



2023 STATE IMPACT REPORT

COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP OF NORTH DAKOTA

THE PROMISE OF COMMUNITY ACTION

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.



Introduction

The Community Action Network in North Dakota provides programs and services in all 53 counties. From children to seniors, rural communities to urban areas, North Dakota's seven Community Action Agencies work in every corner of the state to help low- and moderate- income households by providing essential services and intentional supports to help them improve their overall social and economic well-being. Since no two communities have the same needs or face the same challenges and barriers, Community Action rejects the idea of a one-size-fits-all solution to poverty. Instead, our local agencies provide programs and services that help meet the unique needs of the communities they work in.



In North Dakota, local Community Action Agencies offer unique programs and services based on the needs of their communities including Childcare and Head Start Programs, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), Food Pantries, Budget and Money Management, Energy Assistance, and more. In addition to unique local programming, Community Action offers statewide programs including the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF), North Dakota Rent Help and Whole Family services, and Affordable Connectivity Program application assistance.

Community Action Partnership of North Dakota (CAPND) is the state association. CAPND provides training, technical assistance, program administration, and other support to help North Dakota agencies as they work in their communities. CAPND also works closely with the State Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Office, the Federal Region 8 Regional Performance and Innovation Consortium (RPIC), the National Community Action Partnership, and other local, state, and national partners to help connect and provide support to our agencies.

Join us throughout this report as we look not just at the numbers, but to the heart of our communities. Read about the work that staff across the state do and the stories of those in our communities whose lives have been impacted by the services and assistance offered at Community Action.

Statewide Needs Assessment

Every three years, Community Action Agencies throughout the United States are required to conduct community needs assessments to help determine the underlying causes and conditions of poverty in order to identify needs and challenges in our communities. In 2023, CAPND completed an updated statewide community needs assessment as a collaborative effort with North Dakota State University (NDSU) in conjunction with the North Dakota Department of Commerce, Division of Community Service. CAPND was particularly interested in collecting responses from households in North Dakota experiencing poverty, however the assessment gathered data from a variety of households across all counties in North Dakota. Researchers were then able to divide the responses

provided by households experiencing poverty and households who are not experiencing poverty to better compare and analyze the results. For the purposes of this assessment, CAPND defined “households experiencing poverty” as those respondents who fall at or below 200% the Federal Poverty Line.



2023 Federal Poverty Level

# of Persons	100%	200%
1	\$14,580.00	\$29,160.00
2	\$19,720.00	\$39,440.00
3	\$24,860.00	\$49,720.00
4	\$30,000.00	\$60,000.00
5	\$35,140.00	\$70,280.00
6	\$40,280.00	\$80,560.00
7	\$45,420.00	\$90,840.00
8	\$50,560.00	\$101,120.00

Statewide Needs Assessment

1

Housing

**RENTAL
ASSISTANCE**



2

Other

FOOD



3

Health & Social

**DENTAL
INSURANCE-
AFFORDABLE
DENTAL**



In addition, two comparison approaches were used in this needs assessment – category focused and specific need-focused. These approaches ensured researchers could identify the most critical needs categories, as well as the specific needs in those categories. The seven needs categories for this assessment include Employment, Income and Asset Building, Education, Housing, Health and Social/Behavior Development, Civic Engagement, and Other Supports.

Local community needs are gaps between the services and assistance that do exist in the community and the services and assistance that should exist. The findings from our 2020 needs assessment indicated that the three most frequently mentioned needs for households experiencing poverty were Rental Assistance, Dental Insurance/Affordable Dental, and Food. These priority needs remained unchanged in our 2023 assessment.

As was the case in 2020, the housing category remained the first priority need among people experiencing poverty throughout the state. Approximately two thirds (65.3%) of households experiencing poverty identified a need in the housing category, with “Rental Assistance” (60.1%), “Utility Assistance” (47.8%), and “Decent Affordable Places to Rent” (43.6%) as the three most frequently mentioned needs. In contrast, only about one-third (39.4%) of households not experiencing poverty indicated this as a current need. The inconsistent responses between the two groups may be explained by their housing status where a majority of households not experiencing poverty “Own” the places in which they live, but over half of those experiencing poverty indicated that they “rent.”

Overall, respondents with lower incomes were more inclined to place greater emphasis on fundamental necessities like “Rental Assistance” or “Food” whereas individuals and families with higher incomes tended to prioritize Civic Engagement and Community Involvement including “Recreational Activities” and “Safe Neighborhoods, Sidewalks, and Parks.”

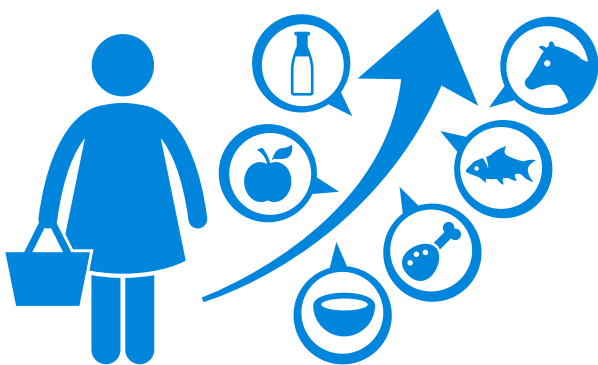
Statewide Needs Assessment

The study also asked questions to determine if and how households had been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. About 65% of households experiencing poverty reported that they had been impacted in some way including their health conditions (28.5%), incomes (23.5%), family members/friends (23.5%), jobs (13.6%), and other areas (3.8%). In contrast, only 54.5% households not experiencing poverty indicated they had been impacted by the pandemic.. Overall, about 67% of survey respondents indicated that the pandemic had an effect on their life.



