

Inter-County Community Council

Annual Report 2021-22

Serving the counties of Clearwater, East Polk, Pennington, and Red Lake



Community Action:
Helping People. Changing Lives.



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ICCC is an Equal Opportunity Employer & Program Provider.
Accommodations available upon request.

Message from the Executive Director

Dear community partners, participants and friends,

I'm pleased to share with you our agency wide annual report. Inside these pages you will find highlights and data on what we have accomplished this past year.

This past year we completed a real time strategic planning process identifying resources, gaps and an approach that will help us be nimble and quick in responding to needs that arise. Also, through this process, we revised our Mission and added Core Agency Values.

We had a Board member, Jen Forsberg, present at a National conference, a state training on poverty and to our staff during an all staff day.

We are now seeing programs and services returning to their pre-pandemic amounts and delivery methods. This has created a tough adjustment for those we serve, in some cases money to assist was higher during the pandemic and now has returned to lower levels.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank those that give to our Agency. Even though this past year inflation soared we still saw our communities and neighbors be most generous in their donations to our agency.

Thank you to the ICCC Board of Directors and Head Start Policy Council for your time and talents in serving as our governance and leadership. Your commitment to our organization and to the communities and people we serve is so very much appreciated.

Thank you to the people we serve for your patience as programs rules and guidelines have changed and for your vulnerability to share with us your lives.

Lastly, I would like to thank the individuals and their families who work at ICCC. It is because of your dedication, professionalism and commitment that we are able to administer the programs that we do. Each and every day you are needed and so very much appreciated.

Yours in Action,

Catherine Johnson, LISW Executive Director

Food Shelf

ICCC's Food Shelf is available to anyone who needs emergency help with a food box.

Food Shelf Hours: 8:00a.m.-4:30p.m., Monday- Friday

The food shelf is funded by community donations and fundraisers. We would like to thank all of our past donors. If you would like to assist our local food shelf, please consider donating.

In 2022 we served 89 households, giving out just over 15,000 pounds of food!

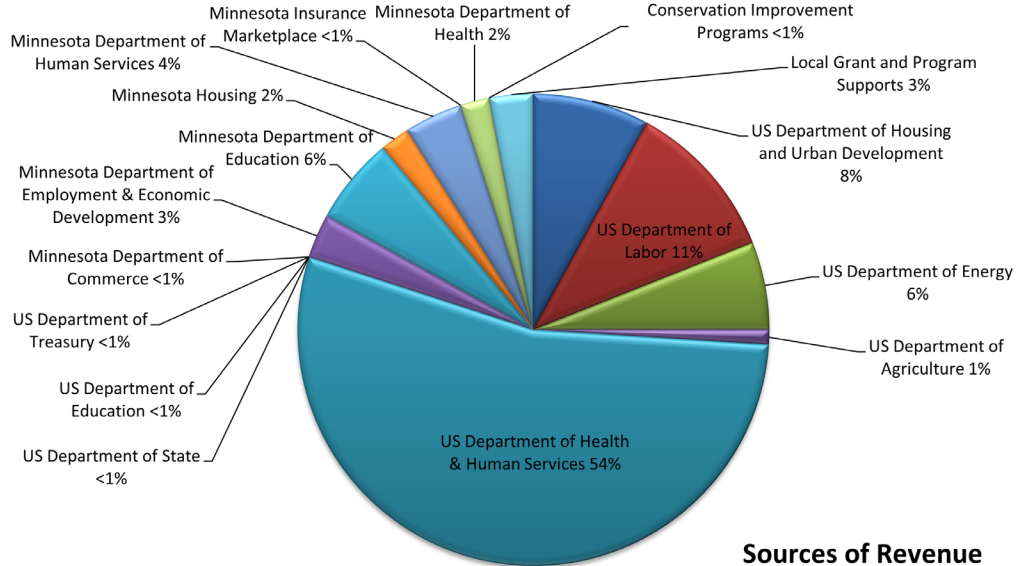
0-17	90
18-64	151
65+	16

Individuals	257
Households	89
Baskets Given	249

Lbs of Food	15,133.19
Lbs of HH Items	1,856.19

Financials

Inter-County Community Council is audited each fiscal year by an Independent Certified Public Accountant. The audit is conducted in accordance with the Government Auditing Standards (GAS). The summarized data is for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022.

