

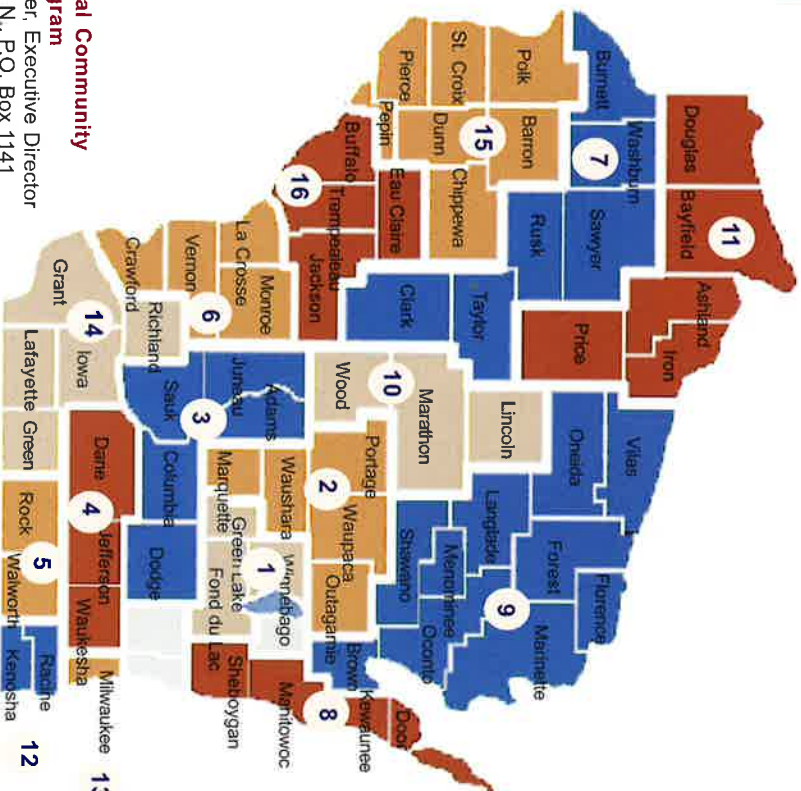
Community Action in Wisconsin

Creating Local Opportunities for Economic Self-Sufficiency



The Wisconsin Community Action Network

- ADVOCAP, Inc**
Michael Bonertz, Executive Director
19 W. First St., P.O. Box 1108
Fond du Lac, WI 54936
920-922-7760, Ext. 515
mikeb@advocap.org
www.advocap.org
- CAP Services, Inc.**
Mary Patoka, CEO
5499 Hwy 10 East, Ste A
Stevens Point, WI 54481
715-343-7500
mpatoka@capmail.org
www.capserv.org
- Central WI Community Action Council**
Fred Hebert, Executive Director
1000 Hwy 13, P.O. Box 430
Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965
608-254-8353
cwcac.donna@verizon.net
- Community Action Coalition for South Central WI, Inc.**
Greta C. Hansen, Executive Director
1777 N. Stoughton Rd.
Madison, WI 53704
608-246-4730
ghansen@caescw.org
www.caescw.org
- Community Action, Inc.**
Lisa Furseth, Executive Director
200 W. Milwaukee
Janesville, WI 53548
608-755-2470
lfurseth@community-action.org
www.community-action.org
- Couleecap, Inc.**
Grace Jones, Executive Director
201 Melby St.
Westby, WI 54667
608-634-3104
Grace.Jones@couleecap.org
www.couleecap.org
- Indianhead Community Action Agency**
Brett Gerber, Executive Director
209 E. 3rd St. S., P.O. Box 40
Ladysmith, WI 54848
715-532-5594
brettg@indianheadcaa.org
www.indianheadcaa.org
- Lakeshore Community Action Program**
Noel Ryder, CEO
540 N. 8th St.
Manitowoc, WI 54220
920-682-3737
nryder@lakeshorecap.org
www.lakeshorecap.org
- NEWCAP, Inc.**
Robert Koller, Executive Director
1201 Main St.
Oconto, WI 54153-1541
920-834-4621
robertkoller@newcap.org
www.newcap.org
- North Central Community Action Program**
Ron Schnyder, Executive Director
1430 2nd St. N., P.O. Box 1141
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495
715-424-2581
ronnccap@charter.net
- Northwest Community Services Agency**
Millie Rounselle, Executive Director
1118 Tower Ave.
Superior, WI 54880
715-392-5127
mrounselle@northwest.csa.org
www.northwest.csa.org
- Racine/Kenosha Community Action Agency**
Robert Beezat, Interim Executive Director
2113 N. Wisconsin St.
Racine, WI 53402
262-637-8377
rkcaa.racine@rkcaa.org
www.rkcaa.org
- Social Development Commission**
Deborah Blanks, CEO
4041 N. Richards St.
Milwaukee, WI 53212
414-906-2700
dblanks@cr-sdc.org
www.cr-sdc.org
- Southwest Community Action Program**
Walter Orzechowski, Executive Director
149 N. Iowa St.
Dodgeville, WI 53533
608-935-2326
w.orzechowski@swcap.org
www.swcap.org
- West Central Community Action Agency**
Peter Kilde, Executive Director
525 Second St., P.O. Box 308
Glenwood City, WI 54013
715-265-4271
pkilde@wcap.org
www.westcap.org
- Western Dairyland Economic Opportunity Council**
James Schwartz, Executive Director
23122 Whitehall Rd., P.O. Box 125
Independence, WI 54747
715-985-2391
wolfgang@westerndairyland.org
www.westerndairyland.org
- Special Purpose Agencies (Statewide)**
Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups
Thomas Frazier, Executive Director
2850 Dairy Dr. Ste 100
Madison, WI 53718-6751
608-224-0606
tfrazier@cwag.org
www.cwag.org
- Foundation for Rural Housing, Inc.**
Char Thompson, Executive Director
4506 Regent St.
Madison, WI 53705
608-238-3448
ruralhousing@tds.net
www.wisconsinruralhousing.org
- United Migrant Opportunity Services**
Rod Ritcherson, Special Assistant to the President and Director of Corp. Relations
2701 S. Chase Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53207
414-389-6000
rod.ritcherson@umos.org
www.umos.org



