



America's Poverty Fighting Network

MinnCAP

MINNESOTA COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP

2024 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

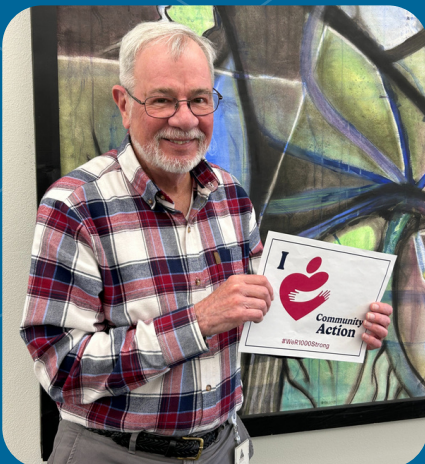


Table of Contents

→	01	Message from the Executive Director
→	02	Community Action Overview
→	03	Funding
→	04	Map of Minnesota CAP Agencies
→	05-12	Programs, Services, and Statistics
→	13	Our Impact
→	14	Poverty Simulation
→	15	Political Advocacy
→	16	MinnCAP Leadership
→	17	Contact Information



A Message from the Executive Director



It is my pleasure to share this year's annual impact report, which highlights the achievements of our statewide network of Community Action Agencies. Throughout the past year, we remained focused on practical solutions that empower families, strengthen communities, and deliver real value across our state. In every region, our agencies have continued to meet local needs with programs that are flexible, accountable, and grounded in a clear understanding of what works.

This year's results tell a powerful story. From job training and housing support to early childhood programs and utility assistance, our services are not only helping individuals meet immediate needs—they are building a stronger foundation for long-term growth. These efforts boost local economies, support workforce development, and create greater stability for thousands of households. **Most importantly, our work is results-driven and performance-based, ensuring that every dollar is used responsibly and every effort leads to measurable outcomes.**

As we look ahead, we remain committed to delivering high-impact services and working alongside our partners to create stronger, more resilient communities. Thank you for your continued support and shared commitment to the mission. Together, we are making lasting progress across Minnesota.

Yours in action,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori Schultz". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Lori Schultz, CCAP

Executive Director
Minnesota Community Action Partnership



Community Action Overview



Our Mission

In Minnesota, 24 Community Action Agencies and 11 Tribal Nations serve all 87 counties across the state, providing poverty solutions through various programs and services including: homeless prevention and housing assistance, utility bill assistance, healthcare enrollment, food and nutrition services, Head Start early childhood programming, financial asset building, regional transit, and more. Minnesota Community Action Partnership (MinnCAP) strengthens the capacity of its member agencies to achieve their poverty-fighting missions, through influential advocacy, collaboration, and training.

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.

Funding



Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

\$9,017,977.1



Weatherization

\$15,616,074



Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

\$69,109,021



Federal Head Start and Early Head Start

\$113,839,275



Minnesota Community Action Grant

\$6,142,757.11



State Head Start (Head Start and Early Head Start)

