



WEST CENTRAL MINNESOTA
Communities Action

2019

ANNUAL REPORT

West Central Minnesota Communities Action, Inc.

HELPING PEOPLE. CHANGING LIVES.

OUR MISSION & VISION

WCMCA

PARTNERING TO BUILD COMMUNITY AND EMPOWER PEOPLE TO OVERCOME POVERTY AND ACHIEVE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.

VISION

PARTNERING TO END POVERTY IN RURAL MINNESOTA

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Keith Swanson—Chair

Grant County—Co Commissioner

Tammy Boushek—Vice Chair

Douglas County—Private Sector

Dave Salberg—Treasurer

Traverse County—Co Commissioner

Al Glaeseman—Secretary

Douglas County—Low-Income Rep

Teresa Gustafson—Past Chair

Traverse County—Low-Income Rep

BOARD MEMBERS

Marlene Cihlar

Pope County—Low-Income Rep

Keith Englund

Douglas County—Co Commissioner

Robin McNamar

Grant County—Low-Income Rep

Janel Mendoza

Stevens County—Low-Income Rep

Michael Pattee

Pope County—Private Sector

Michelle Rinke

Traverse County—Private Sector

Cody Rogahn

Pope County—Co Commissioner

Bob Staples

Stevens County—Private Sector

Stella Troszcynski

Grant County—Private Sector

Donny Wohlers

Stevens County—Co Commissioner

COMMUNITY ACTION PROMISE



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.

A LETTER FROM THE CEO

To Friends in Community Action,

WCMCA, Inc. Mission reads “Partnering to build community and empower people to overcome poverty and achieve their full potential.” You will read throughout this report that partnering is very important to WCMCA, Inc. I want to first say a huge thank you to our most dedicated partners, which is our Board of Directors – they provide oversight and leadership to the Agency, they are present and volunteer their time and talents, and for that I am grateful. Providing guidance and knowing their communities is an essential part of why WCMCA, Inc. is so proud of the work we do in helping those we serve. *Thank you to our Board of Directors!*

A special thank you to Keith Swanson, who has served on the board since 2009, and the last two years as Board Chairperson. Keith is retiring as a Grant County Commissioner and will be finishing up his term on our Board, as well. I want to wish him well in his retirement (for the second time) and for his service to WCMCA, Inc. I do not think Keith missed an opportunity to volunteer in Grant County – from food drops to board meetings to special events – I could always count on him to be present and asking, “What can I do to help?” *You will be missed, Keith!*

Throughout this annual report, you'll read of both program successes and stories of clients we have helped – I'm so proud of the staff at WCMCA, Inc. They hear these stories each and every day – and work to find solutions for clients so each one may “achieve their full potential.” They break down barriers and they do not give up. *Thank you to WCMCA, Inc. staff!*

This year, we celebrated our 55th Anniversary. We celebrated with staff at our annual all-staff meeting in mid-September, and also held an open house and celebration at a newly constructed home built by our Institution Community Work (ICW) Crew in Alexandria. For 55 years, WCMCA has been serving the communities of west central Minnesota.

We are proud to be part of the Community Action movement that began in 1964 with President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty. Agencies just like ours work tirelessly across the country to fulfill the vision of “**Helping People, Changing Lives.**” At Community Action, our success is working with our program participants, volunteers, community partners, and stakeholders to lift people up, while connecting them to resources which help them see self-sufficiency is possible!

We look forward to serving our communities for another 55 years and thank you for your continued support and partnership.

Missy Becker-Cook

Chief Executive Officer



ICW Crew Celebration with Rep. Anderson, Sen. Ingebrigtsen & Bill Grant, MinnCAP Executive Director



NOTABLE MOMENTS

A YEAR IN REVIEW

This year, WCMCA celebrated 55 years serving the communities of west central Minnesota! We celebrated with an open house at a new home constructed by our Institutional Community Work Crew and enjoyed the attendance of our local elected officials.

A group of dedicated staff and volunteers traveled to the State Capitol for "Homeless Day on the Hill" to advocate for increased resources to assist those affected by the lack of affordable housing across Minnesota.

Heather Molesworth, Family and Community Services Director, completed the Certified Community Action Professional program and became WCMCA's second CCAP. CCAP is a rigorous program that educates professionals on the deep history of the Community Action Network and enhances credibility as a leader in the field. She was recognized at that National Community Action Partnership Conference in Chicago.

WCMCA's first annual Energy and Community Resource Fair was held in Alexandria. Members of the community were invited to come learn about resources available not only from WCMCA, but other non-profits, as well as energy companies that serve the area. It was a fantastic first year that we can't wait to continue and improve upon!