The data obtained from the needs assessment, particularly from community focus groups, identify several potential causes of poverty such as economic challenges like the high cost of living and low wages. In addition, health-related issues like mental illness and substance use disorders, limited access to education and skills training, along with the absence of community support. Housing problems, inadequate transportation, stigma, and lack of government leadership were also highlighted by respondents as playing a significant role. We know that poverty is complex, that is why it is crucial to implement comprehensive strategies that address these interconnected issues to improve overall economic stability and well-being.

Frequently Mentioned Causes of Poverty



Increased Living Costs/Inflation

Health Related Issues - Disability/Mental Illness

Childcare Issues for Working Parents

Family Instability

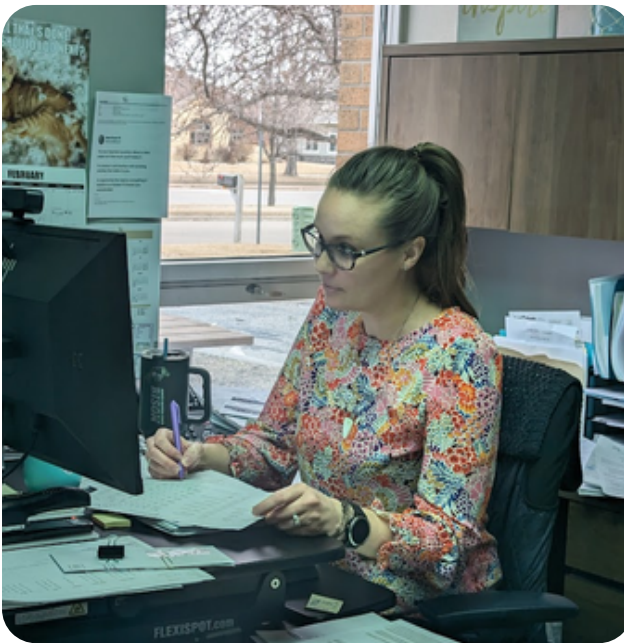
Less/No Skills For Jobs (with Better Pay/Benefits)

Lack of Affordable Transportation

Generational Poverty

Affordable Connectivity Program

Over the past several years, broadband connectivity has become an essential part of our daily lives. The Internet keeps families and communities connected to each other. It helps families access education, job opportunities, healthcare, and other resources that help improve their overall economic stability and wellbeing. However, households across the country are unable to access the technology and connectivity they need. Data from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration shows about one in five U.S. households are not connected to the internet at home. This is driven by three key barriers – access, affordability, and adoption/digital literacy.



In 2022, the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) was created as a long-term program to replace the Emergency Broadband Benefits program. This program helps to make broadband internet more affordable to low-income consumers by providing a discount on qualifying internet service and a one-time device discount. In January 2022, only about 8% of eligible households (9,224) in North Dakota had been enrolled in the program. In July 2023, the North Dakota Community Action Network began working with the Federal Communications Commission to provide outreach and enrollment assistance for the

ACP at North Dakota's Community Action Agencies. North Dakota now has about 16,500 households that have been enrolled which is about 14% of eligible households.

Over 12,000 pieces of printable outreach and educational materials such as flyers, information cards, and more have been distributed by local Community Action Agencies to households in communities across the state. Staff have also participated in or held 23 large scale outreach or enrollment activities including flyer distribution at back-to-school and Head Start events, commodity food box distribution, and Coats for Kids. In addition to their outreach efforts, staff at North Dakota Community Action Agencies have assisted 90 households with applying for the ACP program and locating a participating internet service provider.

Affordable Connectivity Program

Community Action ACP By the Numbers: July - December 2023

90

Households Assisted with Applying for the Benefit

49

Households Assisted with Enrolling with a Service Provider

23

Large In-Person Enrollment/Outreach Events Held or Attended

12,458

Printed Outreach Materials Distributed

3,936

Electronic Outreach Materials Distributed

9,861

Social Media Reach and Website Visitors Related to the ACP Program

CAPND also completed a comprehensive paid digital campaign across five major platforms including Facebook, Snapchat, Google Display and Search Ads, and YouTube Advertisements to bring attention to the program. As of January 2024, this paid digital campaign has directed over 12,000 visitors to information about the ACP and additional resources that may assist them in making an informed decision about their broadband services.

The success of the ACP is apparent. Millions of American households rely on the ACP for their internet connection. However, current funding for the ACP is expected to be depleted as early as April 2024 creating an urgent need to extend funding so that the millions of households across the country who rely on the program don't lose access to their broadband services. Our hope is that funding for the program will be extended so that every family - rural, urban, and suburban- can continue to have access to affordable broadband services allowing them to thrive in their communities.



Get Help Affording the internet you need!

The Affordable Connectivity Program was created by the FCC to help ensure households can afford the broadband they need for school, work, and more.

Two Steps to Enroll

- 1** Apply for the ACP Program at [GetInternet.gov](https://www.getinternet.gov)
- 2** Contact your preferred participating provider to select an eligible plan and have the discount applied to your bill.

Need assistance applying? Contact your local Community Action Agency.

Scan Here to Get Started

Funding was provided by the FCC Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau.

FCC ACP Affordable Connectivity Program

An unemployed individual came into the Jamestown Community Action for assistance with his rent. A ND Rent Help Application Counselor met with the client and provided them information about the ND Rent Help Program and assisted them with applying. The client was approved and along with the use of some CARES funding, was able to get his past due rent paid and avoid eviction.