Poverty in Wisconsin

About 600,000 residents in Wisconsin 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 everyone, 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 health care, and education we can eliminate poverty. Please refer to our website, www.wiscap.org, for our report "Poverty Matters: Facing Poverty in Wisconsin" and for more information on community action.

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.



In 2008....
253,547
 very low-income and
 working poor residents
 of Wisconsin
 turned to Community
 Action for help!

Of those residents...

- 80% are at or below the federal poverty level.
- 10% are homeless
- 46% are children
- 13% are over 55
- 58% are female
- 56% are white
- 44% are people of color

To address the problems of poverty and create economic opportunity, Wisconsin's Community Action Agencies & Special Purpose Agencies mobilized \$193 Million in federal, state, local and private resources.

\$125 million - Federal
 \$ 22 million - Private
 \$34 million - State
 \$11 million - Local

2008 Program Highlights.....

Helping Low Wage workers get better Jobs and Benefits



The Community Action Skills Enhancement Program helps low-wage workers obtain better paying jobs and improved access to benefits. Participants receive help with tuition, child care and transportation as well as supportive services like personalized training plans, case management, referral and job search assistance. In the fall of 2008 Skills Enhancement was expanded statewide through a Department of Labor grant to include all 16 CAAs and UMOS with a capacity to enroll 170 low-wage workers. During a recent 20-month pilot at 11 agencies from 2005 to 2007 one hundred people graduated from Skills and experienced dramatic results. Graduates increased their annual income by an average of \$10,000 a year – a 100% increase! They collectively earned \$1 million dollars more per year in wages, while 70% obtained access to employer-sponsored health care – a 400% increase. Community Action Agencies are excited to implement the statewide expansion because Skills has proven to be a cost-effective investment that increases the earnings of Wisconsin's working poor.

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, and sanitary districts and tribal communities have received help with over 300 projects completed to date. During 2008, RCAP staff provided assistance to 21 communities implementing 24 water/wastewater system projects. WISCAP's *Tribal Initiative*, through the Tribal Circuit Rider Program, provides assistance to all 11 Wisconsin tribes. The WISCAP *Watershed Initiative* works with the Bad River and Red Cliff tribes, the Northwest Wisconsin Community Services Agency and the Bad River Watershed Association to improve water quality in the 1,092 square mile Bad River Watershed area. A special project 'SMART About Water' provides training and technical assistance to participating communities on sourcewater protection planning.



Opportunities for economic self-sufficiency

Providing Safe and Affordable Housing

WISCAP member agencies were on the front-lines in 2008 helping low-income households deal successfully with the nation's and state's housing crisis. Members were actively engaged in helping address the many problems associated with finding safe and affordable housing: the growing amount of foreclosures and sub-prime mortgages coming due with burdensome payment requirements, the growing gap between income and rental housing costs, and the increasing numbers of families and children going homeless.

In 2008, agencies touched the lives of over 4,500 persons seeking safe and affordable housing. 2,548 individuals were helped through financial assistance, homeownership counseling, foreclosure mitigation and other direct service. As a result of direct assistance from the agencies, 173 people purchased homes in their community. Through their role as owners/managers of properties and through their expertise in providing housing rehabilitation and weatherization services, CAAs helped to preserve and improve 5,926 units in their communities. WISCAP member agencies, through their active participation in local 'Continuum of Care' programs designed to serve homeless individuals and families, provided temporary shelter to 1,831 households.