PHOTO CAPTIONS

Top Left: 55th Anniversary Celebration

Top Right: Staff visited with Senator Ingebrigtsen during "Homeless Day on the Hill"

Bottom Left: Heather Molesworth accepting CCAP award in Chicago

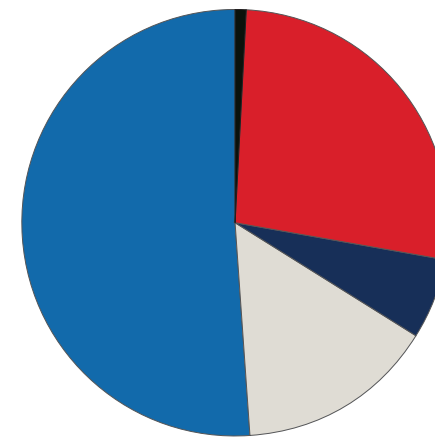
Bottom Center: Keith Swanson, Board Chair speaks at the Annual Meeting

Bottom Right: More Anniversary celebrations!

FINANCIALS

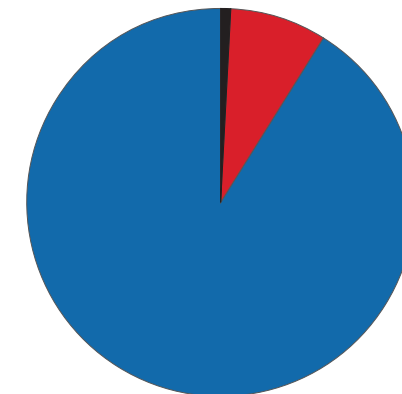
A YEAR IN REVIEW

REVENUE BY PROGRAM



- Federal & State Head Start - 51%
- Other Programs - 27%
- Federal & State EAP & EAP/WX - 15%
- Federal & State Weatherization - 6%
- Federal CSBG - 1%

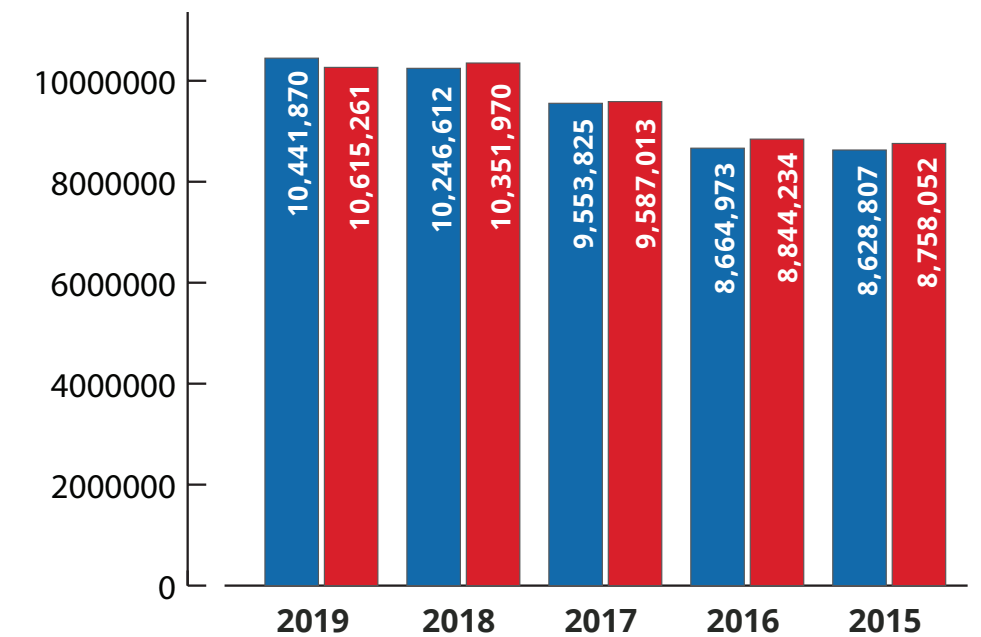
FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES



- Program Service - 91%
- Management & General - 8%
- Fundraising - 1%

REVENUE VS. EXPENSES

- Revenue
- Expenses



WCMCA received a clear Audit with no significant findings for the 14th year in a row!



HOUSING ASSISTANCE

A YEAR IN REVIEW

We offer a full spectrum of housing services, from emergency housing and rent assistance, to rehab and new single family home construction and many services in between

288

HOUSEHOLDS ON RENT ASSISTANCE

Both short- and long-term programs

18

SMALL CITIES PROGRAM HOME REHABILITATIONS

Totaling:

\$354,187

447

HOUSEHOLDS SERVED

By the Weatherization and the Conservation Improvement Program

Totaling:

\$490,461

SUCCESS STORY

A client applied for rental assistance through WCMCA due to being injured at work, which resulted in a loss of housing.

She and her two kids became homeless and started staying with different family and friends. They applied for housing assistance through WCMCA and were placed on the Homework Starts with Home program.

With assistance from WCMCA staff, they were able to find affordable housing. Finding stable housing has allowed her child to attend school without missing any days; and her oldest child to graduate and join the National Guard.

Participating in the Homework Starts with Home program has allowed the family to take a breath, as they no longer have to worry about where they will stay, and focus on their future.

