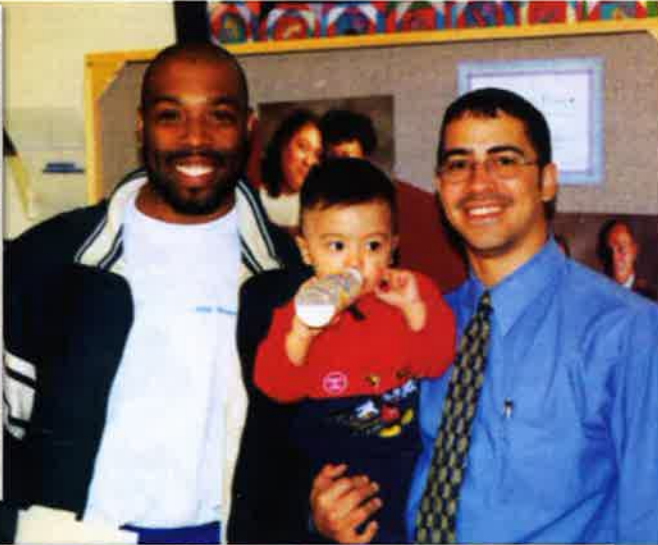


Community Action in Wisconsin

Creating Local Opportunities for Economic Self-Sufficiency



The Wisconsin Community Action Network

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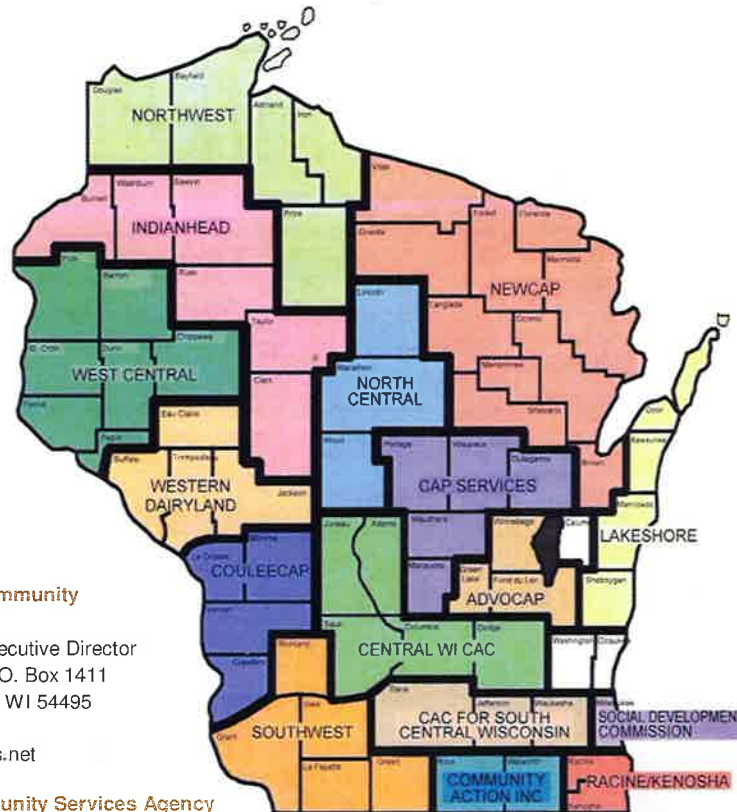
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Poverty in Wisconsin

Over 550,000 Wisconsin residents live in poverty. Wisconsin Community Action Program Association (WISCAP) believes that all of us are vulnerable to poverty and that the costs and consequences of poverty have significant effects on everybody, whether poor or not. Poverty is the cause of unnecessary and preventable suffering among millions of Americans and thousands of Wisconsinites of all ages. The economic and social costs are enormous. We believe there are cost-effective solutions to poverty. Through efforts that create jobs that pay living wages with benefits, affordable housing, affordable healthcare, and education we can eliminate poverty.

