

WISCAP

Wisconsin's Poverty Fighting Network

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



POVERTY IN WISCONSIN

Close to 600,000 Wisconsinites live in poverty. Among African American, Native American and Latino households the levels are especially dramatic with each surpassing 20%. Overall, 13% of Wisconsin's children live below the Federal Poverty Line. Despite low levels of unemployment, paychecks have not kept pace with the cost of housing, resulting in over 161,000 low-income households paying more than 50% of their income on rent and a staggering 17,000 children identified as homeless across the state's school districts. But as alarming and illustrative as these demographic figures reveal, they are confronted by what historian E.P. Thompson calls the "pursuit of the mythical 'average'". That is, the average rent, the average wage, the average cost associated with daily life. As Thompson points out, however, such averages are often the result of lumping together disparate geographies and social spaces. To be sure, the causes of poverty are diverse and unique to each individual and community. We might be best served to recognize that the Wisconsin households that struggle with



poverty are our neighbors, colleagues, friends, and loved ones. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to reconsider the many facets of economic security, and both Federal and State government have been aggressive in providing resources to help meet the emergency phase of the crisis. But we know that poverty existed before the pandemic, and we must similarly understand that the conditions and causes of poverty require long term and structural solutions. For our part, community action remains on the front lines in towns and cities across the state, helping to respond to people's basic human need for housing, health care, and food security. And as we strive for a more just, equitable, and sustainable economic life for all of Wisconsin, our network continues to provide critical resources in the area of weatherization, energy assistance, job training and small business development. The challenges of the past few years have been considerable, but as we build effective public-private partnerships, support emergency and transformative programming, and combine a unique global view with local action, WISCAP remains dedicated to the moral imperative of fighting poverty.



Brad Paul, Executive Director

ABOUT WISCAP

BACKGROUND

The Wisconsin Community Action Program Association, Inc. (WISCAP) is a statewide network of sixteen Community Action Agencies (CAA) and two special purpose agencies. Incorporated in 1974, WISCAP traces its origins to the historic "War on Poverty" and has throughout its history advocated for community-informed policies and greater resource mobilization for its member agencies and the people they serve.

The national network of community action – which includes over 1,000 community action agencies – reaches 99% of America's counties. WISCAP is one of 49 state associations and a member of the National Community Action Partnership (NCAP).

WISCAP is a member of the Regional Performance and Innovation Consortia (RPIC) Region V. RPIC is a collaboration of state associations that serves as a regional focal point to lead Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) Training and Technical Assistance. RPIC Region V is comprised of six states: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin. Each state is represented by that state's association of Community Action Agencies. The steering committee for this region is called the Mid-

America Community Action Association (MACAA) and is comprised of the executive directors and board presidents of each state association.

The work of community action is also served by additional partners including the National Community Action Foundation (NCAF), the National Association for State Community Services Programs (NASCS), the Association of Nationally Certified ROMA Trainers (A-NCRT) and CAPLAW.



President Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Equal Opportunity Act of 1964: This action created the Community Action Network of national, state and locally-focused organizations we have today.

HOW DO COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES & WISCAP WORK TOGETHER?

Community Action Agencies

In Wisconsin, our **18 member agencies** exist to help people get out of and stay out of poverty. These agencies provide services and coordinate community resources to their local population.

WISCAP

As the association of community action in Wisconsin, **WISCAP** advances the work of our member organizations to help people and communities become economically secure. We are the statewide voice for Community Action Agencies and people struggling with poverty.

EDUCATION/SKILLS ENHANCEMENT



Education, training, and re-training have become all-important for those entering the job market and those already in the workforce.

JOB & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT



The Job and Business Development (JBD) program provides low-income entrepreneurs with a variety of business development services and access to financial capital to start or expand businesses and create jobs.

ENERGY/UTILITIES



The programs operated by agencies conserve energy and conserve a low-income person's modest income. They can help people weatherize their home and pay high utility bills.

FOOD SECURITY



Twelve of our agencies and seven of our partners coordinate the distribution of millions of pounds of Federal commodities every year. They work with hundreds of food pantries, meal sites and shelters to help people access stable food sources.

HOUSING



WISCAP's member agencies produce affordable housing utilizing a number of programs. Many manage rental properties and administer homeownership and rental assistance programs.

FAMILY SUPPORT



Community Action Agencies can help parents obtain child care, parenting classes, legal services, violence prevention services and more.

