



Transportation Services

Updated 2022

Transportation Services Enhance Access

Compared with 99% of families with middle and upper incomes, **only about 20% of families in poverty own a vehicle**. With less access to personal vehicles, access to affordable, safe and reliable transportation is critical for people with low incomes. Transportation is needed for access to employment, childcare, medical care, the grocery store, and more. For older adults and people with disabilities, access to transportation promotes independence and is an essential tool for allowing people to live independently and age at home. Minnesota Community Action Agencies (**CAAs**) **provide a variety of public and private transportation options that increase access to essential services** and job and education opportunities, which are critical to help people move out of poverty.

Rural Public Transit Systems

Funded through the Federal Transit Administration, **some CAAs in Greater Minnesota provide the public transit systems in their communities**.

For some of the larger towns and communities, this includes bus routes that run on a regular schedule. In more rural areas, many of the transit systems are dial-a-ride, providing door-to-door transportation options.

Car Purchase & Repair

Some **CAAs help their program participants buy a car or bike, get their driver's license, or repair their vehicle**. While some CAAs provide low-interest car loans to help participants purchase a car, others refurbish donated bikes and cars that can then go to participants. Through the Family Assets for Independence in Minnesota (FAIM) program, CAAs match program participants' savings towards purchasing a car. Other CAAs receive the Minnesota funded "Getting to Work" grant to provide car repairs.

Volunteer Drivers

One of the most important forms of transportation, especially in Greater Minnesota, is volunteer drivers. In these cases, **CAAs work with volunteers to provide rides to doctors' visits, pharmacies, grocery stores, and other appointments**. Volunteer drivers are a critical part of the transportation system and often drive participants long distances to access essential services. MinnCAP advocates for adequate mileage reimbursement policies.

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 **1.48 million transportation rides accessed** throughout MN through various CAA transportation services
- Nearly **25,000 people with disabilities** and **30,000 older adults** maintained independent living with CAA services including transportation

Source: 2020 MinnCAP Annual Report

24 Local Agencies & 11 Tribal Governments

Updated 2022

MinnCAP Leadership

MinnCAP Executive Director

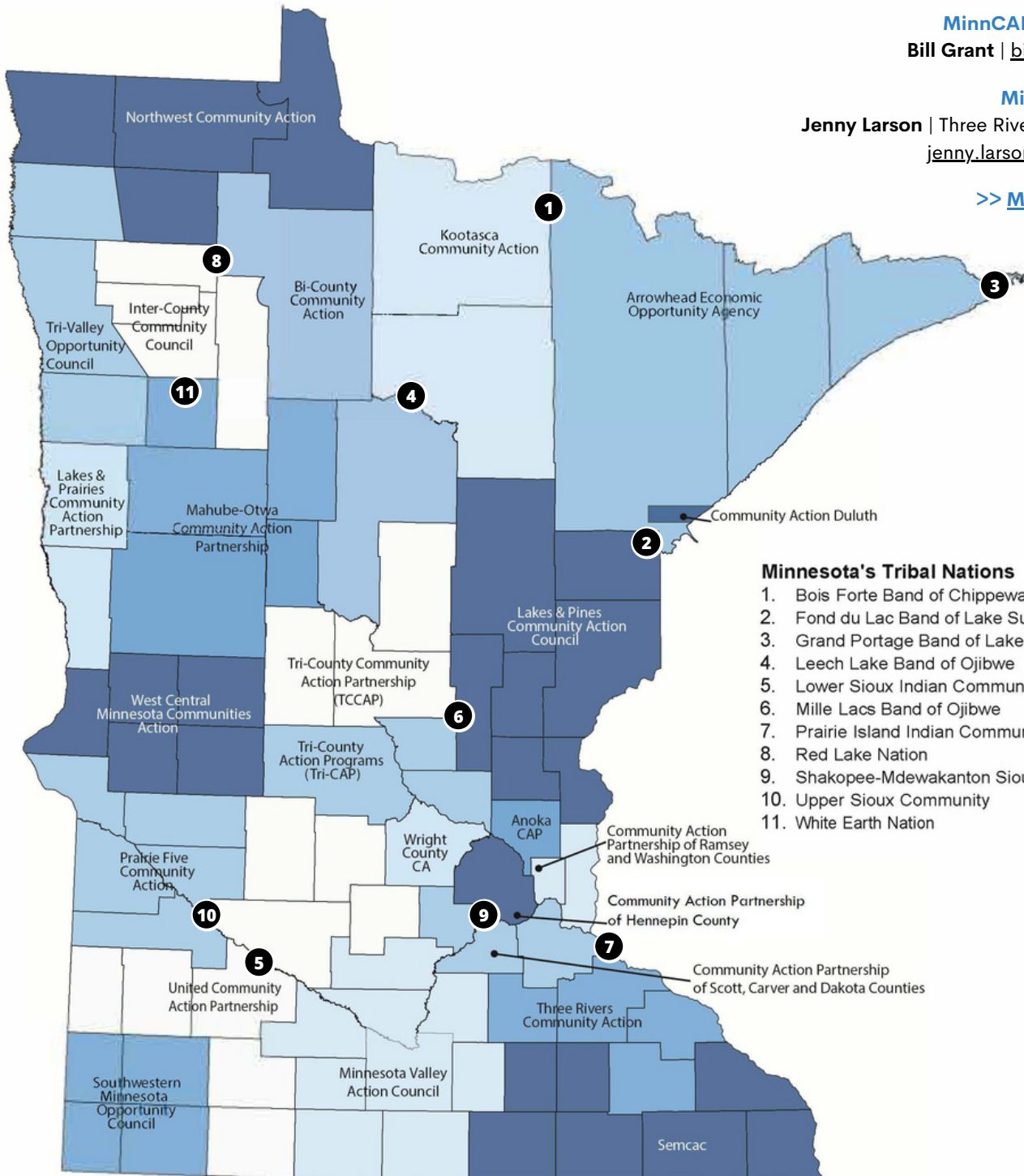
Bill Grant | billgrant@minncap.org

MinnCAP Board Chair

Jenny Larson | Three Rivers Executive Director

jenny.larson@threeriverscap.org

[>> MinnCAP's Full Board](#)



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.