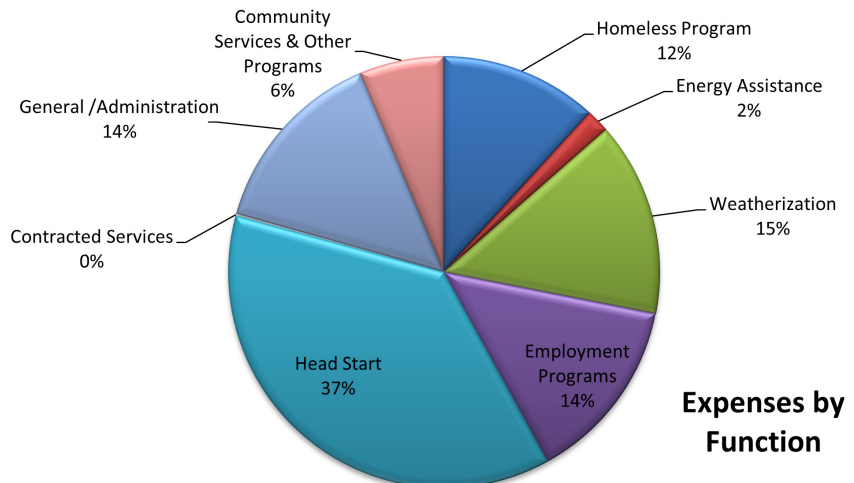


Sources of Revenue

Sources of Revenue	
US Department of Housing & Urban Development	\$369,824
Indirect Department of Health & Human Services	\$850,419
US Department of Labor	\$507,125
US Department of Energy.....	\$255,370
US Department of Agriculture.....	\$52,698
US Department of Health & Human Services.....	\$1,612,953
US Department of State	\$715
US Department of Education.....	\$4,998
US Department of Treasury.....	\$3,827
Minnesota Department of Commerce	\$1,321
Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development.....	\$121,979
Minnesota Department of Education.....	\$283,649
Minnesota Housing	\$71,222
Minnesota Insurance Marketplace.....	\$11,719
Minnesota Department of Health	\$77,658
Minnesota Department of Human Services	\$192,980
Conservations Improvement Programs.....	\$9,544
Local Grant & Program Supports.....	\$131,058
Total Sources of Revenue.....	\$4,559,059

Revenues	
Federal Grants	\$3,657,928
State Grants.....	\$760,529
Local Grants & Program Support	\$140,602
Total Revenues	\$4,559,059

