



Community Action Overview

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 Makes Us Unique

Tripartite Board Made Up of Local Community

CAAs must have a tripartite board comprised of one-third community members representing individuals with low incomes, one-third local elected officials, and one-third local business owners or community leaders.

Services Based on Local Needs

Every 2-3 years, CAAs complete a community needs assessment. Based on this needs assessment, CAAs tailor their programs and services to meet the greatest needs in their community and fill gaps -- from food access, to transportation, childcare access, and housing assistance.

Jobs and Funding brought to Communities

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

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 run 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.

Nearly **450,000** Minnesotans are served annually by Community Action

- Learn More about **Our History**: minncap.org/history
- Learn More about **Our Programs**: minncap.org/tools-and-resources

