



## The Minnesota Community Action Grant

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The **Minnesota Community Action Grant (MCAG)** is a state-funded grant through the Minnesota Department of Human Services, Office of Economic Opportunity, funding all 24 Community Action Agencies and 11 Tribal Nations across **all 87 counties**, with flexible funding. MCAG, currently funded at \$3.9 million, is allocated to the network by a formula that is based on poverty in each area.

#### What does the Community Action Grant do?



##### Provides essential services to families in need

Community Action Agencies use MCAG as a stopgap funding source for emergency, one-time services, often in times of economic or natural disaster, 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 Community Action Agencies providing them the flexibility to leverage other funding opportunities. Agencies can use their 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**.



##### Meets the needs of each individual community

As part of MCAG, Community Action Agencies must create and update Community Action Plan based on a Community Needs Assessment to ensure agencies are responding to the needs as they are identified by low-income members of their communities and are adapting their programs as those needs evolve and change. For some, the most pressing issues MCAG can help address are **transportation** and **living wage jobs**; for others, they are **broadband access** and **farmer mental health**, just to name a few.

### About Community Action

The Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 created the Community Action Network of national and local organizations that connect millions of people, with low and moderate incomes, to essential services. The network works to build community resiliency and help people move out of poverty. In Minnesota, 24 Community Action Agencies and 11 Tribal Nations serve all 87 counties across the state, providing poverty solutions through 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.

### In 2018, MCAG allowed MinnCAP Agencies to:

- Leverage **\$297 million** in additional funding
- Provide services to **440,100 Minnesotans**



*Source: 2019 MinnCAP Annual Report*

