



**WISCONSIN COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES CONTRIBUTE TO
ECONOMIC RECOVERY & PROVIDE NEEDED SERVICES TO FAMILIES**

A Report to Wisconsin's Congressional Delegation

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CAA ARRA Results

Over 260 Jobs Created

Over 220 Jobs Retained

Services to 70,000 Wisconsin Residents

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), signed into law by President Obama on February 19, 2009, is designed to jumpstart the U.S. economy, create or save millions of jobs and address national needs - while supporting unprecedented levels of transparency, oversight and accountability. Wisconsin's Community Action Agencies (CAAs), whose purpose is to help low-income households become economically self-sufficient and, in the process, help local communities grow and nurture their economic health, are fully committed to making ARRA work and, as the state's largest non-governmental recipient of stimulus funding, fully engaged in that effort.

Wisconsin CAAs received contracts and the federal ARRA funding from State agencies after passage of the State of Wisconsin Biennial Budget beginning July 1, 2009.

Wisconsin's Community Action Agencies have **created 261 jobs** with ARRA funding in the first six-months of reporting (through December 31, 2009) of which 202 jobs were directly paid with ARRA funds. In addition, CAAs utilized ARRA funds to retain another 221 jobs in their communities. Many of these jobs are employment specialists, housing counselors, community service advocates, weatherization auditors and installers - jobs that **provide important needed services to over 70,000 low-income people & victims of this economic recession.**

Community Services Block Grant

- Nearly 350,000 Wisconsin residents received help from their local Community Action Agency in 2009—an increase of nearly 40% and of nearly 100,000 people from 2008. The Community Services Block Grant provides resources to agencies to locally respond to problems of poverty and the economic recession.
- ARRA provides Wisconsin about \$12 million for the Community Services Block Grant. Total federal funding under ARRA for CSBG is allocated by formula to the States and, in turn, to Community Action Agencies. (For comparison purposes, Wisconsin received \$8 million in FFY 2010 for CSBG out of a regular FFY 2010 appropriation for the CSBG of \$700 million. President Obama's budget contains \$700 Million for CSBG for FFY 2011.)
- A total of 52,068 Wisconsin residents received help and assistance from the ARRA CSBG funds through their Community Action Agency during the 6 month period ending 12/31/2009. These funds are providing badly needed safety net assistance as well as economic opportunity to unemployed and low-income people and families throughout Wisconsin. Agencies have seen increased numbers of families at food pantries, homeless shelters, and free clinics. Agencies utilize the funds to address critical community needs as prioritized by the agency's board of directors including:
 - Providing safety net services helping families stay in their homes: Helping struggling homeowners avoid foreclosure; helping renters avoid eviction; preventing utility shut-offs; budgeting and financial literacy services; etc.
 - Expanding agency "job and business development" efforts to help low-income and other entrepreneurs create small businesses in "green" technologies or as trained weatherization sub-contractors.
 - Expanding the Community Action Skills Enhancement Program—helping low-wage workers get good jobs with benefits.

Weatherization:

- Community Action Agencies are the backbone of the federal Weatherization Assistance Program in Wisconsin for more than 30 years. 13 CAAs operate the program in their communities and produce more than half of the total housing units weatherized by the set of 20 program operators in the state.
- ARRA provides Wisconsin about \$145 million over two years for the Weatherization Assistance Program—from a total federal allocation of \$5 billion. In Wisconsin, the ARRA funds are administered by the State Division of Energy Services together with other federal funds and State Public Benefits funds. The State issued contracts to CAAs and to other weatherization program operators effective July 1, 2009 following the passage of the State Biennial Budget.

- **A total of 5006 housing units were weatherized** by the 20 program operators during the 6 months ending December 31, 2009; 3,043 housing units were weatherized by the 13 CAP agencies. Most of the completed total units (4,226 of the 5006) were weatherized using the State Public Benefits funds or funds from other than ARRA sources. ARRA funds could not be used until the US Department of Labor issued prevailing wage rates for every county (completed in early September 2009) and until subsequent new sub-contracts with local businesses and vendors could be rebid and awarded.
- Community Action Agencies have established 109 sub-contracts with local contractors, businesses, vendors, and partners performing weatherization work with ARRA funds in Wisconsin.

Community Action Agencies are **locally governed, non-profit corporations**, answerable to a Board of Directors comprised of representatives of local government, community and low-income persons. CAAs have been the epitome of **efficient, transparent, accountable** operation during their 40+ years of existence. The very nature of their Board structure keeps them accountable and CAAs also undergo yearly audits conducted by independent auditing firms. In addition, the State of Wisconsin Office of Recovery and Reinvestment as well as other State Departments are conducting field visits and site monitoring of agency operations and programs.

