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Cover photo by Andre Styles.
Minnesota Historical Society’s
“History at Heart” art installation
in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

HISTORY & MISSION

HISTORY

Community Action Partnership of Hennepin County (CAP-HC) is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and proud member of the Community Action Network. Community Action was established in 1964 and has grown into a national network of over 1,000 agencies committed to poverty reduction.

Created in 1986, CAP-HC connects Hennepin County residents from low-income backgrounds with programs and services that address their immediate needs and help them build toward a prosperous future.

MISSION

Partner with community to provide effective and responsive services to reduce the impact of poverty in Hennepin County.

VISION

Hennepin County without poverty.

VALUES

Building Relationships



Creating Opportunities



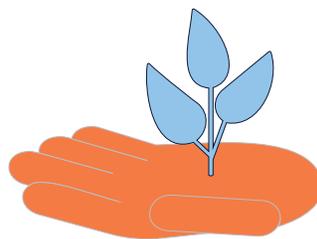
Eliminating Barriers



Equity and Inclusion



Responsible Stewardship



Strengthening Community



LEADERSHIP

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DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS:

After the challenges we faced in 2020 as a community and a nation, one might think that 2021 brought some much-needed relief. Then, COVID rampaged through the U.S. unchecked, but now treatments and vaccines are widely available. Systemic racism was, at worst, denied altogether, and at best, a shadowed truth. Now, it has been brought into the light to be acknowledged and dismantled. Despite this progress, living in poverty has gotten *more* difficult over the last year. Inflation has made buying healthy food even less affordable. Higher gas prices are exacerbating transportation challenges. Gun violence is rising dramatically in Hennepin County. And a lack of housing is driving up mortgages and rent, making it harder than ever to find an affordable, safe place to live.

These challenges have only strengthened Community Action Partnership of Hennepin County's (CAP-HC's) resolve to address the root causes of poverty and help people with lower incomes build pathways to prosperity. As you'll see in our 2021 Annual Report, we helped thousands of households through our broad range of programs. In addition to breadth of service, we also provided over 1,100 hours of in-depth, personalized case management for 250+ Hennepin County households.

As we look ahead, we're excited to continue connecting with our community, develop the agency's next three-year strategic plan, and help Hennepin County residents with lower incomes pave their path to prosperity.

Sincerely,



David Asp
Board Chair



Dr. Clarence Hightower
Executive Director

COMMUNITY PROFILE

1,281,600

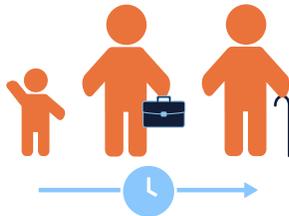
TOTAL COUNTY POPULATION



1 IN 10

PEOPLE ARE LIVING AT OR BELOW FPL

AGE



	COUNTY POPULATION BELOW FPL	CAP-HC CLIENTS
UNDER 18	28%	40%
18-64	62%	47%
65+	15%	13%

EDUCATION



21% OF PEOPLE LIVING BELOW FPL HAVE NOT ATTAINED A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR EQUIVALENT EDUCATION LEVEL

FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL (FPL)

Each year, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services sets federal poverty guidelines, often referred to as federal poverty level. These guidelines use annual household income to determine poverty status and income eligibility for certain federal programs. Income thresholds vary based on the number of people in a household.

ANNUAL INCOME

2021 COUNTY MEDIAN

\$81,000

2021 MEDIAN FOR A FAMILY OF 3

\$113,000

2021 FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINE (FPL) FOR A FAMILY OF 3

\$22,000

RACE & ETHNICITY

AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE

2%
3%

ASIAN

7%
8%

BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN

37%
56%

WHITE

43%
27%

MULTIRACIAL

5%
4%

HISPANIC OR LATINO

12%
7%

NOT HISPANIC OR LATINO

88%
93%

■ COUNTY POPULATION BELOW FPL
■ CAP-HC CLIENTS

Sources: 2020 Decennial Census Data; 2020 ACS 5-Year Estimates;

CAP-HC demographic data for Federal Fiscal Year 2020

ENERGY & WATER SERVICES

Community Action Partnership of Hennepin County's (CAP-HC's) largest program area is Energy & Water Services. It is the largest program area when measured by either households served or by funds disbursed.

CAP-HC's Energy & Water Services programs help people meet their immediate needs by ensuring their homes have clean water and are safe and warm during the coldest months of the year. This financial support means people don't have to choose between heating their home or buying healthy food for their family. In some cases, this support prevents utility disconnection or eviction.

CAP-HC is one of the largest Energy Assistance providers in Minnesota. In 2021, we processed 17,868 applications and distributed \$8,484,000 to utility providers for 13,987 Hennepin County households. After processing another 7,088 applications, Crisis Assistance provided an additional \$4,588,000 in utility support for households in need. The Energy-Related Repair program provided \$394,500 of furnace repairs or replacements so that 115

households would have safe, continuous heat throughout the coldest months of the year. And the Water Assistance Program provided \$266,300 in grants to utility providers for 773 households.

"My husband and I live on [Social Security income.] We gained custody of our four grandchildren, so we needed help. [CAP-HC] was there for us and helped us then and continue to help us."

— Anonymous Energy Assistance Client

In addition to providing assistance through grants and repairs, CAP-HC also held 33 Energy Safety assemblies in 2021. Through this program, 8,385 school-aged children learned about energy safety. Energy conservation tips were also included so that students could help keep energy use in their homes lower.

ENERGY & WATER SERVICES BY THE NUMBERS



ENERGY ASSISTANCE

17,868

APPLICATIONS PROCESSED



ASSISTANCE FUNDS DISBURSED

\$8.4+

MILLION



CRISIS ASSISTANCE

7,088

APPLICATIONS PROCESSED

ENERGY-RELATED REPAIR

ENERGY & WATER SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Energy Assistance: electricity and heating bill assistance grants paid to utility providers
- Crisis Assistance: utility bill assistance grants to utility providers for households with no income
- Energy-Related Repair: emergency repair or replacement of heating systems
- Water Assistance: water bill assistance grants paid to utility providers
- Energy Safety Program: educational assemblies for elementary schools and after-school programs, like the Boys and Girls Club

“We were lost, scared, and wondering what to do. [CAP-HC] saved us!”

– Christopher (pictured)
Energy-Related Repair Client



**ENERGY-RELATED
REPAIR**

115

HOUSEHOLDS



**WATER
ASSISTANCE**

773

HOUSEHOLDS



**ENERGY SAFETY
PROGRAM**

8,385

SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN

HOUSING STABILITY

Housing is one of the most important basic needs for individuals and families. As such, housing stability is another significant focus area for CAP-HC. Through several programs, CAP-HC is able to help people experiencing homelessness find housing, help renters and homeowners keep up with their monthly payments, and educate renters of their rights and responsibilities.

The Rapid Rehousing program is a targeted program aimed at helping 10 households experiencing homelessness find safe, affordable housing. In 2021, CAP-HC successfully housed 10 households while also providing 138 case management hours to address additional challenges specific to each household. Similarly, the Emergency Housing Assistance Program helped 67 households in Hennepin County with housing payments while also providing 211 personalized case management hours for those families. CAP-HC also received special funding to help people experiencing a COVID-related hardship. Our COVID-19 Housing Assistance program provided \$940,000 in assistance to 277 households.

“Thank you so much for your support. It has allowed me and my family to keep our home and not live on the streets.”

— *Anonymous Emergency Housing Assistance Client*

Another way CAP-HC helps people maintain stable housing is through education. Our Renter’s Rights Workshops and Rental Counseling programs inform renters of, and help them understand, their rights so they can make the decisions that are best for their housing needs. Guided by HUD*-certified housing counselors, 27 households participated in 11 Renter’s Rights Workshops in 2021. Additionally, Rental Counseling provided personalized assistance for 11 households.

