

Inter-County Community Council

Annual Report 2020-21

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,

Looking back on this past year seems like some kind of strange dream one can't wake up from. I'm grateful that our staff, services and leadership continued to show up in flexible and creative ways to govern, serve and plan.

I'm pleased to share with you our agency wide Annual Report.

I believe that our staff are our most valuable asset. All of the accomplishments throughout this report are credited to the dedicated staff who show up each and every day. To say that it has been a hard year is an understatement. It has been a very hard year. We have found much stress and uncertainty when working with families. I dare say every family is under a lot of stress managing things during a global pandemic but those stresses are often really felt with those households that are eligible for our programs. I have seen our staff take the blunt of this stress over and over as they keep showing up to work. I want to say- I see you and I appreciate you giving the stressed-out families grace and compassion. It is not you personally that some are mad at, I'm sure of that, but instead a world that seems out of control and chaotic. Keep showing up, Community Action by nature is the marathon- not the sprint. Your approach and gentleness matters, you matter to me and to the leadership of the organization.

I'd also like to offer a special thank you to the ICCC Board of Directors and Head Start Policy Council for the governance and leadership provided this past year. You continue to encourage and support growth within our organization and you lean into tough decisions. Your dedication to the success of Inter-County Community Council and support of staff and initiatives is such a strength to our organization and is very much appreciated.

Lastly, thank you to those who qualify for our programs who are our most valuable partners. I trust that together we can work to improve the conditions in which we all live and work.

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.

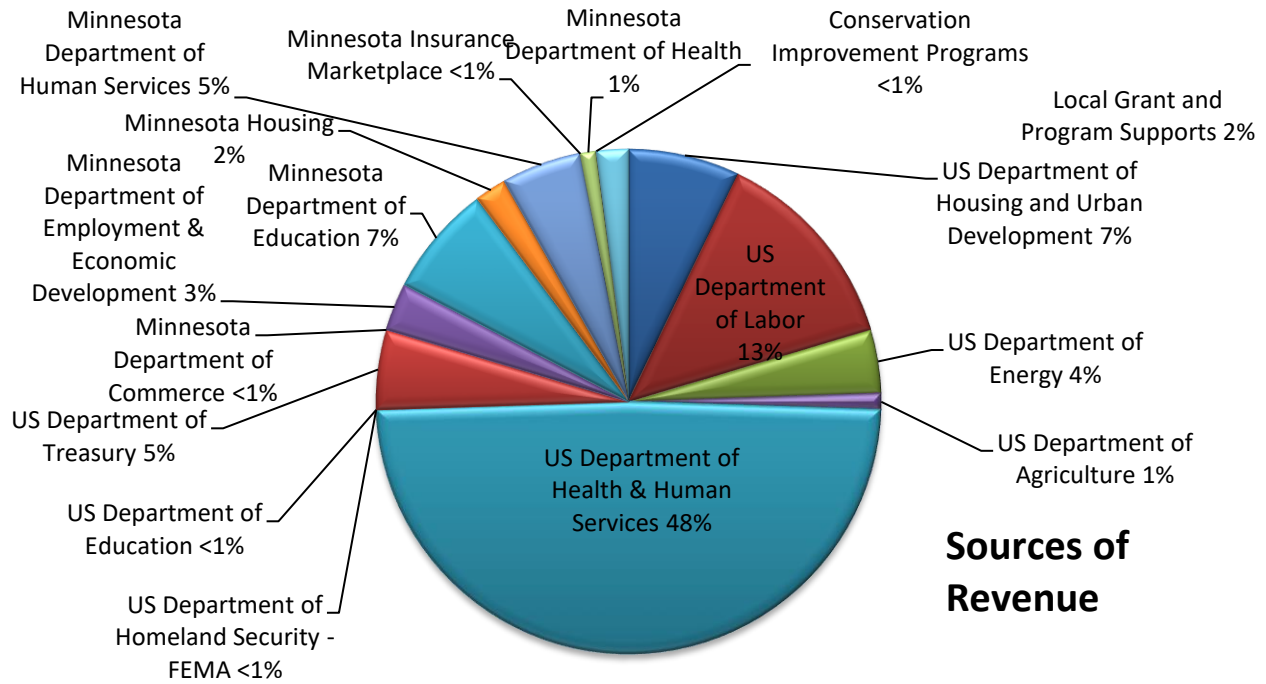
Food Shelf Hours: 8:00am-4:30pm, Monday-Friday.