HEALTH



Our agencies help thousands of people obtain health care services every year. This includes helping infants and children receive their age appropriate immunizations, medical and dental care.

PUBLIC POLICY & ADVOCACY



WISCAP works with our member agencies, community partners and legislators to develop innovative, comprehensive and effective solutions that increase household economic security and relieve conditions of poverty. As an agency and a network we advocate with local, state & federal government on public policy affecting low-income individuals in Wisconsin.

TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE



We promote professional growth and competence of members through training. They identify their needs for training and education and throughout the year we provide opportunities for them to attend those sessions.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT



WISCAP encourages, promotes, and stimulates the development of resources; which demonstrate progress toward the elimination of poverty.

POVERTY AWARENESS



Through conferences, publications, press outreach, research, and social media, we strive to increase public awareness of the struggles of low income people and solutions to poverty.

PROGRAMS



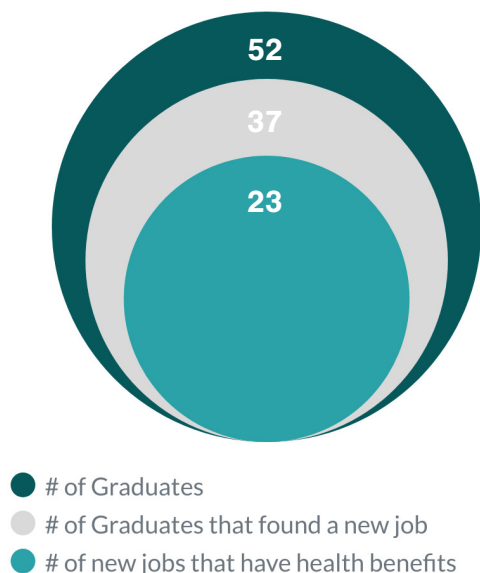
WISCAP managed several programs in 2021, including: Job and Business Development Program, the USDA's Rural Business Development Grant, Wisconsin Emergency Rental Assistance, and Project Recovery. Additionally, we provide statewide administrative support to The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) network.

COMMUNITY ACTION'S IMPACT ON WISCONSIN POVERTY IN 2021

COMMUNITY ACTION HELPED SKILLS ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS EARN AN AVERAGE OF \$16,678 MORE PER YEAR

The Community Action Skills Enhancement Program (SEP) 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, childcare and transportation to attend classes, as well as individualized career planning, case management, referral and job search support. Thirteen agencies served 164 participants in 2021 with funding from Wisconsin's Department of Children & Families. Of the 52 graduates, 71% reported new jobs earning an average of \$16,678 more per year. Of clients who graduated that found a new job, 61% obtained health benefits.

2021 SEP Performance Outcomes



SEP SUCCESS STORY

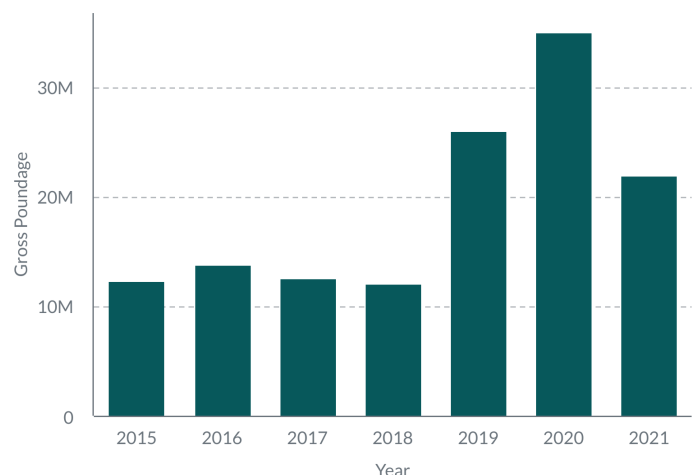


ADVOCAP met Olivia in 2019 when she was struggling to make ends meet in a part time, low-skill, low-wage position in food service. Her position afforded her no prospects for a livable wage with benefits. Olivia enrolled in the Nursing Program at Fox Valley Technical College in January of 2020. Her goal was to get an Associate's Degree in Nursing. She graduated in June of 2021 with her degree as an RN. After graduation, she accepted a full-time position as an RN, earning more than three-times the wage she was paid before acquiring her educational credentials. In her current RN position, she is earning \$34.00 per hour and has health insurance and other benefits. Olivia's next motivation is to pursue her bachelor's degree in Nursing.

