

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

- 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

Childcare & Head Start

- 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

Older Adults & People with Disabilities

- 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

Financial Asset Building & more

- 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



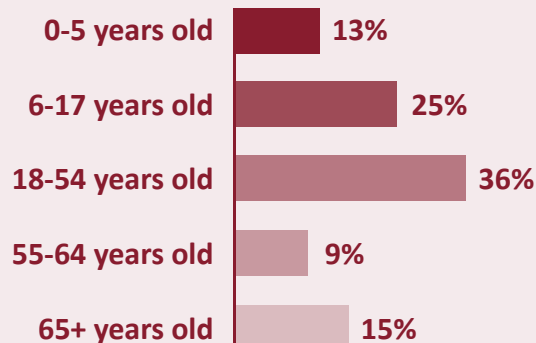
Financial Asset Building & more



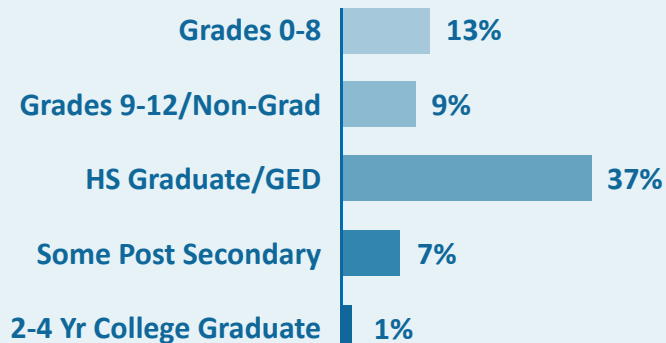
Our Clients



Age

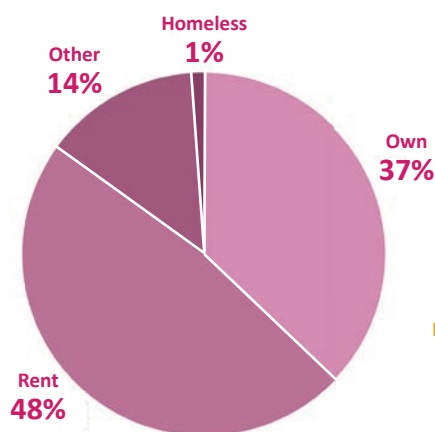


Education Level*

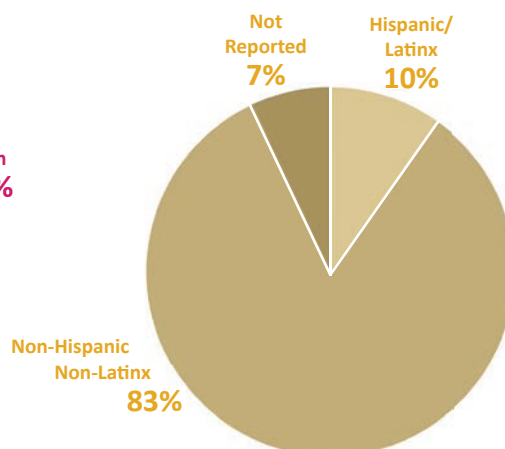


*People age 25+

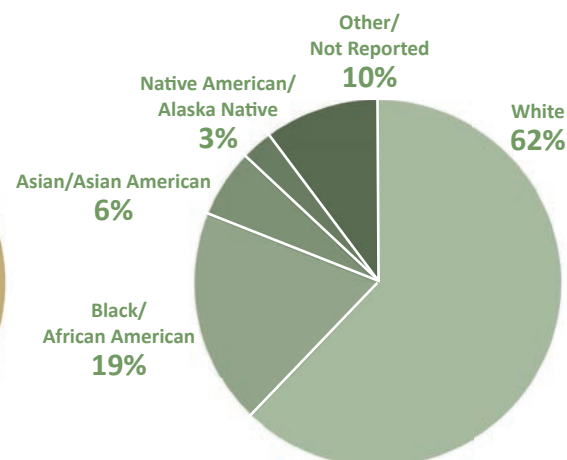
Housing



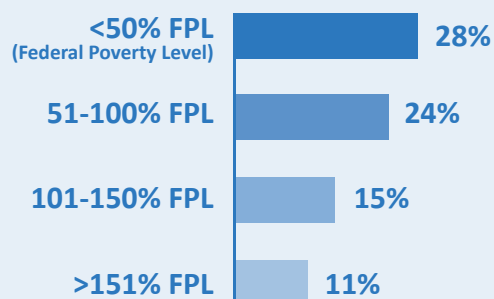
Ethnicity



Race

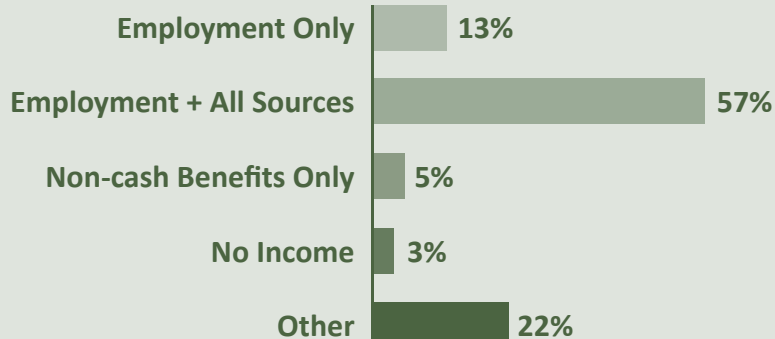


Income Levels*



*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.

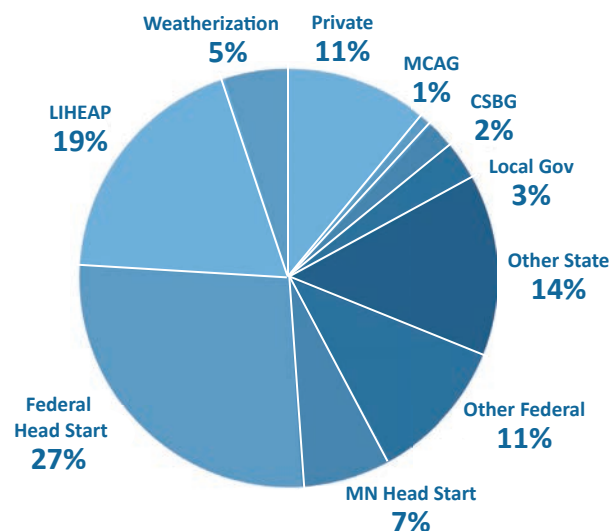
Sources of Income



Our Funding

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
TOTAL	\$322,880,470



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



EMPLOYMENT

	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	MAHUB-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
Youth Employment			x					x				x	x								x					x	x		x	x	x	x	x	
Senior Employment Programs		x						x					x					x															x	
Displaced Homemakers		x						x																										
Employment & Training Services		x		x	x		x	x				x										x				x						x		
Community Development		x		x				x	x		x	x		x		x	x	x				x	x	x						x	x	x	x	
Cottage Industries		x																	x							x								

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Literacy	X		X			X	X			X					X			X																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	</
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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	
Tax Preparation Assistance		x		x						x	x	x	x		x					x		x	x	x			x						x	
Asset Development & Savings Programs	x	x		x	x		x			x	x	x	x	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
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
Energy Conservation Services	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			x			x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x		x	x	x		x	x	x
Home Repair/Rehabilitation	x	x			x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x				x
Small Cities Development Grants (SCDG)		x						x	x			x	x	x	x			x	x	x									
Rental Housing Assistance		x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x		x	x	x		x	x		
Community Homeownership Education	x	x		x				x	x	x	x							x	x	x			x	x					x
Low-Income Housing Development	x	x						x	x	x	x							x	x	x		x	x	x		x			

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Energy Assistance (EAP)	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x					
Energy Crisis	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x		x	x	x	x		x				
Fuel Fund	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x							x	x	x		x		x							
Homeless Assistance	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		
Transitional Housing	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x					x	x	x											
Emergency Family 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		
Abuse & Neglect Services					x																				x		x	x	x		x	x	
Providing Donated Articles		x		x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x					x	x	x											
Crisis Intervention	x	x			x	x		x	x		x	x	x			x				x	x	x		x		x	x	x	x				