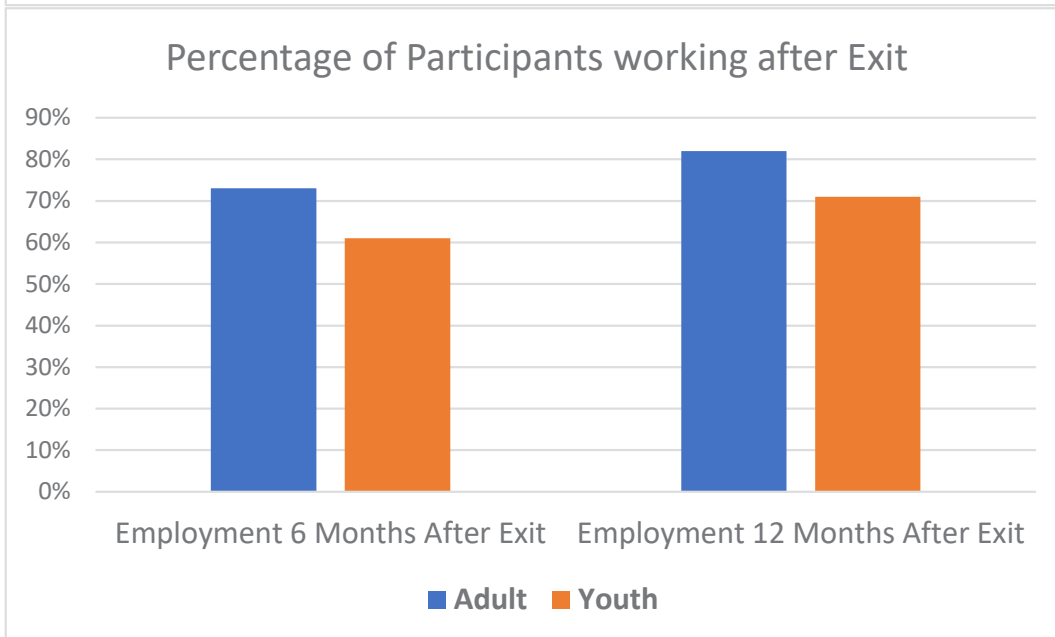
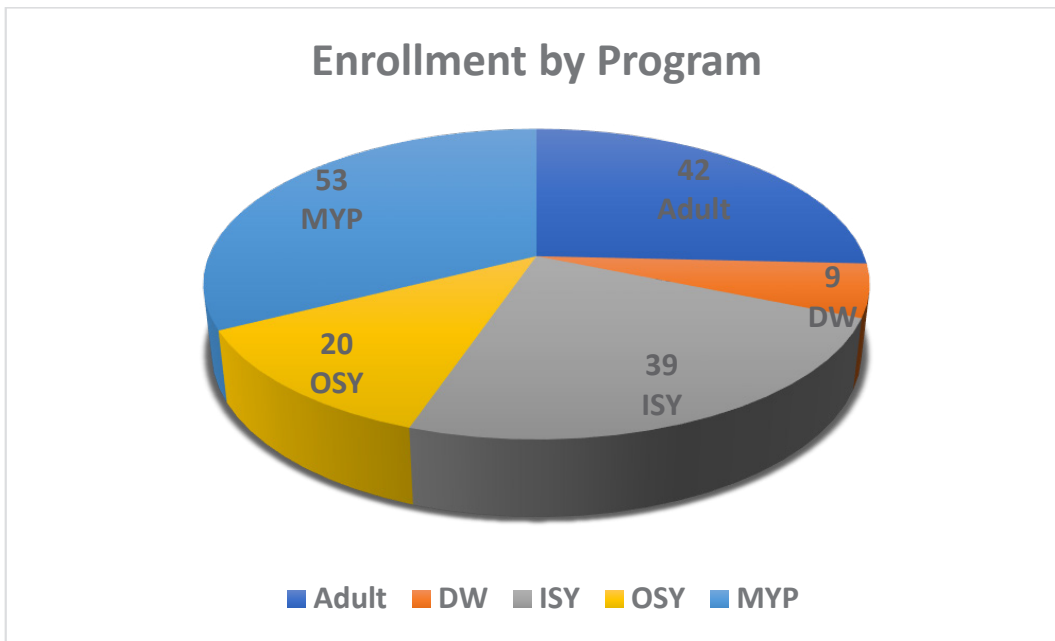
Expenses by Function	
Homeless Program	\$535,376
Energy Assistance	\$78,604
Weatherization	\$661,092
Employment Programs.....	\$630,471
Head Start.....	\$1,690,330
Contracted Services.....	\$5,714
General /Administration ...	\$649,099
Community Services & Other Programs	\$288,178
Total Expenditures.....	\$4,538,864



