



Family and Community Services Newsletter

PROGRAMS WITHIN THE FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

- Emergency Shelter Grant
- Family Homeless and Prevention Assistance Program
- Launch Pad
- The Phoenix- Transitional Housing
- HUD Rapid Rehousing
- Growth
- Long Term Homeless
- Housing Supports
- Housing Stability Services
- MNsure
- Homeless to Housed
- HRA Cares
- Home Care and Repair
- Ready Ride
- Prime West Ready Ride
- PLUS Kids
- Hope Haven
- Matter of Balance

Here's what is NEW in the FCS Department at WCMCA!

Housing Inventory Count

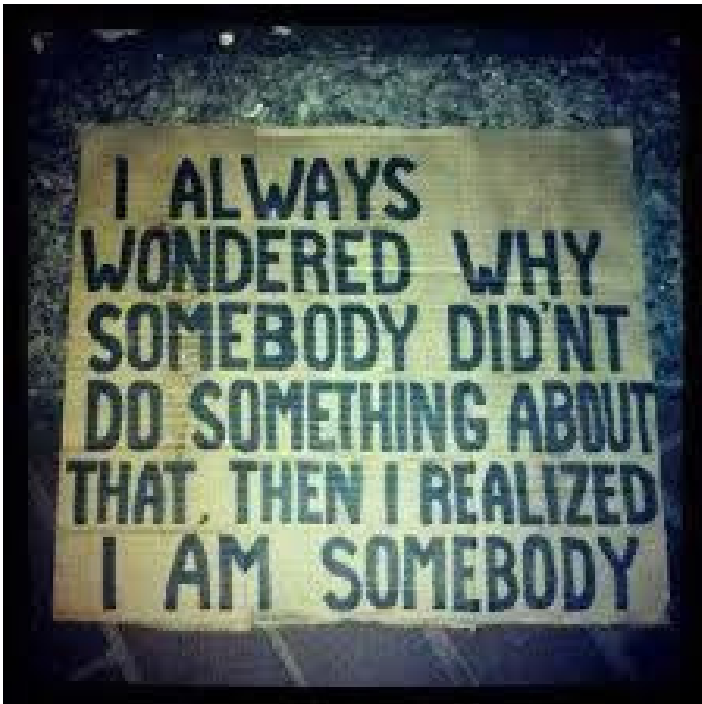
On Thursday January 26th, our staff took part in the national Point-In-Time Count. Following this special count, we conduct a Housing Inventory Count for those placed in certain shelter and housing programs within our agency such as Launch Pad and The Phoenix Transitional Housing.

Although these counts may not completely show the accuracy of homelessness in our communities, they are extremely important for us to complete as accurately as possible as our funding relies on them.

Upcoming Events

Father's Resource Program Free Law Clinic
March 23, 2023 4:30pm-8:30pm
TELECONFERENCE — Reservations Required
(320) 760-3897

Homeless Day on the Hill
March 8th
State Capitol in St. Paul



Guess WHAT



WCMCA was awarded \$75,000 from the City of Alexandria after completing a RFP for their Enhance Alexandria Grant. The Family and Community Services Department will utilize these funds for the setup of a 3rd Launch Pad unit, Homeless Deposit and Rental Assistance, Prevention Rental Assistance, and hotel vouchers following the end of Hope Haven. Eligible households will need to be within a small radius of Alexandria city limits.



HELPING PEOPLE. CHANGING LIVES.

Alexandria Location: 1910 Aga Drive, Suite 206, Alexandria, MN Website: WCMCA.ORG

Community Task Force for Substance Use and Abuse

As we all know, many of our clients have many barriers in their lives that in return makes securing and maintaining safe and stable housing harder. One of these many barriers is substance use. Amber has been sitting on the Community Task Force for Substance Use and Abuse for the last few years. From this Task Force came our Narcan and Opioid trainings that were made available to staff. A current focus of the Task Force is the Opioid Settlement dollars. On August 20, 2021, the Attorney General's Office joined historic \$26 billion multistate settlement agreements with pharmaceutical distributors McKesson, Cardinal Health, and AmerisourceBergen, and opioid manufacturer Johnson & Johnson. The funds will be allocated over the course of 18 years for areas such as drug court, education, training, treatment options, and for community agencies to request for their own programming. Public Health is the point of contact for the settlement in our counties and a sub-committee of the Task Force and community partners has been formed for once the funds are disbursed.

Here is the breakdown of the county disbursements for our primary service area:

Douglas \$1,336,911.35, Grant \$169,741.23, Pope \$415,192.53, Stevens \$319,581.53, Traverse \$200,691.49

As a reminder, the Alexandria Office is a Narcan Access Point and we also have Fentanyl Test Strips available for those in need.



Home Care and Repair

The Home Care and Repair Program recently received a letter from one of our clients, Carol Swanson. The following are excerpts from Carol's letter.

"Dear Home Care and Repair, This letter is to share with you how very pleased I am to have your services...The Lead Maintenance Provider is such a blessing! He has become like a friend to me, always ready to help and at times will call to see if I need anything. Last week after I had a fall and couldn't get out of the house for days to get my mail, he made sure to come by and retrieve it for me. This program is like family! I have family in the area, but they have their own families and busy lives. Please continue the wonderful work you provide for us Seniors. I can truly say that you make life worth living."

Carol's letter exemplifies what the Home Care and Repair Program is about, assisting older adults in our communities with services that enable them to stay in their homes safely.



Participate! Advocate! Collaborate!

More Than Shelter Advisory Committee

The More Than Shelter Advisory Committee provides support and advice to West Central Minnesota Communities Action Homeless Prevention and Response Programs. The purpose is to achieve housing stability in our communities.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday March 22nd 1:00-2:30pm in our Alexandria Conference Room or via Zoom

Youth Advisory Board

The Youth Advisory Board gives youth ages 17-24 who have experienced homelessness or housing insecurity a voice to advocate for solutions so that no young person in America has to experience even one day of homelessness.

NEXT MEETING: Monday April 17th from 5:00-7:00pm in our Alexandria Conference Room

Consumer Advisory Board

The Consumer Advisory Board gives those with lived homeless experience people a chance to use their life experiences and values to help develop solutions to prevent and end homelessness and provide ideas for improving services.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday March 7th from 2:30-3:30pm in our Alexandria Conference Room