

Inter-County Community Council Annual Report

2022-2023

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



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Message from the Executive Director



Dear community partners, participants and friends,

Within these pages you will find highlights and data on what our agency accomplished this past year. In my first position at ICCC, I worked with households who were needing assistance with a variety of basic needs, mostly emergencies surrounding housing. I grew up in Plummer but until I started working here I didn't know the need that we had in our communities. Looking back on my childhood I was lucky to have had a house to live in, to always have power, heat, food and clean clothes. I didn't realize at the time not everyone had those things consistently.

There are a lot of opinions on why people are in poverty. As a community action agency, we are asked to work towards eliminating the barriers that people face to becoming self-sufficient. As I grow into this agency more, I see that there are so many different layers. There are the basic needs that need to be met, but there could also be physical and mental health needs, chemical dependency, generational trauma, abuse etc. People who qualify for our services have value- you just need to take time to get to know them. Some of the best people I have met over the years have been those coming in to receive services.

To the participants receiving services- thank you for trusting us. I promise we will work hard to continue to serve you with dignity, respect and compassion.

I would like to thank our dedicated employees at ICCC. I am constantly impressed and inspired by the level of care and commitment you show to the people we serve and to doing your job well. You really are the greatest assets to our organization.

Lastly, thank you to the ICCC Board of Directors and Head Start Policy Council. Your governance and leadership to our organization this past year has been essential and is so very much appreciated.

In a world where there seems to be such division I hope that this coming year we can all try to find common ground. I am hopeful we can all continue to give to each other in our communities. Give our time, our patience, grace, forgiveness, etc. I don't have a magic answer on how to fix the problems of the world or how to eliminate poverty but I have a pretty strong hunch that the key is connection. When people feel connected to even just one person or place it can keep hope alive.

Yours in Action,

Catherine Johnson, LISW

Executive Director

Employment & Training



Employment and Training (E&T) served 134 unique individuals in its seven programs in 2022-23. 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). ICCC received 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 funds as well as being a vendor to provide Pre-ETS services through DEED Vocational Rehabilitation Services. This was the Final year ICCC provided services under the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP).

E&T has a large service area including all of Kittson, Roseau, Marshall, Red Lake, Pennington, Polk and Norman Counties. During the 2022-23 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.

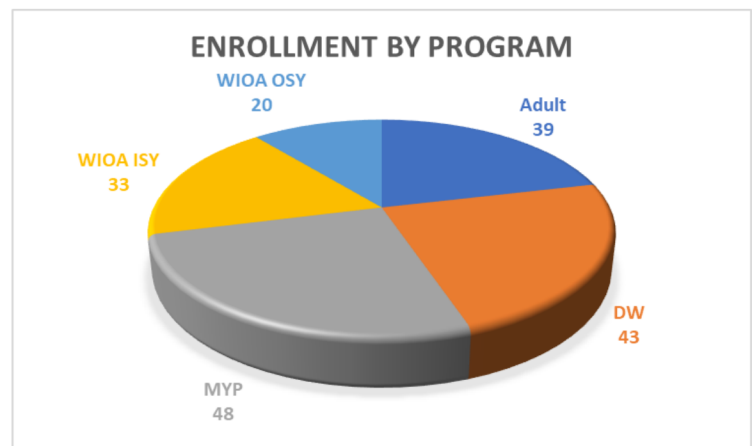
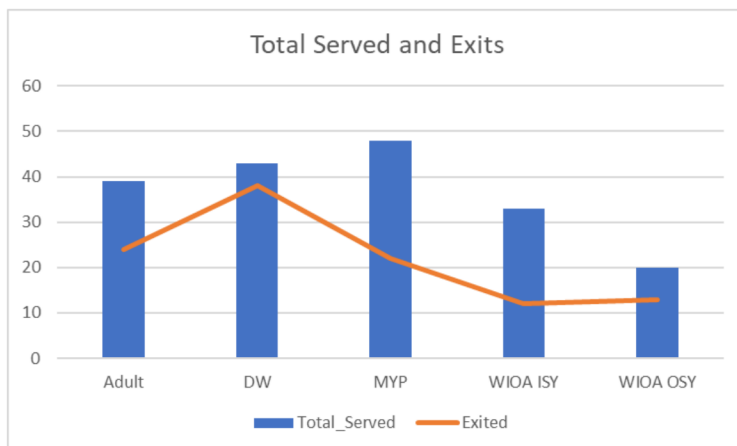
134

UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS SERVED

60

CASES EXITED

successful exits from the program to either employment or school



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. During this program year, Energy Assistance experienced an increase in crisis funding as well as an increase in the income guideline threshold. You will see this significantly impacted the amount of crisis benefits that we were able to distribute to local vendors on behalf of qualified households. Below is a breakdown of services offered through Energy Assistance.

\$1,099,091

payments to vendors

1,732

households served

Clearwater

501 households
\$340,930.28

Pennington

475 households
\$255,617.32

Polk

508 households
\$344,258.43

Red Lake

248 households
\$150,995.44

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.

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.

\$1,060,514

payments to vendors

904

households served

Clearwater

263 households
\$299,731.22

Pennington

200 households
\$217,792.21

Polk

296 households
\$367,684.95

Red Lake

145 households
\$175,305.75

\$105,535

payments to vendors

222

households served

Clearwater

52 households
\$24,028

Pennington

69 households
\$32,193

Polk

67 households
\$34,921

Red Lake

34 households
\$14,393

Water Assistance

Water benefits are used to prevent water related past due bills, disconnects, shut-offs, and to reinstate services.

* note: water benefits are not available moving forward

Energy Related Repair / Replacement

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.

\$164,865

payments to vendors

91

households served

Clearwater

25 households
\$46,411.37

Pennington

28 households
\$48,730.90

Polk

25 households
\$31,124.95

Red Lake

13 households
\$38,598.22

Family Services



The Family Services department focuses on providing case management services to individuals and families in need of assistance with housing, health insurance, and food support. Specific programming is available for at-risk youth.

Individuals and Households Served

Program	Proposed Households	Actual Households Served	
FHPAP	30 Households	63 Households	134 Individuals
LTH	16 Households	16 Households	22 Individuals
ESP Shelter	15 Households	20 Households	35 Individuals
THP	10 Households	25 Households	42 Individuals
PSH	5 households (7 beds)	4 Households	4 Individuals
HYA	10 individuals	34 Households	43 Youth Clients
ESG Shelter	8 Households	15 Households	28 Individuals
Riverside	4 Households	3 Households	3 individuals
River Pointe	4 Households	4 Households	17 individuals
YHDP	22 Households	38 Households	46 individuals

SNAP

SNAP Screenings	3590
Presentations Given	2
People attending presentations	45
Clients receiving SNAP information or reached through promotion	8267
Clients assisted with completing application	104

MN Sure

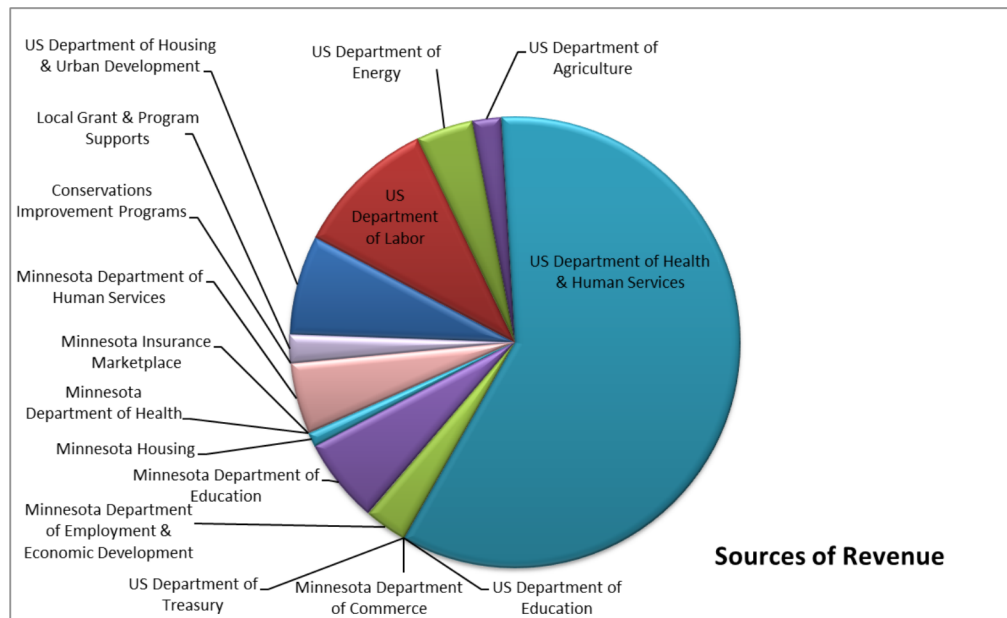
Individuals screened for health insurance eligibility	9565
Individuals assisted with the enrollment and renewal process	165

