



Addressing Housing Instability & Homelessness

Updated 2022

Working to End the Housing Crisis

COVID-19 has exacerbated housing instability and homelessness in Minnesota. **Community Action Agencies (CAAs) have stepped up to provide emergency housing assistance** and safe ways to house those experiencing homelessness. But even before COVID-19, Minnesota faced a housing crisis, with a shortage of **affordable rental units**, a **growing unsheltered population**, and increasing **disparities in homeownership** opportunities. CAAs have been actively responding. These programs are funded by the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, MN Housing Finance Agency, and MN Dept. of Human Services.

Community Action's role in the housing continuum:

Emergency services for Minnesotans experiencing homelessness



The needs of people who are homeless differ depending if they are temporarily homeless, chronically homeless, or youth experiencing homelessness. CAAs meet these varying needs by **providing homeless shelters** and coordinated entry options, **emergency housing**, services for long-term homelessness, and **case management** for youth and others experiencing homelessness.

Rental and rental assistance options



In many areas around the state, CAAs run single and multi-family **rental units for tenants with low incomes**. Some CAAs also help **people with disabilities secure independent living opportunities**. Our partners also provide **financial assistance** for renters with low incomes to ensure they can avoid homelessness.

Decrease the homeownership gap



Minnesota ranks among the worst in the nation in the homeownership disparity between whites and people of color. CAAs can work to **decrease this disparity** by providing **homeownership classes** and **financial assistance** with down payments and closing costs to build up assets.

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.

Housing Assistance Impact:

- Over 2,000 people received emergency temporary shelter
- 8,000 people received eviction counseling and rental assistance
- Over 3,000 people avoided eviction or foreclosure

Source: 2020 MinnCAP Annual Report

24 Local Agencies & 11 Tribal Governments

Updated 2022

MinnCAP Leadership

MinnCAP Executive Director

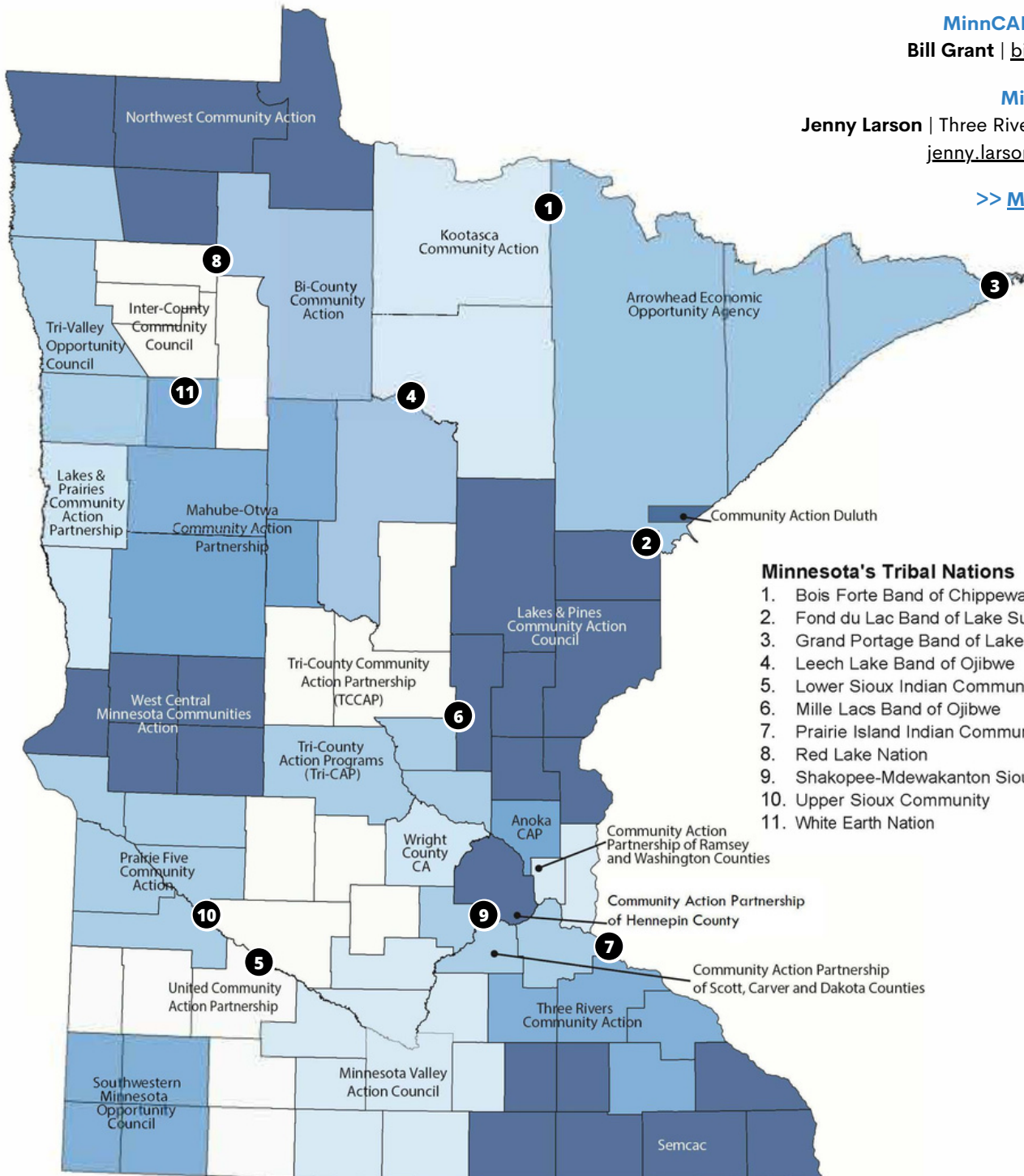
Bill Grant | billgrant@minncap.org

MinnCAP Board Chair

Jenny Larson | Three Rivers Executive Director

jenny.larson@threeriverscap.org

[>> MinnCAP's Full Board](#)



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.