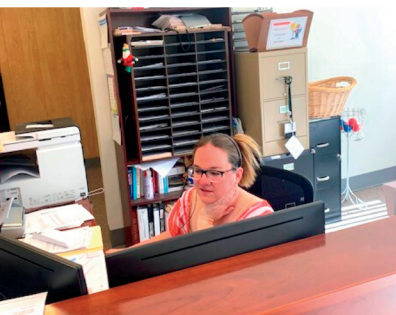




# COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP OF NORTH DAKOTA STATE OUTLOOK REPORT







## 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."



## A Note from the Director

Moving into 2020, everyone was preparing for a big year - an election, the census, a new decade full of possibility. Instead, the COVID-19 pandemic took center stage creating new and unexpected challenges. The effect of this crisis rippled across our nation and the world. Throughout this time of vulnerability and uncertainty, the North Dakota Community Action Network has remained focused on helping our communities and those who need it most.

We know the pandemic is not truly over as families across North Dakota continue to struggle in the aftermath. We know that our work is not done. The Community Action Partnership of North Dakota along with the eight regional Community Action Agencies continue to remain committed to helping people help themselves and each other.

This report highlights not just our response to the COVID-19 pandemic, but the programs, advocacy, and outreach efforts our Network has made over the past several years. You will also read some of the stories of people who, in their time of greatest need, came to Community Action and received the help they desperately needed.

In Partnership,

Andrea Olson, MS, CCAP, NCRT/NCRI  
Region 8 RPIC Lead  
Executive Director, Community Action Partnership of  
North Dakota



# ABOUT COMMUNITY ACTION

**T**hroughout the United States and its territories, Community Action provides life changing services through the work of local Community Action Agencies. Established by the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, the 1000+ agencies work in almost every corner of the United States – servicing rural communities and urban areas alike. 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 local agencies provide programs and services that help meet the unique needs of the communities they work in.

Today in North Dakota, there are eight regional Community Action Agencies which provide life-changing services in all 53 counties. By combining local, state, private, and federal resources, these regional agencies work to help low- and moderate-income North Dakotans of all ages and family structures secure the opportunities they need to obtain and maintain self-sufficiency.

The Community Action Network in North Dakota provides essential services with each agency offering unique programming based on the needs of their communities including – Child Care and Head Start Programs, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), Food Pantries, Budget and Money Management, Energy Assistance, and more. In addition, several programs are offered across the state including the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF), North Dakota Rent Help Services, and Sportsmen Against Hunger Program.

Community Action Partnership of North Dakota (CAPND) is the state association for North Dakota's eight regional Community Action Agencies. CAPND works with the State CSBG Office, the Region 8 Regional Performance and Innovation Consortium, the National Community Action Partnership, and other partners to help connect and provide support to all North Dakota Community Action Agencies. CAPND provides training, technical assistance, program administration, and other supports to help our agencies as they do the work in their communities.

## The Statewide Need

**82,270**

people in North Dakota experienced poverty in 2021.

**1 in 6**

children in North Dakota face hunger.

**542**

homeless individuals on any given night.

**56,800**

uninsured people in North Dakota in 2021

# OUR COVID-19 RESPONSE

The global pandemic caused by the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) transformed the world and our nation. A host of challenges caused by this pandemic thrust many vulnerable Americans into a time of crisis and increased need. During the first few weeks of the pandemic, unemployment in the United States had the largest month-over-month increase in the history of its data collection. From March to April 2020, the unemployment rate increased by 10.3 percentage points to 14.7%. With little or no money to spare, low-income families were less able prepare for quarantines and travel restrictions. This impacted the ability of many to pay for their usual household expenses like rent, utilities, and food causing many low-income households to fall further and further behind.

In this time of uncertainty and fragility, human service responders stepped up to the challenge by adapting their tried and true methods as well as innovating new processes to ensure as many people as possible had access to the support and services they needed. Even before the pandemic, Community Action has served as a critical member of local human resources systems providing services to over 10 million low-income people annually. It is because of this that the Community Action Network was well positioned during the early days of the pandemic to rapidly respond to the quickly changing needs of our communities.



## COVID-19 By the Numbers

101,496,168+

United States Confirmed Cases of COVID-19

1,103,936+

United States Deaths Due to COVID-19

284,627+

North Dakota Confirmed Cases of COVID-19

2,505+

North Dakota Deaths Due to COVID-19

\*\*Data was obtained from the CDC and North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services



*"I looked up from my hospital bed and I saw my wife on the gurney going down the hall, that was the last time I saw her, and I never got to say goodbye."*

Those were some of the first words I heard from Vern, a Veteran living in Grand Forks, North Dakota. He and his wife had both been hospitalized for COVID-19. Although Vern recovered, his wife did not. Imagine grieving and dealing with the emotional weight of losing your loved all while finding yourself displaced due to an unexpected loss - of a person and of income.

With the loss of income, Vern either had to relocate or become homeless for the first time in his life. He came to the Red River Valley Community Action Agency and was enrolled in the SSVF program. While looking for an apartment, Vern was put into emergency hotel assistance helping ensure he remained healthy and safe. Finally, Vern moved into an apartment and went on with life as best he could.

The SSVF program was not only able to fund his hotel stay, but also assisted him with moving costs, deposit, and first months rent. Although Vern had some bad days, during it all he never lost his zest for life.



Providing services to Grand Forks, Nelson, Pembina, and Walsh

# OUR COVID-19 RESPONSE



The first known COVID-19 diagnosis in North Dakota was reported in March 2020. In April 2020, the Community Action Partnership of North Dakota provided an update to their Community Needs Assessment which was intended to provide initial information about the scope of the crisis in North Dakota communities and to identify initial support that could be required to address the emerging and ever evolving needs. This update outlined the timeline of the health crisis in North Dakota and the local public health response up to that

point. In addition, this report identified the most vulnerable populations in North Dakota during this time which included, those living in poverty, those with limited English proficiency, and the uninsured population.



Every community was affected by the pandemic at different times, in different ways, and faced a variety of different challenges. The tools and resources that were needed also varied from place to place. With that in mind, the Community Action Partnership of North Dakota launched a statewide COVID-19 campaign – "Helping You Cover COVID". This campaign served to spread the word about not just the programs and services that North Dakota Community Action Agencies had to offer, but also served a concentrated effort to reach the approximately 76,000 households that became eligible for services during this time.

A concentrated online media campaign was also launched which included Facebook and Google Ads to help bring awareness to Community Action and the resources available. This media campaign presented these ads to 682,000+ people across these platforms with thousands of those clicking through to find out more information. A dedicated page was added to the Community Action Partnership of North Dakota website providing information about the programs, services, and resources available to people across the state and COVID-19 vaccination information and resources.