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 2021 we served 70 households, giving out 13,058 pounds of food and 1,378 pounds of household items.



Financials



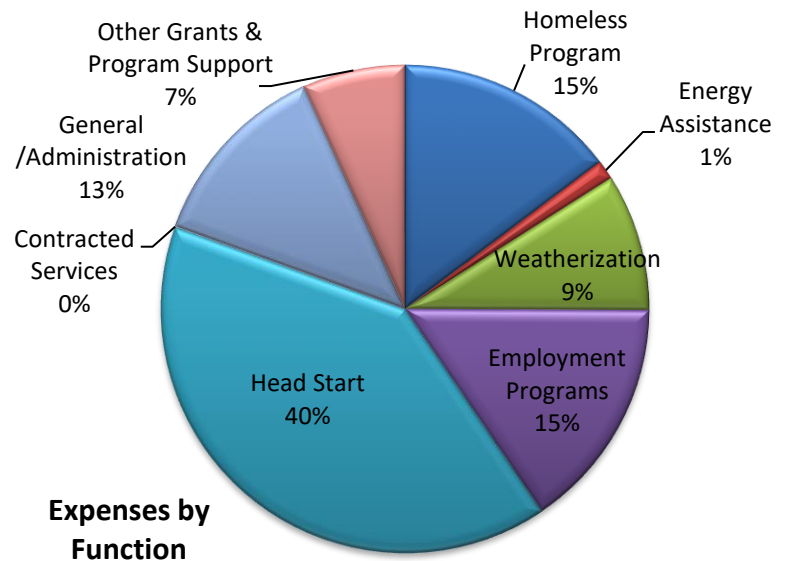
Sources of Revenue		
US Department of Housing & Urban Development	\$	303,054
Indirect Department of Health & Human Services	\$	501,975
US Department of Labor	\$	565,237
US Department of Energy	\$	169,139
US Department of Agriculture	\$	53,525
Indirect Department of Health & Human Services	\$	501,975
US Department of Health & Human Services	\$	1,538,439
US Department of Homeland Security - FEMA	\$	(850)
US Department of Education	\$	7,109
US Department of Treasury	\$	202,344
Minnesota Department of Commerce- Propane	\$	16,050
Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development	\$	121,860
Minnesota Department of Education	\$	277,738
Minnesota Housing	\$	89,013
Minnesota Insurance Marketplace	\$	15,415
Minnesota Department of Health	\$	63,098
Minnesota Department of Human Services	\$	219,863
Conservations Improvement Programs	\$	5,995
Local Grant & Program Supports	\$	76,095
Total Sources of Revenue	\$	4,225,099

Revenues	
Federal Grants	\$ 3,339,972
State Grants	\$ 803,037
Local Grants & Program Support	\$ 82,090
Total Revenues	\$ 4,225,099

Inter-County Community Council is audited each fiscal year by an Independent Certified Public Accountant. The audit is conducted in accordance with the U.S. Generally Accepted Auditing Principles (GAAP). The summarized data is for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2021.

A copy of the audit report can be found on our website.

Expenses by Function		
Homeless Program	\$	652,807
Energy Assistance	\$	56,717
Weatherization	\$	401,814
Employment Programs	\$	684,586
Head Start	\$	1,769,426
Contracted Services	\$	638
General /Administration	\$	564,254
Other Grants & Program Support	\$	300,206
Total Expenditures	\$	4,430,448