NUTRITION

Holiday Projects		x	x			x		x				x		x	x	x									x		x		x	x	x				x	x	
Women, Infants, Children (WIC)			x			x																				x		x		x			x				
Gardening		x		x												x												x		x	x	x	x				x
Home Delivered Meals		x				x										x	x		x									x		x	x	x			x	x	
Congregate Meals		x				x										x	x											x		x	x	x			x	x	
USDA Commodity Assistance													x				x	x										x									
SNAP Nutrition Outreach		x	x	x		x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x							x		x							x	
Food Assistance (e.g. Food Shelf)		x				x		x								x	x											x		x	x	x			x	x	

LINKAGES

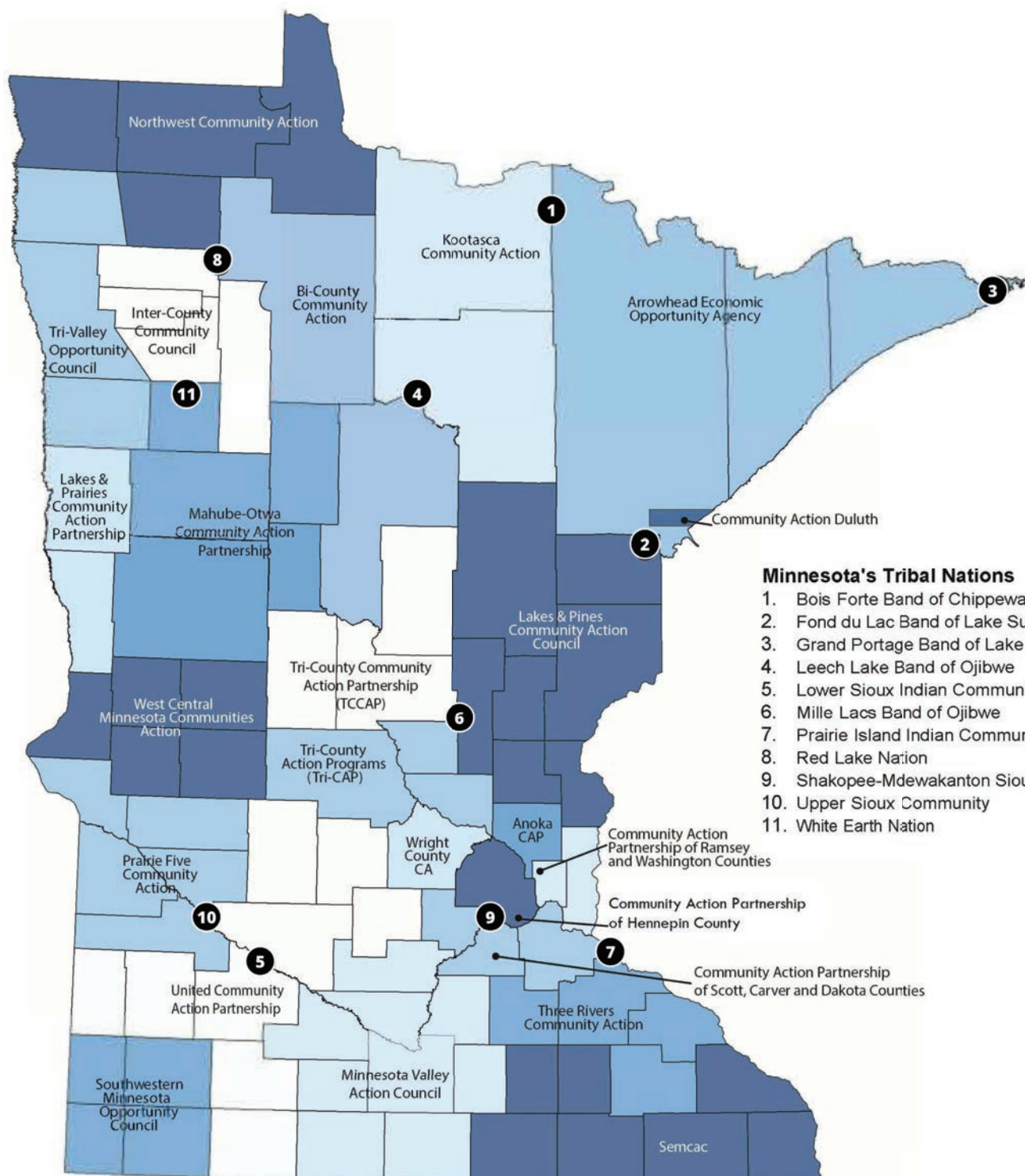
Transportation System		x							x	x	x			x	x	x	x			x	x	x			x				x							
Transportation Assistance		x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x					
Vehicle Program				x	x		x			x										x																
Transportation Safety Programs		x									x										x															
Senior Oriented Services		x	x					x		x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x		x	x	x			x		x	x	x	x	x					
Chore Services		x					x				x		x																							
Senior Volunteer Program			x									x																								
Senior Companion program		x																																		
Information & Referral		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					
Outreach		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					
Public Education & Advocacy		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					
Benefit Enrollment Assistance			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x			x		x	x	x	x						
Leadership Development for clients		x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x							x																