Jan, a single mother living in a small rural community in North Dakota which had very few resources for individuals struggling, lost her job during the COVID-19 pandemic as business slowed. There were few employment opportunities in her town for several months and she was running behind on her bills.

In danger of having her electricity disconnected during winter with the potential for below zero temperatures, she contacted the DPCAA office. Staff provided her with information about how to complete the online application for assistance since she was 100 miles away from the main office. Staff then notified the electric company that they were working to provide her assistance which helped prevent her electricity from being disconnected.

*With CARES funding, DPCAA was able to bring her electric bill current, giving this single mother and her daughter the time they needed. Time for her to find full time employment and get back on their feet.*

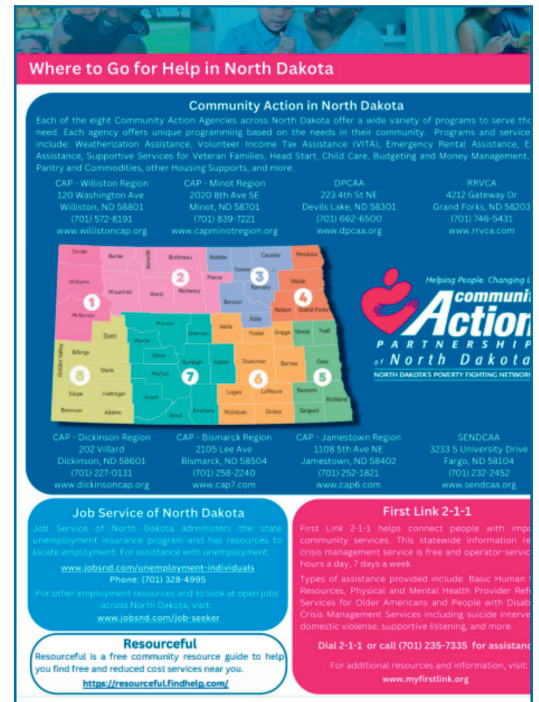


Providing services to Benson, Cavalier, Eddy, Ramsey, Rolette,  
and Towner Counties



# OUR COVID-19 RESPONSE

A new publication, "Where to Go for Help in North Dakota" was also created as a part of our COVID-19 campaign to provide a general listing of resources and services available statewide. Although this guide did not capture every resource available in every community, it provided a starting point for those in need of assistance. Printed and digital copies of this guide were distributed to our regional Community Action Agencies and sent to other community partners throughout North Dakota. This resources guide has continued to be updated and maintained with the most recent update occurring in 2022. In addition to this new publication, the Community Action Partnership of North Dakota provided our local Community Action Agencies with reusable face masks, hand sanitizer spray, as well as pens and notebooks for clients to use. Agencies were also provided with sweatshirts and various other outreach items to bring awareness to the campaign.



As further needed restrictions and closures occurred, our regional agencies adapted by turning to hybrid working situations and reduced in person staffing levels. Many agencies began seeing people virtually or by appointment only to limit the number of individuals in closed spaces. New safety measures such as desktop sneeze guards, sanitizing procedures, and social distancing guidelines were put into place and offices were equipped with disposable masks, hand sanitizer stations, and more to help slow the spread and keep staff and clients safe.

With the passage of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, additional funds were made available to Community Action Agencies across the country. These funds were critical in supporting the needs of both families and communities. The additional funds allowed North Dakota Community Action Agencies to assist 4,900+ low-income households in 2020 and 2021 with a variety of necessities like food, clothing, vehicle repair, emergency rent and utility assistance, and more.



In August 2020, the Community Action Program - Bismarck Region received a call from a family of 8 experiencing homelessness who were living in a local campground. The family had recently moved from Missouri and the father, David, had not yet started their new full-time job. With very little income available, the family was unable to afford their most basic needs.

One of the emergency coordinators met with the family to assess their situation. Staff helped them obtain a hotel voucher until they could secure a more permanent living situation. Within only a few days, this family found an apartment and with the help of CARES funding were able to get assistance with their security deposit and first month's rent. In addition, Community Action was able to provide them with food and household items until the father was able to get their first paycheck.

*CSBG CARES funding was crucial to the success of this family in securing safe, stable housing and ensuring they had support while they made their way toward self-sufficiency.*

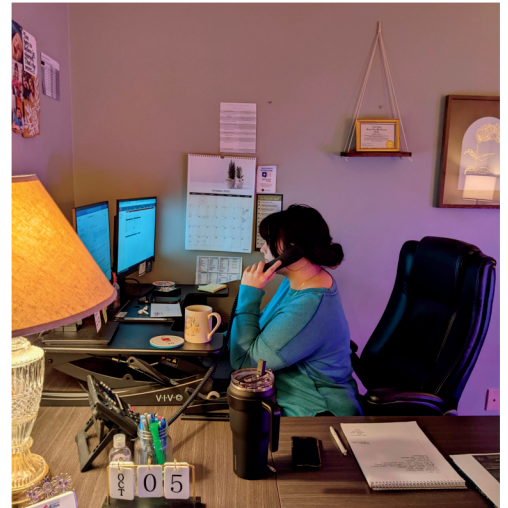


Providing services to Burleigh, Emmons, Grant, Kidder, McLean, Mercer, Morton, Oliver, Sheridan, and Sioux Counties

# NORTH DAKOTA RENT HELP

The Emergency Rent Bridge Program was created after passage of The United States Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021. This Act provided money for emergency rental assistance nationwide. In June 2021, the Emergency Rent Bridge was replaced by the North Dakota Rent Help Program. It was created to help North Dakotans who have fallen behind or are struggling to pay rent and could benefit from assistance.

The program can provide up to twelve months of temporary rental assistance and other housing supports to those who qualify. As of March 2023, over \$102 million dollars of assistance has been distributed statewide.



The Community Action Partnership of North Dakota in conjunction with the eight regional Community Action Agencies partner with North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services to assist eligible households with applying for North Dakota Rent Help. Community Action Staff specializing in the North Dakota Rent Help Program provide several levels of support including:

- **Application Counselors:** Assists with the completion and submission of applications as well as monitors the status of these applications and assists with eligible recertifications.
- **Housing Facilitators:** Assists applicants who are homeless or at risk of housing stability with the completion and submission of their applications. Housing Facilitators also provide housing stability case management, identify resources that may be available for individuals, and more.
- **Whole Family Coaches:** Assists households with follow-on supportive services for the entire household providing a true partnership between family and coach as they work with individuals and families to achieve housing stability.

## ND Rent Help By the Numbers

**\$102 Million+**  
Total Assistance Paid by ND Rent Help

**21,647+**

North Dakota Households Approved for ND  
Rent Help Assistance

**6,224**

North Dakota Homeless Households Assisted by  
the ND Rent Help Program

\*\*Data collected from the North Dakota Department of  
Health and Human Services ND Rent Data Dashboard

In 2022, Community Action staff helped house an average of 36 homeless households per month; providing them with homeless counseling and case management services along with referrals for other supports ranging from landlord tenant mediation to financial counseling.



# SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR VETERAN FAMILIES

Authorized by Section 604 of the Veterans' Mental Health and Other Care Improvements Act of 2008, the Veterans Administration (VA) developed the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program which spread throughout the majority of the United States including North Dakota beginning in 2012. SSVF was created exclusively for Veterans and their families with the goal of helping them achieve permanent housing stability. The SSVF program in North Dakota provides case management and supportive services to prevent the imminent loss of a Veteran's home or identify new, more suitable housing situation for the individual and their families; or to rapidly re-house Veterans and their families who are homeless and might remain homeless without this assistance. During the COVID-19 pandemic, SSVF expanded program eligibility requirements in order to assist more at-risk Veterans.



The SSVF program offers two types of services - Rapid Rehousing and Homeless Prevention. Rapid Rehousing is an intervention designed to help individuals and families quickly exit homelessness returning them directly to permanent housing and allowing people to restabilize in housing. This intervention helps these individuals and families avoid the negative results of prolonged homelessness. Homeless Prevention is designed to provide assistance to those who are at imminent risk of becoming literally homeless remain housed.

In line with the VA, we support a "Housing First" approach to addressing and ending homelessness. Under a Housing First approach, housing is not contingent on compliance with support services other than those required by the funding source for the program. Instead, participants are provided with services and supports that are necessary to help them successfully maintain their housing. Housing First is a low-barrier intervention and there are no prerequisites such as employment, minimum income, evidence of sobriety, etc.





Tom, a Veteran, and his family had been evicted and were living in an RV. The family had to visit friends in order to shower, use bathroom facilities, and more. The Minot SSVF program was able to move them into a hotel to help keep them safe and healthy, while they searched for more permanent housing. Their prior eviction served as a huge barrier for them to locate new housing especially among property management companies. We were able to utilize a private landlord and found the family a house to rent. In addition to helping secure stable housing, Community Action provided other necessities such as food and holiday gifts for their children.

Tom found full time employment and started to build up his income to pay his older debt. After talking with the landlord and leasing agent, the Veteran was able to come up with a rental agreement that put them on a path towards permanent home ownership (rent-to-buy).

*Tom and his family were successfully exited from the SSVF program with safe, stable housing and employment helping ensure their self-sufficiency.*



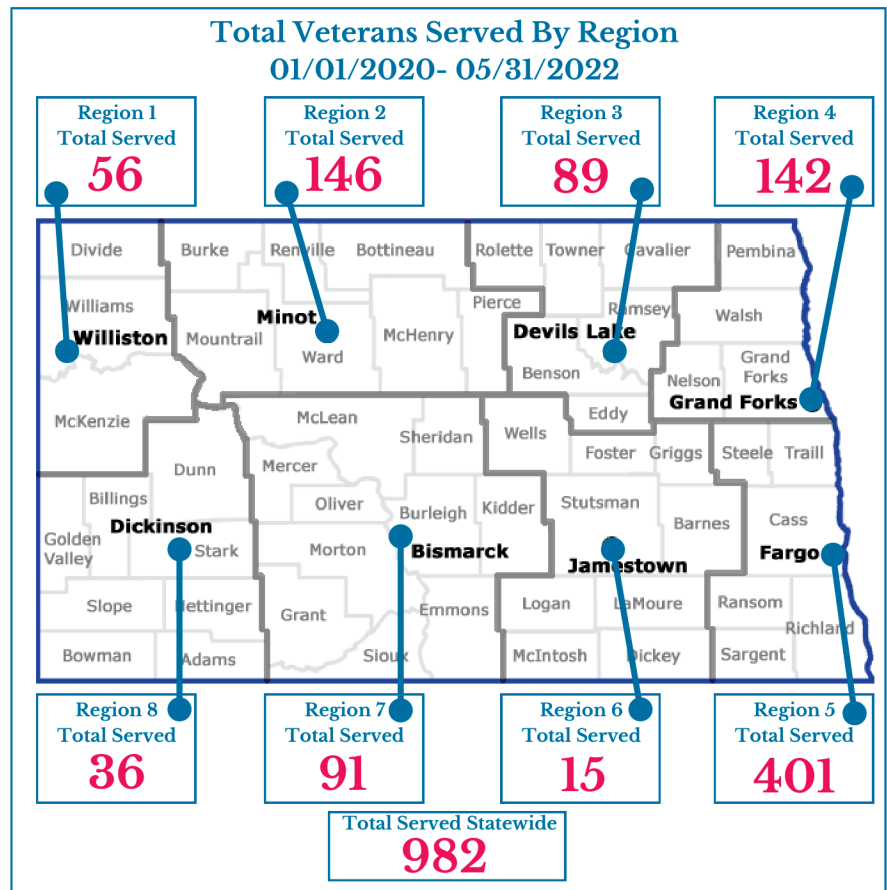
Providing services to Bottineau, Burke, McHenry, Mountrail,  
Pierce, Renville, and Ward

# SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR VETERAN FAMILIES



In addition to Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Services, SSVF started the Shallow Subsidy initiative in October 2021. This initiative provides up to 2 years of rental assistance to very low- or extremely low-income Veteran households. Shallow Subsidy is used as a part of a progressive engagement approach, where Veterans receive some level of Rapid Rehousing and Housing Prevention prior to beginning this service because they are rent-burdened and require longer-term assistance. The Shallow Subsidy initiative proves a rental subsidy on behalf of the Veteran household (maximum amount is 50% of their actual rent). This subsidy 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.

The VA has remained committed to ending Veteran homelessness, however despite their successes, progress towards ending Veteran homelessness stalled. In 2022, to support, revitalize, and streamline the VA's investment in and commitment to ending Veteran homelessness and to ensure at-risk Veterans are safeguarded from this crisis, the VA established a nationwide goal to house 38,000 homeless Veterans during the Calendar year. That goal was not only met, but exceeded - nationwide **40,401 Homeless Veterans** were provided with the safe, stable homes they deserved. North Dakota also exceeded their goal of housing 136 Veterans by housing a total of **147 Homeless Veterans**.





# 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 children ages birth to 5 from low-income families. 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



With the COVID-19 pandemic, these Head Start programs also faced many challenges and adjustments. In the early days of the pandemic, centers closed in-person services, but teachers and staff continued to reach out to families to ensure that their needs were still being met. Each program continued to work hard through the ever evolving situation to ensure children, families, and staff remained safe and healthy. Centers implemented new policies and procedures including new pick up and drop off procedures at some locations, vaccination and masking policies, sanitization procedures and more.