The Application Counselor referred them for case management services. The case manager learned that the client had been laid off during the COVID-19 pandemic from his job repairing and installing recreational equipment like juke boxes, arcade games, and pool tables which he had been doing for 9 years. He had hoped that he would be able to return to the job after the pandemic was over, but unfortunately the position was no longer there.

The client's main goal was to find employment, however he explained that with his poor reading skills his job choices were narrowed. His case manager referred him to the local Adult Learning Center for help with reading skills as an option for him if he would like to pursue it. In addition, the client was concerned that he would lose his car insurance because he was unable to pay for it and be unable to continue looking for employment and get to work if he was hired.

The case manager assisted the client with paying for car insurance and referred him to Job Service to the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) program - a work development program for low income persons. The case manager also assisted them with preparing a resume and submitting it to his Job Service worker. The client was eventually hired in a maintenance department at a local motel.

The client was relieved and happy to be working again at a job he enjoyed, earning a regular paycheck.



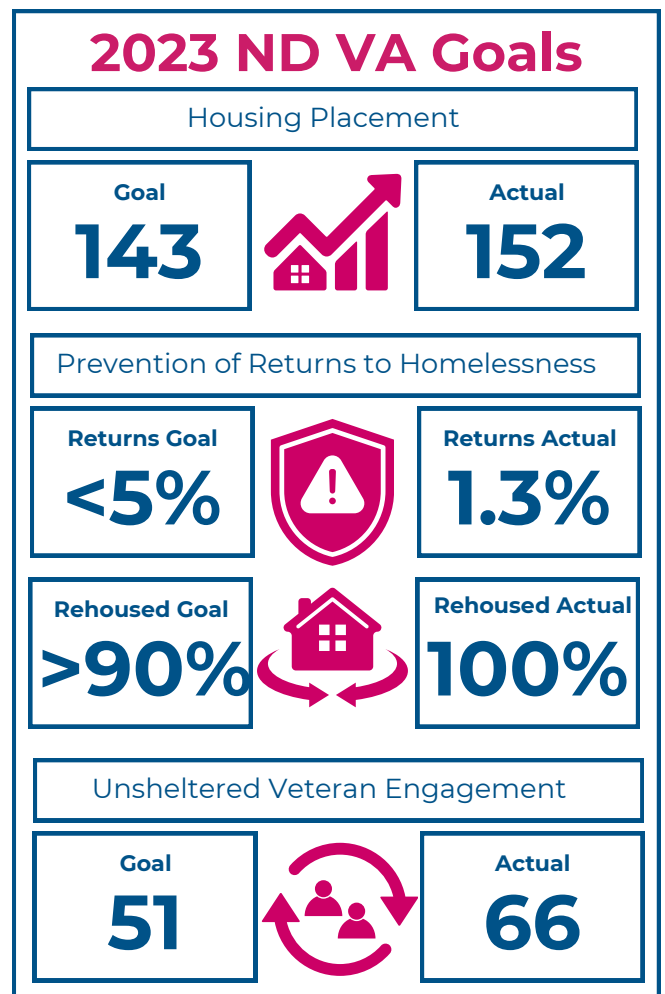
Supportive Services for Veteran Families

Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) is a program funded by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) which aims to prevent low-income Veterans and their families from experiencing homelessness and to rapidly re-house Veteran families' currently experiencing homelessness with the overall goal of helping them achieve permanent housing stability. With that goal in mind, the SSVF program utilizes a Housing First approach. The Housing First approach sees housing as a basic need that should be met as quickly as possible without preconditions. This approach is unique because it does not require a person to address other life issues or meet specific housing-readiness requirements to obtain housing.

Veterans are eligible for the program if they are at imminent risk of homelessness or are currently homeless and have a discharge status other than dishonorable. Veterans must also meet set income requirements. In January 2023, these income requirements were updated from an annual income of at or below 50% of their Area Median Income (AMI) to at or below 80% AMI. With this expanded income eligibility, more at-risk Veteran families can be served by the program.

In 2022, the VA, in an effort to help support, revitalize, and streamline their investment in and commitment to ending Veteran homelessness and ensure at-risk Veterans are safeguarded from this crisis, established a nationwide goal to house 38,000 homeless Veterans. Due to the massive success, the VA set 3 goals for 2023: Housing Placement, Prevention of Returns to Homelessness, and Engagement with Unsheltered Veterans.

Nationally, the VA announced in October that they had exceeded their housing placement goal two months earlier than planned by housing 38,847 Veterans. North Dakota also exceeded its housing placement goal by housing 152 unique veteran households. In addition, North Dakota also exceeded its prevention of returns to homelessness and engagement with unsheltered Veterans goals.



Supportive Services for Veteran Families

As part of SSVF, case managers assess Veterans for various needs including, health and legal services. This assists the VA in ensuring the health and well-being of low-income Veteran families. Individuals experiencing homelessness often experience chronic health issues including serious mental illness and one study has shown that homeless Veterans have higher rates of chronic illness compared to non-Veterans. The SSVF Health Care Navigator helps coordinate health related referrals and services to ensure Veterans receive medical care they need and assist their non-Veteran household members by identifying local community health services that can assist them.



As another integral part of the progressive engagement approach, Veterans are asked about legal needs at various points during their time in the SSVF program. If any legal needs eligible for SSVF legal services are identified, the Veteran is referred to the SSVF legal provider for assistance. In North Dakota, several Veterans have received legal assistance with issues ranging from landlord disputes to financial issues like bankruptcy and child support as well as work injuries and tax issues. Not all legal referrals end with a successful resolution for the Veteran, but many do see a positive outcome.

