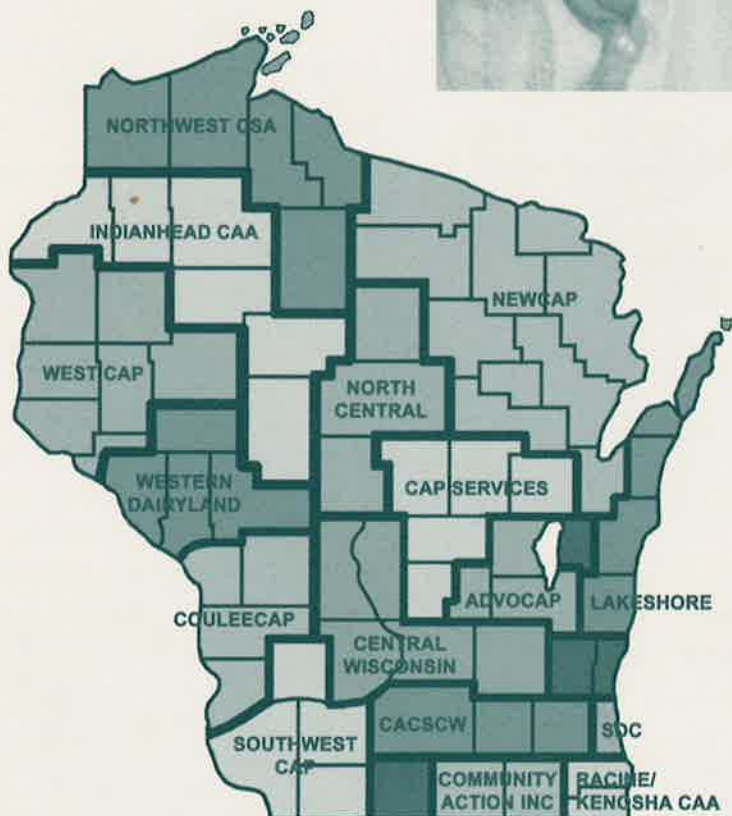


Helping People... Changing Lives

Community Action in Wisconsin

*Responding
to the Needs
of Families*



2003

W WISCAP
Wisconsin
Community Action
Program Association

Overview

Many working families in Wisconsin have been hard hit by current economic conditions, and have been forced to seek assistance. Community Action Agencies keep these families afloat, and are an important resource in these tough economic times. Services focus on helping low-income families and individuals develop the tools and skills necessary to obtain self-sufficiency.

Wisconsin's 16 Community Action Agencies served over 383,000 Wisconsin residents in 2001. CAAs are locally governed not-for-profit agencies or commissions that focus on helping low-income families and individuals to become self-sufficient. They work within communities to address needs on a local level, partnering with other service providers, businesses, and community organizations to avoid duplication of services and ensure the maximum benefit of available resources.

CAAs are governed by a local volunteer board that represents all sectors of the community. By law, one-third of CAA boards are made up of local elected officials, at least one-third is composed of democratically selected low-income people or their representatives, and one-third is composed of other community interests including employers, faith-based groups, and community leaders. CAAs are controlled by the communities they serve and depend on community involvement and support.

CAAs are also accountable to the State of Wisconsin. DHFS provides administrative overview of CAAs, monitoring program effectiveness, management accountability, and reporting. In turn, states are accountable to the federal DHHS Office of Community

Services. Nationally CAAs were the first organizations to take measures in demonstrating accountability as mandated under the Government Performance and Results Act of

Wisconsin CAAs leverage **\$22.83** for every \$1 received through the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG).

1993. CAAs have implemented an accountability framework called Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) to focus efforts on the outcomes achieved for low-income families and communities.

Local communities demonstrate an incredible investment in the efforts of Community Action Agencies. In addition to forming partnerships, and serving as volunteer board members, communities donate time and resources to Community Action. In 2001, Wisconsin CAAs recorded over 613,000 volunteer hours donated by community members. Estimated at minimum wage, this is over a \$3 million investment.



The work of CAAs has significantly benefited Wisconsin both financially and through the provision and coordination of services. CAAs receive their core funding through the federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), and with these funds are able to leverage additional dollars that benefit Wisconsin communities. For every \$1 from CSBG, Wisconsin CAAs leverage \$22.83. In 2001, CAAs brought over \$110.5 million in federal dollars into Wisconsin.

CAAs not only assist low-income families, but help build communities. CAAs are involved in affordable housing development, youth education and mentoring programs, transportation, business development, and credit counseling.

Wisconsin CAAs brought over **\$110.5 million** of federal funding into Wisconsin in 2001.