Expenses by Function

Employment and Training

Employment and Training (E&T) served 121 unique individuals in its seven programs in 2021-22. The E & T programs serve different demographics from youth – Minnesota Youth (MYP) and WIOA Youth programs (ISY and OSY) – to economically challenged Adults (WIOA Adult), to Dislocated workers (State and WIOA Dislocated worker programs) – and finally the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). **ICCC receives funding from the Northwest Private Industry Council for the WIOA Adult, WIOA and State Dislocated worker funds as well as WIOA Youth.** ICCC is a direct recipient of MYP and SCSEP funds as well as being a vendor to provide Pre-ETS services through DEED Vocational Rehabilitation Services. E&T has a large service area including all of Kittson, Roseau, Marshall, Red Lake, Pennington, Polk and Norman Counties. During the 2021-22 year ICCC E&T had staff located in Thief River Falls, Crookston and Oklee. Regardless of the program, one goal is shared – Help individuals find, secure and maintain employment. This looks differently for many of our clients. Youth need work experience and work readiness skills, while adults and dislocated workers may need training to get a job in a new field. Success can be measured by the percentage of participants working six months and 12 months after exit. Youth are performing at over 60% and Adults are over 70% employed at six months.

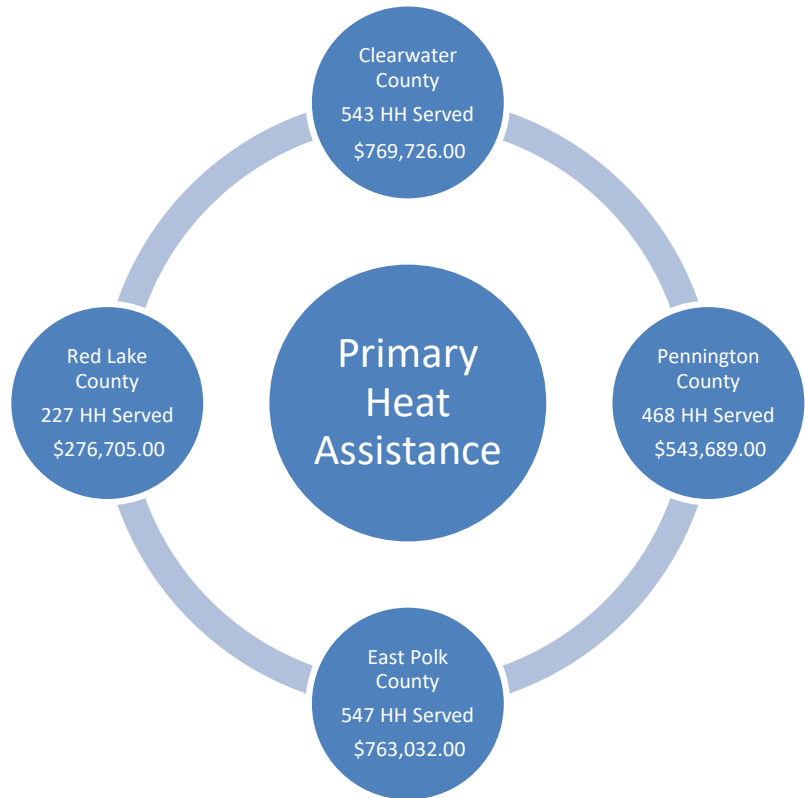


Energy Assistance

The Energy Assistance Program Mission is to improve low-income Minnesota household's capacity to positively affect their well-being by meeting immediate home energy needs and reduce home energy needs. New this year, ICCC Energy Assistance took over services in Clearwater County. This increased our application count by approximately 1/3 and allowed our department to serve all of our core service area. Below is a breakdown of services offered through energy assistance and the data associated for the 2021-2022 program year.

Primary Heat Assistance

Primary Heat Benefits are used to address the household's ability to maintain affordable and continuous energy by providing grants to lower household's energy burden. During the 2021-2022 program year, ICCC distributed \$2,353,152 to local vendors on behalf of 1,785 households.



Crisis Program



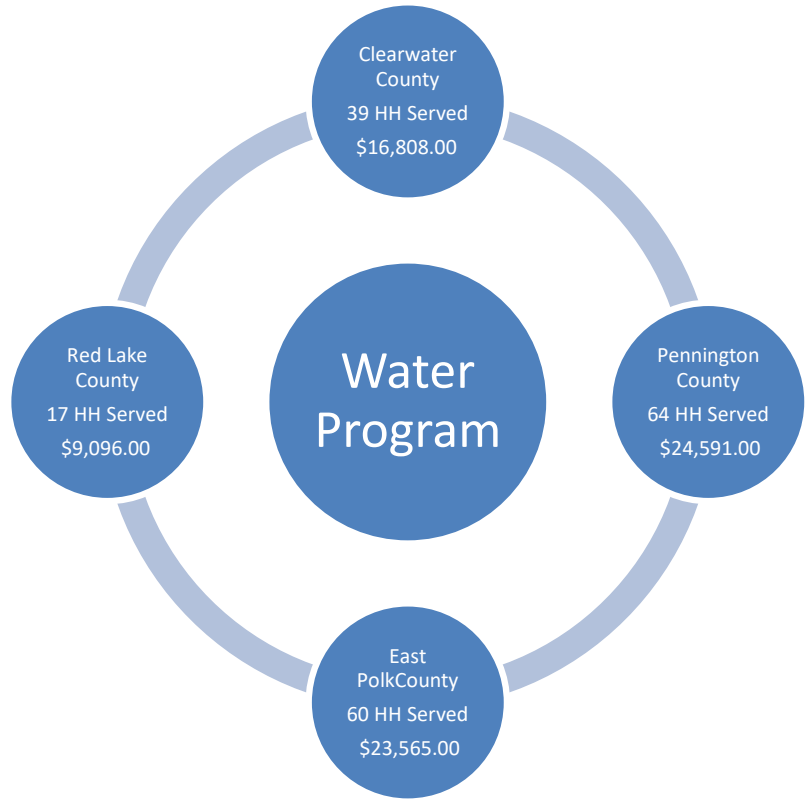
Crisis Assistance

Crisis benefits are used to prevent shut-off of residential energy, reinstate service of residential energy, enable delivery of fuels, and assistance seniors with past/current due bills that they are unable to afford. During the 2021-2022 program year, ICCC assisted 1049 Households in energy crisis situations, spending a total of \$991,446.25

Energy Assistance

Water Assistance

New this year, water assistance benefits were available to eligible households. Water benefits are used to prevent water related past due bills, disconnects, shut-offs, and to reinstate services. During the 2021-2022 program year, ICCC assisted 180 Households in water crisis situations, spending a total of \$74,060.



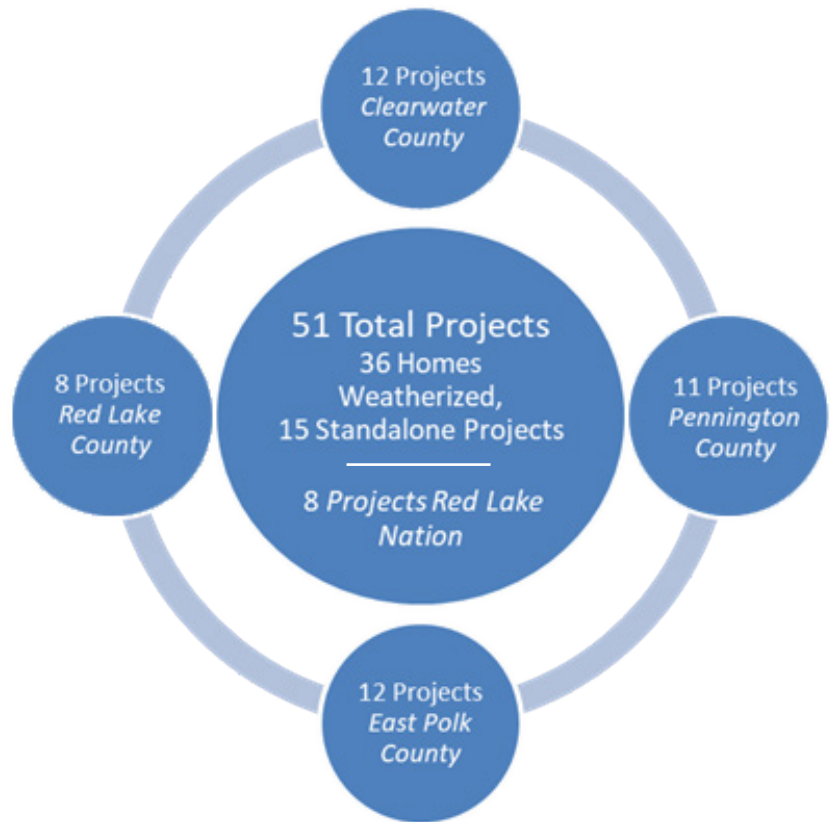
Energy Related Repair/ Replacement Program

