



Essential Emergency Services

Emergency Services for Families in Crisis

Community Action's (CAAs) goal is to provide low-income communities with the resources they need to build resilience and move out of poverty. The first step is often addressing the immediate emergency needs of the most vulnerable and at-risk. Individuals with low-incomes face significantly more stress to meet their basic needs than their counterparts with middle and upper incomes. Also, the lack of disposable income means any unexpected bill can lead to struggles to pay for food and rent. **CAAs work closely with program participants and partner organizations to mitigate familial and financial crises and ensure they can remain safely housed.**

Family Crises and Safety

CAAs provide and refer people to **emergency crisis intervention services** including: **crisis nurseries**, which provide 24-hour support and childcare; referrals to safe housing and **shelters for victims of domestic violence**; and rapid rehousing and **shelter provisions for people experiencing homelessness**. While these services provide immediate emergency support, CAAs also provide longer-term family and housing support to prevent future crises.

Grants & Services for Unexpected Expenses

Forty percent of adults in the U.S. would struggle to pay for an unexpected expense of \$400. **Some CAAs provide grants and financial support to pay for unexpected car repairs, medical bills, and prescriptions for people with low incomes.** The car repair grants give people reliable access to transportation, allowing them to find and maintain employment that can help move them out of poverty.

Emergency Utility Assistance

CAAs provide **assistance for utility payments to help people with low incomes keep their heat on** when outside temperatures drop. CAAs also provide free emergency repairs for furnaces and boilers. These services help people stay safely and stably housed.

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 helps 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.

- Nearly **10,500 people** received **emergency family and crisis intervention**
- Over **27,000 households** received **crisis utility and emergency repairs**

Source: 2019 MinnCAP Annual Report