\$34,369,149



Private Funding

\$48,376,478



Local Funding

\$12,416,250



Other State Resources

\$2,895,770



Other Federal Resources

\$508,403



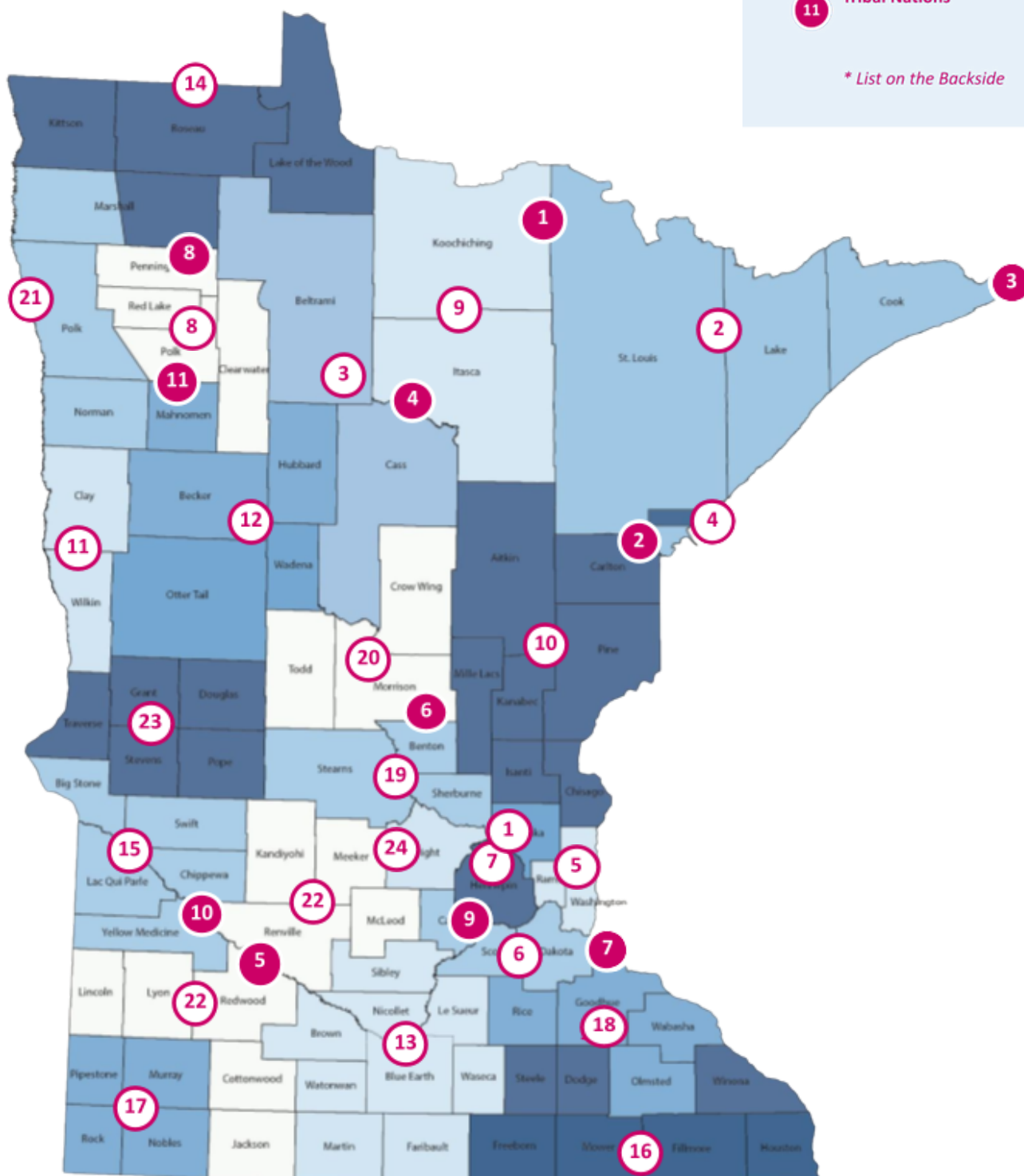
Map of MN CAP Agencies

MAP KEY

24 Community Action Agencies

11 Tribal Nations

* List on the Backside



Programs, Services, and Statistics



Programs and Services

Local Community Action Agencies design responsive, locally-driven programs tailored to the unique needs of the communities they serve—but they all share a common mission: to empower people, strengthen families, and build more resilient communities. These programs support child and youth development, assist individuals experiencing poverty, provide critical aid during times of crisis, and honor the dignity and contributions of seniors and people with disabilities. At the heart of this work is a commitment to delivering real impact and measurable outcomes. Learn how our programs support our constituents through their own words in our client stories. Additional program information available at www.minncap.org.



Assistance and Services

Community Action's goal is to assist individuals and families with low incomes by providing the resources they need to build resilience, overcome barriers, and move toward long-term self-sufficiency. Community Action Agencies work closely with constituents and local partners to prevent financial and housing crises—helping families stay safely housed while addressing the root causes of poverty. These responsive, trusted, and effective efforts strengthen communities and create more stable futures.