Wisconsin Community Action Agencies Contribute to Economic Recovery & Provide Needed Services to Families *

STATEWIDE		1st Congressional District	2nd Congressional District	3rd Congressional District	4th Congressional District
16 Community Action Agencies + UMOS serve the state	* Unless indicated, all data is for the period July 1, 2009 - December 31, 2009	Community Action Coalition Community Action, Inc. Racine/Kenosha CAA Social Development Commission	Community Action Coalition Community Action, Inc. Central Wisconsin CAC Southwest CAP	Central Wisconsin CAC Couleecap Indianhead CAA Southwest CAP West CAP Western Dairyland	Social Development Commission
348,064	Total Individuals Served CY 2009	148,828	89,610	104,713	71,354
174,973	Total Families Served CY 2009	96,588	24,462	37,606	66,717
262	Total Jobs Created ARRA	62	46	96	17
221	Total Jobs Retained ARRA	61	31	74	39
198	Jobs Created / Retained CSBG ARRA	58	43	28	15
223	Jobs Created / Retained WX ARRA	39	19	117	27
61	Jobs Created / Retained Other ARRA	26	15	25	13
52,068	Total Persons Assisted CSBG ARRA	20,432	2,506	21,219	18,967
74,941	Total Persons Assisted all ARRA Sources	25,566	7,086	22,055	19,483
24	Non-profit Organizations Assisted	13	6	4	7
3,043	Total Housing Units Weatherized by CAAs	1,040	432	1,090	625
571	Housing Units Weatherized ARRA	310	27	183	296
Skills Enhancement, Jobs & Business Development, Emergency Food & Shelter, Rent / Utility Assistance, Foreclosure Prevention, Car Repair, Prescription Drug Vouchers, Benefit Enrollment Assistance, Tax Assistance	Examples of CSBG ARRA-Assisted Projects / Activities	Employment training, summer youth employment programs, mortgage default counseling, tax assistance, car repair, urban gardens	Employment training, youth employment, home rehabilitation, mortgage default counseling, car loan program	Youth employment, car loan repairs, reproductive health education, recycling project, health & financial literacy programs, mental health initiative, residential alternative energy & conservation	Adult & youth job training programs, neighborhood development, energy assistance call center
\$12,044,073	CSBG ARRA Funds to District CAAs	\$5,888,011	\$2,549,666	\$2,637,523	\$3,384,260
\$7,768,633	CSBG Regular Funding to District CAAs 2009	\$3,709,267	\$1,606,212	\$1,661,558	\$2,131,980

Wisconsin Community Action Agencies Contribute to Economic Recovery & Provide Needed Services to Families *

STATEWIDE		5th Congressional District	6th Congressional District	7th Congressional District	8th Congressional District
16 Community Action Agencies + UMOs serve the state	* Unless indicated, all data is for the period July 1, 2009 - December 31, 2009	Community Action Coalition Social Development Commission	ADVOCAP CAP Services Central Wisconsin CAC Lakeshore CAP	CAP Services Indianhead CAA NEWCAP North Central CAP Northwest CSA West CAP	CAP Services Lakeshore CAP NEWCAP
348,064	Total Individuals Served CY 2009	113,298	32,849	103,070	58,263
174,973	Total Families Served CY 2009	72,640	17,187	38,616	25,300
262	Total Jobs Created ARRA	40	87	55	26
221	Total Jobs Retained ARRA	53	65	64	25
198	Jobs Created / Retained CSBG ARRA	47	89	43	26
223	Jobs Created / Retained WX ARRA	27	45	58	21
61	Jobs Created / Retained Other ARRA	18	19	19	4
52,068	Total Persons Assisted CSBG ARRA	19,644	546	10,260	4,500
74,941	Total Persons Assisted all ARRA Sources	20,898	1,495	26,591	4,561
24	Non-profit Organizations Assisted	13	1	6	0
3,043	Total Housing Units Weatherized by CAAs	625	399	1,186	583
571	Housing Units Weatherized ARRA	296	2	173	72
Skills Enhancement, Jobs & Business Development, Emergency Food & Shelter, Rent / Utility Assistance, Foreclosure Prevention, Car Repair, Prescription Drug Vouchers, Benefit Enrollment Assistance, Tax Assistance	Examples of CSBG ARRA-Assisted Projects / Activities	Employment training (adults and youth), neighborhood development	Youth employment, Fresh Start / Head Start, refugees & dislocated workers, tax assistance, financial literacy, car loan program, food pantry capacity building, mental health counseling	Fresh Start / Head Start, tax assistance, recycling project, health & financial literacy, mental health initiative, food pantry supports, case management services	Fresh Start / Head Start, youth employment, computer lab for access & training for jobs, financial literacy, tax assistance, transportation assistance, food pantry capacity building, mental health counseling
\$12,044,073	CSBG ARRA Funds to District CAAs	\$4,709,733	\$1,816,427	\$3,126,654	\$1,860,964
\$7,768,633	CSBG Regular Funding to District CAAs 2009	\$2,966,988	\$1,144,295	\$1,969,696	\$1,172,351