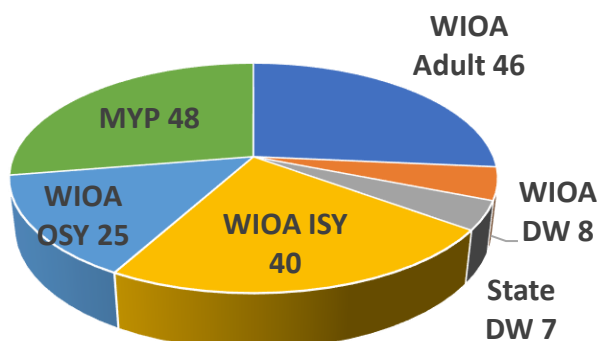


Employment and Training

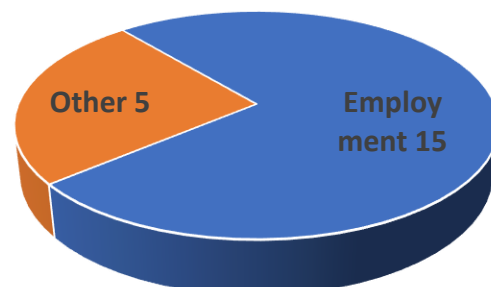
Employment and Training (E&T) served 114 unique individuals in it's seven programs in 2020-21. The E & T programs serve different demographics from youth – Minnesota Youth (MYP) and WIOA Youth programs (ISY and OSY) – to economically challenged Adults (WIOA Adult), to Dislocated workers (State and WIOA 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 2020-21 year ICCC E&T had staff located in Roseau, 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. ICCC E&T exited Twenty individuals in 2020-21, 15 to employment and 5 to various other reasons including moved from the area, incarceration, family issues and health related reasons.

Enrollment by Program



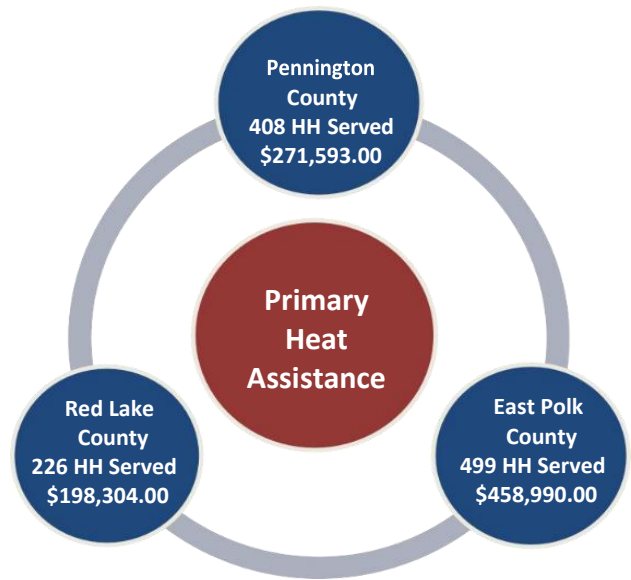
Exits from Programs



Energy Assistance

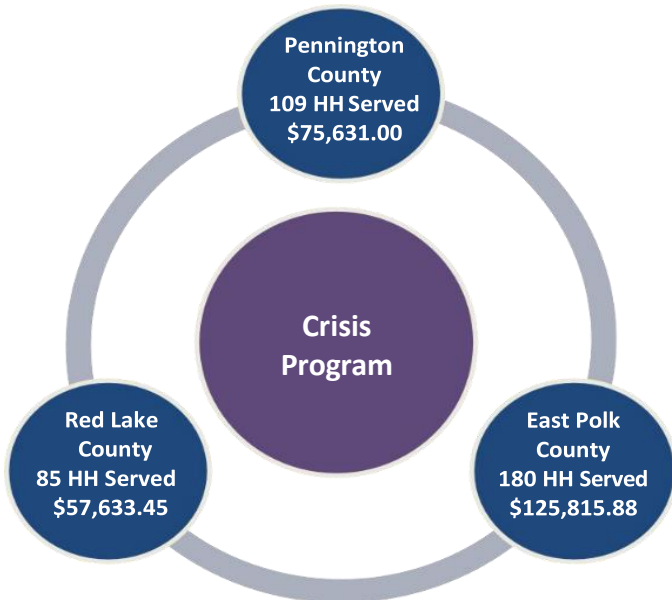
Primary Heat Assistance

Primary Heat Benefits are used to address the household's ability to maintain affordable and continuous energy by providing grants in order to lower household's energy burden. During the 2020-21 program year, ICCC distributed \$928,887 to vendors on behalf of 1,133 households.