- **3,217 people** received emergency clothing assistance
- **5,177 people** received emergency hygiene kits
- **944,286 people** received transportation assistance
- **139 people** opened a savings account
- **143 people** increased their savings, and **210 increased their net worth**
- **28,942 seniors** maintained an independent living situation



“The services I received helped me get back on my feet.”
– Client



Housing

Safe, stable, and affordable housing is the foundation for health, education, and economic opportunity. Yet for many Minnesotans with low incomes, that foundation is out of reach. Community Action Agencies and Tribal Nations are problem solvers working at the local level to respond to urgent housing needs—whether it’s preventing eviction, assisting with rent, or connecting constituents to long-term housing solutions. These trusted programs are effective, efficient, and focused on outcomes that support family stability and self-sufficiency.



“I was referred to the Senior Program because I was homeless.. thanks to their support, I was able to find a safe place to live.. I now have a place I can proudly call home.”
– Client



- **2,086** experiencing homelessness received safe, temporary housing
- **7,270 households** avoided eviction and 305 avoided foreclosure
- **6,690 people** obtained safe and affordable housing, and **2,497 people** maintained their safe housing for **at least 180 days**
- **3,708 people** experienced improved health and safety in their home

Behind every statistic lies a story, a journey, and a human face. Numbers may tell part of the tale, but it's the individuals, families, and communities that bring these statistics to life. Together, let's go beyond the data, delve into the narratives, and work tirelessly to create positive change where it's needed most.



Energy Efficiency

Families with low incomes spend a disproportionate share of their income on energy costs—often far more than their middle- and upper-income neighbors. In fact, many households must choose between paying utility bills and covering essential needs like food or medical care. Minnesota's Community Action Agencies and Tribal Nations assist households in staying safely housed by helping them maintain utility service and reduce long-term energy expenses. These effective and necessary programs are primarily funded through investments by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Department of Energy, and the Minnesota Department of Commerce, and deliver real impact across communities statewide.

- **33,256 households** improved energy efficiency/energy burden reduction in their homes
- **218,661 households** received utility assistance
- **39,139 households** received utility arrearage assistance and/or utility deposits

Early Education and Head Start

Head Start and Early Head Start programs promote school readiness by supporting the **development of the whole child**—from birth to age five—in families with low incomes. For more than 60 years, Head Start has delivered measurable outcomes not only in early education, but also in lifelong well-being, contributing to higher rates of homeownership, lower rates of substance dependency and incarceration, and improved overall health. These innovative, locally-delivered programs also support parents' path toward self-sufficiency by enabling them to work while knowing their children are learning in safe, nurturing environments. Despite the proven impact of early childhood education, many families continue to face barriers to affordable care. **Community Action Agencies work to leverage public and private partnerships to expand access to quality early education—both through Head Start and by increasing the availability and affordability of childcare options statewide.**



Early Education and Head Start

- **Over 7,200 children 0-5 years of age** demonstrated skills for school readiness
- **5,515 children** were enrolled in Early Head Start and Head Start
- **7,897 parents** improved their skills related to their role as a parent/caregiver
- **Over 6,400 people** received childcare payments and subsidies

“Head Start has helped my grandchild grow.. The special education services, helped him progress faster than I thought was possible.”
– Head Start grandparent





“The services I received helped me get back on my feet.”
– Client



Food and Nutrition

Many Minnesotans—and nearly 15% of Minnesota’s children—struggle with food insecurity each year. Many go without enough nutritious food for extended periods, leading to skipped meals, restrictive diets, or reliance on low-cost, unhealthy options. For households with limited incomes, high housing and utility costs often leave little left for groceries. Community Action Agencies, in partnership with Tribal Nations and local organizations, assist constituents in building greater food security through effective and responsive programs. These trusted, locally-delivered efforts—funded through investments by the Minnesota Department of Human Services and the U.S. Department of Agriculture—help ensure that families have the nourishment they need to work toward self-sufficiency and long-term well-being.

- **Over 77,000 people** received food distribution from their Community Action Agency
- **Over 18,200 people** were assisted in enrolling in the Supplemental Nutrition and Assistance Program (SNAP)



Our Impact



Health and Well-Being

- **Over 10,000** people demonstrated improved physical health and well-being, and **4,162 people** showed improved mental and behavioral health and well-being
- **Over 6,500 people** received their immunizations and 6,416 had health screenings
- **3,130 households** obtained health insurance benefits



Employment

- **645 adults**, who were unemployed, obtained employment up to a living wage, and an additional **137 adults** who had been unemployed, obtained employment with a living wage or higher
- Job training services: **3,630 people** received career/job coaching and readiness training
- **70 individuals** obtained career advancement services

“Without Community Action, my family would be homeless, hungry and destitute, but because of their care, their kindness and their professional services, we are thriving.”