**U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development*

HOUSING STABILITY BY THE NUMBERS



**RAPID
REHOUSING**

138

CASE MANAGEMENT HOURS



**EMERGENCY HOUSING
ASSISTANCE**

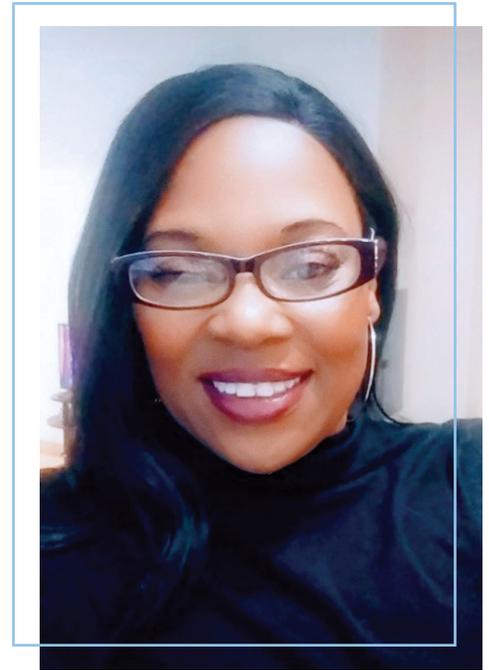
211

CASE MANAGEMENT HOURS

RAPID REHOUSING

HOUSING STABILITY SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Rapid Rehousing: counseling, case management, and wrap-around services that help people experiencing homelessness move into safe, affordable housing
- Emergency Housing Assistance: assistance for past-due rent and rent deposits
- Renter’s Rights Workshops: workshops designed to help people understand their rights and responsibilities as a renter
- Rental Counseling: HUD*-certified Housing Counselors help renters develop budgets, determine eligibility for assistance, educate renters about good rental practices, and more
- COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program: housing assistance specifically for people who experienced hardship due to COVID-19



“Rapid Rehousing has helped me regain stability in my life.”

– Shanda (pictured)
Rapid Rehousing Client

“Rapid rehousing has helped me regain stability in my life. I was in a homeless shelter when I found out about [CAP-HC] and from the beginning there was nothing but support and assistance from them. They helped me get out of the shelter and get my own apartment ... I have been able to gain financial control and housing stability.”



**RENTER’S RIGHTS
WORKSHOPS**

27

HOUSEHOLDS



**RENTAL
COUNSELING**

11

HOUSEHOLDS

COVID-19 ASSISTANCE



**COVID-19 HOUSING
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

277

HOUSEHOLDS

HEALTHCARE & TRANSPORTATION

HEALTHCARE

One of the factors that causes and reinforces poverty is health. When budgets are tight, families must choose between buying healthy food, getting healthcare, and paying bills. Each of these decisions has a ripple effect that contributes to overall health. To help people get the healthcare they need, CAP-HC has a MNsure Application Assistance Program. Through this program, trained CAP-HC staff help eligible Hennepin County residents apply for low-cost health insurance options, explore potential tax credits, and provide support through the application process. In 2021, CAP-HC staff helped 107 households apply for health insurance.

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

When we ask community members about the biggest barriers they face, the subject of transportation often arises. In a recent survey, roughly half of the respondents named the cost of car ownership as a transportation barrier. Without safe, reliable transportation, people cannot get to work, healthcare appointments, or take

part in educational opportunities that could help them maintain employment, stay healthy, and become self-sufficient.

HOW PEOPLE LIVING BELOW FPL GET TO WORK



Source: 2020 ACS 5-Year Estimates

CAP-HC helps eliminate transportation barriers through three transportation-related programs. First, CAP-HC's Vehicle Repair Assistance Program helps ensure income-eligible residents have safe vehicles by providing financial assistance toward repairs. In 2021, CAP-HC helped 220 households repair their vehicles. Staff were also able to

HEALTH CARE & TRANSPORTATION BY THE NUMBERS



MNSURE APPLICATION ASSISTANCE

107

HOUSEHOLDS



VEHICLE REPAIR PROGRAM

220

HOUSEHOLDS

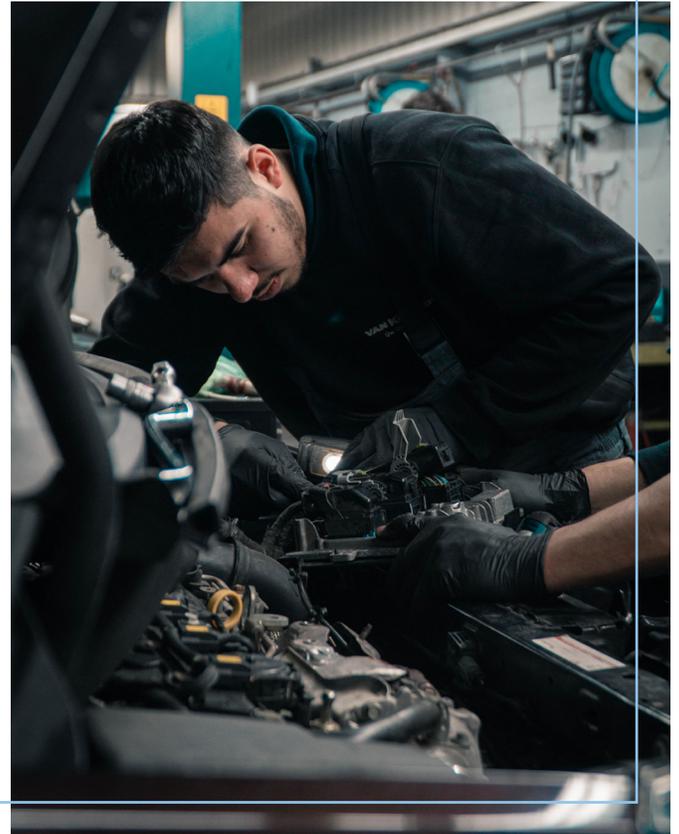
VEHICLE REPAIR PROGRAM

provide 950 hours of case management for those households as well, making sure needs beyond transportation could be met.

