



2016 ANNUAL REPORT COMMUNITY ACTION IN WISCONSIN



Creating local
opportunities for
economic self-sufficiency

Community Action Builds Self-Sufficiency

The goal of Community Action is to help low-income individuals and families escape poverty. The causes of poverty are oftentimes complex and always unique to the individual household. But, with a supportive policy and programmatic environment, and with the assistance of dedicated individuals in the community, it can be done.

According to the most recent U.S. Census, more than 677,000 Wisconsin residents live in poverty, representing more than 12.3% of the state's population. The Wisconsin Community Action Program (WISCAP) believe that poverty affects us all; that the costs and consequences of poverty have significant impacts on everybody.

WISCAP believes in personal and in community responsibility to ensure economic opportunity. Through efforts to create jobs that pay a living wage with benefits, that provide safe and affordable housing, that make health care both affordable and accessible and that expand education, we can — as communities in action — provide economic opportunity for all.

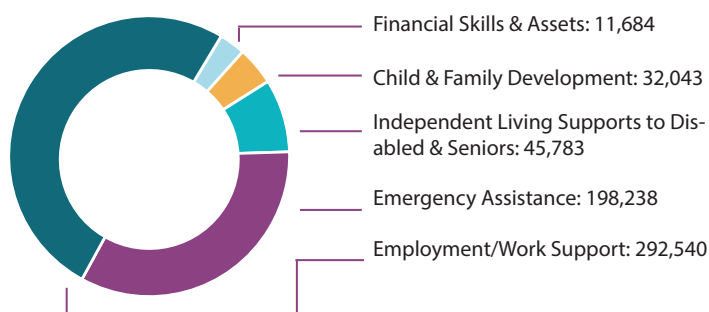
Community Action Agencies reflect the needs of their local communities. Community needs assessments identify and analyze strategies that will work best in attacking poverty in each locality. Each local CAA is charged with bringing together the necessary public and/or private resources – federal, state, or local – to address those community needs.



CAAs served the whole community in 2016:

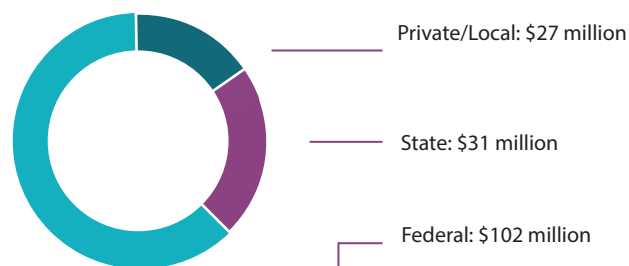


Number of People Served



In 2016, WISCAP member agencies addressed **580,288 conditions of poverty** that created barriers to economic security.

Funding Sources



To address the problems of poverty and create economic opportunity, WISCAP member agencies mobilized over **\$160 million** in federal, state, local and private resources in 2016.



2016 impact



Community Action
weatherized
3,476 HOMES

Wisconsin's Weatherization Assistance Program, operated by thirteen WISCAP agencies, is a national leader in making homes of low-income families more energy efficient, safer and healthier. In 2016, **3,476 homes** were weatherized using a combination of federal funds and state public benefits resources. The weatherization program helped low-income families **save \$235 a year** on utility bills. In addition, four CAAs contracted with their county government to provide energy bill payment assistance to eligible low-income households. These agencies — serving 5 counties — provided **8,983 households** with an average of **245 dollars in heating benefits**.



CAAs helped
8,969 FAMILIES
obtain or maintain
affordable housing.

Housing assistance took the form of homeownership counseling, down payment assistance and foreclosure mitigation. In addition, **4,837 low-income households** were provided with emergency rent or mortgage assistance. Because of help from WISCAP, **186 families** were able to purchase a home in 2016. Agencies who own and manage affordable housing properties created **121 affordable housing units** last year. CAAs were responsible for preserving and improving **4,821 affordable housing units**. Finally, through participation in local 'Continuum of Care' programs, WISCAP agencies provided temporary shelter and other assistance to **1,719 households**.



Community Action served
276 PARTICIPANTS
through skills enhancement programs

The Community Action Skills Enhancement Program helps low-wage workers obtain better paying jobs with benefits by helping them get a degree or certification at a technical or community college. Participants receive assistance paying for tuition, child care and transportation to attend classes, as well as individualized career planning, case management, referral and job search support. Fifteen Agencies served **276 participants** in 2016 with funding from Wisconsin's Department of Children & Families. Of the **97 graduates**, **67% reported new jobs** within nine months earning an average of **\$11,763 more per year**. Each graduate is projected to earn an **average of \$414,000 more** during their working lifetime. The percentage of graduates with access to employer-sponsored health care rose from **15% to 62%**. Since 2010, when state & federal funding became available, **1,007 low-wage workers** have enrolled in Skills Enhancement. Of these 141 were still in-training, 509 had completed training, of which 74% obtained new jobs earning on average of **\$9,920 per year** – a **79% increase**.