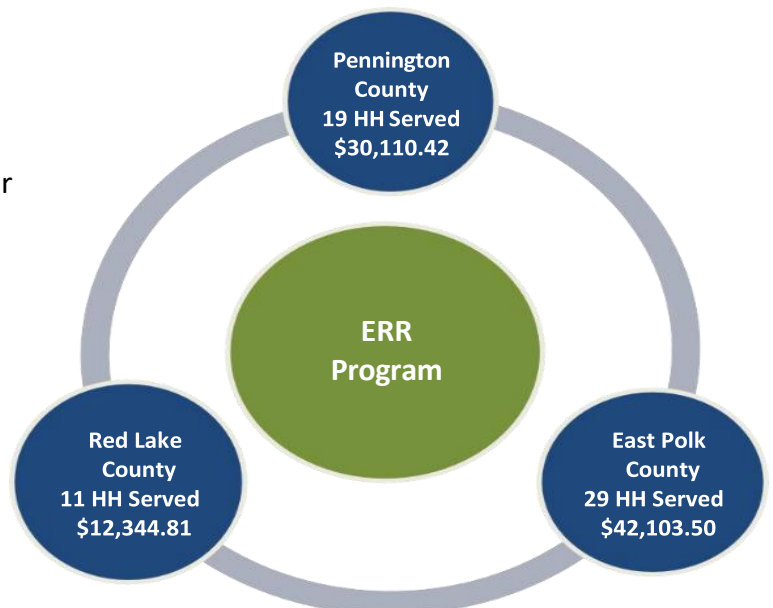
Crisis Program

Crisis benefits are used to prevent shut-off of residential energy, reinstate service of residential energy, and enable delivery of fuels. During the 2020-21 program year, ICCC assisted 374 households in energy crisis situations spending a total of \$259,080.33.



Energy Related Repair 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 2020-21 program year, ICCC spent \$84,558.73 assisting 59 households.



Reach Out for Warmth

Reach out for warmth (ROFW) is an emergency program for households facing no heat situation. ROFW is funded through locally raised donations. During the 2020-21 program year donations totaled \$2,449.96, allowing ICCC to help 2 households. A special Thank You to all who donated to the Reach Out for Warmth Program.

Family Services

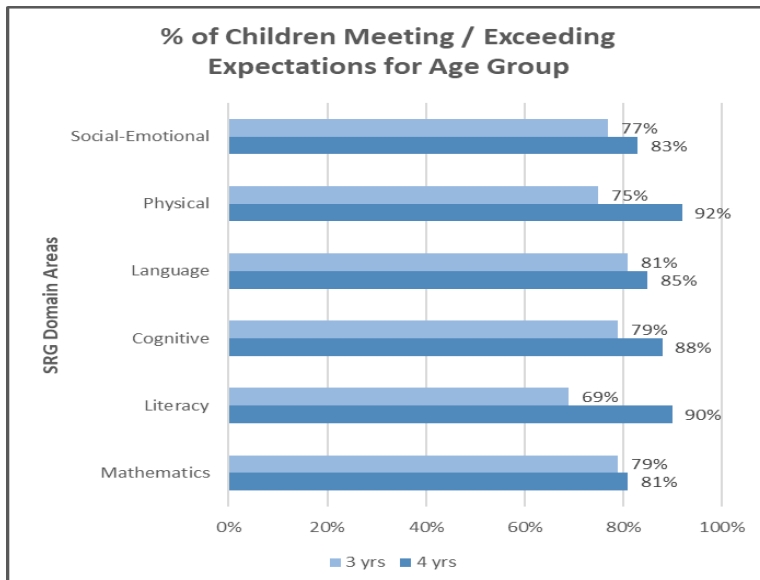
Individuals and Households Served 7-1-2020 through 6-30-2021			
Program	Proposed Households	Actual Households Served	
FHPAP	25 Households	29 Households	43 Individuals
LTH	16 Households	18 Households	25 Individuals
ESP	5 Households	20 Households	24 Individuals
THP	10 Households	13 Households	21 Individuals
PSH	6 households (7 beds)	6 Households	6 Individuals
HYA	15 individuals	29 Households	41 Youth Clients
ESG	10 Households	12 Households	17 Individuals
Riverside	4 Households	4 Households	4 Individuals
River Pointe	4 Households	3 Households	10 Individuals
YHDP	23 Households	40 Households	60 Individuals