The SSVF Program also offers landlord and tenant incentives. SSVF may provide up to two months' worth of rent on a 12-month minimum lease as an incentive to landlords and housing providers. These incentives are used to help overcome housing barriers for Veteran households that may be more difficult to house and to help mitigate the risk and fears housing providers may have. This payment is not considered a security deposit, but rather an incentive for the landlord or housing provider for leasing to a higher-risk tenant.



Supportive Services for Veteran Families

In addition to Landlord Incentives, SSVF also assists Veterans with miscellaneous move-in costs up to \$1,000 called Tenant Incentives. These incentives can be used to purchase household and comfort items for Veterans at the start of tenancy to help ensure they have basic comforts that could be expected by someone in permanent housing. Some examples of eligible items include, furniture, housewares, air conditioners, food, recreational items, bicycles, televisions, etc.

SSVF Shallow Subsidy

As a part of its response to the affordable housing crisis, the SSVF Program office implemented a new rental subsidy arrangement called Shallow Subsidy. Shallow Subsidy provides fixed rate rental payments on behalf of low-income Veteran households who are enrolled in SSVF rapid rehousing or homeless prevention services. The Shallow Subsidy service mainly targets Veterans who are rent burdened and may require rental assistance for a longer period than what is traditionally available through other SSVF services.

The rental subsidy provided as a part of Shallow Subsidy can be up to 50% of rent on a rental unit that is deemed rent reasonable for up to two years and is intended to provide a significant amount of support that is distinct from other rental subsidies provided by HUD-VASH or the Section 8 Housing Voucher programs. Since the purpose of Shallow Subsidy is to support Veterans as they work toward greater stability by increasing their income, reducing expenses, and/or enrolling in longer-term support services, the program does not penalize Veterans for increasing their income by reducing or stopping the subsidy until the two-year commitment is fulfilled. The average monthly rent payment made by SSVF through Shallow Subsidy in North Dakota is \$417.19.



A Veteran from a small town in Montana who was struggling with substance abuse and did not have resources in her community to assist her with overcoming her addiction. Due to the limited resources in her community, she struggled with her addiction and ended up losing her job.

Without income, she was unable to afford housing and became homeless. Seeking help, she came to Dickinson, North Dakota where she had visited before. She was able to get connected to Badlands Human Service Center to get assistance with her mental health and sobriety. Shortly after, she came to the Dickinson Community Action.

An SSVF case manager met with the Veteran and enrolled them into the SSVF. The case manager assisted her with locating and obtaining permanent housing. Thanks to this assistance, the Veteran has been sober and permanently housed for over 2 months.



Weatherization Assistance Program

The U.S. Department of Energy's Low-Income Weatherization Assistance Program works to increase the energy efficiency of low-income homes reducing their total residential expenditures and improving health and safety. The program operates in every state, District of Columbia, among Native American tribes, and U.S. territories. The program supports around 8,500 jobs and provides weatherization services to approximately 35,000 homes nationwide each year. North Dakota Community Action Agencies have been weatherizing homes in all 53 counties since 1976 and, since 2011, have equipped more than 11,000 homes across North Dakota with energy-conservation measures.



Weatherization funds are targeted to the most cost-efficient conservation measures determined by an on-site energy audit. Locally based, trained energy auditors use advanced diagnostic equipment including blower doors, manometers, and Infrared cameras to create comprehensive analyses to determine the most appropriate, cost-effective measures as well as identify any health or safety concerns. Each energy conservation measure must return a minimum of \$1.00 in savings for every \$1.00 expended in labor and material costs. There are nine categories from which an energy auditor may choose based on their ability to save energy:

- General Heat Waste
- Attic Insulation
- Wall Insulation
- Perimeter Insulation
- Window Treatments to Prevent/Mitigate Heat Loss
- Door Treatments to Reduce Heat Loss
- Furnace Efficiency Measures
- Building Repair



Weatherization Assistance Program

The median energy burden of low-income households is more than 3 times higher than that of non-low-income households and, in some areas of the country, energy burden can be as high as 30%. In CAPND's 2023 Statewide Needs Assessment, Utility Assistance (47.8%) was the second most frequently mentioned need by low-income respondents who identified needs in the housing category. The Weatherization Assistance Program can help low-income households save an average of \$372 or more each year on energy costs. In addition to energy-related benefits, there are many non-energy benefits like improved health, safety, and comfort. Weatherization returns on average \$2.78 in non-energy benefits for every \$1.00 invested in Weatherization.



From January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023, 2,244 projects including general weatherization furnace repair, and other related jobs were completed statewide. There are currently 11 weatherization crews across North Dakota with around 42 crew members. Community Action Agencies across the state are actively recruiting additional weatherization workforce including crew members, administrative staff, and more to ensure that families are receiving the services they need as quickly as possible.

Total Completed Projects and Labor/Material Costs		
Region	Jobs Completed	Total Labor/Material Costs
Region 1	78	\$216,979.53
Region 2	303	\$718,302.90
Region 3	311	\$774,796.55
Region 4	386	\$648,628.99
Region 5	298	\$925,752.13
Region 6	270	\$574,202.32
Region 7	400	\$1,073,689.70
Region 8	198	\$391,127.75
Total State	2,244	\$5,323,479.87

In November, SENDCAA had set up an appointment with one of their clients who lives in Lisbon, North Dakota, to stop by and do a QCI inspection on her home. While speaking with her over the phone she seemed to be happy that someone was going to stop by. When staff showed up at her home, she wanted them to sit down right away so that she could tell me how much she appreciated the crew that came to her home and did all the work that they did.

She also stated that since the crew had been there and the day that our inspector showed up that her home feels more comfortable and that her furnace doesn't seem to run as often. She was also very impressed by how the crew conducted themselves and how they explained the work that they would be doing in her home made her feel more informed.

Some of the tasks that were completed on the home include: blew the attic to the recommend R- value, installed two exhaust fans in the home(1 in the bathroom, 1 in the crawlspace), installed some health and safety measures including CO and smoke detectors, new dryer venting, and also used poly to cover the dirt floor in the crawlspace.

We also completed blower door testing, which helps to determine how much a home leaks. For this home, the result went from 2470 cfm down to 1092 cfm. These results show that our crew was able to reduce how much the home leaks.



Weatherization Assistance Program

There are many homes throughout the nation that may need weatherization services, but the condition of the home makes delivering the services either unsafe or ineffective. These houses are deferred meaning that the work is postponed until the problems are resolved and the home is “Weatherization Ready.” To help address these deferral conditions, the U.S. Department of Energy provides set aside dollars called Weatherization Readiness Funds, that allow the Weatherization program to address deferral conditions and bring dwellings into a Weatherization Ready state so weatherization work can begin on the home.

Weatherization Readiness Funds allow the program to provide a variety of repairs including:

- Major Roof Repairs
- Wall Repairs (Interior or Exterior)
- Ceiling Repair
- Floor Repair
- Foundation or subspace repair
- Exterior Drainage Repairs (gutters or landscape issues)
- Plumbing Repairs
- Electrical Repairs
- Lead Paint
- Asbestos (confirmed or suspected, including vermiculite), mold and/or moisture
- Leveling Manufactured Homes
- Cleanup or Remediation Beyond Typical Scope of the Weatherization Assistance Program.

Since October 2022, the Weatherization program in North Dakota has approved 38 Weatherization Readiness Jobs and of those 28 have been completed so Weatherization services could be completed on those dwellings. The majority of the Weatherization Readiness jobs approved in North Dakota have been for roof related repairs and re-shingling.



The median energy burden of low-income households is 3.6 times higher than that of non-income households.

First-Year Energy Savings



\$372

8,500
Jobs Created
Nationwide



ND Weatherization Served

675



Senior Families

385



Families with Children



North Dakota Rent Help

The North Dakota Rent Help Program was created to help North Dakotans who have fallen behind or are struggling to pay rent and could benefit from assistance. The program provided up to twelve months of temporary rental assistance and other housing supports to those who qualified. North Dakota's Community Action Agencies assisted households with applying for the program throughout the pandemic.

In May 2023, the North Dakota Rent Help Program became the NDRH Housing Stabilization Program, transitioning from pandemic emergency rent and utility assistance to focus remaining resources on helping households experiencing homelessness find long-term stable housing. The program can provide up to six months of rental assistance, a security deposit, and assistance with application fees. Statewide, the NDRH Housing Stabilization Program has assisted over 3,600 homeless households obtain housing. North Dakota's Community Action Agencies continue to partner with the program to assist households in applying for the program, locating housing, and finding other resources that may benefit the household such as economic assistance programs and other community support programs.

ND Rent Help Assistance Paid

As of January 23, 2024

\$113.9 million

Rental Assistance Paid

\$11.2 million

Utility Assistance Paid

\$3.8 million

Other Assistance Paid



In addition to this assistance, the ND Department of Health and Human Services granted CAPND supplementary funds to provide additional supports to households who need case management that the NDRH Housing Stability Program does not provide. With these funds, CAPND established the Whole Family Program - a case management program designed to help the entire family improve their well-being as well as their social and economic mobility.

Whole Family Program

Families enrolled in the Whole Family Program are assigned to a Whole Family Coach who provides tools to set, plan for, and achieve the families goals as well as provide resources and referrals to help meet those goals. Coaches work alongside families, as partners, to build their well-being by working with the entire family simultaneously.

Community Action understands that families come in all shapes and sizes. With that in mind, this program is available not only to parents and children, but to any household regardless of family size, makeup, or housing status. Participants actively engage with their coach; communicating with each other frequently, reviewing the households monthly budget and goals, and discussing resources and services that can best address specific household needs. Participants of the Whole

Family Program may also qualify for temporary financial assistance that can be used when there are barriers to their social or economic mobility like minor car repairs, utility bills, or child care related expenses.

With pandemic-related emergency rental and utility assistance ending, CAPND has expanded the program eligibility to include individuals at 80% AMI who receive or previously received North Dakota Rent Help Assistance even if they originally applied on their own. Starting in early 2024, our agencies will be offering this program to households across North Dakota.



WHAT IS THE WHOLE FAMILY APPROACH?

The Whole Family Approach intentionally and simultaneously works with the entire household from children to adults to help families pursue their goals and thrive.



WHAT IS THE GOAL OF THE WHOLE FAMILY APPROACH?

The goal of Whole Family Coaching is to help create a legacy of well-being and social and economic mobility for the whole family that passes from one generation to the next.




WHAT IS SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC MOBILITY?

The movement of families between social strata and their ability to improve their wealth and economic status. This includes a person's power and ability influence their environment and personal outcomes.



WHY USE A WHOLE FAMILY APPROACH?

Strong families are the foundation for strong communities. A Whole Family Approach ensures that the entire family is receiving the support they need to make positive progress together allowing them to reach and maintain larger goals that improve their wellbeing.