Poverty in Wisconsin

Recent Economic Conditions Bring Growing Need

Often the media characterizes poor people as outsiders passing through our communities, but the truth is many grew up in our communities and have worked hard, but cannot earn enough to meet their basic needs and provide for their families. Poverty requires us to reevaluate how our communities take care of our own and how we provide for those in need.



- ◆ According to the 2000 Census, 8.7% of Wisconsin residents (451,538) live below the poverty threshold (\$18,400 annual household income for a family of four), including over 150,000 children. However, nearly 25% of residents (1,214,968 persons) are under 200% of the poverty threshold (\$36,800 annual household income for a family of four). Even at this income, families are struggling just to meet basic needs. Census figures also do not account for recent poor economic conditions.

- ◆ In 2002, 8.4% (175,249) of households reported being "food insecure". Food insecurity in Wisconsin has grown worse, going from 2nd lowest in the nation in 1995 to 18th. Over 80% of Wisconsin food pantries report increased demand. (Brandeis University Center on Hunger & Poverty)
- ◆ Since 1989, housing costs in Wisconsin have increased by 51%, and home heating costs have increased 34% just over last year. (WI DOA/DHIR & US Department of Energy)
- ◆ Over 32% of Wisconsin renters spend more than a third of their income on rent, and 14.5% spend over half. (US Census 2000)
- ◆ In 2002, 124 businesses employing over 25 workers announced mass layoffs and closings resulting in close to 16,000 displaced workers. (WI DWD Mass Layoffs)
- ◆ Between December 1999 and December 2002, the number of unemployed persons in Wisconsin increased by almost 95% to over 150,000 individuals. (US Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Poverty Indicators	Percent	Number of persons/households
Total population (Wisconsin)	--	5,363,675
Persons below poverty	8.9%	462,809
Children under 18 below poverty	10.8%	143,963
Seniors over 65 below poverty	7.4%	49,245
Persons below 200% poverty	23.3%	1,214,968
Persons unemployed	6.4%	198,510
Total households (Wisconsin)	--	2,086,304
Households "food insecure"	8.8%	183,595
Households paying more than 1/3 income in rent	32.3%	207,242
Households paying more than 1/2 income in rent	14.5%	93,114

Community Action Benefits Wisconsin

Wisconsin Community Action Responds

...to Housing Needs

- CAAs provided emergency shelter to over 5,000 persons in FY 2002.
- CAAs developed 350 units of affordable renter occupied housing in FY 2002.
- CAAs helped 550 families purchase their first home in FY 2002.
- CAAs weatherized over 6,000 homes in 2001 helping to conserve energy and keep residents warm.

...to Economic Development Needs

- CAAs have created 1,048 new businesses and 4,182 new jobs in Wisconsin through business development programs.
- CAAs have or are currently working with over 854 households in developing savings goals and financial management practices since 1999. To date, 453 households have met their savings goal and invested in the purchase of a home, start of a small business, or postsecondary education.

...to the Needs of Families

- Over 50% of persons served through Community Action Agencies are children.
- CAAs distributed over 6.4 million pounds of federal commodity foods and 7.4 million pounds of privately donated and purchased food to families in need during FY 2002.
- CAA coordinated meal sites and shelters provided an average of 81,000 meals to low-income people each month during FY 2002.

(WI DHFS TEFAP Data)

(WI DHFS TEFAP Data)

..to Community Needs

- CAAs served over 383,000 Wisconsin residents in 2001.
- CAAs brought over \$110.5 million in federal dollars into Wisconsin in 2001.
- For every \$1 from CSBG, Wisconsin CAAs leverage \$22.83.
- CAAs registered over 613,000 volunteer hours donated in 2001 (estimated at minimum wage, this is over a \$3 million investment by community members).
- Since 1992, WISCAP's Rural Community Assistance Program has assisted over 200 Wisconsin communities with water and wastewater system needs.
- CAAs coordinate community resources to avoid duplication of services and ensure the maximum benefit.



Achieving Success

Community Action Makes A Difference

Milwaukee Asset Building Coalition

The Social Development Commission of Milwaukee has developed a city-wide partnership bringing together faith based organizations, banks, government agencies, and other service providers to assist low-income families in taking advantage of the Earned Income Credit and connecting to banking opportunities. During the 2002 tax season, the Coalition completed over 4000 individual tax returns bringing over \$1.4 million into Milwaukee's low-income communities.



Wisconsin Common Market [www.wisconsincommonmarket.com]

Western Dairyland Equal Opportunity Council has developed an online marketing tool to assist low-income business entrepreneurs in increasing their business sales and reaching a worldwide market. The e-commerce site will be able to assist 400 small businesses in marketing their products, and help families move toward greater self-sufficiency.