FHPAP—Family Homeless Prevention Assistance Program
LTH – Long Term Homeless
ESP—Emergency Services Program
THP—Transitional Housing Program
PSH—Permanent Supportive Housing
HYA—Homeless Youth Act
ESG—Emergency Solutions Grant
YHDP—Youth Homeless Demonstration Project
SNAP—Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

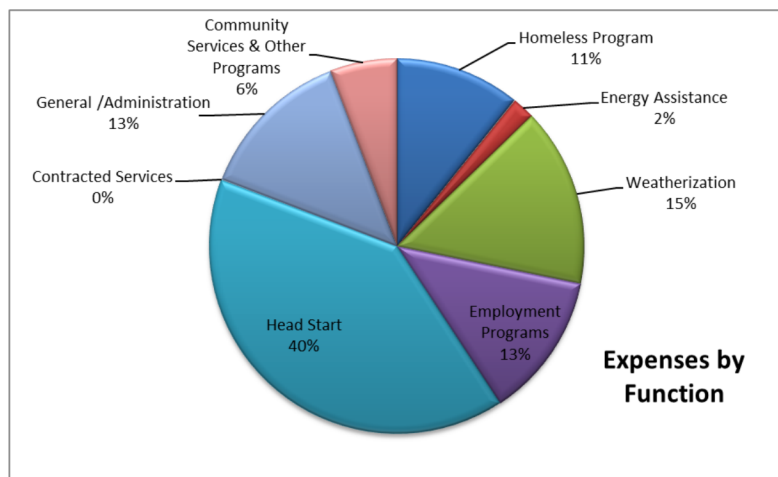


Financials

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 Accounting Principles (GAAP). The summarized data is for the fiscal year ending



Sources of Revenue		
US Department of Housing & Urban Development	\$	349,949
US Department of Labor	\$	494,023
US Department of Energy	\$	205,653
US Department of Agriculture	\$	91,723
US Department of Health & Human Services	\$	2,802,919
US Department of Education	\$	1,862
US Department of Treasury	\$	8,415
Minnesota Department of Commerce	\$	20,718
Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development	\$	135,049
Minnesota Department of Education	\$	288,453
Minnesota Housing	\$	38,688
Minnesota Insurance Marketplace	\$	13,529
Minnesota Department of Health	\$	10,865
Minnesota Department of Human Services	\$	246,833
Conservations Improvement Programs	\$	17,487
Local Grant & Program Supports	\$	121,008
Total Sources of Revenue	\$	4,847,174



Revenues		
Federal Grants	\$	3,954,544
State Grants	\$	754,135
Local Grants & Program Support	\$	138,495
Total Revenues	\$	4,847,174

Expenses by Function		
Homeless Program	\$	526,006
Energy Assistance	\$	95,934
Weatherization	\$	751,378
Employment Programs	\$	610,763
Head Start	\$	1,947,832
Contracted Services	\$	4,696
General /Administration	\$	652,430
Community Services & Other Programs	\$	280,920
Total Expenditures	\$	4,869,960

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 are able to use our funds to purchase food at a lower cost through North Country Food Bank at a rate of \$1 for \$4 worth of food. In addition to food, we also receive donations of health and household cleaning items for our clients.

349

Households
Served

816

Individuals
Served

220

Ages 0-17

519

Ages 18-64

77

Ages 65+

20,613

Pounds of Food

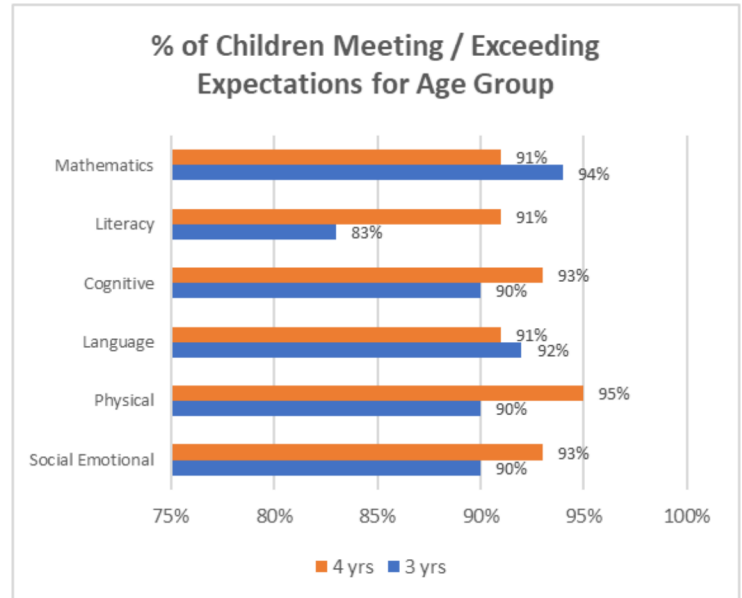


Head Start



Program Performance Indicators		
Funded Enrollment	165	
Number of Children Served	179	
Percentage of eligible children served	28%	
Percentage of children served that are homeless	12%	
Percentage of children served that are in foster care	6%	
Children with IEPs or IFSPs served	10%	
# of family volunteer hours	15,585	
	HS	EHS
Classroom Attendance	87%	NA
Children receiving preventive dental care	75%	62%
Children Up to Date on immunizations	89%	76%
Children Up to Date on preventive medical care	68%	29%
Fathers were involved in Head Start activities	50%	53%

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 2022-23 program year:

- CACFP initial reviews were conducted in October-November to finalize our beginning services and reimbursement claims. There were minor findings that were corrected immediately with positive results from MDE.

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

93%

of parents made progress on their goal

96%

of parents volunteered or provided in-kind support

69%

of families attended at least 1 family event

\$121,875

collected in FAMILY in-kind contributions

Federal Head Start / Early Head Start			State Head Start / Early Head Start		
Line Item	Budget	Expenditures	Line Item	Budget	Expenditures
Personnel	\$792,399	\$853,533.90	Salary & Fringe	\$173,144	\$172,586.36
Fringe	\$488,027	\$368,327.16	Contracted Services	\$7,900	\$8,193.99
Travel	\$11,825	\$1,116.34	Staff Development	\$3,400	\$2,283.87
Equipment	\$0	\$0	Travel / Transport.	\$8,650	\$8,792.51
Supplies	\$74,222	\$54,228.16	Equipment	0	0
Contractual	\$115,561	\$114,022.37	Office Expenses	\$13,490	\$14,838.18
Other	\$157,854	\$225,279.61	Program Expenses	\$5,283	\$5,172.09
In Kind / Local Match	\$398,520	\$780,402.85			
			Pathway – TRF & Bagley	\$75,000	\$75,000.00
			MDH EBHV	\$34,924	\$34,924
COVID – ARP	\$109,635.07	\$109,635.07			

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.

ICCC received weatherization dollars from the Department of Energy (DOE). With DOE dollars combined with Energy Assistance Transfer funds and propane funds, ICCC serves Pennington, East Polk, Red Lake, and Clearwater counties and 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.

57 Projects

42 Homes Weatherized
15 Standalone Projects

16

Clearwater
county
Projects

10

Pennington
county
Projects

10

east Polk
county
Projects

12

Red Lake
county
Projects

9

Red Lake
Nation
Projects

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.
- 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.

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.



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 judgement.

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.