A client came to our Minot agency because there had been a lot going on in their life. He struggled with drug and alcohol addiction and had previously found himself in trouble and ended up in jail. After speaking with him, our staff determined that he was in need of clothing and other personal items. The agency was able to assist him in obtaining clothing including a new pair of boots as well as the necessary personal items. They also provided him with needed referrals for other services.

The client is now at a local halfway house doing well on his road to recovery and has stopped by the agency again to thank everyone for their assistance.



Head Start/Early Head Start

Although Head Start is often thought to be one program, it actually consists of two - Head Start and Early Head Start. These programs exist to provide a comprehensive early childhood education, health, nutrition, and parent-involvement services to low-income children and their families. Head Start programs promote the school readiness of infants, toddlers, and preschool-aged children from low-income families. These programs are available at no cost to low income families with children ages birth to 5. Families and children experiencing homelessness and children in the foster care system are also eligible. In North Dakota, three Community Action Agencies host Head Start/Early Head Start programs:

- Fargo - Southeastern North Dakota Community Action Agency
- Dickinson -Community Action Partnership - Dickinson Region
- Jamestown - Community Action Program Region VI - Jamestown



Head Start/Early Head Start programs also offers the opportunity for families and children to become involved with activities and receive services which they may not normally be able to. Some of these activities and services include:

- Well-Child Health and Dental Checkups
- Vision, Hearing, Social, Emotional, and Developmental Screenings
- Educational and Recreational Field Trips and Classes
- Nutrition Education and Guidance to Families

Community Action classroom teachers, paraprofessionals, along with educators in the areas of health, nutrition, and family involvement help foster stable family relationships, enhance children's physical and emotional well-being, and establish an environment to develop strong cognitive skills.

Sportsmen Against Hunger

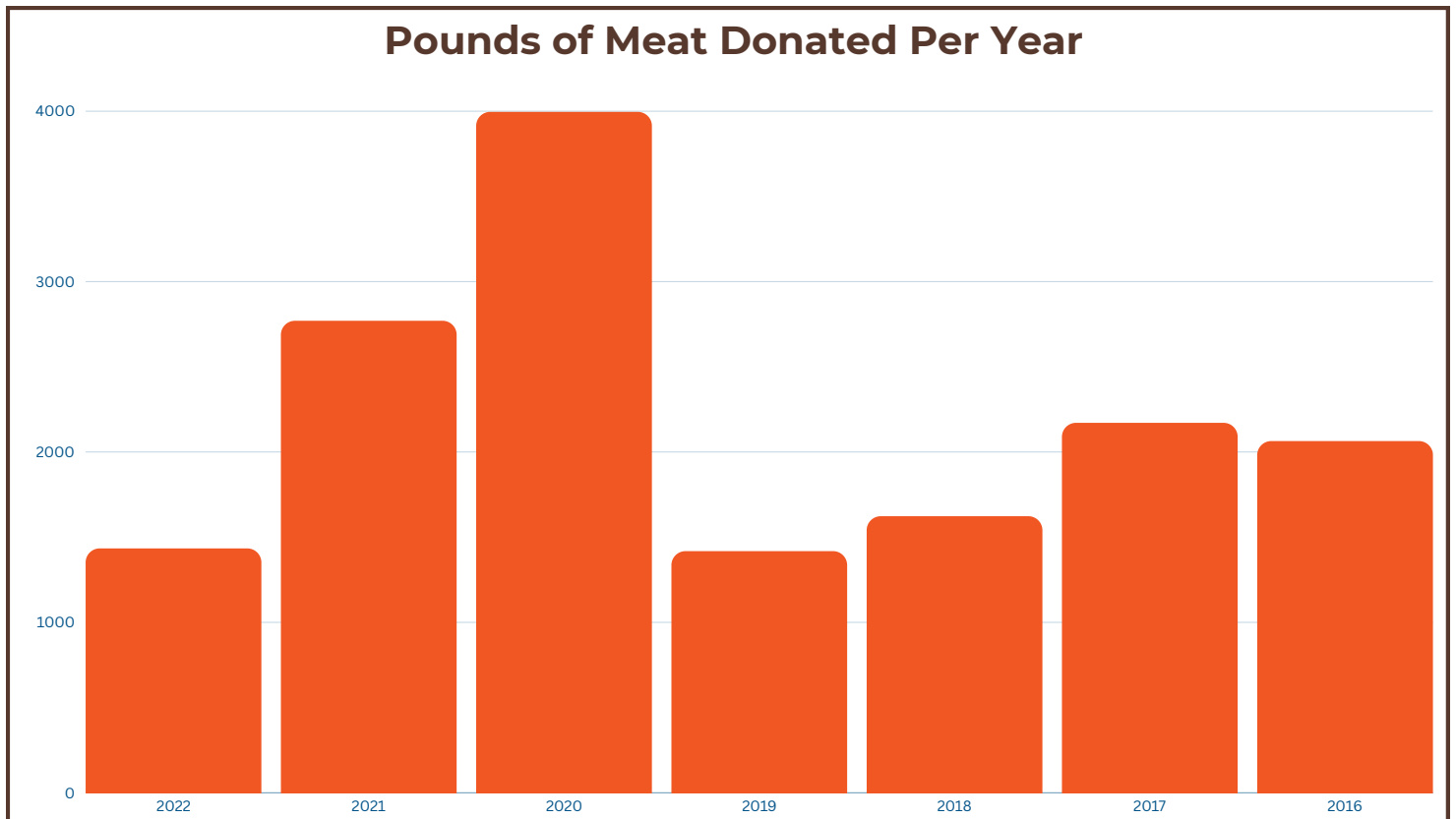


ND Community Action
SPORTSMEN
Against Hunger

Community Action Partnership of North Dakota's Sportsmen Against Hunger program organizes the donation of legally-obtained wild game to food pantries across North Dakota. Hunters can drop off their donated wild game with Sportsmen Against Hunger partnered processors who then process the meat into packages. Volunteers then pick up this meat and deliver it to area food pantries. Local food pantries continue to be in need of healthy sources of protein, particularly fresh/frozen meat. Perishable items are often the least likely to be donated, yet these are the most needed items for families to prepare health, balanced meals.