How Do Community Action Agencies Help?

Every year, the Community Action Network analyzes community needs to identify strategies that will work best in attacking poverty; with a full scale 'community needs assessment' every three years to identify major poverty problems and needs of local residents and their communities. Each agency is unique because its programs reflect the needs of their local communities which are prioritized by their local Board of Directors. Please refer to our website for more information on community action at www.wiscap.org.



In 2009...

370,853 very low
income and working poor
residents of Wisconsin
turned to Community
Action for help!

Of those residents:

- 81% have incomes below the federal poverty level
- 6,345 are homeless
- 39% are children
- 14% are over 55
- 56% are female
- 66% are Caucasian
- 34% are people of color

To address the problems of poverty and create economic opportunity, Wisconsin's Community Action Agencies & Special Purpose Agencies mobilized 249 million dollars in federal, state, local and private resources.

\$ 185 million - Federal
\$ 22 million - Private

\$ 31 million - State
\$ 11 million - Local

2009 Program Highlights.....

Helping Low Wage Workers get better Jobs and Benefits

Skills Enhancement helps low-wage workers get better paying jobs and access to employer health care by paying tuition, child care and transportation costs so participants can attend training. Participants receive support via personalized training plans, case management, referral and job search assistance. The program was expanded statewide with funding from the U.S. Dept of Labor to all 16 CAAs and UMOS with an enrollment in 2009 of 312 low-wage workers. Agencies have enrolled additional clients with funding from government & non-government sources. Forty graduates to date report an average increase in wages of over \$8,600 a year— a 77% increase! 65% gained access to employer-sponsored health care – a 300% increase. Skills is a proven investment in Wisconsin's working poor that is helping them gain greater self-sufficiency.



Helping Rural Communities



Since 1992, WISCAP's Rural Community Assistance Program has provided training and on-site technical assistance to small, low or moderate income, rural communities on matters and issues related to water and wastewater systems development. Towns, villages, sanitary districts and tribal communities have received help with over 300 projects completed to date. During 2009, RCAP staff provided assistance to 18 communities implementing 24 water/wastewater system projects. Most notably, RCAP provided planning assistance to the central Wisconsin Village of Curtiss in Clark County for a necessary upgrade of the municipal water system thus leveraging \$2.7 million of federal funds. RCAP also provided assistance to the Sokaogon Chippewa Community of Mole Lake (Forest County) in the planning and development of a new wastewater treatment facility, leveraging \$3.5 million of federal funds. Additionally, WISCAP's Tribal Circuit Rider Program provides assistance to all 11 Wisconsin tribes.

Providing Safe and Affordable Housing

Wisconsin's Community Action network remained committed to providing safe and affordable housing for low-income households. WISCAP member agencies helped 1,661 low-income families obtain and/or maintain safe and affordable housing in 2009. This assistance took the form of direct financial assistance, such as homeownership counseling, down payment assistance and foreclosure mitigation. In addition, over 12,500 low-income households were assisted by Wisconsin's Community Action network with emergency rent or mortgage assistance. Because of help from a WISCAP member agency, 223 families were able to purchase homes in their communities in 2009. Community Action Agencies also serve as owners/managers of affordable housing properties. Through this role, as well as their expertise in providing housing rehabilitation and weatherization services, Wisconsin's CAAs were responsible for preserving and improving 4,624 affordable housing units last year. Through leadership in local 'Continuum of Care' programs created to address the needs of homeless persons, WISCAP member agencies provided temporary shelter to 5,509 households.



Providing Home Weatherization and Bill Payment Assistance

Wisconsin's Community Action Agencies were the pre-eminent providers of the low-income weatherization assistance program in 2009. Thirteen of WISCAP's CAAs weatherized over 6,100 Wisconsin homes in 2009. These energy efficiency measures— such as insulation and furnace repair/replacement – can trim the average utility bill by as much as 20%, a yearly savings of as much as \$400 on average for low-income households. These savings are repeated and magnified every year as more households are weatherized. In addition, six CAAs contracted with their local county government in 2009 to directly provide energy bill payment assistance to eligible low-income households. These agencies – serving ten counties – provided nearly 52,600 households with one-time bill payment assistance during the year.