Green Jobs...Weatherizing Homes...Conserving Energy Reducing...Fuel Consumption

Trained workers at Community Action Agencies weatherized over 5,200 Wisconsin homes in 2008. On average, weatherization provides yearly energy savings of \$416 on utility bills for households and reduces energy usage by 23%. The savings are repeated and magnified every year as more households are weatherized making Wisconsin's low-income weatherization program one of the state's single largest initiatives to save energy. Wisconsin CAAs have been in the forefront creating "green jobs" and providing energy efficiency services to low-income households through the Weatherization Assistance Program since 1976. Because weatherization is such an effective program--saving energy and helping low-income households move toward economic self-sufficiency--it will nearly double in size as a result of federal stimulus funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Wisconsin CAAs and weatherization partner organizations will create an additional 500 green jobs and will increase production to a level of 16,000 homes on an annual basis.

In addition, six CAAs contract with local county government to directly provide energy bill payment assistance to eligible low-income households. In 2008, these agencies—serving ten counties—provided nearly 58,000 households with one-time bill payment assistance and provided crisis payments to an additional 17,000 households. These payments totaled nearly \$30 million in direct financial assistance to low-income households struggling to keep the lights on and stay warm and healthy in their homes.

Advancing Food Security

Thirteen CAAs distributed over 4.3 million pounds of commodities worth \$2.36 million dollars to a network of 240 participating food pantries, meal sites and shelters in 69 counties during 2008. Food pantries served an average of 115,000 people each month, an increase of 13% over 2007. Food pantries distributed an additional 19 million pounds of privately donated or purchased food to low-income households for a total food pantry distribution of 23 million pounds. Meal sites & shelters in the network served an average of nearly 83,000 meals each month. The Social Development Commission's Youth Food Program served over 2 million meals and snacks to Milwaukee children through the Summer Food Program and Family Day Care Providers. The Community Action Coalition for South Central Wisconsin, Inc.'s CAC Gleaners food recovery program distributed nearly 1 million pounds of prepared and perishable food in Dane County. WISCAP successfully advocated with state agencies to provide energy assistance payments (LIEHAP) to an estimated 80,000 FoodShare households who were not receiving the maximum heating deduction. The change will provide an estimated \$20 million in FoodShare benefits annually to help ease low-income households' rising food & energy costs.



Creating Jobs and Businesses

Wisconsin's CAAs have provided business development services to low-income entrepreneurs since 1989 through the Jobs & Business Development Program (JBD). JBD provides access to a range of services including technical assistance to develop business, financial and marketing plans, and access to grant and loan funds. In 2008 nine CAAs & GLTTC created 67 new businesses and 106 new jobs in 26 counties. The JBD leveraged a minimum of \$9 for every \$1 in state monies invested in the program, for a total of \$2.4 million in federal, state & private funds, including \$1.7 million in bank loans and grants. Since the program's inception in 1989 JBD has started 1,787 new businesses and created 5,354 new jobs. In addition to JBD, four CAAs utilized other funds in 2008 to assist non-low income businesses to expand – using methods like business incubators and lease/purchase programs - that created 118 new jobs for formerly low-wage workers. In total in 2008 CAAs created 247 jobs from all sources combined. Two CAAs maintain nationally recognized internet initiatives: a Virtual Business Incubator, www.vbi.biz, and an online e-commerce marketplace at www.wisconsincommmarket.com.



CAA Programs & Services

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

What is WISCAP?



The 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 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, Federal Office of Community Services, Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the generous contributions from sponsors of our conferences and training events.

WISCAP Staff

Executive Director
Richard Schlimm (608) 244-4422 rschlimm@wiscap.org

Training & Special Projects Coordinator
Bradley Thomas (608) 245-3292 bthomas@wiscap.org

Public Policy Director
Bob Jones (608) 244-0466 bjones@wiscap.org

Community Action Programs Manager
Jonathan Bader (608) 244-0745 jbader@wiscap.org

Rural Development Director
Bill Brown (608) 244-0407 bbrown@wiscap.org

Rural Development Specialist
Kathy Cartwright (608) 244-4397 kcartwright@wiscap.org

Administrative Services Manager
Diana Austin (608) 244-4422 wiscap@wiscap.org

Rural Development Specialist
Carolee Ilminen (715) 561-4000 cilminen@wiscap.org
501 Granite Street, Ste. 3, Hurley, WI 54534

Rural Development Specialist/Tribal Circuit Rider
Richard Lawe (715) 799-3907 rlawe@frontiernet.net
P.O. Box 75, Keshena, WI 54135

Vision 20/20

We believe that poverty matters and that we can do something about it! WISCAP and the Wisconsin Head Start Association together with the Wisconsin Council on Children & Families have joined forces to call for an end to child poverty by the year 2020.



Join us to end poverty! Find out more about the Vision 20/20 campaign and how to become involved in local and statewide efforts by visiting www.2020wi.org.

Wisconsin Community Action Program Association

1310 Mendota St., Ste 107, Madison, WI 53714
Phone (608) 244-4422 Fax (608) 244-4064
www.wiscap.org