Typically, the Sportsmen Against Hunger Program sees an average of 2500-3000 lbs. of game including deer, elk, and moose donated each year, however the 2022-2023 season have seen a drop in the total amount donated. This decrease could be caused by a number of factors including unseasonably warm weather and chronic wasting disease. With inflation and the increasing cost of food, hunters are also more likely to utilize their game to supplement their food supply in order to feed their families and help their neighbors.

Pounds of Meat Donated Per Year



Region 8 RPIC

The Region 8 Regional Performance Innovation Consortium (RPIC), is a successful collaboration between the Community Action State Associations and State CSBG Offices who serve all 75 Community Action Agencies and CSBG-eligible entities in the states of: Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming. The RPIC works closely with the National Community Action Partnership (NCAP), National Association for State Community Services Programs (NASCS), CAPLAW, and the Office of Community Services to develop coordinated regional Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) plans. These plans are designed to respond to the T/TA needs presented to the RPIC by local agencies across Federal Region 8. CAPND currently serves as the Region 8 RPIC Lead.

The members of the Region 8 RPIC hold a variety of training conferences throughout the region and online, providing an opportunity for Community Action staff, Board members, and other partners to come together to learn and network. Biannual conferences are held by members of the RPIC. In 2023, the Community Action Partnership of North Dakota with the assistance of the Community Action Partnership of Utah hosted a virtual conference. The 2023 conference provided a variety of sessions with topics including:

- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Trauma Informed Care
- Whole Family Coaching
- Affordable Connectivity Program
- War on Poverty Workshop (Pre-Conference)
- Compassion Fatigue
- Leadership Development
- Data and Technology
- Racial Healing Circle

In 2023, the Region 8 RPIC offered its first ever Data Cohort Training. This was a opportunity for data experts and novices to come together for meaningful and intentional peer exchange and learning with the goal of strengthening the data culture throughout the region. Members of the cohort participated in two three-hour facilitated online peer meetings where they received access to training and the opportunity to share best practices from across the Community Action Network.



Region 8 RPIC

In addition to the data cohort, the Region 8 RPIC also sponsored the National Community Action Partnership Data Convening held in Denver, CO. This event was designed to bring together data experts from across Community Action to do a deep dive into the complex issues and opportunities Community Action Agencies face collecting, analyzing, and using their data for decision making.



In addition to conferences and trainings, the RPIC provides information about highlighted initiatives in Federal Region 8. Highlighted initiatives are defined as, a strategy currently being implemented by a local Community Action Agency that models an example of high-impact, transformational work in the Community Action network. These highlighted initiatives include:

Schools of Reservations
Rapid City, SD

Integrated Community Action Now
Ogden, UT

Data Sharing & Data Exchanges
Castle Rock, CO

Workforce Development Program
Fargo, ND

Institutional Release Housing Program
Kalispell, MT

Poverty Reduction Lab
Price, UT

Goose Creek Transit
Sheridan, WY

The Region 8 RPIC also works with the Region 8 Community Action Association. The Region 8 Community Action Association is a membership-driven organization representing Community Action Agencies in Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming that serves to provide Community Action Agencies a unified voice for the region and a platform for training and technical assistance. Membership benefits include:

- Helping in the selection of representatives to serve on the Boards of Directors of our national partners.
- Membership fees to cover membership in CAPLAW which offers free legal advice to member Community Action Agencies.

Training and Technical Assistance

Weatherization Trainings

In 2023, CAPND hosted four furnace trainings for Weatherization staff. Held at the North Dakota State College of Science (NDSCS) in Wahpeton, North Dakota, this training introduced and expanded on concepts needed to perform appropriate furnace related services during the weatherization process. Over 40 weatherization staff from across the state attended these sessions.



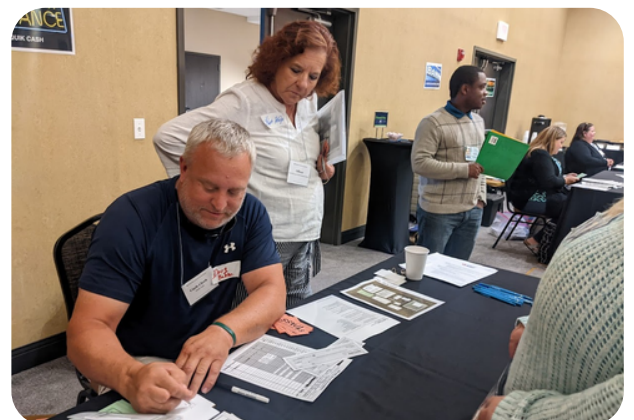
In addition to these trainings, CAPND hosted a two day Weatherization Conference in Bismarck, North Dakota. The conference included a variety of sessions that would be helpful for weatherization technicians, energy auditors, inspectors, and other staff including administrative and supervisory roles. Sessions included:

- Health and Job Safety
- File Review
- Microsoft Office and Adobe Acrobat
- Communicating and Working with Difficult clients
- Residential Electrical Hazards
- Diagnostic Training
- Weatherization 101
- Basic Furnace Training
- Human Trafficking 101



Poverty Simulations

CAPND conducts poverty simulations to large groups for educational purposes. The poverty simulation experience is designed to help participants begin to understand what it might be like to live in a typical low-income family trying to survive from month-to-month. It is a simulation, not a game. The object is to sensitize participants to the realities faced by low-income people.



