CENTRAL WISCONSIN COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL, INC.

2016 - 2017 AGENCY PROGRAMS
Serving Adams, Columbia, Dodge, Juneau and Sauk Counties

CWCAC is Working...

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.

51 YEARS OF HELPING PEOPLE HELP THEMSELVES

WE ARE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER & PROVIDER
TABLE OF CONTENTS

HOUSING & ENERGY Programs
- Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) 4
- Weatherization Assistance Program (WX) 4
- Rental Housing Development (RHD) Activities 4

HOMELESS UNIT Programs
- Crisis Assistance Program 5
- Emergency Food & Shelter Program 5
- United Way/United Fund 6
- Project Chance Scattered Site Transitional Housing 6
- New Beginnings Homeless Shelter of Dodge County 7
- Get Smart Skills Enhancement Program 8

HUNGER REDUCTION & SECTION 8 Programs
- Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program 9
- TEFAP (The Emergency Food Assistance Program) 9

EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING Programs
- Car Loan Program 10

BUSINESS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UNIT
- Jobs & Business Development 10

GUARDIANSHIP AND FIDUCIARY SERVICES
- Guardianship, Conservatorships, Trustee Services 11

AGENCY ADMINISTRATION
- Management Participation in Local Initiatives 11
- Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) 11

AGENCY MISSION

To provide the opportunity for services which help low-income individuals and families within our service area achieve self-sufficiency and independence.
**Wisconsin HOME ENERGY Assistance Program (WHEAP)**
Juneau County

WHEAP provides a one-time annual heating assistance payment. Household income limit is 200% of poverty. Households may also receive crisis assistance (subject to funding availability) for additional fuel, furnace repair or furnace replacement. Case Managers are on call for crisis assistance during off-hours and are contacted through the local sheriff’s department.

**WEATHERIZATION Assistance Program (WX)**
Adams, Columbia, Juneau & Sauk Counties

Available to homeowners or renters at or below 200% poverty. WX provides energy efficiency and health and safety measures funded through the State Department of Administration, Division of Energy. Assistance provided includes attic insulation, sidewall insulation, smoke detectors, air sealing, and/or furnace, water heater and refrigerator replacement.

**RENTAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT (RHD) Activities**
CWCAC is a designated Community Housing Development Organization recognized by the Federal Department of Housing & Urban Development and the State Department of Commerce. Our focus is developing affordable rental units in our geographic area.

**CRISIS ASSISTANCE Program**

This program provides a one-time crisis assistance to households - generally rent or mortgage. This program actually combines different funding sources including Emergency Food & Shelter Program and United Way. Client applications are reviewed and approved based on a number of criteria, including funding availability, the ability to positively resolve the crisis, and other factors.

**EMERGENCY FOOD & SHELTER Program**
Still informally referred to as FEMA

EFSP is a restricted federal grant. Program expenditures are limited to food, meals, shelter (motel/hotel vouchers), rent/mortgage assistance and utility assistance. EFSP is governed by a National Board that selects jurisdictions for funding, and based on the latest census and unemployment figures determines the amount of funding to be given. Local Boards are then convened to determine the highest need and best use of those funds and to select Local Recipient Organizations (LRO’s) to provide emergency food and shelter services. Each year, needs are reassessed in an effort to adapt to community needs. We receive EFSP funds in two of the five counties (Juneau & Dodge). The criteria we use is that we will provide rental assistance to individuals or families with a five-day eviction notice and verification of employment.
PROJECT CHANCE
(PC Scattered Site Transitional Housing)

PC is a Supportive Housing Program for homeless families or individuals funded by a HUD Continuum of Care Grant. The three goals of the program are to help participants obtain and remain in permanent housing; to help participants increase skills and/or income; and to help the participants achieve greater self-determination. Case Managers work with program participants to obtain benefits such as Food Stamps or SSI, W-2, education/job skills training, counseling for mental health or AODA issues, childcare, etc. We contract with individual landlords on behalf of the clients and provide for their rent. Clients pay 30% of their adjusted gross income to us for their share of the rent. The agency must provide cash match, which comes in the form of office space/utilities, Case Manager’s travel, staff wages, etc.