CAAS & PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS SERVED 135,000 PEOPLE MONTHLY AT 277 TEFAP FOOD PANTRIES.

Twelve CAAs and seven partner organizations distributed 21.9 million pounds of TEFAP commodities worth \$25 million dollars to 353 food pantries, meal sites and shelters statewide in 2021. TEFAP was supplemented with federal COVID resources to mitigate pandemic hardships. In addition to meats, juice, fruits and vegetables, cereals, grains and pasta, families also received fresh produce, eggs, and fresh fluid milk from Wisconsin farmers. Food pantries distributed an additional 47 million pounds of private sector food serving an average of 135,000 people each month. Household food pantry visits are 38% below the 2015 all-time high and currently near levels last seen in 2007 before the great recession. This confirms that household food security improves and the need for emergency food declines when families receive significant financial resources (rental assistance, child tax credits, stimulus checks, enhanced SNAP & unemployment, universal free school meals). In addition, meal sites and shelters in the network served a monthly average of 119,000 meals. WISCAP manages statewide year-round logistics and data collection for the TEFAP network managing over 300 million pounds since 1998.

TEFAP Poundage by Calendar Year



COMMUNITY ACTION'S IMPACT ON WISCONSIN POVERTY IN 2021

CAAS HELPED PEOPLE OBTAIN OR MAINTAIN AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

The National Low Income Housing Coalition's (NLIHC) Gap Report found that only 34 affordable units of housing are available for every 100 low-income renters in Wisconsin. The pandemic has only intensified this dynamic.

In 2021, WISCAP member agencies addressed housing stabilization through the Wisconsin Emergency Rental Assistance Program (WERA). WERA provides eligible Wisconsin households with assistance for current and/or overdue rent, utility and home energy payments.

\$95 million
*in rental assistance
provided*

- In 2021 just under \$95 million dollars was distributed to almost 21,600 households impacting approximately 54,000 individuals.
- Two thirds of these households were under 30% of area median income.

WISCAP's work of targeting rental assistance and best practices led to an Opportunity Starts at Home Grant (OSAH). Funded in November 2021 by the National Low Income Housing Coalition, this grant funds a statewide cross sectoral affordable housing advocacy network to develop solutions, policies, and pilot projects in different communities.



Helping Wisconsin through a Pandemic

PROJECT RECOVERY

Project Recovery is Wisconsin's crisis counseling program (CCP). The CCP helps individuals and communities recover from natural and human-caused disasters through community outreach and access to resources. Counselors are based in the local community to teach coping and stress management skills to anyone dealing with the anxiety and uncertainty caused by an event. From September 2020 through August 2021, Project Recovery provided crisis counseling services to 9,532 individuals, and group counseling and public education to 10,643 people.

Take Root® Wisconsin



In 2021, WISCAP launched Take Root® Wisconsin (TRW). As a program within WISCAP, Take Root® Wisconsin's network of community organizations, housing counseling agencies, Realtors®, lenders, government leaders, and other groups, work to promote sustainable homeownership.

The program's mission is to:

- Improve homeownership in struggling communities
- Increase first-time homeownership
- Prevent property tax and bank foreclosures
- Improve housing quality, health, and safety

Homeownership is a core function of WISCAP and member agencies that provide homebuying, home rehabilitation, housing development, and weatherization services. TRW brings together private and public stakeholders to increase homeownership and help people buy, fix, and stay in their homes.

COMMUNITY ACTION PROVIDED WEATHERIZATION AND ENERGY ASSISTANCE.

Wisconsin's Weatherization Assistance Program, operated by twelve WISCAP members, is a national leader in making homes of low-income families more energy efficient, safer and healthier. In 2021, 3,097 homes were weatherized using a combination of federal funds and state Public Benefits resources. In addition, 28,318 households received energy assistance with a total benefit of \$11,252,962. This is an average benefit of \$397.38 per household.



Photo Credit: Couleecap

COMMUNITY ACTION'S IMPACT ON WISCONSIN POVERTY IN 2021

CAAS HELPED LOW-INCOME ENTREPRENEURS START NEW BUSINESSES AND CREATE WISCONSIN JOBS.

