



Utility Assistance, Weatherization & Energy Efficiency

Reducing Utility Costs

Families with low incomes pay a disproportionate amount of their finances on energy compared to their neighbors with middle and upper incomes, and **1 in 5 households in the U.S. forego paying for food and medical bills to pay their utility bills.** Minnesota Community Action Agencies (CAAs) and Tribal Nations work to **ensure Minnesotans with low incomes are able to maintain their utilities and lower their energy costs.** These programs are funded mainly by the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Dept. of Energy, and the Minnesota Dept. of Commerce.

Energy Assistance Program (EAP)



EAP helps renters and homeowners with low incomes pay their **heating bills** and **reconnect heat** in the event of a shutoff. The program also provides emergency repair and **replacement of broken heating systems** for homeowners with low incomes, ensuring they don't face potentially dangerous situations due to lack of heat or a broken furnace.

Weatherization Assistance Program



The Weatherization Assistance Program provides home improvement and repairs for households with low incomes to lower their energy costs, and improve energy efficiency. These services can include: **attic and insulation repairs; furnace, water heater, or boiler repair and replacement;** and reduction of air leakage.

Conservation Improvement Program (CIP)



CIP is funded by Minnesota's utility companies' customers and helps **expand the reach of the Weatherization Assistance Program.** MinnCAP is advocating for CIP to add projects like asbestos abatement to the program. This will allow more households to qualify for Weatherization and reduce household health risks.

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.

2018 Energy program impacts:

- Over **125,000 households** received **utility assistance.**
- Over **2,000 homes** benefitted from **weatherization.**

Source: MN Commerce Dept.