Advancing Food Security



Thirteen CAAs and 3 non-CAA partners distributed 14 million lbs of commodities worth \$10.7 million to 323 food pantries, meal sites and shelters in 71 counties. Pantries distributed an additional 25 million lbs of donated & purchased food. Food pantries served 178,000 people each month, a staggering 37% increase over 2007. Meal sites & shelters served 146,000 meals each month. SDCs Youth Food Program served 2 million meals & snacks to Milwaukee children, while the Community Action Coalition for South Central WI, Inc.'s CAC Gleaners collected & distributed 1 million lbs of prepared & perishable food. In addition, WISCAP advocated with state agencies to give a small heating assistance payment to FoodShare households that didn't receive regular heat assistance. The change enabled these households to qualify for the maximum heating deduction; generating \$50 million/year in FoodShare benefits and helping tens of thousands to better meet their food & energy needs. The economic impact is \$92 million annually.

Creating Jobs and Businesses

WISCAP's Jobs & Business Development Program (JBD) helps low-income entrepreneurs start small businesses by assisting them to develop business, financial & marketing plans and obtain financing. Many also operate their own revolving loan programs. In 2009 JBD started 53 businesses and created 86 jobs in 18 counties. JBD also assisted existing businesses to expand, which created or preserved 20 additional jobs. Since its inception JBD has started 1,840 new businesses and created 5,440 jobs. Wisconsin's investment in the program is leveraged 600%, including over \$700,000 in loans & grants to businesses. Other CAA business development efforts created an additional 67 jobs. In addition, CAP Services operates a free Virtual Business Incubator at www.vbi.biz, and Western Dairyland manages an internet marketplace at www.wisconsincommonmarket.com.



Contributing to Economic Recovery & Serving Families



Wisconsin's Community Action Agencies have received funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to help the victims of the economic recession and to create jobs. Over 70,000 Wisconsin residents received ARRA help from their Community Action Agency during the last half of 2009. CAAs have used funds to create over 260 jobs and retain an additional 200 jobs in their communities. Many of these jobs provide needed help to others...housing counselors, community service advocates, weatherization auditors and installers. In addition, the ARRA funds are providing badly needed safety net assistance as well as economic opportunity to unemployed and low-income people and families throughout the state. Agencies have utilized funds to address critical community needs helping families stay in their homes; helping struggling homeowners avoid foreclosure; helping renters avoid eviction; preventing utility shut-offs; and providing budgeting and financial literacy services. In addition, Wisconsin CAPs weatherized a total of 3,043 housing units and established 109 sub-contracts with local contractors, businesses, vendors and other partners performing weatherization work during the last half of 2009. CAAs will continue providing assistance during 2010.