Wisconsin's CAAs have provided business development services to low-income entrepreneurs for over 30 years through the Job and Business Development Program (JBD). Since its inception, JBD has helped start 2,329 businesses and created 6,334 Wisconsin jobs. Funded by the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD), JBD helps entrepreneurs develop business, financial and marketing plans and to obtain business financing to create new, full-time, business owner and employee jobs.

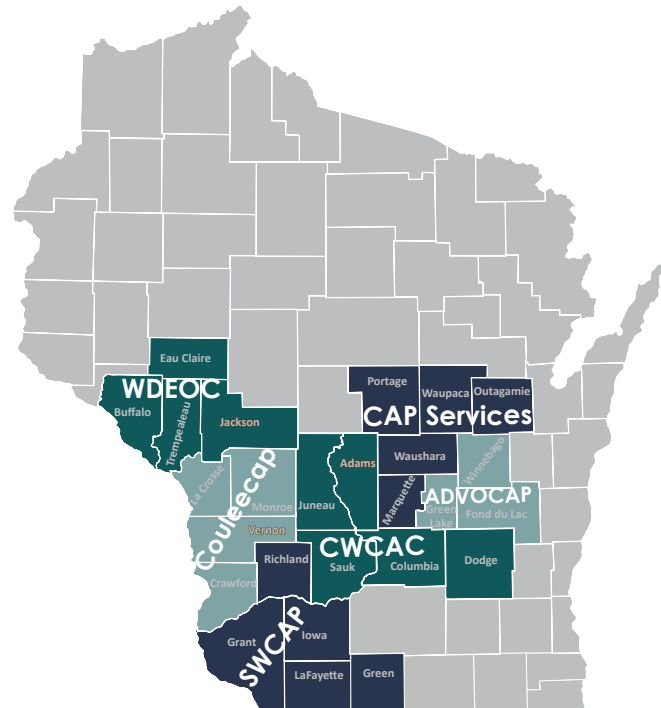
The program recognizes that individuals are experts in their field, often with years of relevant experience, but need significant business counseling and support to start their own business and create jobs for themselves and/or for others. A key feature of the business development services provided by WISCAP's network is the "customized, one-to-one business training and technical assistance specifically tailored to the individual's unique needs and circumstances with attention to the suitability of the structure and type of business."

Despite the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2021 the program created 22 new businesses and 45 new full-time jobs. CAAs also provided business survival technical assistance to 164 existing businesses which then preserved 249 full-time jobs.

Businesses created during the year were in industries such as restaurant/food service, counseling, photography, retail sales and personal services. CAAs also helped to start some unique businesses in 2021 such as a motorcycle hearse service. CAAs also leveraged \$778,044 in loans for business start-up and expansion.



Patriot Motorcycle Hearse, LLC: Anthony Stange pictured with Patriot Motorcycle Hearse.



Job & Business Development in Wisconsin

The map shows WISCAP member agencies who participated in the Job & Business Development (JBD) program in 2021. Five of the agencies also participated in the USDA Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG) in 2021.

JBD SUCCESS STORY

Patriot Motorcycle Hearse, LLC
Kronenwetter, Marathon County



Anthony Stange is a United States Army veteran who has numerous years of service to his community. Since being discharged from the Army, he has served as a firefighter, paramedic, and a deputy medical examiner. In these roles, Tony saw first-hand the importance of planning for personal last wishes. Tony worked with CAP Services to create the Patriot Motorcycle Hearse business which offers people a non-traditional funeral procession.

The company's mission is to, "Offer families a professional, respectful, dignified and memorable final ride for their loved ones." Patriot Motorcycle Hears will focus on active-duty military, veterans, firefighters, police, EMS, motorcycle enthusiasts and their families.

COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMS & SERVICES

	1 ADVOCAP	2 CAP Services	3 CWCAC	4 CACSCW	5 CAI	6 Couleecap	7 Indianhead	8 Lakeshore	9 Newcap	10 NOCCAP	11 NWCSA	12 RKCAA	13 SDC	14 SWCAP	15 West CAP	16 WDEOC	FRH	UMOS
Education / Skills Enhancement	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Adult Literacy Skills	x	x					x			x			x		x			x
Skills Enhancement Program	x	x	x			x		x	x			x	x	x	x	x		
Financial Literacy Education	x	x	x	x	x		x		x		x	x	x	x	x		x	x
Employment Training	x		x		x		x		x			x	x	x	x			x
Economic / Business Development	•	•	•			•			•				•	•		•		•
Business Development	x	x	x			x			x				x	x		x		
Business Revolving Loan Programs	x	x	x			x								x		x		
Energy / Utilities	•	•	•		•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Emergency Fuel Assistance Programs			x							x			x		x	x		x
Weatherization Programs	x	x	x		x	x			x	x		x	x	x	x	x		
Telecommunications Assistance							x		x		x				x		x	
Food Security / Environmental	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Emergency Food Assistance	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x		x
Community Garden Programs	x	x			x		x				x							
Community Meal Prgms / Holiday Baskets	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x		x			
Nutrition Education	x		x		x	x	x		x		x	x	x	x				x
Housing	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Transitional / Supportive / Emergency Housing	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x			x	x	x		x
Homeless Programs	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x		
Rental Property Management / Development	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x		x			x	x			x
Rental Assistance Programs	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Homeownership Programs	x	x	x			x		x	x			x	x	x		x	x	
Foreclosure Assistance	x	x		x				x	x				x		x	x	x	
Housing Revolving Loan Fund	x	x				x	x		x					x		x	x	
Home Repair Programs	x	x	x			x			x				x	x	x	x	x	x
Headstart / Child Development	•	•					•							•		•		•
Parenting / Family Support	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Childcare Provision/Assistance/Referrals		x			x								x	x		x		x
Parenting Classes	x	x			x		x						x	x		x		
Support, Referral and Advocacy	x	x	x				x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x		x
Clothing Assistance			x	x	x	x	x				x			x		x		
Fatherhood Initiative		x			x								x					
Violence Prevention/Victim Services	x	x					x		x				x					x
Legal Services				x			x				x		x					x
Physical / Mental Health	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Women's Health									x			x		x				
Health Education	x			x	x		x		x		x	x	x	x				x
MA/WIC Programs											x	x		x				
AODA / Mental Health		x					x	x	x				x	x				
Refugee / Migrant Services		•												•				•
Senior Services	•	•	•		•						•	•	•	•	•	•		•
Tax Preparation Assistance		•									•		•					
Transportation	•	•	•			•			•					•	•	•		•
Car Purchase Programs	x	x	x			x			x					x	x	x		
Youth and Young Adult Services	•	•	•	•	•				•	•	•		•			•		•
Education Skills	x		x	x	x				x	x			x			x		x
Fresh Start					x											x		
Mentoring Program					x				x				x					x
Juvenile Justice / Violence Prevention					x								x					x
Homeless / Runaway Programs		x	x	x					x		x							
Employment / Living Skills	x		x	x	x				x	x			x					x

WISCAP NETWORK DIRECTORY

1 ADVOCAP, Inc.

Tanya Marcoe, Executive Director
19 W. First St., P.O. Box 1108
Fond du Lac, WI 54936
920-922-7760
tanyam@advocap.org
www.advocap.org

2 CAP Services, Inc.

Nicole Harrison, CEO
2900 Hoover Rd. Suite A
Stevens Point, WI 54481
715-343-7500
nharrison@capmail.org
www.capservices.org

3 Central Wisconsin Community Action Council

Fred Hebert, Executive Director
1000 Hwy 13, P.O. Box 430
Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965
608-254-8353
donna@cwccac.org
www.cwccac.org

4 Community Action Coalition For South Central Wisconsin, Inc.

Amber Duddy, Executive Director
4101 East Towne Blvd.
Madison, WI 53704
608-237-1255
aduddy@cacscw.org
www.cacscw.org

5 Community Action, Inc.

Marc Perry, Executive Director
20 Eclipse Center
Beloit, WI 53511
608-313-1300
mperry@community-action.org
www.community-action.org

6 Couleecap, Inc.

Hetti Brown, Executive Director
201 Melby St.
Westby, WI 54667
608-782-4877
hetti.brown@couleecap.org
www.couleecap.org

7 Indianhead Community Action Agency

Jennifer Shearer, CEO
1000 West College Ave.
Ladysmith, WI 54848
715-532-4222
jennifer.shearer@indianheadcaa.org
www.indianheadcaa.org

8 Lakeshore Community Action Program

Colleen Homb, Executive Director
702 State Street
Manitowoc, WI 54221
920-682-3737
colleenh@lakeshorecap.org
www.lakeshorecap.org

9 Newcap, Inc.

Cheryl Detrick, CEO
1201 Main St.
Oconto, WI 54153
920-834-4621
cheryldetrick@newcap.org
www.newcap.org

