



# 2024 Annual Report



Working in Partnership  
with the community to  
empower residents to  
improve their physical,  
social, and economic  
well-being.

Dear Friends and Partners of Wright County Community Action,

As we reflect on this past fiscal year, we are filled with gratitude for the incredible impact this community has made together. Thanks to you, our generous donors and community partners, a few of our key activities and accomplishments include:

- **Coril Holdings** - In celebration of their 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Coril Holdings, the parent company of locally based Loram, selected non-profits to donate \$125,000 Canadian dollars for a special project. WCCA was nominated by a Loram employee and received the special funding to launch a collaborative Nutrition Education and Preservation Center. Throughout 2024, WCCA has been building partnerships to help shape this vision by the end of 2026. Thank you, Coril Holdings!
- **Family and Community Resource Center** - With help from the Sauer Family Foundation, we successfully conducted an extensive community assessment to determine the needs and level of interest in establishing a Family Resource Center in our community. These community hubs are designed to strengthen families and promote child well-being through free or low-cost support, directly expanding our current work. A group of parents signed up to serve on the Parent Advisory Group, and we began steps to engage additional parents and community members to guide this important work.
- **Meeting Local Needs** - We served 12,150 unduplicated individuals across all our programs and services, from education, energy assistance, and housing support to nutrition security, tax preparation, and more.

And, this year, we are proud to report that we have taken the next step on our journey to excellence with enrollment into the Silver Pathways to Excellence program through the National Community Action Partnership. We are committed to continuing to build the capacity of agency to serve all our communities at the highest level.

We invite you to explore this report to see how our collective efforts are helping individuals and families with low incomes achieve economic security, while supporting healthy, opportunity-rich communities for all to call home.

Thank you all for giving so generously of your time and resources to help our neighbors and communities thrive. We cannot do this work without you.

With gratitude,

**Stacie Zachman**

Chair, Board of Directors

**Carrie Tripp**

Executive Director

## The Three Parts of Our Board of Directors

We are grateful for our Board of Directors, who guide our agency at the highest level. The board provides fiscal oversight, program direction, but also speaks on behalf of the community as a whole.

As a Community Action agency, we are dedicated to have a tripartite board, meaning it has 3 parts. These 3 parts are described to the left.

### Thank you to the members who served in 2024

Stacie Zachman - Board Chair

Lynn Kissock - Vice Chair

Rebecca Calvin - Secretary

Shannah Mulvihill - Treasurer

Bruce Anderson

Stacy Anderson

Wayne Bauernschmidtt

Mark Daleiden

Tina Diedrick

Katie Edberg

Jen Greenhagen

Jeanne Holland

Stephanie Pula

Cory Rilea

Kat Smith

### PART 1

#### The Low-Income Sector

At least 1/3 of our board are low-income or have been elected to represent low-income individuals in our community.

### PART 2

#### Elected Officials

1/3 of our board must be locally elected officials.

### PART 3

#### Community

The remaining are other members of the community.

# A Year In Review

## 2024 Highlights



### Parent Joins A Day on The Hill

Politics is an overwhelming topic for many Americans. Making informed decisions and speaking with legislators can be intimidating and confusing, but that didn't stop a WCCA Head Start Parent. While serving on the Minnesota State Head Start Association Board of Directors, Paige Hasledalen advocated for election education training designed for Head Start Parents. She also attended the Head Start Day on the Hill with WCCA Staff to speak with our Minnesota Legislators about the importance of supporting the Head Start program. Paige said, "I was so thrilled to have been able to speak my voice surrounding this topic that is essential to our future," ... "and help myself and others throughout Minnesota understand what their role is in this election season."



### Tax Credit Education

Many Minnesotans miss out on valuable tax credits because they don't know they qualify. The tax system can be difficult to understand, and without the right information, people often leave money on the table. Our outreach work aims to bridge this gap by providing clear information to individuals and families so they can be empowered to make their own choices and claim the money they deserve. Our Self-Sufficiency Manager attended Head Start Parent Engagement events to keep them informed on what tax credits could mean for their families and their path to finding economic stability.



### WIC Farmer's Market Nutrition Program

Wright County was able to offer the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) for the first time in 2024. These are additional benefits that are added to standard benefits available to eligible participants for purchasing fresh, locally grown produce.