Community Action Programs & Services

Program	ADVOCAP	CAP Services	CWCAC	CACSCW, Inc.	CA, Inc.	Couleescap	Indianhead	Lakeshore	NEWCAP	North Central	Northwest	R/K CAA	SDC	Southwest	West CAP	WDEOC	CWAG	FRH	UMOS
Education/Skills Enhancement	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆			◆
Adult Literacy Skills	*	*	*		*		*			*		*	*		*				*
Skills Enhancement Program	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*			*
Financial Literacy Education	*		*	*		*		*	*		*		*		*	*			*
Employment Training	*		*	*	*	*			*	*		*	*			*			*
Economic/Business Development	◆	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆		◆			◆	◆	◆		◆			◆
Business Development	*	*	*	*		*	*		*			*	*	*		*			*
Business Revolving Loan Programs	*	*	*			*	*					*				*			
Energy	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆			◆
Emergency Fuel Assistance Programs			*	*		*			*	*	*	*	*	*		*		*	
Weatherization Programs	*	*	*		*	*	*		*	*		*	*		*	*			
Food Security/Environmental	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆			◆
Emergency Food Assistance	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*			*	*			*
Community Garden Programs	*			*			*	*	*	*	*	*			*	*			
Community Meal Prgms/Holiday Baskets	*		*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*			*	*			
Nutrition Education	*		*		*	*			*	*	*	*	*	*		*			
Headstart/Child Development	◆	◆					◆	◆				◆	◆	◆		◆			◆
Housing	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Transitional Housing/Homeless Shelters	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*		*	*	*	*			*
Rental Property Management/Development	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*			*	*				*
Rent Payment Assistance/Section 8	*		*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*			*	*			*
Homeownership Programs	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*			*	*	*		*
Foreclosure Assistance	*				*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*			*	*		*	*
Lead Abatement			*			*						*			*	*		*	*
Housing Revolving Loan Fund	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*			*	*	*		*	*
Home Repair Programs	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*			*	*	*		*	*
Parenting/Family Support	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Childcare Care/ Assistance/Referrals		*	*		*					*		*	*	*		*			*
Parenting Classes	*	*				*		*				*	*	*			*		*
Clothing Assistance			*	*			*			*	*	*		*	*	*			*
Violence Prevention/Victim Services	*	*	*					*							*	*			*
Legal Services									*	*	*		*						*
Physical/Mental Health		◆	◆		◆	◆	◆		◆		◆	◆	◆	◆		◆			◆
Women's Health					*				*			*	*	*		*			*
MA/WIC Programs		*								*	*	*	*	*					*
AODA/Mental Health		*	*			*	*					*	*	*		*			*
Dental Programs		*	*									*	*	*		*			*
Home Healthcare							*												
Refugee/Migrant Services	◆	◆	◆						◆										◆
Senior Services	◆		◆			◆		◆				◆	◆			◆	◆		◆
Tax Preparation Assistance		◆							◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		◆			◆
Transportation	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆			◆
Car Purchase Programs	*	*	*	*	*	*			*		*	*	*	*	*	*			*
Youth and Young Adult Services	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		◆				◆	◆		◆
Education Skills	*		*			*	*	*	*	*									*
Fresh Start	*	*	*		*		*									*			*
Mentoring Program		*					*	*									*		*
Juvenile Justice/Violence Prevention								*									*		*
Homeless/Runaway Programs		*	*			*	*	*	*			*							*
Employment/Livings Skills	*		*			*	*	*	*			*							*

WHAT IS WISCAP?

Wisconsin Community Action Program Association is the statewide voluntary association of Wisconsin's 16 Community Action Agencies and 3 special purpose agencies with statewide anti-poverty missions: the Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups, the Foundation for Rural Housing, and the United Migrant Opportunity Services.

The Association was incorporated on March 1, 1974 with the intent of its members that the cause of economic self-sufficiency for Wisconsin's low income households would be strengthened by working together on issues of policy, resource mobilization, training & development and advocacy.

For over 35 years, WISCAP has served the needs of its member agencies in various ways: helping to identify and sponsor professional training in anti-poverty areas, facilitating quarterly meetings of Community Action Agency leadership staff and board members, serving as a conduit for resource development needs of its members, advocating for public policy conducive to the locally-developed goals of its member agencies and advocating for laws, rules and regulations which support economic opportunity efforts, community development, and locally-designed strategies and procedures.

WISCAP is organized as a private non-profit corporation governed by a Board of Directors comprised of the Executive Director from each of its member agencies. Core funding for WISCAP is provided through member agency dues. Program and training funds are provided in part by the State of Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Office of Community Services, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the generous contributions from sponsors of our conferences and training events.

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THE PROMISE OF COMMUNITY ACTION

Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.

www.WISCAP.org



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