Energy Related Repair (ERR) benefits are used to address hazardous and life-threatening situations or cases where a home has no heat due to a malfunctioning or nonfunctioning heating system. During the 2021-2022 program year, ICCC spend \$158,889.62 assisting 120 households.

Weatherization

The mission of ICCC's Weatherization Program (WAP) is to provide energy savings, comfort, and to maintain the health & safety of our client's homes by using proven energy conservation techniques developed over the years to determine the most cost-effective measures to save the most energy in our client's homes and keep them safe.

During the 2021-22 program year, ICCC received weatherization dollars from the Department of Energy (DOE). DOE dollars combined with Energy Assistance Transfer funds and propane funds, ICCC was able to weatherize 36 homes in Pennington, East Polk, Red Lake, and Clearwater Counties and the Red Lake Nation. As noted ICCC also provides weatherization services for members of the Red Lake Nation. Along with homes weatherized we also use EAP/WX dollars to repair or replace furnaces and water heaters and those Jobs are called Stand-alone projects. We assisted 15 households with those services.



The Weatherization Assistance Program helps low-income families, seniors, veterans, and individuals with disabilities improve the safety and energy efficiency of their homes. A peer-reviewed evaluation by Oak Ridge National Laboratory found that the program is cost-effective by even the most conservative estimates.

According to an Oak Ridge evaluation, WAP creates healthy communities.

- Residents of weatherized homes report fewer asthma and allergy symptoms.
- Residents of weatherized homes report fewer hospitalizations.
- Children in weatherized homes report fewer missed days of school.
- Families in weatherized homes reported an increased ability to get more sleep, making them rested and ready to be productive workers and members of their communities.

According to the Oak Ridge evaluation, WAP creates jobs.

- At least 8,500 jobs are supported by WAP, which impacts thousands more in related industries.
- WAP also results in over \$300 million in energy savings in a typical year.

More WAP talking points:

- Every DOE WAP dollar yields \$4.10 in energy, health and safety benefits.
- WAP has served over 7.4 million families since its inception in 1976
- For every \$1 invested in the program, WAP returns \$2.78 in non-energy benefits.
- For every \$1 invested by DOE, the Program leverages \$3.44 in other federal, state, utility, and private resources.
- Families who receive weatherization on average save \$283 per year on energy consumption.

Family Services

2021-2022 Family Services Annual Program Report Chart

Individuals and Households Served			
Program	Proposed Households	Actual Households Served	
FHPAP	30 Households	41 Households	77 Individuals
LTH	16 Households	17 Households	25 Individuals
ESG Shelter	15 Households	11 Households	26 Individuals
THP	6 Households	7 Households	10 Individuals
PSH	6 households (7 beds)	5 Households	5 Individuals
HYA	10 individuals	32 Households	40 Youth Clients
ESG	8 Households	9 Households	18 Individuals
Riverside	4 Households	4 Households	4 individuals
River Pointe	4 Households	4 Households	17 individuals
YHDP	22 Households	41 Households	55 individuals

MN Sure	
Individuals screened for health insurance eligibility	4611
Individuals assisted with the enrollment and renewal process	163