2016 impact



CAAs helped serve
205,513 PEOPLE
with food monthly

Thirteen CAAs and three other partner agencies coordinated the distribution of **13.3 million pounds of TEFAP commodities** in FFY 2016 — valued at **\$9.9 million** – to **332 food pantries**, meal sites and shelters statewide. Food pantries in the network also distributed an additional **40.2 million pounds** of private food to needy households, serving **205,513 individuals every month**. This is a 5% decrease over the previous year but is **58% higher than before the recession**. Meal sites and shelters served an average of **143,253 meals** each month. WISCAP directly managed year-round food ordering & data collection for the statewide TEFAP network, as well as summertime storage & delivery of **39 truckloads** of commodities worth **\$1.1 million**.



WISCAP implemented
**36 WATER /
WASTEWATER**
projects

Since 1992, WISCAP's Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP) has provided training and technical assistance to low- and moderate-income rural communities on matters and issues related to the planning, development and management of water and wastewater systems. Small cities, towns, villages, sanitary districts and tribal communities have benefited from RCAP assistance with over **515 projects completed to date**. During 2016, RCAP staff provided assistance to **20 communities**, implementing **36 water/wastewater projects**. Additionally, WISCAP's Tribal Circuit Rider Program provided services and technical assistance to all **11 tribal water utilities**.



Community Action helped create
6,022 WISCONSIN JOBS
using innovative services and financing

Since 1989, Wisconsin's CAAs have provided business development services to low-income entrepreneurs through the Job and Business Development Program (JBD). With funds from the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD), JBD helps entrepreneurs to test the feasibility of their business ideas and — if viable — develop business, financial and marketing plans and obtain financing to start or expand small businesses. In 2016, **9 CAAs launched 41 new small businesses and assisted 22 existing businesses** to sustain or expand their operations. JBD created **74 new full time jobs & preserved 49 more full-time jobs**. JBD leveraged **\$690,000 in business loans and grants**. Since its inception, JBD has started **2,188 businesses** and created **6,022 Wisconsin jobs**.



Community Action Strengthens Communities

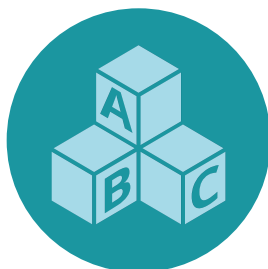


CAAs provided asset building programs for 170 low-income participants; these participants saved an aggregated **\$142,082** in 2016 and used these accumulated savings to purchase a home.

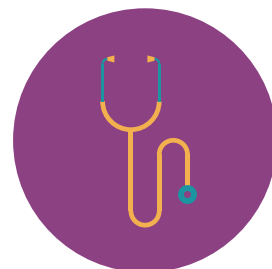


CAAs helped **1,318** participants obtain access to reliable transportation and/or a driver's license.

CAAs obtained child care for **2,497** individuals.



CAAs provided **4,488** infants and children with age appropriate immunizations, medical and dental care.



CAAs helped **13,649** persons obtain healthcare services for themselves and/or a family member.



CAAs sponsored tax preparation programs which allowed **7,774** qualified participants the ability to receive available Federal or State tax credits totaling **\$12.8 million**.

CAAs reported a total of **1.15 million** volunteer hours from their communities; of this total, over **488,000** hours were volunteered by low-income individuals.



Through CAAs, **351** low-income people participated in community organizations, government, boards or councils.



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“Thank you for making a huge difference in our home! No frozen pipes or drafts! Just know you put a smile on my face every day and that’s what life’s about – making a difference for others.”

- Central Wisconsin Community Action Council weatherization recipient

“Everything was great – everyone was so supportive and I would not have been able to complete the class without this funding. Thank you so much for allowing me to continue my education.”

- Skills Enhancement Program participant

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What is WISCAP?

The Wisconsin Community Action Program Association (WISCAP) is the statewide voluntary association for Wisconsin's 16 Community Action Agencies and two special purpose agencies with statewide anti-poverty missions: the Foundation for Rural Housing and the United Migrant Opportunity Services (UMOS).

WISCAP was incorporated on March 1, 1974. The association was founded on the principal that bringing about economic self-sufficiency for the state's low-income households should be a coordinated endeavor – including strengthening policy, resource mobilization, training and development, and advocacy efforts.

For 43 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 regular meetings of leadership staff and Board members, serving as a conduit for resource development needs, 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 and community development.

WISCAP is organized as a private, not-for-profit corporation governed by a Board of Directors. The Board is comprised of the Executive Directors/CEOs from each of the association's member agencies. Member agency dues comprise the core funding of WISCAP. Program and training funds are provided, in part, by the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services-Office of Community Services, USDA-Rural Development, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the generous contributions from sponsors of our conference and training events.

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