

# ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Wright County  
Community Action



# EXECUTIVE LETTER

Thank you for a wonderful year! As always, this report gives us a chance to think about where we've been and where we want to go next. As I reflect on the countless opportunities and accomplishments 2019 offered, I find I'm most grateful for the ways we were able to connect with all of you.

Our big 'pie-in-the-sky' vision is to create a community where all Wright County residents feel happy, healthy, secure, and connected. If we really want to achieve this vision, partnership is imperative. Fortunately, we have the best partners around.

This year, the community came together like never before to support and meet the needs of our most vulnerable citizens. We continued to meet and exceed our goals of rallying the community around our anti-poverty efforts. This includes expanding our Aging Alliance programming to offer a more comprehensive range of support, building on our food security efforts to continue growing our Food Shelf and Emergency Food Box (EFBox) efforts, bringing on new talent to our Board of Directors, and expanding our office capabilities through infrastructure and modernizing improvements. In addition, this year we also hosted the 2019 Community Summit for Wright County, which saw over 70 community stakeholders join together for a day of presentations, networking and collaboration on defining how we serve the low-income residents of Wright County.

Community engagement is the best path to eradicating poverty in Wright County, and WCCA is committed to fostering partnership wherever we can. We want to work with you, we want to hear your ideas, and we want to support you as you put them into action. While each of us may be limited by things like funding, staff, lack of support, or even just too few hours in the day, when we work together, there is almost no limit to what we can accomplish.

Thank you for everything you helped to accomplish in 2019. Let's do it again next year.

*Jay Weatherford*

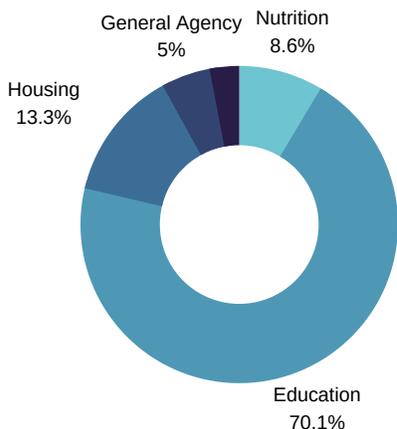
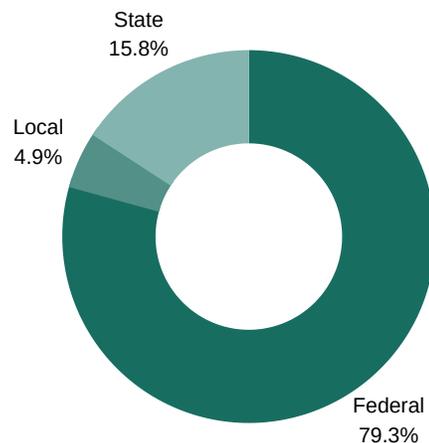


# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

## REVENUE

WCCA is a private non-profit who administers grants to provide services needed in our community. The graph to the right outlines where the grant funding originated.

The graph below outlines the funding received by each program pillar.

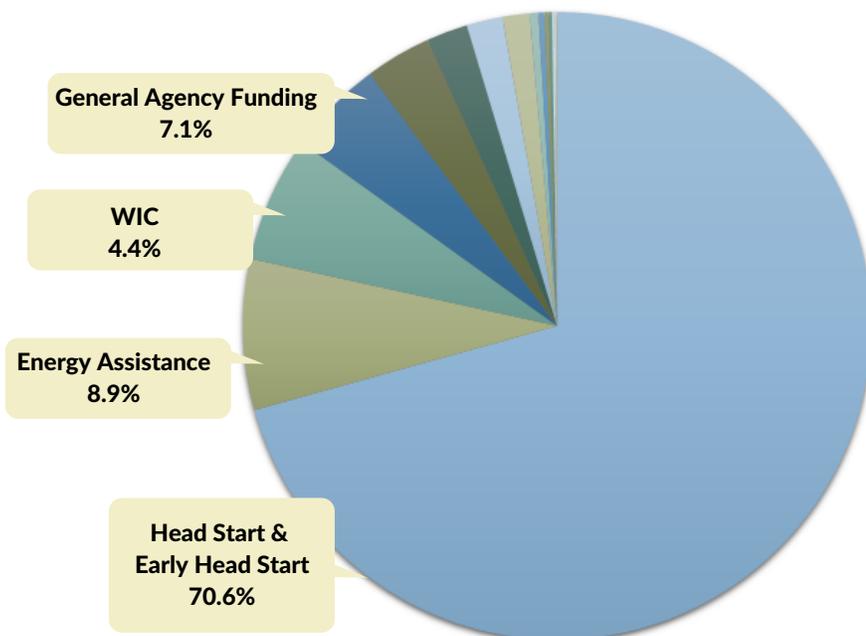


### WHAT IS LOCAL FUNDING?

Community Donations.....	\$114,855
Local Foundations.....	\$67,484
Program Support.....	\$28,827
County Collaboration.....	\$25,014

## EXPENSES

Head Start & Early Head Start.....	\$3,501,879.00 (70.66%)
Energy Assistance.....	\$413,177.00 (8.91%)
WIC.....	\$321,541.00 (6.48%)
General Agency Funding.....	\$243,471.00 (7.17%)
Aging Alliance .....	\$104,920.00 (2.12%)
Weatherization .....	\$168,372.00 (1.76%)
Food Security.....	\$91,827.00 (1.85%)
Transitional Housing.....	\$68,866.00 (1.39%)
Home-Buyer Training .....	\$22,172.00 (0.45%)
Foreclosure .....	\$15,260.00 (0.31%)
Mnsure.....	\$10,756.00 (0.22%)
Community Literacy Project .....	\$8,199.00 (0.17%)
Tax Prep.....	\$8,199.00 (0.17%)
Thrift Shop.....	\$6,721.00 (0.14%)
Home Repair Loans.....	\$857.00 (0.14%)



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As a Community Action Agency, our Board of Directors consists of at least 1/3 local public officials, 1/3 private representatives, and the remainder are democratically selected representatives of low-income people. The following individuals volunteer their time to WCCA to provide governance and oversight of our programs and services.

**284**  
HOURS BUILDING  
AGENCY CAPACITY

Bruce Anderson  
Charles Borrell  
Mark Daleiden  
Marlene Stumpf-Johnson  
Lynn Kissock

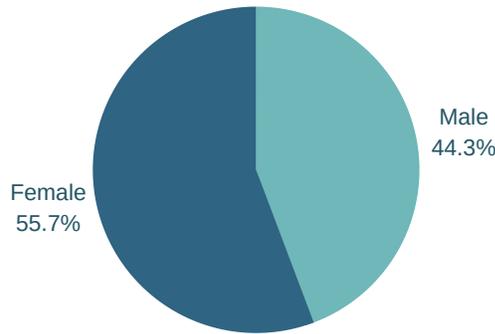
Terri Harris  
Jane Helgestad  
Brian Matzke  
Stacie Zachman  
Dwayne Diers

Luke McClain  
Stacy Anderson  
W. Paul Arnold  
Jose Flores  
Cathy Elfstrand

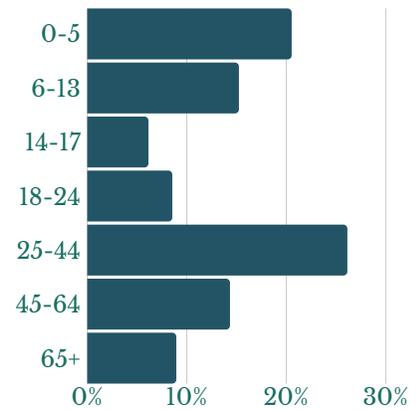
# PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS

IN 2019, WE SERVED  
**10,233**  
INDIVIDUALS

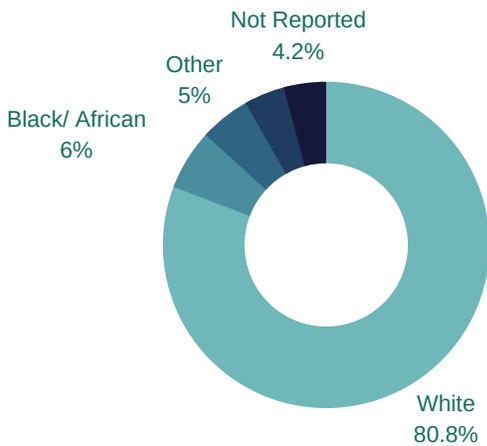
## GENDER



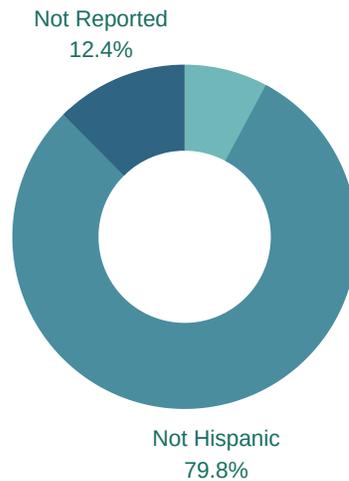
## AGE



## RACE



## ETHNICITY



**12.4%**

Of our participants have a disabling condition

## LOOKING FORWARD: OUR 5 YEAR GOAL TO INCREASE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### YEAR 2 - 2019 RESULTS

#### DONATED RESOURCES

Donations from the community help support the entire agency. These donations can come as cash or as donated goods and materials. Goods and materials may be considered food shelf donations, thrift shop donations, bus tokens, gift cards, and more. When we receive items from the community, we are able to leverage these donations to expand services and impact individuals and families across Wright County.

**\$107,221.81** 43% of goal

### YEAR 2 - 2019 RESULTS

#### PEOPLE PARTICIPATING

WCCA's mission is to work in partnership with the community. We measure success in this area by tracking the number of people participating in conversations related to our services and strategies that address conditions of poverty. These conversations may take place in advisory committees, focus groups, and more.

**188 people** 25.0% of goal

# Program Impact

## 2019 OVERVIEW

93.5%

Participants who reported improved financial well-being

80%

Participants age 0-5 who improved their literacy and school-readiness skills

96%

Seniors (65+) who maintained an independent living situation

89%

Participants who improved energy efficiency or reduced the energy burden in their homes

3%

Participants are volunteering to improve their community



“

We envision a Wright County where residents feel happy, healthy, secure, and connected.

- WCCA Vision Statement

”

# OUR PROGRAMS

## HOUSING

### **HOMEBUYER SERVICES**

Our Home Stretch Workshop and One-on-One Counseling educate clients on the responsibilities and available tools to become a successful homeowner. The Home Stretch Workshop is a popular eight-hour group workshop designed for participants interested in learning more about the path to homeownership.

### **FORECLOSURE PREVENTION COUNSELING**

Foreclosure Prevention Counseling is a free program designed to prevent clients from losing their home when facing or undergoing foreclosure. Our counselor works with each homeowner to determine which available options meet the needs of each individual situation.

### **ENERGY ASSISTANCE (EAP)**

The Energy Assistance Program helps eligible households maintain affordable, continuous, and safe home energy. Our services include bill payment assistance, home energy crisis intervention, outreach, energy advocacy, information about utility consumer rights, and referrals.

### **WEATHERIZATION**

Our Weatherization program helps income-eligible residents of Wright County conserve energy; lower fuel costs; and provide safer, more sustainable dwellings for their families.

### **TRANSITIONAL HOUSING**

The Transitional Housing Program provides scattered-site supportive housing to homeless individuals and families. Our staff members work with clients to develop a mutually agreed-upon housing independence plan that involves creating and carrying out short and long-term goals for financial stability and self-sufficiency.

## EDUCATION

### **EARLY HEAD START**

Early Head Start provides weekly 90-minute home visits to support and strengthen parent-child relationships and develop school readiness skills. Home visitors also target health, dental, social-emotional and nutrition services; prenatal support for expectant mothers; and referrals to other community resources as needed. This program is available to Wright County and western Hennepin County residents. For ages birth - 3.

### **HEAD START**

The Head Start program helps develop educational and healthy living skills to income-eligible children three to five years of age in a classroom environment. In addition, this program hosts opportunities for parents to learn and grow with their children throughout the school year. This program serves western Hennepin and all of Wright County.

### **RAISING A READER**

Currently offered at WCCA Head Start Centers and some public school classrooms, Raising A Reader encourages family engagement and literacy by providing children with a rotating library of books to take home each week of the school year. The program also provides training to empower parents to model effective reading techniques.



## NUTRITION

### **FOOD SHELF**

The WCCA Food Shelf is the only location in Wright County that serves all residents, regardless of what township or city they reside in. We operate with a client-choice model and offer a variety of nutritious foods.

### **EMERGENCY FOOD BOX NETWORK**

We partner with local businesses and organizations to distribute 30-pound emergency food boxes. This program expands the reach of all food shelves and shortens the distance between emergency food and people in need.

### **MOBILE FOOD SHELF**

By partnering with rental community properties, our volunteers prepare and deliver Food Shelf services right to our clients' doors.

### **BACKPACK PROGRAM**

The Backpack Program works with WCCA Head Start Centers -- and in some cases, area schools -- to fight hunger among children in Wright County by providing parcels full of nutritious, easy-to-open food for kids to take home over the weekend.

### **WOMEN, INFANTS & CHILDREN (WIC)**

A supplemental food, nutrition, and breastfeeding program that serves pregnant women, new mothers, infants, and children up to the age of five.

## SELF-SUFFICIENCY

### **MNSURE**

Our MNsure navigator works as a neutral third-party to assist clients as they navigate the MNsure website and application process. This service helps clients understand their available health insurance options.

### **TAX PREPARATION (VITA)**

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance is a free tax preparation program provided by Internal Revenue Service-certified volunteers. Volunteers prepare individual returns for households grossing less than \$35,000 or multiple-person returns for households grossing less than \$55,000.

### **THRIFT SHOP**

WCCA's thrift shop, adjacent to our Food Shelf in Waverly, serves thousands of people each year. Our shop is not restricted to income-eligible individuals nor to anyone living outside of Wright County.

### **AGING ALLIANCE - TRANSPORTATION**

The Assisted Transportation program provides rides for seniors who need assistance getting to medical and personal care appointments, pharmacy pick-ups, nutrition services, and faith-based social outings. This door-to-door service is provided by trained volunteer drivers with their own personal vehicles.

### **AGING ALLIANCE - HOUSEKEEPING & CHORE**

We provide housekeeping and chore services for seniors who need assistance maintaining their homes. These services are provided by an employee who offers cleaning, organization, meal preparation, and some outdoor upkeep for those that may need spontaneous or regular assistance.

# 2019 COMMUNITY SUMMIT

The 2019 Community Summit was an innovative approach to cross-sector recognition of Wright County stakeholders.

Following a year of workshopping, over 70 agents representing public, private, religious, and governmental agencies came together for the first time to dialogue.

The discourse of the day focused mainly on the experiences of the stakeholders and listening to low-income residents share their stories and struggles with the collective.

The feature presentation was a panel of experts on local quality life for residents including Sheriff Shawn Deringer, County Commissioner Derek Vetsch, Director of Wright County Human Services Sarah Grossish, and Monticello Community Education Director Jeremiah Mack.

Following the panel was two hours of collaborative group discussion & exploration led by Candice Zimmerman and Amy Kortissis of WCCA. Topics included; Healthy Food Access, Affordable Housing or Homelessness, Dental Care, Mental Health, Substance Abuse, Transportation, Community Engagement, Affordable Child Care and Senior Services.



This summit was hosted by WCCA and is the first community-led forum of its kind to not only recognize barriers in Wright County but to encourage wide-spread community collaboration across all sectors.





**Our mission is to work in partnership with the community to empower residents to improve their physical, social, and economic well-being.**

## 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

### WIC Clinics

Buffalo  
Howard Lake  
Monticello

### Head Start Locations

Annandale  
Buffalo  
Delano  
Howard Lake  
Monticello  
Montrose  
Mound  
Rogers

# WCCA

WRIGHT COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION