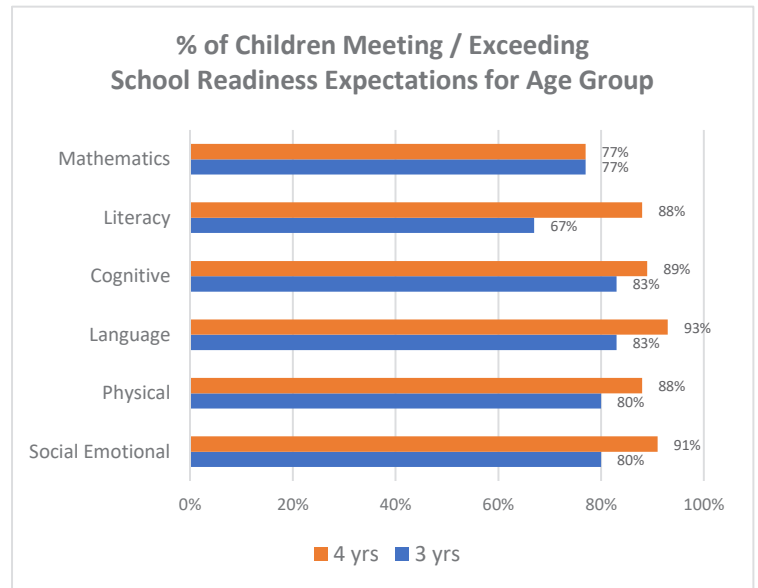
SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)	
SNAP Screenings	5089
Presentations Given	1
People attending presentations	30
Clients receiving SNAP information or reached through promotion	2455
Clients assisted with completing application	50



Head Start

Program Performance Indicators		
Funded Enrollment	179	
Number of Children Served	195	
Percentage of eligible children served	58%	
Percentage of children served that are homeless	8%	
Percentage of children served that are in foster care	5%	
Children with IEPs or IFSPs served	11%	
# of family volunteer hours	5,399	
	HS	EHS
Classroom Attendance	86%	NA
Children receiving preventive dental care	75%	54%
Children Up to Date on immunizations	84%	77%
Children Up to Date on preventive medical care	61%	57%
Fathers were involved in Head Start activities	50%	52%

ICCC uses evidence-based curriculum and child assessment tools to ensure children are progressing and meeting our goals to ensure they are ready for Kindergarten.



Monitoring Reviews

ICCC has had the following reviews in the 2021-22 program year:

- OHS conducted a Focus Area 2 review in April 2022 with no findings.
- MN DHS conducted 2 site reviews – in Bagley in October 2021 and in TRF in May 2022 with no findings.

Parent Engagement

Parent involvement and participation in the Head Start / Early Head Start program is what makes the most difference in their child's progress toward school readiness – parents are their child's first and most important teacher. Every parent / guardian is encouraged to give back in whatever way they can – from goals to improve self-sufficiency, volunteering in the classroom or working on school readiness with their child at home, to taking leadership roles in the program.

100% of parents set a family goal

81% of parents made progress on a family goal

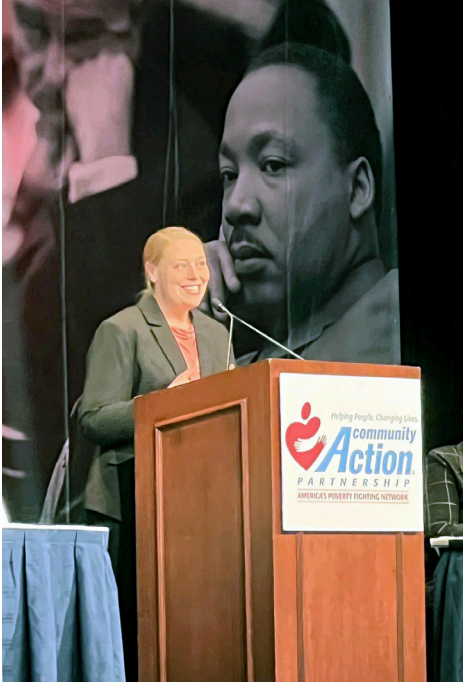
57% of parent volunteered / provided in kind support