Head Start 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



Cindy, a mother of three, was referred by the Community Action Program Region VI Head Start program because of an interest in receiving self-sufficiency case management services. Cindy had been a patient at the State Hospital the year prior and had criminal record which included felonies which had posed challenges for her. Cindy told her case manager that she wanted to move forward and get her life back on track.

Cindy was working part time at a motel, but wanted a more secure financial future for her and her children. Cindy's long-term goal was to complete her degree in Psychology - something she had started during her incarceration, but had not been able to complete. Her short-term goal was to find a job as a peer support or a similar job where she could help people like her, something she had done while she was an inpatient at the State Hospital.

Cindy's case manager helped her identify the barriers she was facing in order to reach her goals. One barrier was previous college debt that needed to be paid before she could enroll in courses and access financial aid. Together, Cindy and her case manager worked on a plan to pay this debt which was achieved with the assistance of stimulus funds she had received. Her next barrier was finding funds to purchase a computer as most of the courses and coursework would be online. With the help of Self-Sufficiency Scholarship Funds from the Community Action Partnership of North Dakota, Cindy was able to purchase a laptop.

*Cindy was able to continue working toward her long-term goal of getting her degree and she is scheduled to graduate in March 2023. She also met her short-term goal, now working as a Health Equity Coordinator helping other vulnerable people get access to healthcare, medications and more.*



Providing services to Barnes, Dickey, Foster, Griggs, LaMoure, Logan, McIntosh, Stutsman, and Wells Counties.



# WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The U.S. Department of Energy's Low-Income Weatherization Assistance Program works to increase the energy efficiency of homes owned or occupied by low-income persons, reducing their total residential energy expenditures, and improving their health and safety. The program operates in every state, the District of Columbia, among Native American tribes, and U.S. territories. North Dakota Community Action Agencies have been weatherizing homes across the state, in all 53 counties, since 1976.

The benefits to home weatherization are many, including reduced household energy usage, improved housing conditions, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and increase resilience to climate change.



Since 2011, North Dakota Community Action Agencies have weatherized 11,000+ homes. Despite issues with supply shortages and the need for additional staffing, the program in North Dakota continues to work hard to meet the need. Once a weatherization application has been received and approved, households may wait up to 2+ months before an estimate is completed. After the estimation has concluded, households often must wait, on average, an additional 2 months before weatherization crews can begin work on the project. Currently, there are 400+ North Dakota households on the waiting list to receive weatherization services.

There are a variety of factors that contribute to these wait times including the availability of and time to obtain specialized materials, and availability of contractors for specialized work (e.g. electricians). Once crews begin their work, the process normally takes an average of 3-4 days to fully complete.



# WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

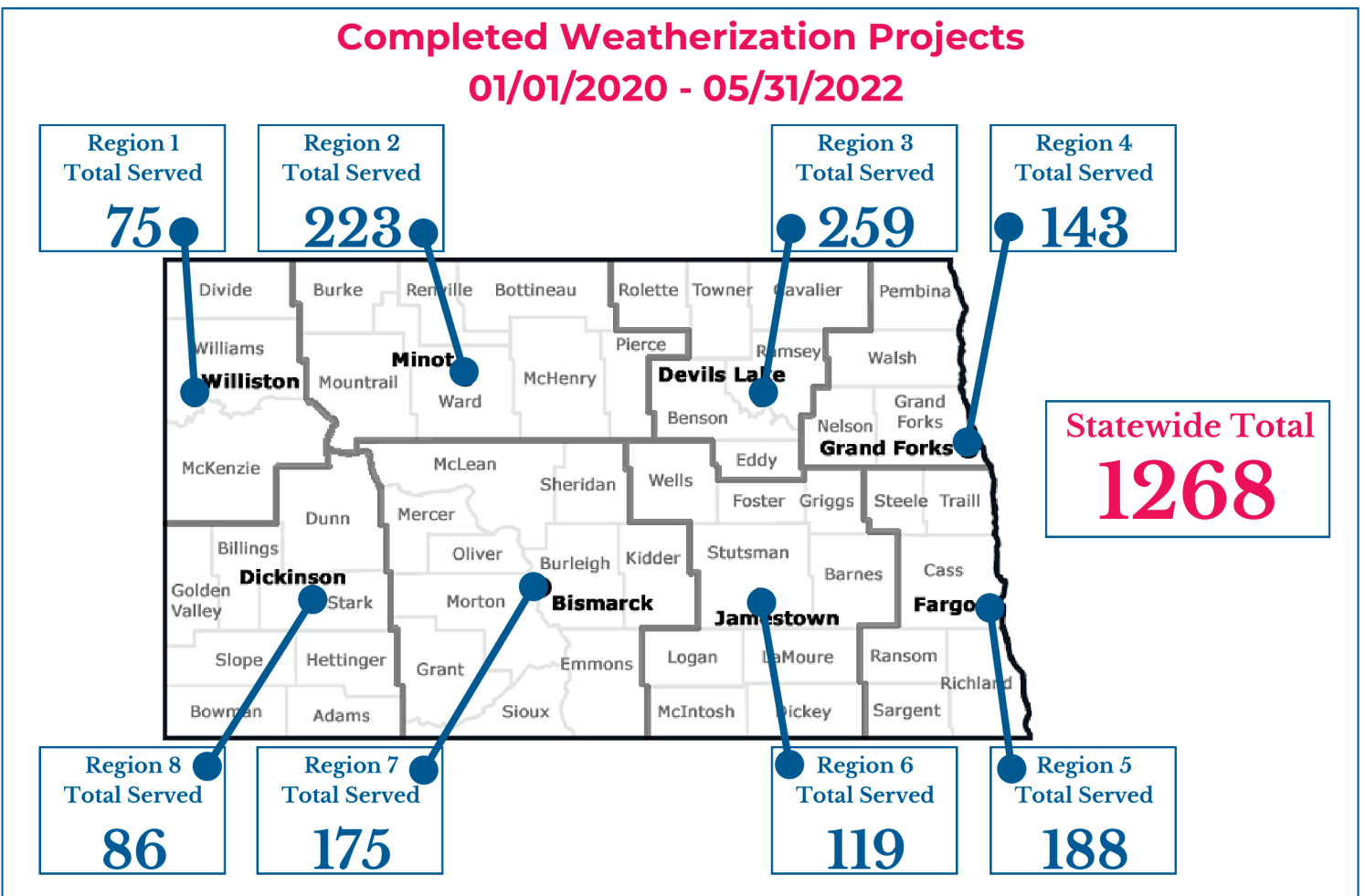


shortages throughout the network.

Community Action has 11 weatherization crews working across North Dakota, with agencies across the state actively recruiting additional workforce. Positions include crew technician , administrative staff, and more. To help with the recruitment effort, the Community Action Partnership included the Weatherization Assistance Program as a part of our workforce recruitment project. Workforce recruitment advertisements, including a weatherization specific ad, were created and run across a variety of platforms in an effort to alleviate staffing

## Completed Weatherization Projects

01/01/2020 - 05/31/2022



# WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

In July 2022, set aside dollars were made available that allow Weatherization Programs to address necessary repairs in dwellings that have been deferred from receiving regular weatherization services. The purpose of these Weatherization Readiness funds is to help avoid deferring weatherization projects by performing work that is required before normal weatherization services. With the expansion in scope, more housing can be made weatherization ready which provides benefits to households that would have otherwise been left unserved.

These Weatherization Readiness funds are used to provide up to \$15,000 for the following:

- Major Roof Repairs
- Wall Repairs
- Ceiling Repairs
- Floor Repairs
- Foundation and Subspace Repairs
- Leveling of Manufactured Homes
- Asbestos (confirmed or suspected), mold and/or moisture.
- Electrical Repairs
- Lead Paint
- Plumbing Repairs
- Cleanup or remediation beyond the typical scope of the Weatherization Assistance Program



Since October 2022, 12 jobs have been approved for Weatherization Readiness in North Dakota ranging from major roof repairs, gutters, skirting, and more. With the onset of winter weather, there was an expected slow in weatherization readiness work, however additional jobs are expected to be approved in the spring of 2023 as weather conditions and outdoor temperatures improve.



A young couple with a large family recently relocated to North Dakota for a home of their own. They were having issues with heating, draftiness, and a cold and flooding basement. SENDCAA weatherization staff performed a weatherization audit and determined that the gutters, soffit, and fascia boards would all need to be repaired or replaced. They also identified a second floor patio in poor condition that was contributing to water damage in the kitchen.

With Weatherization Readiness Funds, instead of deferring the property and delaying weatherization, we were able to hire a contractor to do the needed work. Once that was completed, weatherization crews were able to install insulation on the interior walls of the basement and replaced their old rusted, moisture damaged water heater. Insulation was also installed throughout their attic space and cavities. Air sealing was performed and their windows/doors were repaired/replaced. Crews also replaced some lumber and plywood on the damaged second floor patio and sealed it off from the rest of the house to prevent rain and melting snow from causing damage to the rest of the home.

*With the work completed, this young family now has a home that is healthier, safer, and more comfortable as well as energy efficient.*



Providing services to Cass, Ransom, Richland, Sargent, Steele,  
and Traill Counties

# SPORTSMEN AGAINST HUNGER

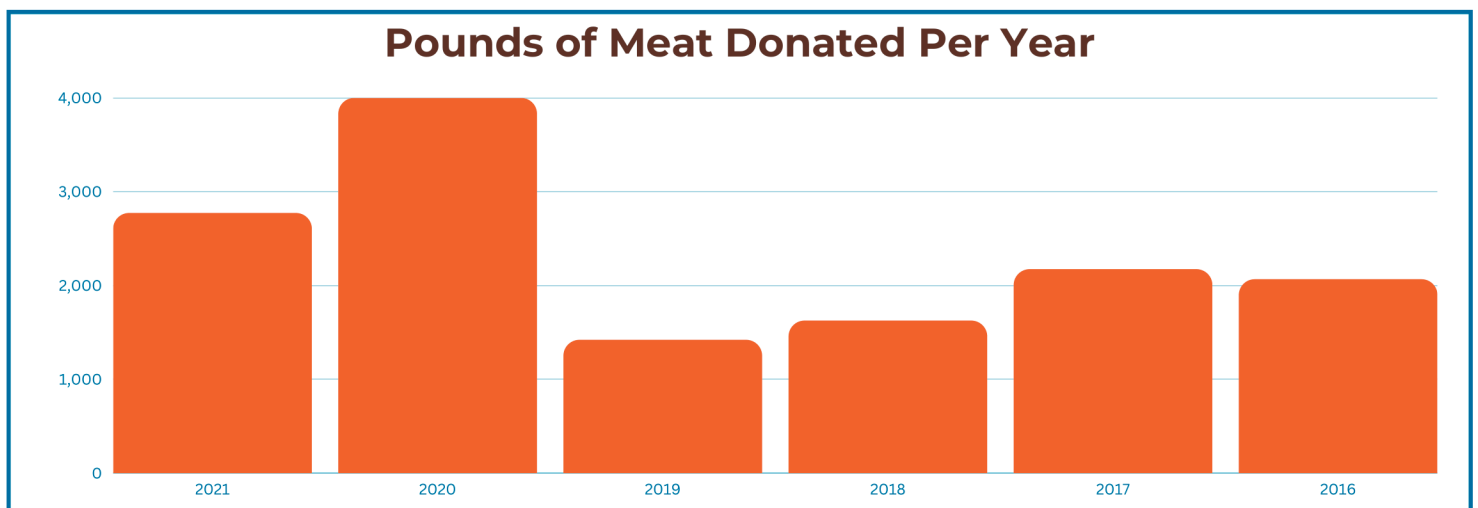


ND Community Action  
**SPORTSMEN**  
Against Hunger

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. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been an even greater need for food security across North Dakota. Sportsmen Against Hunger hopes to address this need by increasing donations of game meat to food pantries statewide.

Currently there are 18 partner processors across North Dakota. From 2020 through the 2022 Hunting Season, over 8000+ pounds of wild game (deer, elk, moose, etc.) have been processed and donated.



*Sportsmen Against Hunger is reliant on donations and grant funding to assist with the cost of processing game. Sportsmen Against Hunger is sponsored in part by the NRA Hunters for Hunger Program. Additional sponsors include: Stutsman County Wildlife, E.S. Wildlife Club, Red River Area Sportsmen, and Grand Forks Wildlife Federation.*





A couple living in a small rural community were referred to the Community Action Partnership - Dickinson/Williston Regional office for assistance with rent. Both household members had lost hours at work due to business slowing because of the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the members of the household was due to have surgery and would be out of work entirely for 3+ months.

This family lived in a small rural community 50 miles from the local Agency office. They were unable to travel the 100 mile roundtrip to town because of their health limitations. The family also did not have a way to send and submit documents electronically.

CAA staff contacted the Landlord who was able to fax and email the necessary information for the family to receive assistance. The family's past due rent was paid and staff was able to enroll them in the ND Rent Assistance Program.

*With the help of Community Action, this family was able to remain housed and stable during their time of need.*



Providing services to Adams, Billings, Bowman, Divide, Dunn, Golden Valley, Hettinger, McKenzie, Slope, Stark, and Williams Counties



# POVERTY SIMULATIONS

The Community Action Partnership of North Dakota 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. The object of these simulations is to sensitize participants to the realities faced by low-income people each and everyday.

In these simulations 40 to 80 participants assume the roles of up to 26 different families facing poverty. These families are based on real life families served by Community Action who faced these challenges.. Some of participants will be part of families who are newly employed while others have recently been deserted by the "breadwinner." Participants may take on the role of a senior citizen receiving disability or children in a family receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). Each of these "families" is tasked with providing for their basic necessities and shelter during the course of four 15-minute sections representing one week.



The simulations are conducted in a large room. Around the perimeter, tables are placed representing community resources and services such as a bank, employer, utility company, pawn broker, social service agency, faith-based agency, payday loan facilities, school, police department, and more. Participants are instructed at the start of the simulation that they will need to ensure their bills are paid on time in order to continue providing shelter and security for their families. Employed participants must get to work on time in order to get paid. Some participants fall for scams in the hopes of earning "extra money" to bring home, others could end up in jail by engaging in illegal activities.

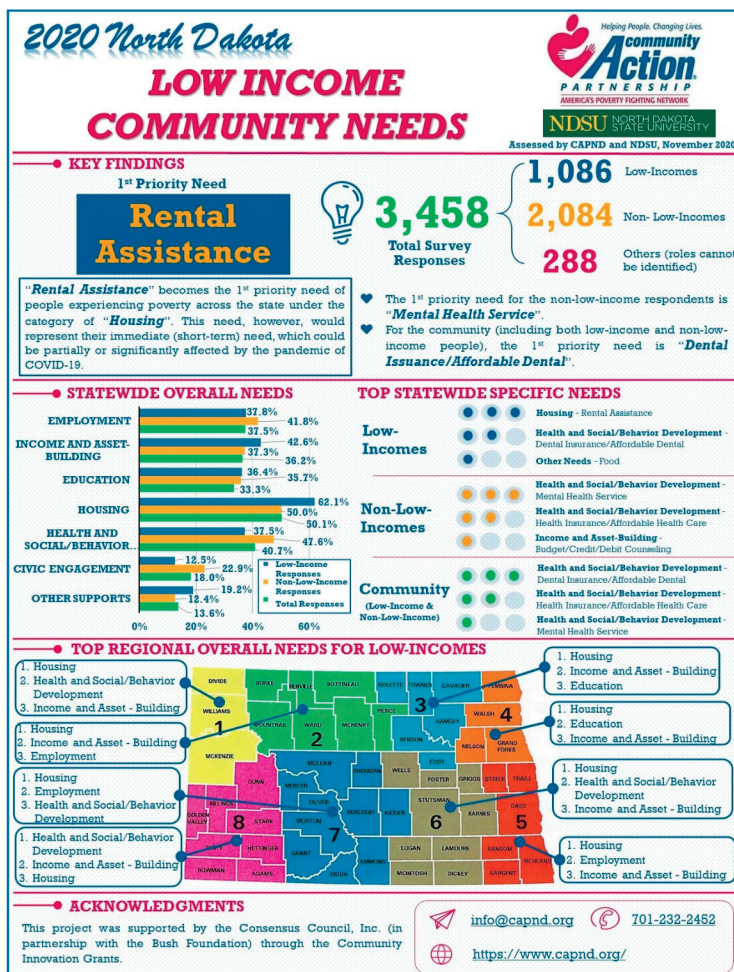
The simulation typically lasts 2-3 hours which includes an introduction to the simulation as well as the actual simulation exercise and debriefing period at the end. Participants and volunteer staffers share their feeling and experiences following the simulation. This provides an opportunity for those involved to discuss what they have learned about the lives of people in poverty as well as how this relates to their daily lives.





# STATEWIDE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

In 2020, the Community Action Partnership of North Dakota conducted a statewide community needs assessment in conjunction with North Dakota State University (NDSU). This project was intended to study the needs of low-income people in North Dakota by conducting surveys, completing questionnaires, and statistical analysis methods. This assessment is crucial in helping North Dakota Community Action Agencies better understand the current and real needs of the people experiencing poverty throughout the state. Information from this assessment has been used to adjust and improve existing programs and services to best serve our communities.



The most frequently mentioned needs for low-income individuals has changed significantly over the years. In 2020, Rental Assistance was identified as the number one priority for individuals experiencing poverty across the state which may have been partially a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is difficult to predict how long the negative impact the COVID-19 impact will continue have on the needs of the community. An additional needs assessment is planned for 2023 to continue monitoring the needs of low-income people in North Dakota.

In addition to Rental Assistance, the following areas were identified as priority needs by people experiencing poverty in North Dakota:

- Financial Issues - Income and Asset Building
- Finding a Job
- Dental Insurance/Affordable Dental Care
- Education Costs

**Why A Needs Assessment?** At Community Action, we continually conduct needs assessments across North Dakota because our Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) program supports community-based, anti-poverty programs. Local Community Action Agencies receive funding from CSBG to develop local action plans based on assessment of needs, currently available services and locally available public and private resources.

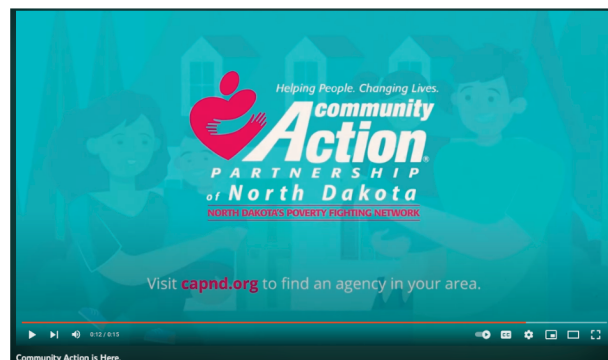
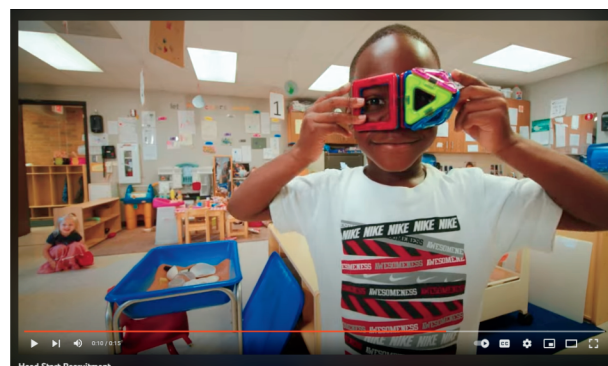
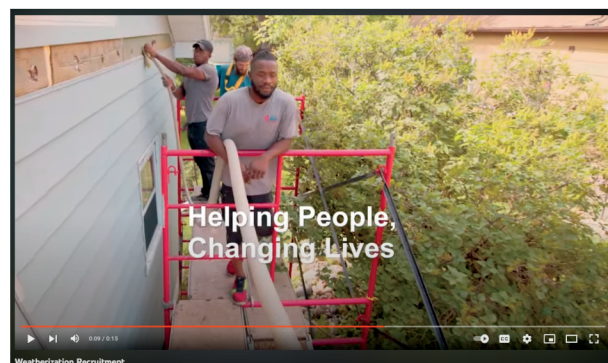
# WORKFORCE RECRUITMENT AND OUTREACH

In summer 2022, the Community Action Partnership of North Dakota began working with Absolute Studios (a Fargo, ND marketing and production agency) on a statewide outreach campaign for Workforce Recruitment, Client Outreach, and more.

In fall 2022, we began the workforce recruitment portion of our outreach campaign which included a series of videos showcasing our network and the work we do. Three videos were created in total to help with recruitment for Head Start, Weatherization, and general recruitment purposes. These videos ran across the internet on Facebook, Snapchat, YouTube, and other social media directing individuals to more information about careers available within North Dakota's Community Action Network. This campaign led over 9000+ unique visitors to the career information page on the Community Action Partnership of North Dakota website and increased traffic to our website by approximately 232%

In addition to the workforce recruitment videos, additional outreach materials such as sticky note pads, magnets, notebooks, brochures, and more were created and sent to our Agencies and partners to utilize in their communities.

Beginning in early 2023, we have started the next parts of our outreach campaign including highlighting our COVID-19 response, Board of Directors recruitment and additional client outreach. The client outreach campaign features a video which focuses on helping North Dakotans who might be in need of assistance. In addition, a variety of other advertisement media will appear across the internet via Google Display Ads, Facebook, and more.





# CAPND CONFERENCE 2022



On September 13 - 14, 2022 Community Action Partnership hosted its bi-annual conference at the Roosevelt Grand Dakota Hotel in beautiful Dickinson, North Dakota. This two day conference provided an opportunity for Community Action Staff, Board Members, and other partners to network and learn. This conference was originally planned for 2021, but was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This was an amazing opportunity staff to meet in person again.

The conference provided incredible breakout sessions on topics including Organizational Assessment, Data and Technology, Human Trafficking, Performance Management, to name a few. Weatherization Program staff were encouraged to attend sessions about engaging clients, recent innovations in weatherization, and a special two-part diagnostics refresher. It also provided thought-provoking general sessions about fostering change, national legislative updates, and information about the new Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library that will be breaking ground in Medora, ND.

The Community Action Partnership of North Dakota also took time during this conference to recognize those staff that have been with the Community Action Network for 20+ years.



<i>Erv Bren</i>	<i>Caroll Carlson</i>	<i>Cindy Stickel</i>	<i>Stacey Jorgenson</i>
<i>Norris Elshaug</i>	<i>Julie Munsey</i>	<i>Kathie Johnson</i>	<i>Debra Mauch</i>
<i>Perry Landon</i>	<i>Gemma Haberstroh</i>	<i>Ida Meier</i>	<i>Douglas Bakke</i>
<i>Mary Lou Ohman</i>	<i>Roxanne Breen</i>	<i>Lloyd Winterbeg</i>	<i>Jim Pavilcek</i>
<i>Monty Long</i>	<i>Deeann Long</i>	<i>Bill Miller</i>	<i>Jeri Barnett</i>
<i>Emily Fisher</i>	<i>Wayne Soiseth</i>	<i>Andrea Werner</i>	<i>Lora Papachek</i>
<i>Alice Carr</i>	<i>Catherine Bullis</i>	<i>Terry Magnuson</i>	
<i>Julie Johnson</i>	<i>Pamela Roof</i>	<i>John Meyer</i>	

We also honored our "Friends of Community Action" award winners. The Friends of Community Action Award is given to individuals in recognition of their outstanding advocacy on behalf of low-income citizens. Every two years, the Community Action Partnership of North Dakota solicits feedback from its members on who should be selected for this honor. Nominees are selected based on their impact of Community Action as a whole. Past recipients have included volunteers, businesses, legislators, advocates and partner agencies.

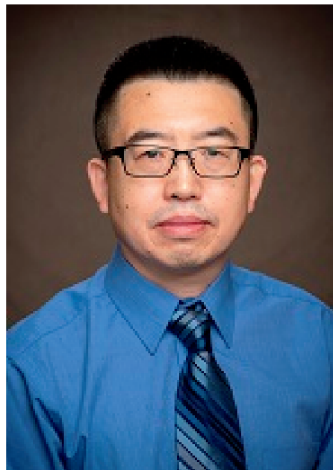
# CAPND CONFERENCE 2022

## 2022 Community Action Partnership of North Dakota Friends of Community Action Award Winners

*The Friends of Community Action Award is given to individuals in recognition of their outstanding advocacy on behalf of low-income citizens. CAPND is proud to recognize these winners and extend our heartfelt gratitude for their impact on helping people, changing lives.*



Dr. Yao Yu



Dr. Zhili (Jerry) Gao



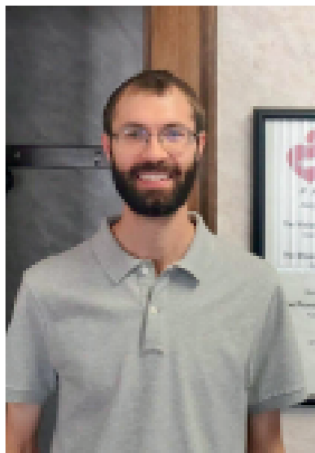
Sen. Rich Wardner



Kayleen Wardner



Bob Treitline



Brian Kopp



Joe Armbrust



# ABOUT US

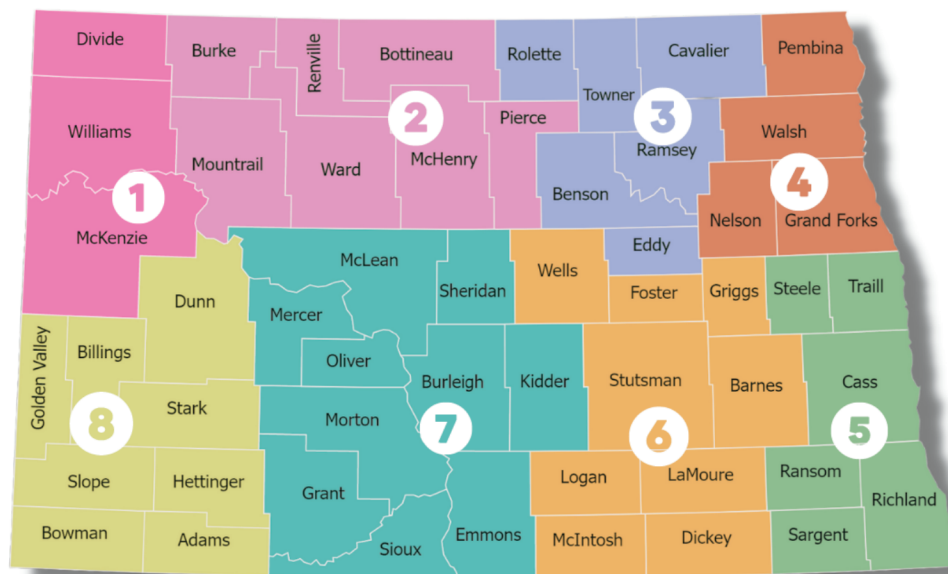
## COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES IN NORTH DAKOTA

CAP - Williston Region  
120 Washington Ave  
Williston, ND 58801  
(701) 572-8191  
[www.willistoncap.org](http://www.willistoncap.org)

CAP - Minot Region  
2020 8th Ave SE  
Minot, ND 58701  
(701) 839-7221  
[www.capminotregion.org](http://www.capminotregion.org)

DPCAA  
223 4th St NE  
Devils Lake, ND 58301  
(701) 662-6500  
[www.dpcaa.org](http://www.dpcaa.org)

RRVCA  
4212 Gateway Dr  
Grand Forks, ND 58203  
(701) 746-5431  
[www.rrvca.com](http://www.rrvca.com)



CAP - Dickinson Region  
202 Villard  
Dickinson, ND 58601  
(701) 227-0131  
[www.dickinsoncap.org](http://www.dickinsoncap.org)

CAP - Bismarck Region  
2105 Lee Ave  
Bismarck, ND 58504  
(701) 258-2240  
[www.cap7.com](http://www.cap7.com)

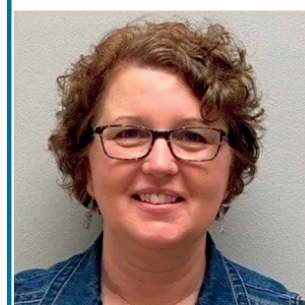
CAP - Jamestown Region  
1108 5th Ave NE  
Jamestown, ND 58402  
(701) 252-1821  
[www.cap6.com](http://www.cap6.com)

SENDCAA  
3233 S University Drive  
Fargo, ND 58104  
(701) 232-2452  
[www.sendcaa.org](http://www.sendcaa.org)

## OUR STAFF



Andrea Olson  
Executive Director



Carmel Froemke  
Programs Director



Faith Marthe  
State Association Specialist



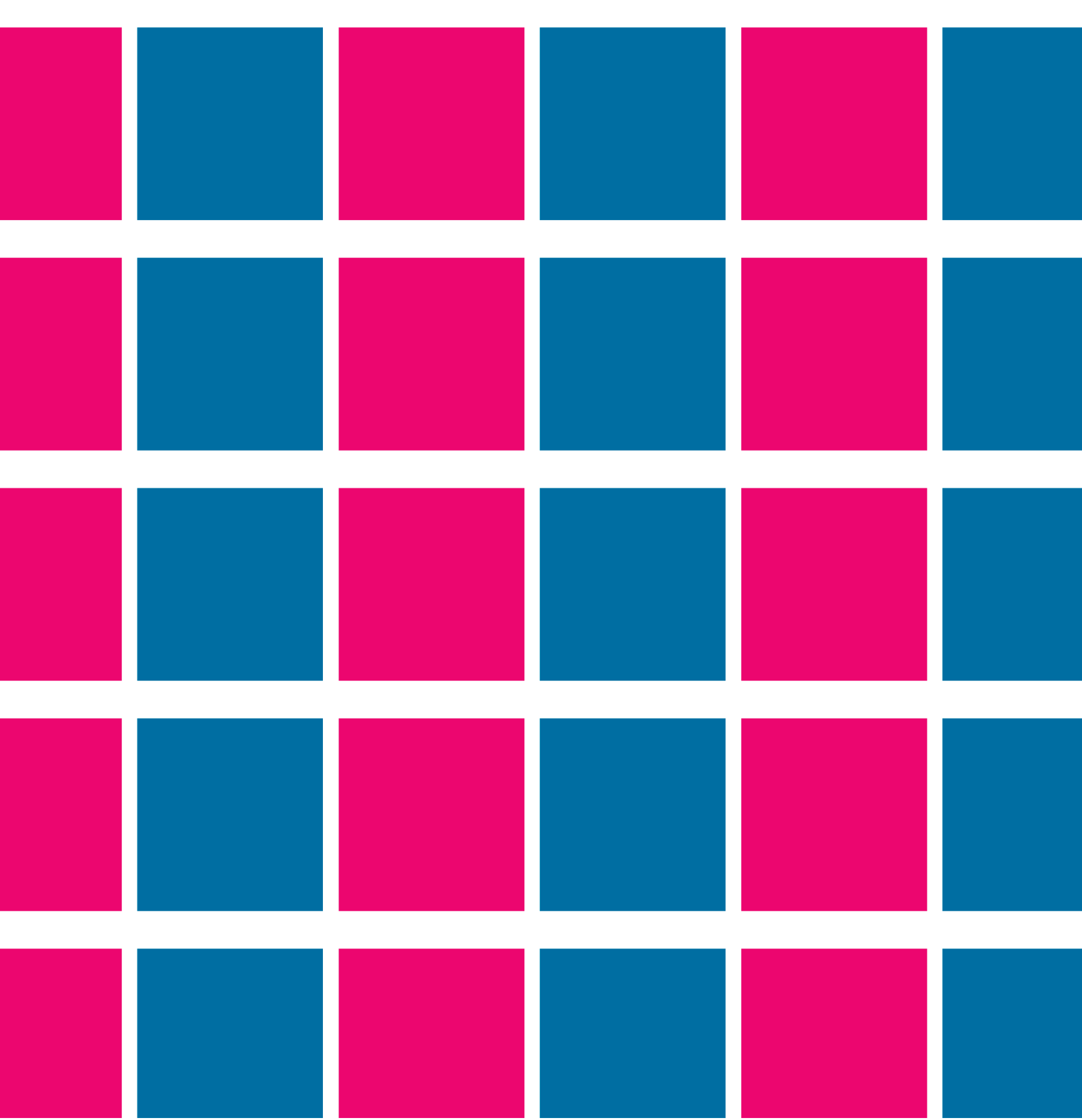
Holly Papineau  
State Association Manager

## Our Board of Directors

Erv Bren	Community Action Partnership - Dickinson/Williston Regions
Willy Soderholm	Community Action Partnership - Minot Region
Lora Papacheck	Dakota Prairie Community Action Agency
Kaye Seibel	Red River Valley Community Action Agency
Brandon Kjelden	Southeastern North Dakota Community Action Agency
Kristina Brownell	Community Action Program Region VI
Andrea Werner	Community Action Program Region VII







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