### Executive Director Earns CCAP

The Certified Community Action Professional (CCAP) is a national credential that recognizes individuals who have demonstrated knowledge and application of the core competencies required to effectively carry out the vision, mission, purpose, and values of the Community Action movement. Achieving this certification is rigorous and a huge accomplishment. Our Executive Director, Carrie Tripp is leading by example by earning her CCAP credential. We are very proud of her accomplishment and her commitment to the Community Action movement.



### Foreclosure Prevention Success is 92.5%

Homeownership is a major milestone in a person's life, but is far from the destination. Many homeowners face difficult circumstances that can cause them to default on their mortgage and face a potential foreclosure. In 2024, 92.5% of the homeowners who worked with our Foreclosure Prevention program were able to avoid foreclosure. Many of which were avoided by simply educating the lenders on the Minnesota Homeowners Bill of Rights.

# Our Mission

Working in partnership with the community to empower residents to improve their physical, social and economic well-being.



## The Four Pillars of Programming

### Self-Sufficiency

- | MNsure Navigation | Tax Preparation |
- | Senior Assisted Transportation |
- | Senior Homemaker | Thrift Shop |

### Housing

- | Energy Assistance | Weatherization |
- | Foreclosure Prevention |
- | Transitional Housing |

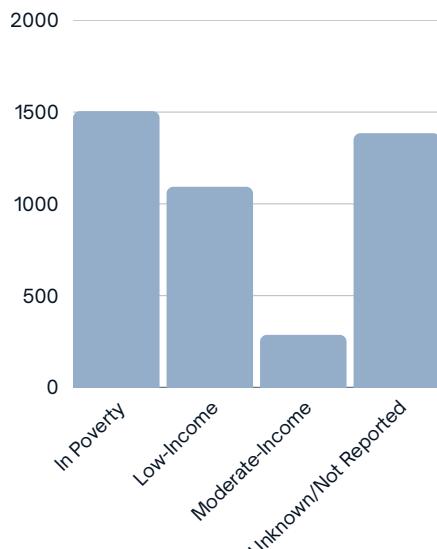
### Nutrition

- | Food Shelf | Backpack Program |
- | Emergency Food Box Network |
- | Mobile Food Shelf | WIC |

### Education

- | Head Start | Early Head Start |

## Poverty Status According to Annual Household Income



Definition	Individual Income	Family of 4 Income
In Poverty	100 % of Poverty	\$14,580
Low-Income	101-200% of Poverty	\$29,160
Moderate-Income	201-300% of Poverty	\$43,740

The poverty guidelines are a federal poverty measure that is issued each year by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The guidelines are used for administrative purposes — for instance, determining financial eligibility for programming. By reviewing the table above, you'll see a range of household income for a family to be considered in poverty, low-income, or moderate-income.

