



MinnCAP 2021 State Policy Priorities

Protect the Minnesota Community Action Grant:

Serving all 87 counties and 11 Tribal Nations, the Minnesota Community Action Grant (MCAAG) is a **flexible** resource that allows local Community Action Agencies (CAAs) and Tribes to address the most pressing needs in their communities. **Currently funded at \$3.9 million**, MCAAG is essential to supporting locally driven poverty solutions and **leveraging over \$297 million in additional resources** for Minnesotans.

Provide COVID-19 Emergency Relief:

Community Action Agencies have been at the forefront of responding locally to natural disasters, economic downturns and public health crises. CAAs quickly responded to COVID-19, stepping in to **provide housing assistance, food delivery, child care, transportation, utility assistance, broadband, technology access** and more. To ensure Minnesotans recover from the health and economic impacts of the pandemic, CAAs support policies that **respond to immediate local needs** and plan for **long-term recovery solutions**.

Support Moving Minnesotans Out of Poverty:

Building **community resiliency** and **addressing the causes of poverty** are the cornerstones of Community Action. Minnesota Community Action Agencies support initiatives that **enhance financial stability** and work to move families and individuals out of poverty, including **job training, educational opportunities, financial literacy, asset building** and **homeownership** initiatives.

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.

Continued **flexible funding** at the local level will be needed for the immediate and long-term **health and economic recovery of Minnesota's communities**.

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