Training and Technical Assistance

Region 8 RPIC Trainings

CAPND and the Region 8 RPIC hosted a four-day Four Cornerstones of Financial Wellness Train-the-Trainer workshop provided by Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota for Community Action staff across North Dakota and Federal Region 8. The goal of the training was to empower human service professionals to teach, train, and support financial literacy for people in their communities.

The Four Cornerstones curriculum is designed to build financial literacy, which means the ability to speak the language of and function well in the culture of, the mainstream financial world of the United States. The four cornerstones are:

- Budgeting to create savings
- Debt reduction and asset building
- Building a good credit rating
- Consumer protection and financial institutions.



CAPND and the Region 8 RPIC also offer monthly Tech Talk sessions designed to help participants learn more about a variety of technology related subjects that can help them improve their digital literacy and related skills. These sessions are recorded and made available on demand. Some topics include:

- Cybersecurity Best Practices
- SharePoint - Users and Designers
- Zoom and Video Conferencing
- Adobe Acrobat
- Social Media Safety and Management
- Email - Outlook, Gmail, and More
- Basic Computer Hardware
- Internet Browsers

The Region 8 RPIC, in partnership with the Association of National Certified ROMA Trainers and the Colorado Community Action Association, supports State Associations and State Offices in providing ROMA trainings and support for members in Region 8. Results-Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) is a performance-based management system used by the Community Action Network Nationwide. Using outcomes as its foundation, ROMA's aims are continuous program improvement and accountability.



About Us

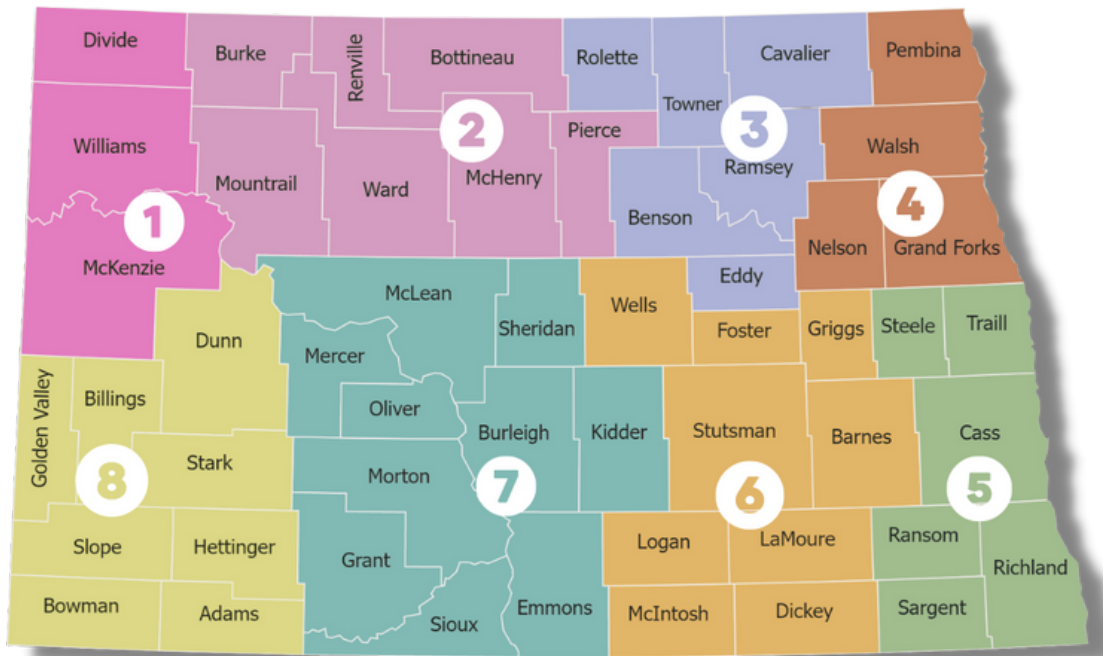
COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES IN NORTH DAKOTA

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CAP - Jamestown Region
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Jamestown, ND 58402
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SENDCAA
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Fargo, ND 58104
(701) 232-2452
www.sendcaa.org

WHO WE ARE

Established in 1976, the Community Action Partnership of North Dakota is a private, non-profit membership organization representing the seven Community Action Agencies in North Dakota. We serve the collective interests of our members and the low-income population of the state through representation and education.

About Us

OUR BOARD

Erv Bren

Willy Soderholm

Lora Papacheck

Kaye Seibel

Brandon Kjelden

Kristina Brownell

Andrea Werner

Community Action Partnership - Dickinson/Williston Regions

Community Action Partnership - Minot Region

Dakota Prairie Community Action Agency

Red River Valley Community Action Agency

Southeastern North Dakota Community Action Agency

Community Action Program Region VI

Community Action Program Region VII



OUR STAFF



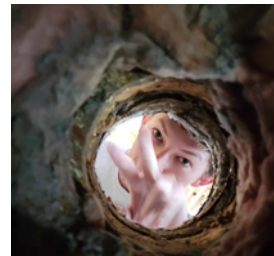
Andrea Olson
Executive Director



Faith Marthe
Director of Outreach & Tech



Holly Papineau
Programs Director



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