81% of parents attended at least 1 family event

50 parents provided leadership in the program

Federal Head Start / Early Head Start			State Head Start / Early Head Start		
Line Item	Budget	Expenditures	Line Item	Budget	Expenditures
Personnel	\$751,064.00	\$762,206.16	Salary & Fringe	\$183,650.00	\$159,789.71
Fringe	\$517,460.00	\$362,025.77	Contracted Services	\$7,900.00	\$ 7,207.48
Travel	\$11,825.00	\$302.98	Staff Development	\$2,400.00	\$ 1,221.93
Equipment	\$25,000.00	0	Travel / Transport.	\$5,650.00	\$ 5,392.39
Supplies	\$67,800.00	\$ 72,068.30	Equipment	0	0
Contractual	\$113,440.00	\$ 88,267.99	Office Expenses	\$13,490.00	\$ 15,512.33
Other	\$148,468.00	\$184,182.30	Program Expenses	\$3,283.00	\$ 6,616.45
In Kind / Local Match	\$393,787.00	\$393,787.00	Pathway – TRF & Bagley	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00
COVID – CARES II	\$42,738.00	\$42,738.00	MDH EBHV	\$34,924.00	\$24,058.32
COVID – ARP	\$169,903.00	\$60,267.93			

Meet Jen Forsberg, ICC Board Member



Jen has been involved in community action for many years. Beginning as a recipient of Head Start services as a child, then as a young parent with four children. During the course of her Head Start career she served as Policy Council member for her lifetime term. In this role, she served as an advocate for families, her peers and staff. She also learned the Head Start regulations. This blossomed into joining the Inter-County Community Council Board of Directors. Here she continued this advocacy, but learned about the regulations of all other programs in the agency, as well as being elected to the position of Vice Chair.

Jen has received the Beating the Odds award through the Minnesota Head Start Association and then the National Head Start Association. She also received the Allies in Action award from Minnesota Community Action Partnership for her personal growth and leadership work. Jen most recently participated in the National Community Action Partnership's CARES Customer Cohort. Through that work she was asked to present at the National Community Action Convention.

Below is an abridged excerpt from Ms. Forsberg's speech at the National Community Action Convention held in New York City, August 30-September 2, 2022.

"My introduction to leadership came in the form of the Head Start Policy Council. I heard about it through my daughter's teacher and was eager to learn more about how the program was run. So I ran for a seat on the council and if you read my bio, you know I served my full term, however, I didn't even win the election. I was actually selected as the alternate for my area. I continued to just show up and because the elected parent never attended a single meeting, I eventually took over his position.

A few years later, the board seat for my county opened up and both the Head Start and Executive Directors encouraged me to apply. I honestly thought they were a little crazy because I didn't even talk that much at the Policy Council meetings and I didn't think I had anything to contribute to the board of directors. Here's the thing – children who are abused and who are constantly told they will never amount to anything actually start to believe it. I didn't think I had any value and I certainly didn't see myself as a leader. So it took some more time for Inter-County staff to pour into my life and build me up before I finally applied for the board position. Our staff not only want to see our customers utilize our programs and services, they want everyone to strive for more and be successful in life. Leadership is not a program at Inter-County Community Council, it's the culture.

I encouraged my daughter to become active in community action as well. I am proud to say she is our newest board member and is attending this convention to become well-informed and passionate about becoming a community action ambassador.

Over the years I have become more and more courageous to speak up at board meetings and within the community to advocate for people struggling with poverty. Brené Brown says 'the willingness to show up changes us, it makes us a little braver each time.' And the braver I get, the more I want to show up and forge ahead to support community action. Community action provided my family with a sense of stability, pride of ownership, value in the community, hope for the future, and ended generational poverty."



ICCC Board members Jen Forsberg and Rachael Forsberg at the National Community Action Partnership Conference.



Inter-County Community Council

MISSION

As a Community Action Agency, we build communities to support people in poverty with resources and opportunities.

CORE VALUES

Empowerment:

We help people help themselves through training and resources.

Responsive:

We adapt to changing needs, honor timeliness and provide quality customer service.

Connection:

We build relationships centered on mutual trust and empathy without judgment.

Respectful:

We value and treat all people with dignity in a space free from harm.

Leadership:

We serve as a courageous leader and partner in the fight against poverty.

STRATEGIC PLAN

ICCC will use Real-Time Strategic Planning to continually assess and address needs to best meet the mission and core values of the agency.