



The Minnesota Community Action Grant

Updated 2022

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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, currently funded at \$4.9 million, is allocated to the network by a formula that is based on poverty in each area.

What does the Community Action Grant do?

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 disaster, 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**.

Meets the needs of each individual community



As part of MCAG, CAAs must 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. For some, the most pressing issues MCAG can help address are **transportation** and **living wage jobs**; for others, they are **broadband access** and **farmer mental health**, just to name a few.

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.

In 2020, MCAG allowed MinnCAP Agencies to:

- Leverage over **\$185 million** in additional funding
- Provide services to over **355,000 Minnesotans**

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24 Local Agencies & 11 Tribal Governments

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MinnCAP Leadership

MinnCAP Executive Director

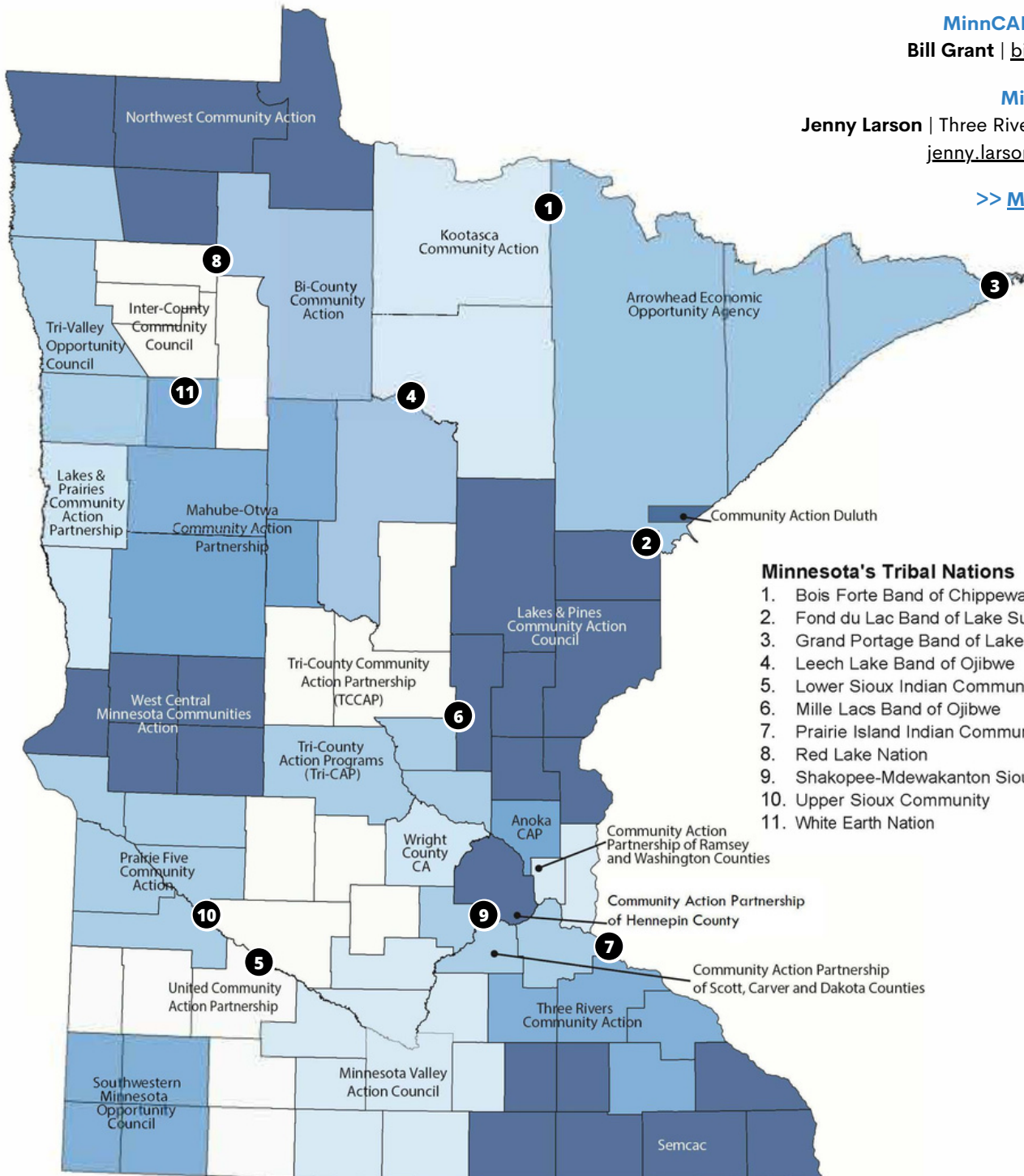
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Minnesota's Tribal Nations

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 (MCAARE) is the 501c(3) nonprofit that secures funding to support MinnCAP's mission.