Two new programs were made possible through special COVID-19 funding. The Auto Insurance Assistance Program helped 33 households pay their car insurance. And the Transportation Assistance Program helped 71 households overcome lapses in local transportation by providing gas cards and Metro Transit cards to people experiencing a COVID-related financial crisis.

"I appreciate all that you offer. Your programs helped me in my time of need during my financial hardship. Thank you!"

— Anonymous Energy Assistance and Vehicle Repair Client



COVID-19 ASSISTANCE



AUTO INSURANCE ASSISTANCE

33

HOUSEHOLDS



TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

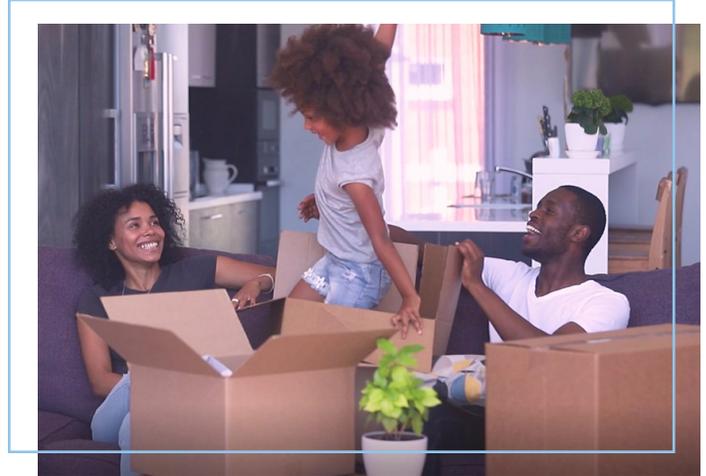
71

HOUSEHOLDS

FINANCIAL WELLNESS & HOMEBUYER SERVICES

While addressing the immediate needs of people living in poverty is vitally important so that households can stabilize, it's not enough to break the cycle of poverty. The next step is helping people build toward prosperity. CAP-HC's Financial Wellness & Homebuyer Services help people do just that.

One such program is our Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program. In 2021, trained volunteers helped file 107 tax returns for 78 households, making sure returns maximized credits while minimizing expenses. Through our Family Assets for Independence in Minnesota Program, 20 households participated in a 24-month, 3-to-1 matched savings project aimed at achieving wealth through asset acquisition, pursuit of post-secondary education, launch of a small business, and more. Last year, CAP-HC also conducted 14 Financial Wellness Workshops, educating 25 households about money management skills such as creating a budget, building good credit, and building assets. Counseling is also available for clients who are ready for more



"I am a homeowner now. Never thought it would actually happen, but it did!"

— Anonymous Homebuyer Workshop and Homebuyer Counseling Client

personalized financial or homebuying guidance. In 2021, 42 households sought out these counseling options. Since homeownership is one of the best ways to build generational wealth, CAP-HC also provided 18 Homebuyer Workshops, helping 137 households make a plan to reach their homeownership goals.

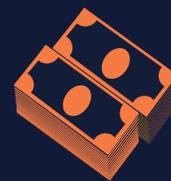
FINANCIAL WELLNESS & HOMEBUYER SERVICES BY THE NUMBERS



VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE

107

TAX RETURNS FILED



FAMILY ASSETS FOR INDEPENDENCE IN MN

20

HOUSEHOLDS

NEW PROGRAM

EMPLOYMENT READINESS

Respondents in recent Community Needs Assessments (CNAs) have mentioned barriers to employment, such as lack of transportation, health conditions and disabilities, and a need for job training for higher-wage job options. A staggering 96% of the 2020 CNA survey respondents had incomes that did not meet the average cost of living for their Hennepin County households. In response, CAP-HC launched a new Employment Readiness Program in November 2021.

The program helps Hennepin County residents with lower incomes overcome employment barriers by providing résumé support, interview training, and finding job leads. Plans are under way to expand CAP-HC’s Employment Services to include manufacturing training, job retention workshops, and Getting Ahead cohorts—an 8-week program where participants discuss the causes of poverty and make a plan to build toward self-sufficiency.