MNSure	
Individuals screened for health insurance eligibility	4227
Individuals assisted with the enrollment and renewal process	186

SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)	
SNAP Screenings	4227
Clients receiving SNAP information	3898



Head Start



Our Early Head Start program switched to a new child assessment tool for the 2020-21 program year. The program is still working on conversion of the data to be comparable to prior years.

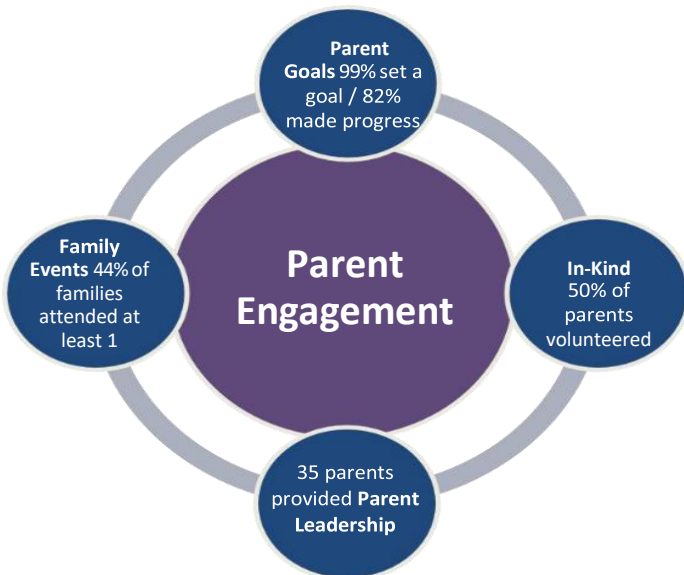
Program Performance Indicators		
Funded Enrollment	170	
Number of Children Served	172	
Percentage of eligible children served	85%	
Percentage of children served that are homeless	6%	
Percentage of children served that are in foster care	9%	
Children with IEPs or IFSPs served	19%	
# of family volunteer hours	2535	
	HS	EHS
Classroom Attendance	89%	NA
Children receiving preventive dental care	61%	59%
Children Up to Date on immunizations	95%	90%
Children Up to Date on preventive medical care	57%	54%
Fathers were involved in Head Start activities	35%	35%

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 educator. Every parent / guardian is encouraged to give back in whatever way they can – from goals to improve family self-sufficiency, volunteering in the classroom or working on school readiness at home, to leading the program.

Monitoring Reviews

ICCC has had no Federal Monitoring events in the 2020-21 program year. ICCC had a MN Department of Human Services on-site review to monitor our 2 state licensed center classrooms. Both sites had no concerns identified.