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER. LIVe UNiTED™

UNITED WAY / UNITED FUND

We receive funds from United Way of Dodge County, Baraboo Area United Fund, Wisconsin Dells Area United Fund and United Way of Inner Wisconsin (for Adams County). We use these funds for rent/mortgage assistance for families or individuals. If rent/mortgage assistance, there must be verification of employment and the landlord/mortgager must agree they will not evict the household for the next 30 days.

NEW BEGINNINGS
Homeless Shelter of Dodge County

New Beginnings was organized in 1998 by a dedicated group of volunteers with the mission statement “To provide individuals experiencing homelessness with temporary shelter.” This was later expanded into a vision statement which reads “To provide individuals with emergency assistance and the opportunity to make the transition from homelessness to independent living.” New Beginnings is governed by an 8 member Board of Directors serving staggered three-year terms. The board meets monthly to review budgeted expenses and shelter activities. In October 2007, the Board of Directors of New Beginnings entered into a management arrangement with Central Wisconsin Community Action Council, Inc. (hereafter referred to as “CWCAC”) to oversee the day-to-day operations of the shelter, including fiscal management. Since then, CWCAC’s Unit Supervisor for Homeless Prevention & Intervention and CWCAC’s Homeless Case Manager for Dodge County have served in an advisory capacity on the Board. The shelter is licensed by the City of Beaver Dam for 10 beds. Single women, mothers with children, fathers with children and two-parent families with children may be accepted for residence at the shelter. In October 2014 a second location was opened to house single men. All families and individuals are eligible to receive every shelter service. Residents are able to stay 30 days, or more with extensions granted on a case-by-case basis. New Beginnings is supported financially by a HUD Emergency Solutions Grant from the state of Wisconsin, a State Shelter Subsidy Grant from the state of Wisconsin, Emergency Food & Shelter Program funds, Dodge County United Way funds and donations from individuals and businesses in Dodge County.

NEW BEGINNINGS Men’s Shelter of Dodge County

The Men’s Shelter in Beaver Dam which opened in 2014 has 5 bedrooms (one for the house manager) and can house up to 10 single men. Residents are able to stay 30 days, or more with extensions granted on a case-by-case basis. CWCAC’s Homeless Case Manager for Dodge County provides assistance in transitioning clients into apartments.
HUNGER REDUCTION UNIT & SECTION 8 HCV Program

EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE Program (TEFAP)
CWCAC is the contracted emergency feeding organization (EFO) for eight counties and currently sub-contracts with 16 pantries located in Adams, Columbia, Dodge, Juneau, Marquette, Sauk, Waushara and Wood Counties. As EFO, we order and distribute USDA food to the contracted food pantries. Eligibility is based on each household’s residency and monthly gross income (income is currently set at 185% of the federal poverty level). Each food pantry provides a nutritionally balanced food package to last approximately 2-3 days. To find the food pantry in your community, please contact your local Health & Human Services Department. Households may utilize the pantry in their community once a month but additional resources are available in extreme cases. Each pantry utilizes their food banks to obtain food for a shared maintenance cost of 18 cents per pound. Funding resources that support these pantries include donations from local service groups, churches, and private citizens; Area United Ways & United Way Funds; Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); and the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP).

SECTION 8 HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER Program
This program is contracted through WHEDA to serve Adams, Columbia, Jefferson, Rusk, Taylor & Washburn Counties and the City of Eau Claire providing rent assistance to eligible households at or below 50% of County Median Income (CMI). The number of vouchers we are authorized to fill may fluctuate during the contract period based on available funds. We maintain a separate waiting list for each county; the wait time averages between one and four years to receive assistance. Once you receive a voucher, you would be required to lease up for a minimum of one year in the county that you applied for if you have not lived in that county. Any type of private rental unit is allowable as long as it fits within the payment standard as set by HUD and passes a housing quality standard inspection. Eligible families pay between 30-40% of their adjusted income for rent; the balance is subsidized by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Resident portions of the rent are re-evaluated at least once a year. Applications may be requested by contacting our main office and speaking to the receptionist or downloaded from our website: www.cwcac.org

EMployment & Training

BUSINESS and ECONOMIC Development Unit

JOBS AND BUSINESS Development
We are a business incubator funded by contract with Wisconsin Community Action Program Association to create jobs for low-income and disadvantaged people by developing a network of support components that will assist entrepreneurs from concept through start-up and expansions, using standard business methodology. The goals and objectives of the program are to support and enhance an environment that encourages entrepreneurs to explore their ideas, enhance business knowledge/skills of entrepreneurs and expanding businesses, provide opportunities for entrepreneurs to access financial resources, and integrate job training with related life skills for low-income and disadvantaged people to enter jobs created by this project and maintain jobs to become economically self-sufficient. We provide micro-loans for start-up businesses to qualified applicants. This loan must be secured by 100% collateral. If the loan is used to purchase equipment, the equipment could be included as part of the collateral.

CAR LOAN Program
Adams, Columbia, Dodge, Sauk & Waushara Counties
We provide no-interest car loans to workers. Available to employed individuals whose household income is at or below 200% of federal poverty level. We provide funding for vehicles. Buyer is responsible for sales tax, license plates, title fee, lien fee, dealer fee (if any), and $115 Administration fee mandated by the State of Wisconsin. Buyer must also two months of pre-paid full insurance coverage including a $500 deductible for collision and comprehensive (i.e., On a $4,500 loan, buyer will need approximately $550 + insurance, depending on driving record).
GET SMART

Skills Enhancement Program

In November 2005 we entered into a contract with the Department of Workforce Development to increase the income and economic self-sufficiency of working poor households by helping adult members acquire the skills needed to obtain higher paying jobs with health insurance benefits. We will work with eligible participants during the year to identify training goals that will result in an increase in their annual income, by increasing their hourly wage, increasing the number of hours worked weekly and accessing employer-sponsored health insurance.

Eligible individuals must have incomes at or below 150% of poverty and be employed a minimum of 20 hours per week. The participants will receive financial support to cover the costs of short-term training designed to increase their marketability and employability. There are limits to the amount of financial support. Staff provides a variety of support and advocacy services that look at family strengths as well as needs. Participants receive assistance in developing their individualized training plans, problem-solving, career assessment, accessing community resources and job search.

Key Points—must be 18 or older, must be at or below 150% of poverty, must be employed minimum of 20 hours/week and MAIN TAIN employment during training, must work with the Job Skills Coach on developing a training plan, must apply for financial aid or other programs for which they may be eligible, must maintain residence in Wisconsin. It is not intended to assist individuals who wish to attend school full-time, who expect to be in training for a long time, for those who are not working, or for those whose training will not result in increased self-sufficiency.

Due to limited funding, training dollars are restricted to short-term certificate programs (i.e., Certified Nursing Assistant, Phlebotomy, etc.) for which no financial aid is available.

GUARDIANSHIP & FIDUCIARY Services

CWCAC provides services for Guardianship of Person and/or Estate, Conservatorships, Trustee Services and Federal Fiduciary. We help individuals manage their money to meet their needs and assure them a better quality of life. We also oversee the care and living situation of the ward, as well as medical decision-making. Currently our agency is providing these services to clients in the South Central portion of Wisconsin.

AGENCY ADMINISTRATION

MANAGEMENT PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL INITIATIVES

CWCAC management and field staff participate in a variety of initiatives promoting coordination of services and resource development for local communities. These have included Family Preservation initiatives, W-2 and Job Center initiatives, local service provider networks, and the like.

COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG)

CWCAC receives CSBG dollars annually through the Wisconsin Department of Children & Families. Although the CSBG award constitutes a relatively small part of the agency’s total annual budget, these funds are critically important; where as most of our funding via contracts and grants is earmarked for specific programs and services. CSBG funds are used to pay administration, operating costs and subsidize programs that cannot operate self-sufficiently.
Thank you VOLUNTEERS

This is a very special group of caring people who devote hundreds of hours to assist with food distribution at and through our Food Pantry system.

Eternal gratitude is extended to each for their caring and constant commitment. Please know that you are needed and respected for your giving of time.

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