesandpines.org](http://www.lakesandpines.org)

### Lake & Prairies (CAPLP)

*Service Area: Clay & Wilkin Counties*  
715 11th St. N, Suite 402  
Moorhead, MN 56560  
218-512-1500  
[www.caplp.org](http://www.caplp.org)

### Mahube-Otwa CAP

*Service Area: Becker, Hubbard, Mahnomens, Otter Tail and Wadena Counties*  
1125 W. River Rd.  
Detroit Lakes, MN 56502  
218-847-1385  
[www.mahube.org](http://www.mahube.org)

### Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

83 Stevens Rd  
Grand Portage, MN 55605  
218-475-2480  
[www.grandportage.com](http://www.grandportage.com)

### Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

190 Sailstar Dr. NW  
Cass Lake, MN 56633  
218-335-8314  
[www.llojibwe.com](http://www.llojibwe.com)

### Lower Sioux Indian Community

39527 Reservation Hwy 1  
Morton, MN 56270  
507-697-6185  
[www.lowerSioux.com](http://www.lowerSioux.com)

### Minnesota Valley Action Council

*Service Area: Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, Le Sueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Waseca & Watonwan Counties*  
706 N. Victory Dr.  
Mankato, MN 56001  
507-345-6822  
800-767-7139  
[www.mnvac.org](http://www.mnvac.org)

### Northwest Community Action

*Service Area: Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Marshall (East) & Roseau Counties*  
312 N. Main St.  
Badger, MN 56714  
218-528-3258  
[www.nwcaa.org](http://www.nwcaa.org)

### Prairie Five Community Action

*Service Area: Big Stone, Chippewa, Lac Qui Parle, Swift & Yellow Medicine Counties*  
7th & Washington Ave., Suite 302  
Montevideo, MN 56265  
320-269-6578  
[www.prairiefive.com](http://www.prairiefive.com)

### Semcac

*Service Area: Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Houston, Mower, Steele & Winona Counties*  
204 Elm St.  
Rushford, MN 55971  
507-864-7741  
[www.semccac.org](http://www.semccac.org)

### Southwestern MN Opportunity Council

*Service Area: Murray, Nobles, Pipestone & Rock Counties*  
1106 Third Ave.  
Worthington, MN 56187  
507-376-4195  
[www.smoc.us](http://www.smoc.us)

### Three Rivers Community Action

*Service Area: Goodhue, Olmsted, Rice & Wabasha Counties*  
1414 North Star Dr.  
Zumbrota, MN 55992  
507-316-0610  
[www.threeriverscap.org](http://www.threeriverscap.org)

### Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

43408 Odena Dr.  
Onamia, MN 56359  
320-532-7899  
[www.millelacsband.com](http://www.millelacsband.com)

### Prairie Island Indian Community

5636 Sturgeon Lake Rd  
Welch, MN 55089  
651-385-4117  
<http://prairieisland.org>

### Red Lake Band of Chippewa

15525 Mendota Ave.  
Redby, MN 56670  
218-679-4317  
[www.redlakenation.org](http://www.redlakenation.org)

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

*Service Area: Benton, Sherburne & Stearns Counties*  
1210 23rd Ave. S.  
Waite Park, MN 56387  
320-251-1612  
[www.tricap.org](http://www.tricap.org)

### Tri-County Community

*Service Area: Crow Wing, Morrison & Todd Counties*  
501 LeMieur St.  
Little Falls, MN 56345  
320-632-3691  
[www.tccaction.com](http://www.tccaction.com)

### Tri-Valley Opportunity Council

*Service Area: Norman, Marshall (West) & Polk (West) Counties*  
102 N. Broadway  
Crookston, MN 56716  
218-281-5832  
[www.tvoc.org](http://www.tvoc.org)

### United CAP

*Service Area: Cottonwood, Jackson, Kandiyohi, Lincoln, Lyon, McLeod, Meeker, Redwood & Renville Counties*  
1400 S. Saratoga St.  
Marshall, MN 56258  
507-537-1416  
[www.unitedcapmn.org](http://www.unitedcapmn.org)

### West Central MN Community Action

*Service Area: Douglas, Grant, Pope, Stevens & Traverse Counties*  
411 Industrial Park Blvd.  
Elbow Lake, MN 56531  
218-685-4486  
[www.wcmca.org](http://www.wcmca.org)

### Wright County Community Action

*Service Area: Wright County*  
130 W. Division St.  
Maple Lake, MN 55358  
320-963-6500  
[www.wccaweb.com](http://www.wccaweb.com)

## Tribal Nations

### Bois Forte Band of Chippewa

5344 Lake Shore Dr.  
Nett Lake, MN 55772  
218-757-3261  
[www.boisforte.com](http://www.boisforte.com)

### Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

1720 Big Lake Rd  
Cloquet, MN 55720  
218-878-2631  
[www.fdlrez.com](http://www.fdlrez.com)

### Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community

*(Does not have a Community Action Program)*  
2330 Sioux Trail NW  
Prior Lake, MN 55372  
952-445-8900  
<https://shakopeedakota.org>

### Upper Sioux Community

5744 Hwy 67 E.  
Granite Falls, MN 56241  
320-564-3264  
[www.upperSiouxcommunity-nsn.gov](http://www.upperSiouxcommunity-nsn.gov)

### White Earth Nation

35500 Eagle View Rd  
White Earth, MN 56591  
218-983-3286  
[www.whiteearth.com](http://www.whiteearth.com)





# Our Staff

## MinnCAP Contacts

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MINNESOTA COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP

*America's Poverty Fighting Network*

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