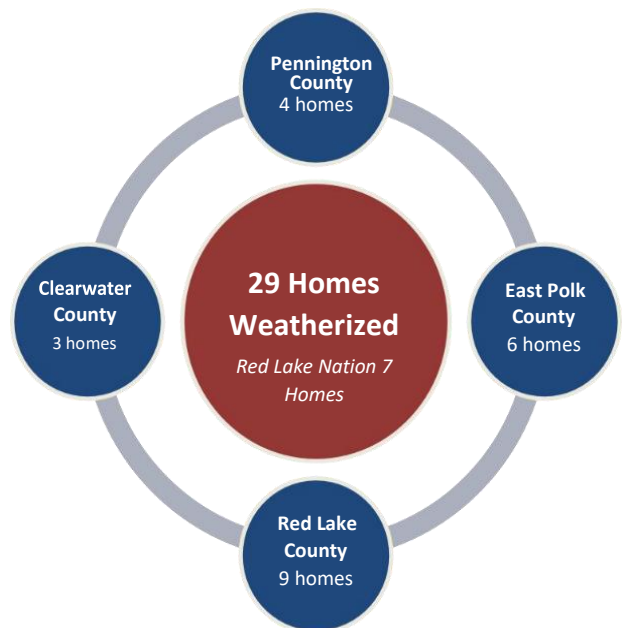
Federal Head Start / Early Head Start			State Head Start / Early Head Start		
Line Item	Budget	Expenditures	Line Item	Budget	Expenditures
Personnel	\$ 819,985.00	\$ 803,615.03	Salary & Fringe	\$ 180,486.00	\$ 183,099.19
Fringe	\$ 433,540.00	\$ 400,975.64	Contracted Services	\$ 6,550.00	\$ 7,316.65
Travel	\$ 11,825.00	\$ -	Staff Development	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 2,228.79
Equipment	\$ 23,202.00	\$ -	Travel / Transport.	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 2,889.49
Supplies	\$ 123,375.00	\$ 130,846.89	Equipment	\$ -	\$ -
Contractual	\$ 108,510.00	\$ 109,026.52	Office Expenses	\$ 18,638.74	\$ 17,394.58
Other	\$ 179,501.00	\$ 182,296.04	Program Expenses	\$ 6,231.00	\$ 5,277.04
In Kind / Local Match	\$ 372,700.00	\$ 372,700.00	Pathway – TRF & Bagley	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 75,000.00

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 conservations 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 2020-21 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 29 homes in Pennington, East Polk, Red Lake, Clearwater Counties and the Red Lake Nation. ICCC also provides weatherization services for the Red Lake Nation. Along with homes weatherized we also use WX dollars to repair or replace furnaces and water heaters and those jobs are called Stand-Alone projects. We assisted 14 households with those services. With the COVID-19 Pandemic, weatherization services are a bit more challenging and material shortages have occurred but service continues on.

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.

Impacts of COVID on Service

As the COVID-19 pandemic continued to be present in our area, we needed to remain mobile and creative to continue to provide assistance. Below are just a few of the highlights of how things changed and how we adjusted.

Work Environment

- Plexiglass barriers were installed where we meet face to face with clients.
- Doorbells and secure drop boxes were installed at all office locations.
- ICCC had at home COVID tests available to participants.
- New vaccine and mask policies were developed.

Food Support

- In partnership with North Country Food Bank we set up produce drops almost every week during the summer months in Oklee.
- Food boxes were made available through curbside pickup

Family Services

- RentHelpMN was launched to assist with past due rent due to COVID. We only assisted with applications.
- These funds helped with past due housing related expenses for households affected by COVID. They could pay up to 12 months back rent and 3 months forward rent.
- We secured emergency shelter for those who were doubled up and had to quarantine due to COVID.

Employment & Training

- State offices in which staff are located have remained closed so meeting with clients has been done in libraries and other public places or virtually.
- Staff were able to keep in contact with participants through phone, email, text, and zoom
- When weather allowed, some participants were willing to meet outdoors.

Energy Assistance

- Program was extended through September 30, 2021
- Income Guidelines increased from 50% to 60% SMI
- For Energy Assistance eligible households, crisis benefits were increased to \$1200
- Applications were accepted and made available through email, fax, mail, and by secure drop box

Head Start

- Head Start staff assisted families in getting signed up for free meals through their local school districts.
- Modified all programming to be completely virtual:
 - Teachers hosted circle time, story time, as well as individual time with children and parent(s)/guardians
 - When weather allowed, EHS home visitors hosted "backyard home visits", as well as hosting virtual family events
- 50 tablets were purchased for families with limited access to technology, allowing them to prepare for a change in services.
- Additional training was provided to staff – highlighting the importance of cleaning/sanitizing.
- Additional PPE and cleaning supplies were purchased and distributed to staff.

Weatherization

In home Weatherization services have for the most part returned to normal operations, some changes that were implemented during the pandemic have remained in place and have been welcome changes. Cleaning protocol and safety checklists were put into place and have become the new normal for staff and contractors.