# Who We Serve

In 2024, we served

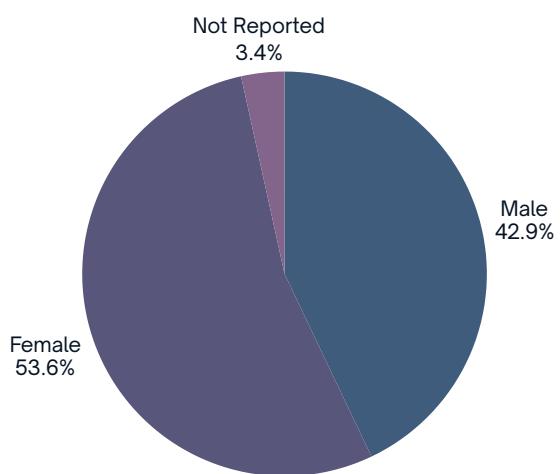
**12,150**

Individuals

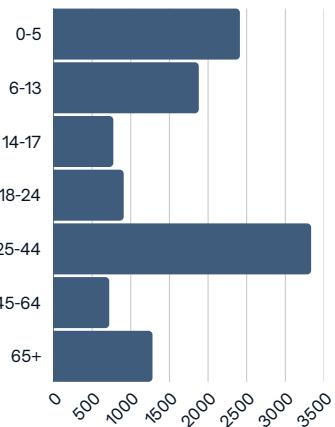
**13%**

Of the households we serve  
are led by single parents

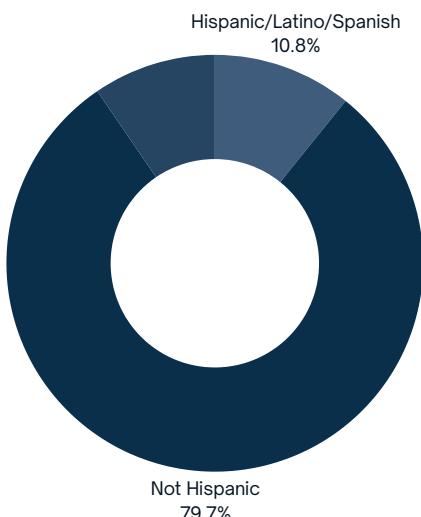
## Gender



## Age



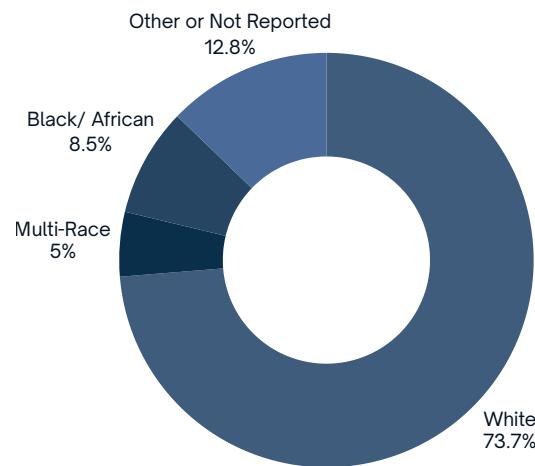
## Ethnicity



## Households By City

CITY	% of WCCA Participants	% of Population
Buffalo	19.7%	9.7%
Monticello	16.6%	10.4%
Montrose	9.7%	21.9%
St. Michael	7.7%	5.2%
Albertville	7.6%	7.3%
Howard Lake	7.3%	25.4%
Annandale	7.2%	12.4%
Cokato	5.2%	12.4%
Rockford	4.7%	10.5%
Waverly	4.4%	18.3%
Maple Lake	4.1%	9.7%
Delano	3.7%	4.7%
Clearwater	2.3%	5.4%
South Haven	0.9%	3.1%
Hanover	0.4%	1.5%

## Race



# A story to Inspire

Our program participants accomplish amazing things every day. Our WCCA staff come alongside to provide encouragement along the way.

For years, John was living the “American Dream” until his wife filed for a messy divorce, his employer downsized cutting his position, and bills eventually stacked up. When he was facing foreclosure and not making any progress on his own, he contacted WCCA’s Foreclosure Prevention Counseling Program. Together with a housing counselor, John gained insight from Legal Aid, worked with the county to correct the property’s ownership records, and successfully processed a loan modification with his mortgage lender. A few weeks after working with WCCA staff, John called to provide an update. “I’ve started a new job with a six-figure salary and will not find myself in a situation like that ever again. Thank you for helping me navigate this complicated process.



- Client name was changed to protect the client’s confidentiality.

**We’re committed to provide programs that make a difference.**

**198**

WCCA parents improved their home environments



**332**

adults over the age of 65 maintained an independent living situation

**664**

households reported improved financial well-being



**253**

Energy Assistance Clients had their furnace repaired or replaced



**118**

Weatherization clients improved the energy efficiency of their home



**1,926**

Food Security clients received nutritious food.