Carmen Mask, the staff member who manages the Employment Readiness program, shared “there are many



Employment Readiness Participants celebrate completing the program with staff member, Carmen Mask (pictured at center).

reasons why people seek this type of support,” naming lack of basic computer skills, language barriers, or recent release from prison as examples. Mask added, “people come to this program with the hope to become self-sufficient ... they have goals, and they work hard with our support to get where they want to be.”



FINANCIAL WELLNESS WORKSHOPS

25

HOUSEHOLDS



FINANCIAL WELLNESS & HOMEBUYER COUNSELING

42

HOUSEHOLDS



HOMEBUYER WORKSHOPS

137

HOUSEHOLDS

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

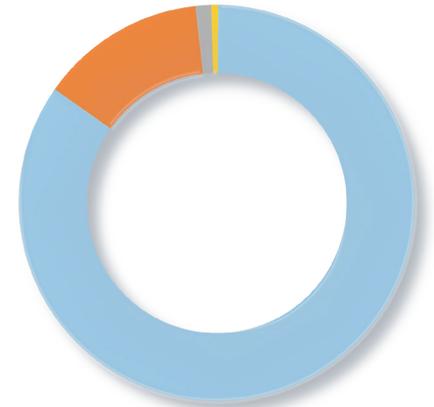
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION *

Assets		
Cash	\$246,641	31.5%
Receivables	485,015	62.0%
Prepaid Expenses	34,455	4.4%
Property & Equipment, Net	16,093	2.1%
Total Assets	\$782,204	100.0%
Liabilities & Net Assets		
Payables	\$84,867	10.8%
Accrued Expenses	200,650	25.7%
Grant Advances	148,655	19.0%
Assets without Donor Restrictions	276,906	35.4%
Assets with Donor Restrictions	71,126	9.1%
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$782,204	100.0%

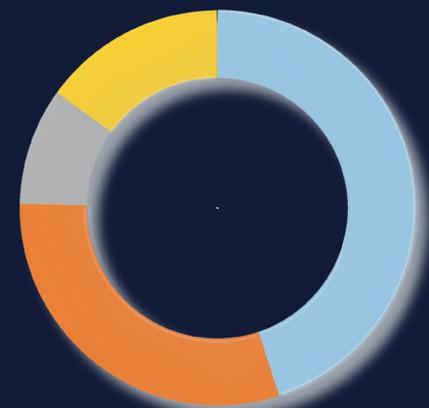
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES *

Revenue		
Federal Government Grants	\$6,117,643	85.0%
State and Other Government Grants	980,516	13.6%
Corporate, Foundations, & Other Grants	90,798	1.3%
Program Service Fees	7,203	0.1%
Other Revenue	165	0.0%
Total Revenue	\$7,196,325	100.0%
Expenses		
Client Services	\$3,256,422	45.0%
Energy Assistance Program	2,212,669	30.6%
Planning & Development	664,393	9.2%
Management & General	1,105,316	15.3%
Total Expenses	\$7,238,800	100.0%
Change in Net Asset	\$ (42,475)	

REVENUES



EXPENSES



THANK YOU

FUNDERS



MINNESOTA
HOMEOWNERSHIP
CENTER



*Thrivent contributions through
Thrivent Choice Dollars Grant Funds*



PARTNERS

A Mother's Love Initiative
Apadana
Bridging Inc.
CAPLAW
Charities Review Council
City of Brooklyn Park
City of Minneapolis
Community Action Partnership of Ramsey & Washington Counties
Edina Community Council
Hennepin South Services Collaborative
Homes for All
ICA Food Shelf
Legal Services Advocacy Project
Lutheran Social Services
Minneapolis Public Schools
Minnesota Asset Building Coalition
Minnesota Community Action Partnership
Minnesota Council of Nonprofits
Minnetonka Family Collaborative
MRA – The Management Association
National Community Action Partnership
National Community Action Foundation
New Salem Missionary Baptist Church
Northwest Family Resource Collaborative
Orono Healthy Youth Family Services Collaborative
Parents in Community Action Head Start
Partners for Healthy Kids
Plymouth Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Prepare + Prosper, FAIR Banking Program
ResourceWest
Robbinsdale Redesign
Schools & Communities in Partnership
St. Anthony New-Brighton Family Services Collaborative
St. Louis Park Family Services Collaborative
Sustainable Resource Center
Target
The Improve Group
Twin Cities Road Crew
Urban Homeworks
Westonka Healthy Community
YouthPrise



Community Action
Partnership of Hennepin County

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