– Client

People Served in 2024

INDIVIDUALS

413,213

HOUSEHOLDS

179,900



Rethink Poverty: A Poverty Simulation

The Community Action Poverty Simulation breaks down stereotypes by allowing participants to step into the real-life situations of others.

Poverty is often portrayed as a stand-alone issue, but this simulation allows individuals to walk a month in the shoes of someone who is facing poverty and to realize how complex and interconnected issues of poverty really are.



Our Services

Experience the Community Action Poverty Simulation! Step into the lives of 26 families facing challenges. Each family gets a unique information packet about the challenges they're facing. They then go on to navigate four 15-minute "weeks" to secure essentials using community resources. Volunteers portray resource providers throughout the communities. The 3-hour activity includes an introduction, simulation, and guided debrief. Join us for a meaningful exploration of poverty's realities. Join us for a meaningful exploration of poverty's realities by hosting a poverty simulation in your area. To schedule a poverty simulation contact MinnCAP staff at info@minncap.org

"I had no idea how under-educated I was on this subject."

--Poverty Simulation Participant

Our Focus

The Community Action Poverty Simulation is a tool that helps participants rethink the challenges that millions of individuals with low income must face each and every day. More importantly, this tool helps people identify areas of change that can directly impact the effects of poverty on individuals, families and communities.

Political Advocacy

MinnCAP advocates at the state and federal levels for policies that build community resilience, address the root causes of poverty, and promote long-term financial stability. We champion flexible investments that empower local agencies to respond effectively to the unique needs of their communities. By partnering with allies and coalition members, we leverage additional resources and amplify our impact. Our Advocacy Network—including staff, volunteers, partners, and community members dedicated to eliminating poverty—engages directly with elected officials to ensure the voices of those we serve are heard and acted upon.



MinnCAP Leadership

MinnCAP's Board of Directors is made up of trusted leaders from each of Minnesota's local Community Action Agencies, along with a representative from the Minnesota Head Start Association (MNHSA), ensuring strong local accountability and collaboration.

Board of Directors Members

- Amanda Mackie, Vice-Chair, Minnesota Valley Action Council (MVAC)
- Barb Moran, CCAP, BI-County Community Action Programs (BI-CAP)
- Carrie Tripp, CCAP, Wright County Community Action (WCCA)
- Catherine Johnson, Inter-County Community Council (ICCC)
- Colleen Orne, Tri-County Action Program (Tri-CAP)
- Darci Goedtke, Southwestern Minnesota Opportunity Council (SMOC)
- Debbie Larson, Prairie Five Community Action Council
- Debi Brandt, Secretary, United Community Action Partnership (UCAP)
- Denise Stewart, CCAP, Lakes and Pines Community Action Council
- Jason Carlson, Tri-Valley Opportunity Council
- Jeff Hansen, CAP Agency
- Jenny Larson, CCAP, Three Rivers Community Action
- Jennifer Hengel, Semcac
- Kendra Krolik, Community Action Partnership of Hennepin County
- Liz Kuoppala, CCAP, MAHUBE-OTWA Community Action Partnership
- Lori Schwartz, Chair, CCAP, Lakes & Prairies Community Action (CAPLP)
- Marta Carrigan, KOOTASCA
- Missy Becker-Cook, CCAP, West Central Minnesota Communities Action
- Patrick McFarland, Anoka County Community Action Program (ACCAP)
- Scott Zahorik, Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (AEOA)
- Sharon Millner, CCAP, Northwest Community Action
- Sonia Gass, Community Action Partnership of Ramsey & Washington Counties
- Teresa Carter, Treasurer, CCAP, Tri County Community Action Partnership (TCCAction)



Contact Information

Phone

651-645-7425



Email

info@minncap.org



Website

minncap.org



Address

**100 Empire Drive, Suite 202
St. Paul, MN 55103**



Facebook and
Instagram

**facebook.com/minncap
instagram.com/minncap**



LinkedIn
X (formerly
Twitter)

**linkedin.com/minncap
x.com/minncap**