10 North Central Community Action Program

Diane Sennholz, Executive Director
2111 8th Street S., Suite 102
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
715-424-2581
dsennholz@nccapinc.com
www.northcentralcap.org

11 Northwest Wisconsin Community Services Agency, Inc.

Millie Rounsville, CEO
1118 Tower Ave.
Superior, WI 54880
715-392-5127
mrounsville@northwest-csa.org
www.northwest-csa.org

12 Racine/Kenosha Community Action Agency

Essie Allen, CEO
2113 N. Wisconsin St.
Racine, WI 53402
262-637-8377
eallen@rkcaa.org
www.rkcaa.org

13 Social Development Commission

George P. Hinton, CEO
1730 W. North Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53205
414-906-2700
ghinton@cr-sdc.org
www.cr-sdc.org

14 Southwestern Wisconsin Community Action Program

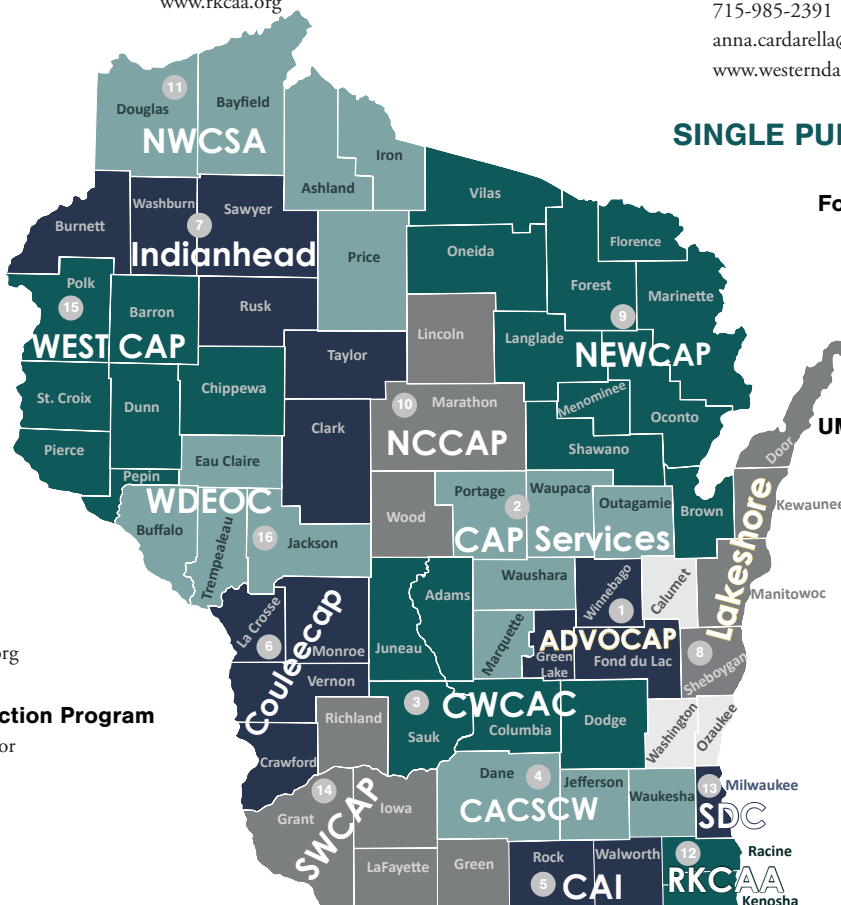
Walter Orzechowski, Executive Director
149 N. Iowa St.
Dodgeville, WI 53533
608-935-2326
w.orzechowski@swcap.org
www.swcap.org

15 West Central Wisconsin 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

16 Western Dairyland Economic Opportunity Council, Inc.

Anna Cardarella, Executive Director
23122 Whitehall Rd., P.O. Box 125
Independence, WI 54747
715-985-2391
anna.cardarella@wdeoc.org
www.westerndairyland.org



SINGLE PURPOSE AGENCIES:

Foundation for Rural Housing

Jenny Fasula, Executive Director
P.O. Box 314
Oregon, WI 53575
888-400-5974
wrh@wisconsinruralhousing.org
www.wisconsinruralhousing.org

UMOS

Kaye Hartmann, VP of Planning & Resource Development
2701 S. Chase Ave., Suite B
Milwaukee, WI 53207
414-389-6000
kaye.hartmann@umos.org
www.umos.org