



## Education & Employment Training

Updated 2022

### Services Aid Employment Goals

Finding and maintaining employment is an essential tool to build resilience in communities with low incomes and allow people to move out of poverty. However, **people with low incomes often face systemic barriers to securing and keeping employment**, including lack of access to transportation and childcare, housing instability, lacking qualifications, low pay, and few job options. **Community Action Agencies (CAAs) provide employment and training opportunities** to help Minnesotans with low incomes secure employment and gain the skills necessary to move up in their careers. While a few Minnesota CAAs partner with the MN Dept. of Employment & Economic Development and/or the U.S. Dept. of Labor, all agencies provide the supports and services necessary to help their clients meet their employment goals.

### Education & Certificate Programs

**Some CAAs in Minnesota offer certification programs** like -- Certified Nursing Assistant, certifications in construction and carpentry, and GED and Adult-Based Education classes -- to provide sustainable employment opportunities to their communities. In some cases, **these programs are tailored to the most at-risk members of our communities**, including people experiencing homelessness, people with substance-use disorders, or people who were recently incarcerated. These tools help to build resiliency.

### Career & Financial Counseling

For many people with low incomes, systemic barriers to finding and maintaining employment are hard to overcome alone. **CAAs provide coaching services, including help looking and applying for jobs**, financial coaching, and public benefits assistance enrollment. Coaches also help provide the supportive services to keep people employed, like transportation or childcare assistance.

### SNAP Employment & Training Program

The federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provides additional funding to community-based organizations, including some CAAs, to support and promote economic self-sufficiency among SNAP recipients. **The program funds both direct employment training services and supportive coaching services to ensure people with low incomes can successfully stay employed.**

### 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.

- Over 2,500 unemployed adults found and maintained employment with over 1,150 finding employment paying a living wage or higher
- 4,700 adults received career coaching

*Source: 2020 MinnCAP Annual Report*

## 24 Local Agencies & 11 Tribal Governments

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### MinnCAP Leadership

**MinnCAP Executive Director**

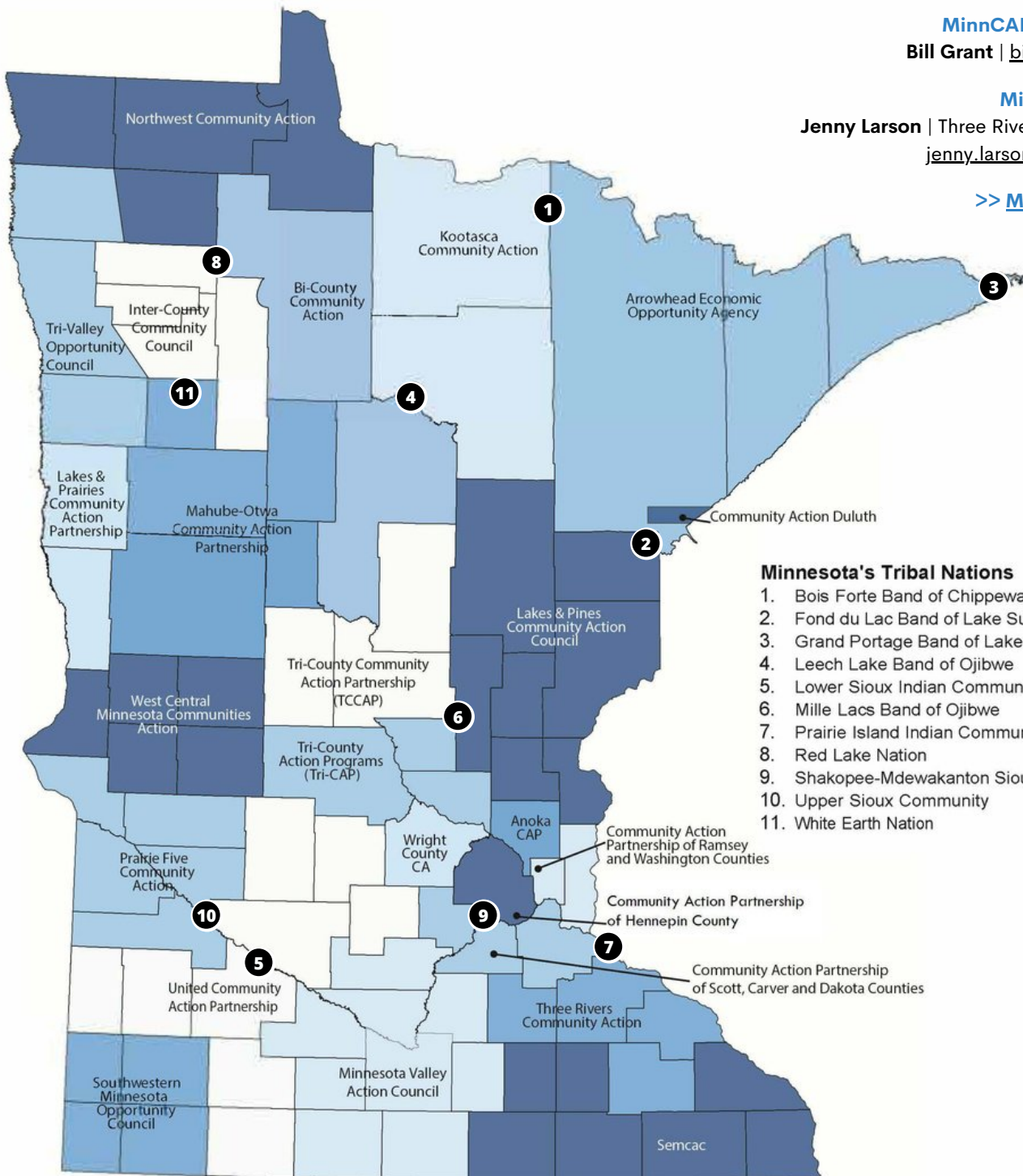
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### Minnesota's Tribal Nations

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