SELF SUFFICIENCY

Head Start	x	x	x		x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x		x	x	x		x		x					
Early Childhood Care & Education	x	x	x		x	x		x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x		x	x	x		x		x					
Child Care Administration					x					x	x	x		x		x	x	x	x	x						x	x								
At Risk Youth Programming		x	x			x			x	x			x	x								x	x												
Campership Youth Program																																			
Child Care Resource Referral	x					x						x	x									x	x		x										
Youth Recreation																																			
Parenting resources	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		
Fatherhood Initiative	x								x	x					x	x	x																		
Crisis Nursery						x				x																									
Self Sufficiency		x	x	x				x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x					x								
Family Loan Fund																																			

HEALTH SERVICES

Health Care Aid (Non-Financial)	x	x	x		x	x	x		x	x	x		x	x	x		x		x	x																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																													
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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

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

Bi-County CAP

Service Area: Beltrami and Cass Counties
6603 Bemidji Ave. N.
Bemidji, MN 56601
218-751-4631
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

CAP Ramsey & Washington Counties

Service Area: Ramsey & Washington Counties
450 Syndicate St. N.
St. Paul, MN 55104
651-645-6445
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

CAP Hennepin County

Service Area: Hennepin County
8800 Hwy 7, Suite 401
St. Louis Park, MN 55426
952-933-9639
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

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

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

Lake & Prairies (CAPLP)

Service Area: Clay & Wilkin Counties
715 11th St. N, Suite 402
Moorhead, MN 56560
218-512-1500
www.caplp.org

Mahube-Otwa CAP

Service Area: Becker, Hubbard, Mahnomen, Otter Tail and Wadena Counties
1125 W. River Rd.
Detroit Lakes, MN 56502
218-847-1385
www.mahube.org

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

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

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

Semcac

Service Area: Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Houston, Mower, Steele & Winona Counties
204 Elm St.
Rushford, MN 55971
507-864-7741
www.semcac.org

Southwestern MN Opportunity Council

Service Area: Murray, Nobles, Pipestone & Rock Counties
1106 Third Ave.
Worthington, MN 56187
507-376-4195
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

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

Tri-County Community

Service Area: Crow Wing, Morrison & Todd Counties
501 LeMieur St.
Little Falls, MN 56345
320-632-3691
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

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

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

Wright County Community Action

Service Area: Wright County
130 W. Division St.
Maple Lake, MN 55358
320-963-6500
www.wccaweb.com

Tribal Nations

Bois Forte Band of Chippewa

5344 Lake Shore Dr.
Nett Lake, MN 55772
218-757-3261
www.boisforte.com

Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

1720 Big Lake Rd
Cloquet, MN 55720
218-878-2631
www.fdlrez.com

Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

83 Stevens Rd
Grand Portage, MN 55605
218-475-2480
www.grandportage.com

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

190 Sailstar Dr. NW
Cass Lake, MN 56633
218-335-8314
www.llojibwe.com

Lower Sioux Indian Community

39527 Reservation Hwy 1
Morton, MN 56270
507-697-6185
www.lowerSioux.com

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

43408 Odena Dr.
Onamia, MN 56359
320-532-7899
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

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

White Earth Nation

35500 Eagle View Rd
White Earth, MN 56591
218-983-3286
www.whiteearth.com



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Office of Economic Opportunity

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MinnCAP

MINNESOTA COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP

America's Poverty Fighting Network

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