NEW PROGRAM AT WCMCA

WEST CENTRAL COMMUNITY LAND TRUST

WCMCA staff spent 2019 working with partners on a new form of homeownership called a Community Land Trust. WCMCA completed a feasibility study, and business plan for the Community Land Trust Program and will officially have its first two homes in the program in summer 2020.

We are excited to offer a part of the solution to the affordable housing shortage in west central Minnesota, and believe that homeownership can transform lives, neighborhoods and communities.

A Community Land Trust (CLT) is established to serve as a long-term steward of land and to protect long-term affordability and access to housing that is located on that land.

A Community Land Trust, providing affordable homeownership, buys or receives donated land and builds new homes and/or acquires and rehabilitates existing homes, and makes these homes available for sale to limited-income homebuyers, writing down the purchase price to an affordable level through the use of public and/or private subsidies. The CLT sells the home at an affordable price to an eligible, qualified homebuyer household but retains ownership of the land parcel on which the home sits, leasing the parcel to the homeowner through a 99-year, inheritable, renewable ground lease. The ground lease conveys to the homeowner an exclusive, durable, enforceable right to occupy and use the land, along with most of the rights and responsibilities available to traditional, fee simple homeowners. At the same time, the CLT ground lease details specific expectations and requirements regarding the homeowner's use and occupancy of the property while they own their home and limits the resale price of the home, should the homeowner ever decide to sell. In exchange for the opportunity to purchase a home they would not have otherwise been able to afford, CLT homeowners agree to limit the amount of equity they will keep through the sale of their home at resale, thereby allowing incoming limited-income homebuyer households the same opportunity and affordable price initially made available them.

32

MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE PREVENTIONS

12 LEAD RISK ASSESSMENTS

38

INDIVIDUALS RECEIVED PRE-PURCHASE COUNSELING

8 LEAD CLEARANCE TESTS

23

ATTENDEES AT HOMEBUYER EDUCATION COURSES



ENERGY ASSISTANCE

Helping eligible households maintain affordable, continuous and safe home energy through bill payment assistance, home energy crisis intervention, and more.

4,491

HOUSEHOLDS UTILIZING ENERGY ASSISTANCE

Primary Heat Funding Totaling:

\$2,605,484

225

HOUSEHOLDS UTILIZED FURNACE REPAIRS TOTALING:

\$435,358

\$4,000,000+

PAID TO LOCAL VENDORS AND CONTRACTORS

Through Energy Assistance, Energy Related Repair, and Weatherization programs, directly supporting our local economy.

SUCCESS STORY

The Energy Assistance Program recently assisted a family who lost their adult disabled son.

Since their son's birth, the mother stayed at home to care for him and was unable to work outside the home. Due to the wear on her body over the years from providing this care, she is now unable to work and is applying for disability for herself.

The husband and wife were struggling to live off the husband's income only and were unable to keep up with the bills. When they called WCMCA for help, they had a natural gas bill of \$1600.

When determined eligible, the family received a primary heat grant of \$305 and were able to utilize an additional \$1200 in crisis funds to cover nearly the entire bill.

When the mom heard of what we could provide to assist their family, she was speechless and flabbergasted. In tears, she expressed her gratefulness and was so relieved to have this weight lifted.



CHILDREN & EDUCATION

A YEAR IN REVIEW



Serving children and their families in the counties of Douglas, Morrison, Pope, Stearns and Todd along with 28 surrounding counties, and the states of North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

527

CHILDREN & THEIR PARENTS WERE SERVED

1,997

PARENTING TIME, EXCHANGES, AND MONITORED PARENTING TIME



119

HOME-BASED EARLY HEAD START

Pregnant women & children (Prenatal to 3-years old)

298

CENTER-BASED HEAD START PRESCHOOL

(Children Ages 3-5)

PROGRAM SUCCESSES

95%

Of 4-year-old Head Start children met or exceeded expectations for Kindergarten readiness.

To meet Head Start Performance Standards and optimal school readiness, Head Start ensured 99% of enrolled children participated in timely, well-child exams and health screenings (developmental, mental health, hearing/vision) with community providers, 93% established dental care exams.



FINANCES, TRANSPORTATION & HEALTH

A YEAR IN REVIEW



210

PEOPLE ASSISTED BY OUR MNSURE NAVIGATORS

823

FREE TAX PREPARATION PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS, REFUNDS TOTALING:

\$628,952

REGION 4 SOUTH READY RIDE PROGRAM

772

RIDES TO THOSE IN NEED

38,313

MILES DRIVEN

2,033

DRIVING HOURS

\$53,556

TOTAL VALUE

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

672

VOLUNTEERS

18,980

HOURS

\$256,789

TOTAL VALUE



STAY CONNECTED

Sign-up to volunteer, donate, find links to our social media, and join our email list to be the first to hear about upcoming events and news related to WCMCA:

[WCMCA.ORG/TAKE-ACTION](https://www.wcmca.org/take-action)



@WCMCAinc



@wcmcommunityaction

THANK YOU FOR GIVING!

To make an online donation to WCMCA, please visit:

[wcmca.org](https://www.wcmca.org)

To give via mail, our address is:

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Communities Action

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