**1,393**

WIC individuals demonstrated improved nutrition skills



**198**

seniors received transportation services



**583**

Individuals received help navigating health insurance



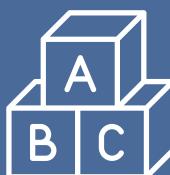
**\$761,114**

in tax returns filed



**151**

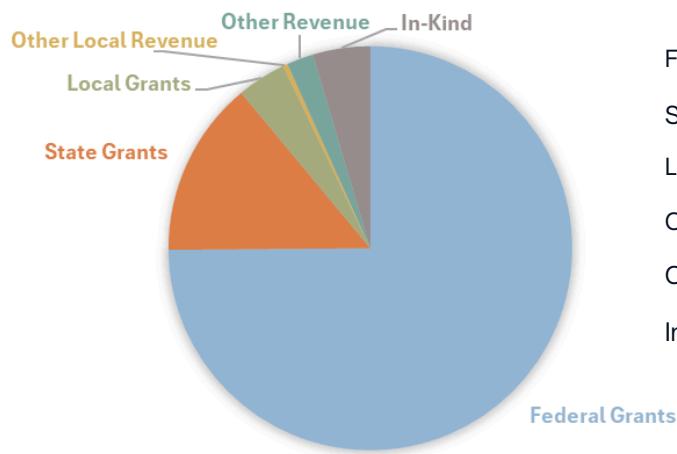
Head Start children demonstrated literacy skills.



# Financial Overview

## Revenue

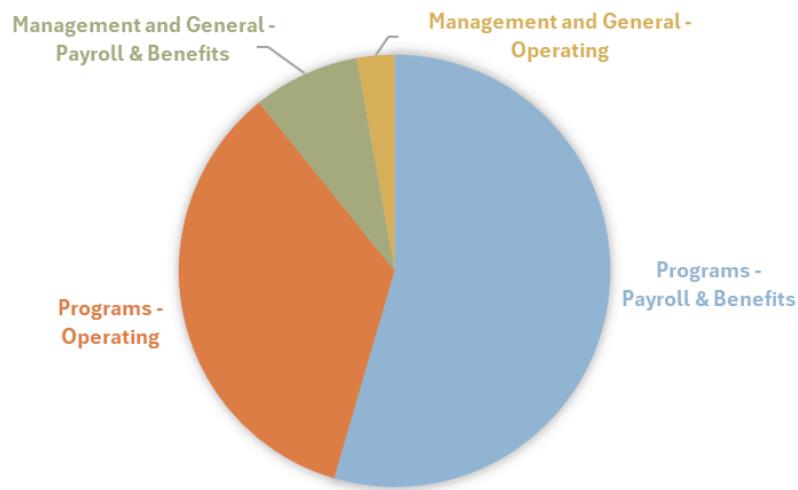
WCCA is a private, nonprofit organization that uses grants and donations to provide services throughout our community. The data below outlines the sources of funding.



Federal Grants .....	\$5,093,410	(79.1%)
State Grants .....	\$959,321	(9.2%)
Local Grants .....	\$266,805	(4.1%)
Other Local Revenue .....	\$26,290	(0.4%)
Other Revenue .....	\$145,424	(2.3%)
In-Kind .....	\$312,561	(4.9%)

## Expenses

\*\*\* Expenses do not include In-Kind\*\*\*



Programs - Payroll & Benefits.....	\$3,486,814.00	(54.5%)
Programs - Operating.....	\$2,217,186.00	(34.7%)
Management and General - Payroll & Benefits...	\$510,583.00	(8.0%)
Management and General - Operating.....	\$179,757.00	(2.8%)

### Expenses by Program

General Agency Support & Projects...	\$103,625	(1.7%)
Head Start.....	\$3,973,155	(63.7%)
Energy Assistance.....	\$259,003	(4.2%)
Weatherization .....	\$699,654	(11.2%)
Women, Infants, Children (WIC).....	\$533,566	(8.6%)
<b>Community Services Division</b>		
Aging Support Services.....	\$237,894	(3.8%)
Family Resource Center (pilot).....	\$57,098	(0.9%)
Food Security.....	\$141,697	(2.3%)
Housing.....	\$78,267	(1.3%)
Mnsure Navigation Services.....	\$56,300	(0.9%)
Tax Preparation.....	\$93,974	(1.5%)

Nationwide, agencies like ours make  
**The 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.



## CONTACT INFORMATION

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 [www.wccaweb.com](http://www.wccaweb.com)

 Phone: (320) 963-6500  
Fax: (320) 963-5745

## LOCATIONS

### Main Office Location

Maple Lake

### Food Shelf & Thrift Shop

Waverly

### Head Start Locations

Annandale

Buffalo

Delano

Howard Lake

Monticello

Montrose

Otsego

Rogers

### WIC Clinics

Monticello

Buffalo (occasional)

**WCCA**  
WRIGHT COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION