



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

2021 SUMMARY



At Wright County Community Action, 2021 was a year of growth and change.

If there is one word that best describes our operations and service at this time, it's the word "bridge". We learned how to bridge "the new normal" with "getting back to normal". Throughout the year, our community's needs shifted as a result of the residual effects of the pandemic, and WCCA adapted our service strategies to meet them. These solutions not only solved pandemic-related issues but also fostered a more robust services model as we continue serving the community alongside our neighbors and partners —alongside you— to address the causes and conditions of poverty in our communities.

Together, we helped more than 9,000 individuals and family members improve their economic stability!

Thank you for your ongoing support. We encourage you to look at our website for more information on the current needs of our community and the ways you can become involved.

Creative, out-of-the-box solutions from 2021 include:

- Supporting the new Community Dental Clinic that will increase accessibility to dental providers that accept MA
- Continuing to facilitate a team of community partners to distribute frozen meals to seniors who were unable to shop safely
- Creating a hybrid Head Start program that allowed our students to attend classes virtually and in person — encouraging the ongoing growth and development of our youngest population
- Moving from an in-person WIC clinic to a user-friendly and effective virtual clinic that made it easier for busy parents to get support

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As a Community Action Agency, our Board of Directors consists of three different sectors of insight. First, we value the input of our program participants so at least 1/3 of the members are democratically elected representatives of low-income individuals. Next, in order to help make systemic change, 1/3 of our board is comprised of locally elected officials. The remainder is representatives of the private sector- such as local businesses and interested stakeholders. The following individuals volunteer their time to WCCA to provide governance and oversight of our programs and services.

Luke McClain
Stacy Anderson
W. Paul Arnold
Cory Rilea
Cathy Elfstrand

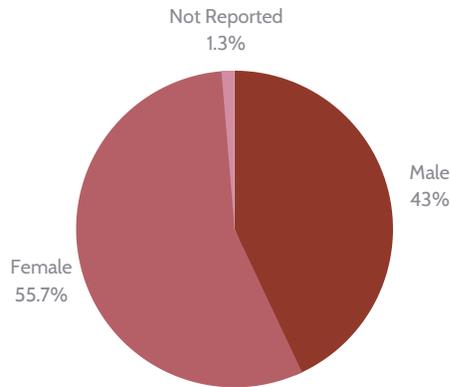
Terri Harris
Barbara Eckberg
Brian Matzke
Stacie Zachman
Sue Untiedt

Bruce Anderson
Mary Wetter
Mark Daleiden
Marlene Stumpf-Johnson
Lynn Kissock

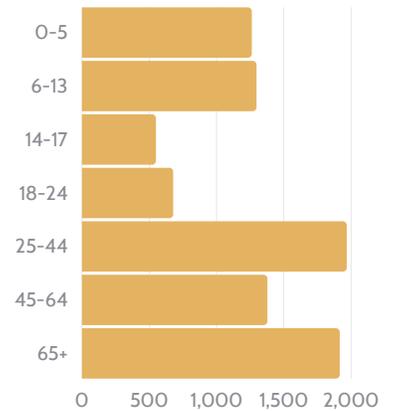
WHO WE SERVE

In 2021, we served
9,065
 Individuals

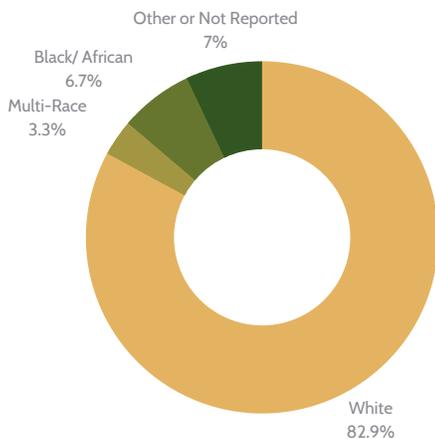
Gender



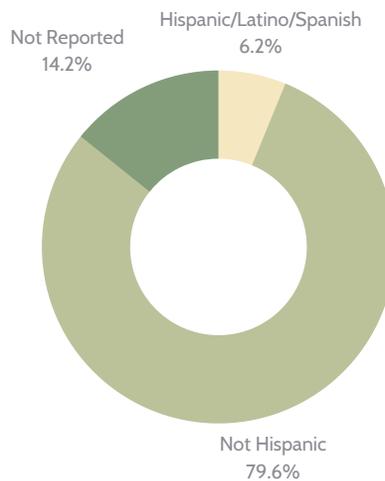
Age



Race



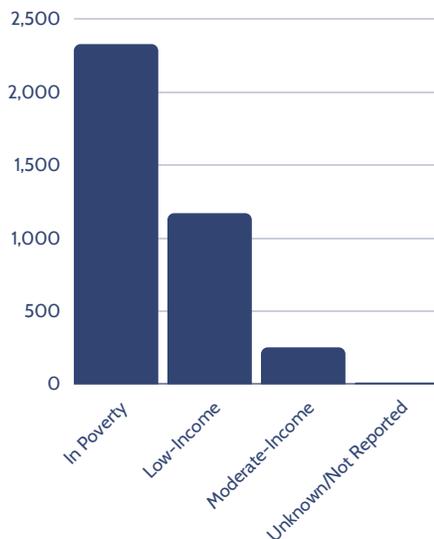
Ethnicity



289

Of the 3,751 households we serve are led by single parents

Poverty Status According to Annual Household Income



	Definition	Individual Income	Family of 4 Income
In Poverty	100 % of Poverty	\$12,880	\$26,500
Low-Income	101-200% of Poverty	\$25,760	\$53,000
Moderate-Income	201-300% of Poverty	\$38,640	\$79,500

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.

THE FOUR PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMMING

SELF-SUFFICIENCY

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

HOUSING

Energy Assistance	Foreclosure Prevention
Homebuyer Counseling & Training	Home Repair Loans
Transitional Housing	Weatherization

NUTRITION

| Backpack Program | Emergency Food Box Network | Food Shelf |
| Frozen Meals for Seniors | Mobile Food Shelf | WIC |

EDUCATION

| Head Start | Early Head Start |

OUR MISSION

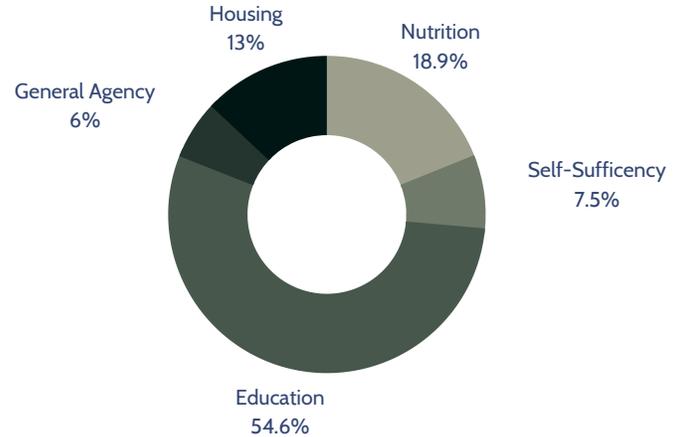
Working in partnership with the community to empower residents to improve their physical, social and economic well-being.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Revenue

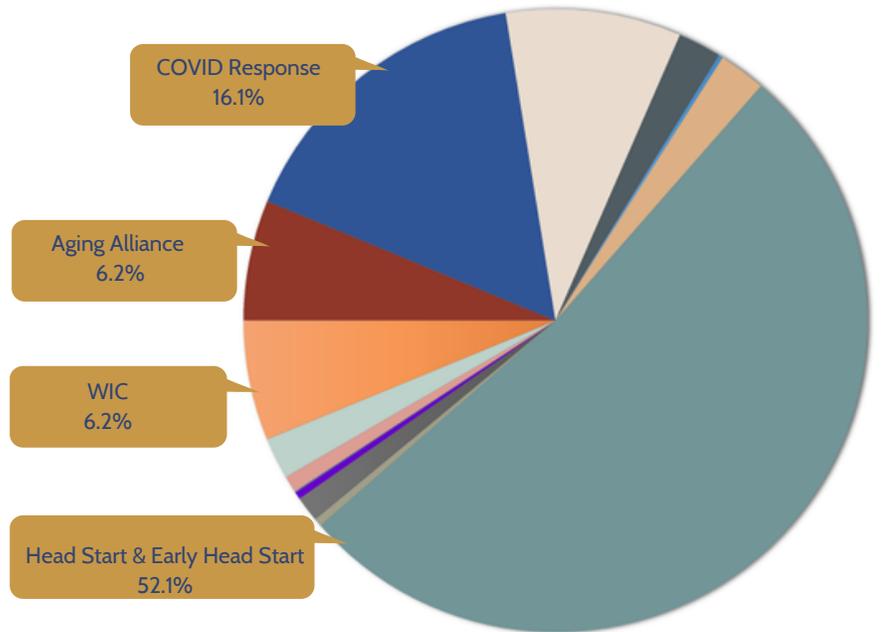
WCCA is a private non-profit that utilizes grants and donations to provide services needed in our community. The data below outlines where the funding originated and the pie chart outlines the funding received by each program pillar.

Federal Grants	\$4,492,391 (71.3%)
State Grants	\$870,492 (13.8%)
Local Grants	\$116,115 (1.8%)
Other Local Revenue	\$62,276 (1.0%)
Other Revenue	\$114,701 (1.8%)
In-Kind	\$644,659 (10.2%)



Expenses

■ Aging Alliance	\$348,709 (6.26%)
■ COVID Response	\$900,765 (16.18%)
■ Energy Assistance	\$506,193 (9.09%)
■ Food Security	\$125,112 (2.25%)
■ Foreclosure	\$12,220 (0.22%)
■ General Agency Support & Special Projects ...	\$136,044 (2.44%)
■ Head Start & Early Head Start	\$2,902,759 (52.14%)
■ Home Buyer Services	\$23,040 (0.41%)
■ MNsure Navigator Services	\$73,874 (1.33%)
■ Tax Prep	\$20,440 (0.37%)
■ Thrift Shop	\$3,905 (0.07%)
■ Transitional Housing	\$48,283(0.87%)
■ Weatherization	\$119,919 (2.15%)
■ WIC	\$346,391 (6.22%)

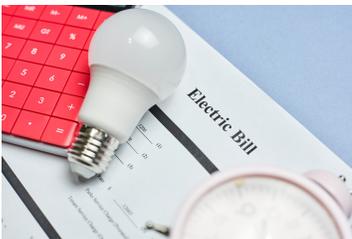


*** Expenses do not include In-Kind***

Additional financial information can be obtained by reviewing a copy of our audited financial statements in our office.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: HOUSING

WCCA ENERGY ASSISTANCE TACKLES UTILITY DEBT



America's Community Action Agencies (CAAs), WCCA included, connect millions of children and families to greater opportunity, transforming their lives and making communities stronger. As the COVID-19 pandemic increased the need across the nation for services, CAAs stepped up to help people overcome a host of new challenges. During the pandemic, many struggled to afford basic necessities— including their utilities which are one of the most essential basic needs, especially during cold Minnesota winters. The WCCA Energy Assistance program had the established network and experience to coordinate the expanded aid for households in need.

As the pandemic created unpredictable financial conditions, millions of households lost wages due to layoffs, furloughs, or reduced hours at work. As a result, utility debt increased dramatically across the nation. The National Energy Assistance Directors Association reported billions of dollars were owed in arrears for natural gas and utility debt. While legislative steps were taken to help families stay afloat, they varied across states. Moratoriums established during the pandemic allowed families to postpone payment on utilities, but they were not long-term solutions. Households will have to pay off the debt. In a pandemic, where staying home is the safest option, going without power or water is especially dangerous.

However, helping alleviate energy debt is only part of the program. Eligible families can qualify for furnace repair and replacement services and even our weatherization program. These services are provided so families can prevent high energy costs from the start.

WRIGHT COUNTY STATS

4,372

individuals received
utility assistance in 2021

\$460

average primary heat
benefit per household

82

families received
furnace assistance

Services that reduce household energy burdens help families afford necessities like **food and medicine**



Low-income households typically spend **16%** of their annual income on energy costs

Nine out of ten households helped have at least one elderly person, child, or person with a disability



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: NUTRITION

PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION: FIGHTING HUNGER IN TOUGH TIMES

The pandemic left many laid off or furloughed, increasing food insecurity at a dramatic rate. With severely limited budgets, families had to get help to put food on the table—many for the first time.

With dramatically increased need, Community Action Agencies utilized innovative solutions to fight hunger and WCCA was no different. In 2021, we continued our partnership with Untiedt's Vegetable Farm. Together, we were able to distribute farm-fresh produce to Food Security-focused organizations across the community.



\$94,192

worth of produce
distributed to all partners

\$3,500

was donated to the
WCCA Food Shelf

904

individuals served by
the WCCA Food Shelf

FOOD SECURITY PARTNERS

Annandale Food Shelf
Buffalo Food Shelf
Maple Manor
Catholic Charities
NourishingHOPE - Rockford
Twin Cities Relief Initiative
Monticello Help Center
Big Lake Food Shelf
Riverworks Food Shelf
Delano Senior Center
Delano Food Shelf
GracePlace of Montrose
Love INC Heartland



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

Buffalo

Howard Lake

Monticello

Head Start Locations

Annandale

Buffalo

Delano

Howard Lake

Monticello

Montrose

Mound

Rogers

WCCA

WRIGHT COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION

