



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 125th 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 Bauernschmidt
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. Paig 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 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 |

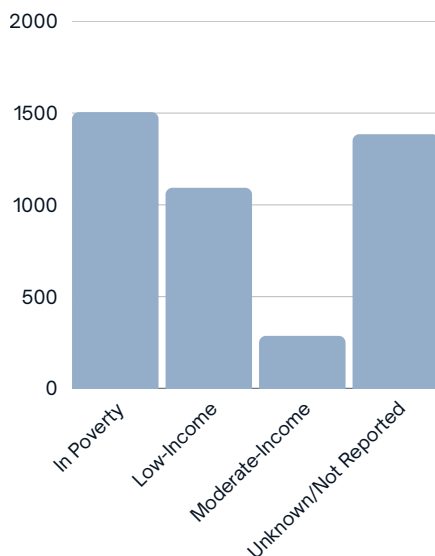
Nutrition

| 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	\$30,000
Low-Income	101-200% of Poverty	\$29,160	\$60,000
Moderate-Income	201-300% of Poverty	\$43,740	\$90,000

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

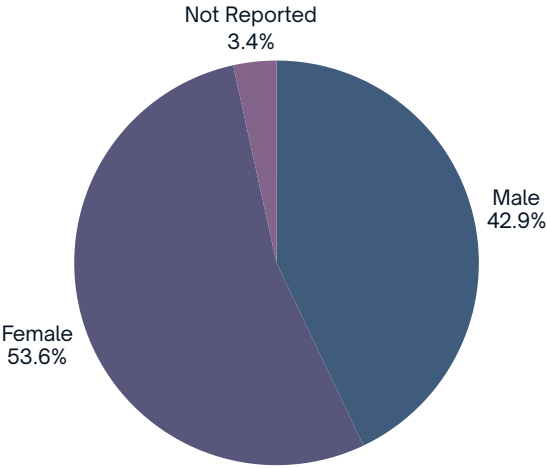
12,150

Individuals

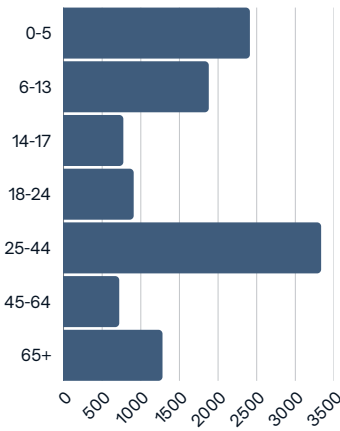
13%

Of the households we serve
are led by single parents

Gender



Age



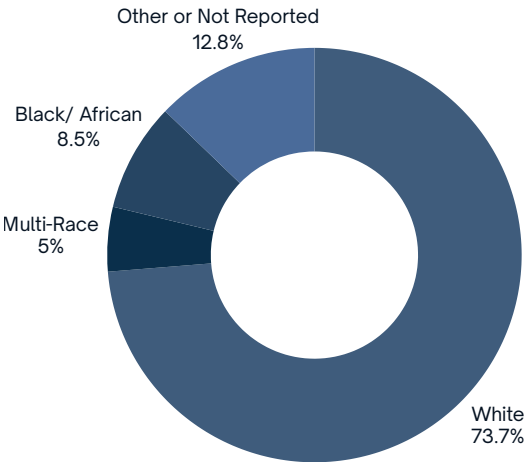
Ethnicity



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



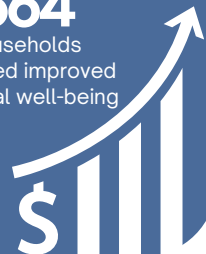
332

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

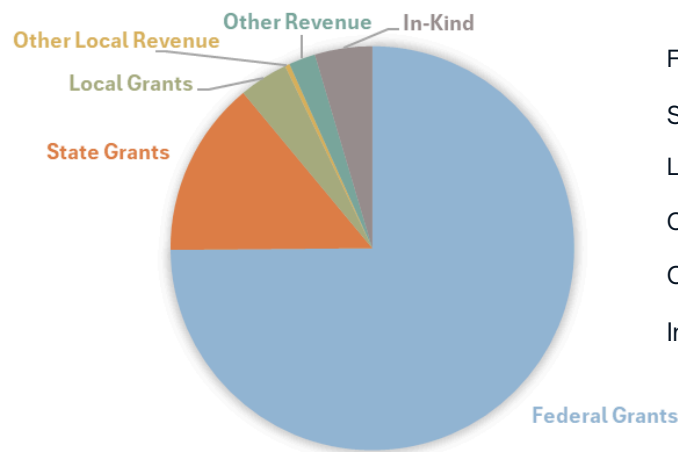
Head Start children
demonstrated
literacy skills.



Financial Overview

Revenue

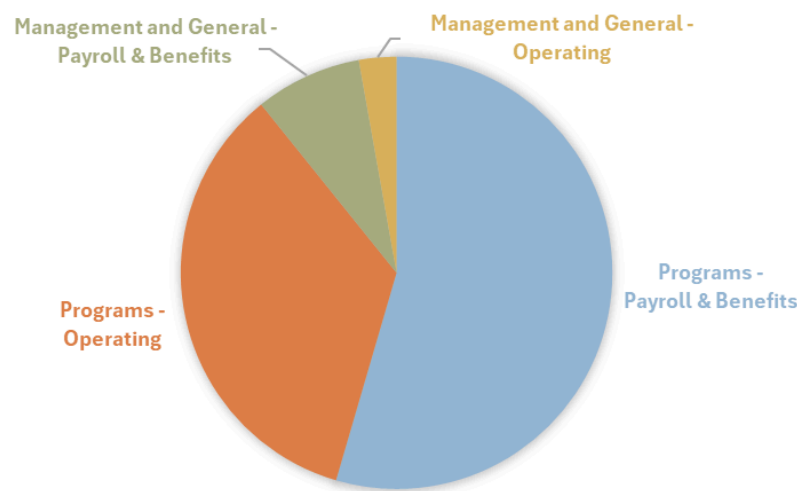
WCCA is a private, nonprofit organization that uses grants and donations to provide services throughout our community. The data below outlines the sources of funding.



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%)
Community Services Division		
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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LOCATIONS

Main Office Location
Maple Lake

Food Shelf & Thrift Shop
Waverly

WIC Clinics
Monticello
Buffalo (occasional)

Head Start Locations

Annandale
Buffalo
Delano
Howard Lake
Monticello
Montrose
Otsego
Rogers

WCCA
WRIGHT COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION