



Utility Assistance, Weatherization & Energy Efficiency Updated 2022

Reducing Utility Costs

Families with low incomes pay a disproportionate amount of their finances on energy compared to their neighbors with middle and upper incomes, and **1 in 5 households in the U.S. forego paying for food and medical bills to pay their utility bills.** Minnesota Community Action Agencies (CAAs) and Tribal Nations work to **ensure Minnesotans with low incomes are able to maintain their utilities and lower their energy costs.** These programs are funded mainly by the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Dept. of Energy, and the Minnesota Dept. of Commerce.

Energy Assistance Program (EAP)



EAP helps income-eligible renters and homeowners pay their **heating/utility bills and reconnect heat** in the event of a shutoff. Additionally, water bill assistance is available. EAP also provides emergency repair and **replacement of broken heating systems**, ensuring they don't face potentially dangerous situations due to lack of heat or a broken furnace.

Weatherization Assistance Program



The Weatherization Assistance Program provides home improvement and repairs for households with low incomes to lower their energy costs, and improve energy efficiency. These services can include: **attic and insulation repairs; furnace, water heater, or boiler repair and replacement;** and reduction of air leakage.

Conservation Improvement Program (CIP)



CIP is funded by Minnesota's utility companies' customers and helps **expand the reach of the Weatherization Assistance Program.** MinnCAP is advocating for CIP to add projects like asbestos abatement to the program. This will allow more households to qualify for Weatherization and reduce household health risks.

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 self-sufficiency, including removing systemic and structural barriers to move people out of poverty. In Minnesota, 24 Community Action Agencies and 11 Tribal Nations serve all 87 counties, providing poverty solutions with equitable access to various services: 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.

Energy program impacts:

- Over **125,000 households** receive **utility assistance each year**
- Over **2,000 homes** benefit from **weatherization** annually

Source: MN Commerce Dept.

24 Local Agencies & 11 Tribal Governments

Updated 2022

MinnCAP Leadership

MinnCAP Executive Director

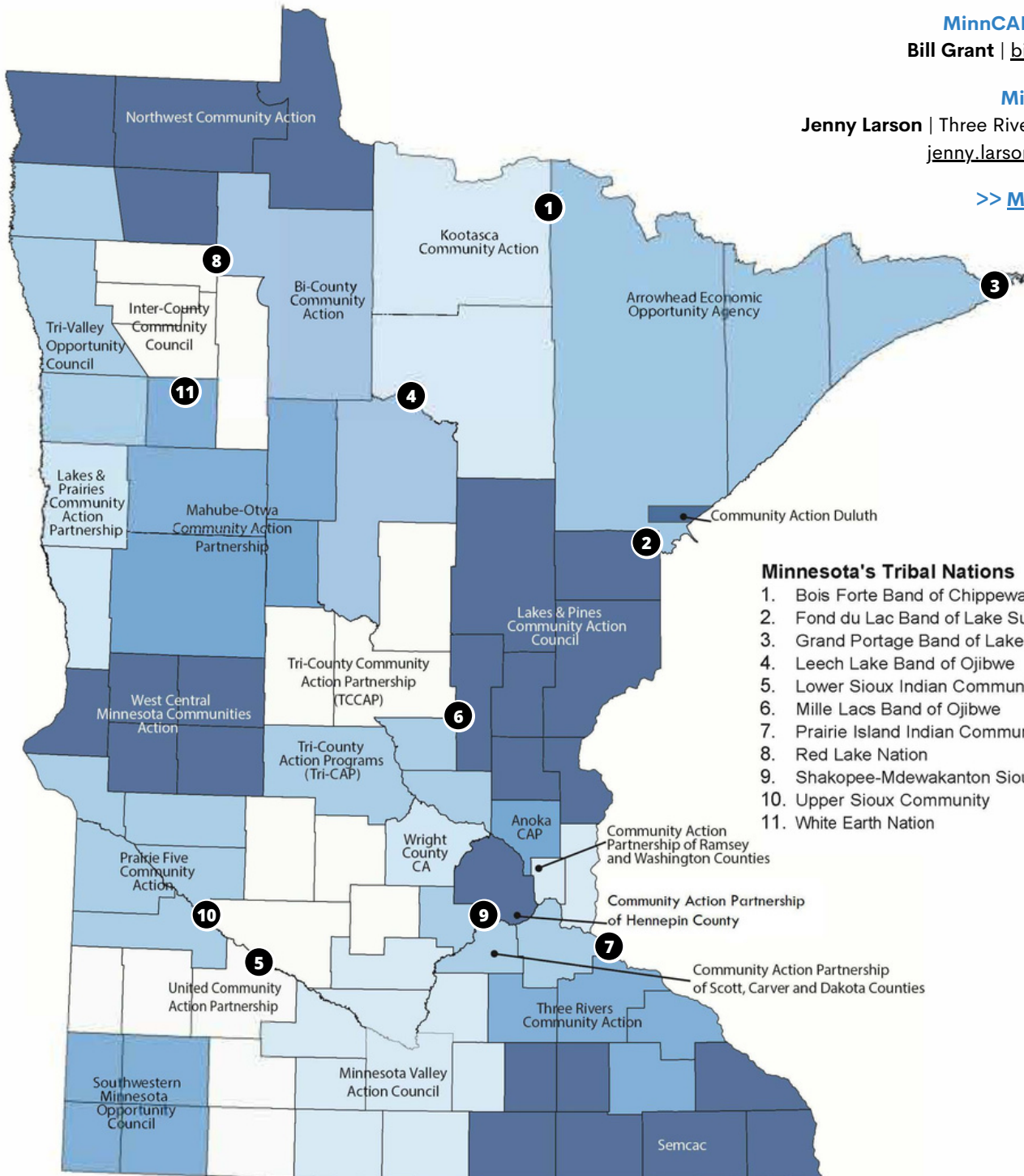
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Minnesota's Tribal Nations

1. Bois Forte Band of Chippewa
2. Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior
3. Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior
4. Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
5. Lower Sioux Indian Community
6. Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
7. Prairie Island Indian Community
8. Red Lake Nation
9. Shakopee-Mdewakanton Sioux Community
10. Upper Sioux Community
11. White Earth Nation

Minnesota Community Action Association Resources Foundation (MCAARF) is the 501c(3) nonprofit that secures funding to support MinnCAP's mission.