CAP Services Skills Enhancement Program

CAP Services' Skills Enhancement Program helps the working poor to gain access to employment training opportunities and work toward increasing their skills and income. Participants graduating in 2002 increased their average annual income by \$8,500, and average hourly wage by \$3.12/hour. In addition, 66% of participants were able to obtain health insurance through their employer due to obtaining a new or advanced position. The program assists with tuition, books, childcare and transportation costs for income eligible persons.

WISCAP

Wisconsin Community Action Agencies and Special Purpose Agencies

ADVOCAP

19 W. First Street /P.O. Box 1108
Fond du Lac, WI 54936
ph. 920/922-7760 fax 920/922-7214
*Serving: Fond du Lac, Green Lake &
Winnebago Counties*

CAP Services

5499 Hwy 10 East, Ste A
Stevens Point, WI 54481
ph. 715/343-7500 fax 715/343-7520
www.capserv.org
*Serving: Marquette, Outagamie, Portage,
Waupaca & Waushara Counties*

Central Wisconsin CAC

1000 Hwy 13 / P.O. Box 430
Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965-0430
ph. 608/254-8353 fax 608/254-4327
cwcac.joan@verizon.net
*Serving: Adams, Columbia, Dodge,
Juneau & Sauk Counties*

Community Action Inc.

2300 Kellogg Avenue
Janesville, WI 53546
ph. 608/755-2470 fax 608/755-2246
www.community-action.org
Serving: Rock & Walworth Counties

Community Action Coalition

1717 N. Stoughton Road
Madison, WI 53704-2605
ph. 608/246-4730 x203 fax 608/246-4760
www.cacscw.org
*Serving: Dane, Jefferson &
Waukesha Counties*

Couleecap, Inc.

201 Melby Street
Westby, WI 54667
ph. 608/634-3104 fax 608/634-3134
www.couleecap.org
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Vernon Counties*

Indianhead CAA

209 E. Third Street South /P.O. Box 40
Ladysmith, WI 54848-0040
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www.indianheadcaa.org
*Serving: Burnett, Clark, Rusk, Sawyer,
Taylor & Washburn Counties*

Lakeshore CAP

540 N. Eighth Street
Manitowoc, WI 54220
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www.lakeshorecap.org
*Serving: Door, Kewaunee, Manitowoc &
Sheboygan Counties*

NEWCAP

1201 Main Street
Oconto, WI 54153
ph. 920/834-4621 fax 920/834-4887
www.newcap.org
*Serving: Brown, Florence, Forest, Langlade,
Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, Oneida,
Shawano & Vilas Counties*

North Central CAP

1430 2nd Street North /P.O. Box 1141
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495-1141
ph. 715/424-2581 fax 715/424-0771
ronnccap@charter.net
Serving: Lincoln, Marathon & Wood Counties

Northwest CSA

1118 Tower Avenue
Superior, WI 54880
ph. 715/392-5127 fax 715/392-5511
nwcsa@aol.com
*Serving: Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas,
Iron & Price Counties*

Racine/Kenosha CAA

2113 N. Wisconsin Street
Racine, WI 53402
ph. 262/637-8377 fax 262/637-6419
rkcaap@mcleodusa.net
Serving: Kenosha & Racine Counties

Social Development Commission

4041 N. Richards Street
Milwaukee, WI 53212
ph. 414/906-2700 fax 414/906-2719
www.cr-sdc.org
Serving: Milwaukee County

Southwest CAP

149 N. Iowa Street
Dodgeville, WI 53533
ph. 608/935-2326 fax 608/935-2876
wallyo@swcap.org
*Serving: Grant, Iowa, Lafayette, &
Richland Counties*

West Central CAA

525 Second Street /P.O. Box 308
Glenwood City, WI 54013-0308
ph. 715/265-4271 fax 715/265-7031
pkilde@wcap.org
*Serving: Barron, Chippewa, Dunn, Pepin,
Pierce, Polk & St. Croix Counties*

Western Dairyland EOC

23122 Whitehall Road / P.O. Box 125
Independence, WI 54747-0045
ph. 715/985-2391 fax 715/985-3239
www.westerndairyland.org
*Serving: Buffalo, Eau Claire, Jackson &
Trumpealeau Counties*

Coalition of WI Aging Groups

2850 Dairy Drive, Suite 100
Madison, WI 53718-6751
ph. 608/224-0606 fax 608/224-0607
www.cwag.org
Serving: Statewide

Foundation for Rural Housing

4506 Regent Street
Madison, WI 53705
ph. 608/238-3448 fax 608/238-2084
ruralhousing@mcleodusa.net
Serving: Statewide

United Migrant Opportunity Services (UMOS)

929 W. Mitchell Street /P.O. Box 04129
Milwaukee, WI 53204
ph. 414/389-6000 fax 414/671-4833
www.umos.org
Serving: Statewide

WISCAP

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