

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR STATE COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAMS



# Using CSBG to Jumpstart Transportation Services

20  
23

ANNUAL TRAINING  
**CONFERENCE**

SEPTEMBER 25 - 29



G R A N D R A P I D S

**HELLO  
AND  
WELCOME**



# Presenters

- Michelle Peterson, Interim Executive Director  
Tri-County Action Program, Inc.  
Waite Park, Minnesota
- Sarah Priest, Community Action Grant Manager  
Office of Economic Opportunity  
Minnesota Department of Human Services



# Using CSBD Discretionary - typical

Contract with MN's Community Action Association –  
Training/ Technical Assistance & Communication & Emerging Leaders Cohort

Consultants –

Succession Planning / Strategic Planning  
Update Bylaws/ Work with Board  
Standards of Excellence  
Transitions – ED's & Fiscal / Mergers  
DEI

Support to recover after Emergencies –  
Flooding / Hail Storms / Tornados



# Using CSBD Discretionary – less common

Supporting Housing –

space conversion, boiler replacement, emergency shelter bed match

Technology Upgrades (hardware and software – data reporting, accounting)

Nutrition & Cooking Classes, supporting Tribal Food Sovereignty

Whole Family / 2 Generation Approach Work –

Additional 2 Agencies to participate in national cohort

Tribal Grantee's 'Shore-Up'



# Using CSBD Discretionary – when possible



## 2017 RFP Process for \$150,000 in Innovation Funding Available

- 17 applications were received, requesting \$745,000 for the \$150,000 that was available.

## AWARDED AGENCIES

- Community Food Forests – perennial herbs, greens, berries, vegetables and fruit trees near low-income neighborhoods to create 2 sustainable, edible gathering spaces.
- BikePlus - A year-round program that supports bicycle riding in all seasons for transportation access and health benefits.
- A Do It Yourself (DIY) Tax Preparation Training - weekly sessions during income tax season February 1 through April 15.
- DRIVE - a lease program for low-income participants, who wouldn't otherwise be eligible to lease-to-own a new reliable vehicle. Leases are made at zero percent interest.



# Tri-CAP Profile – Service Area



# Tri-CAP Profile- Demographics

## COUNTY INFORMATION

*\*Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2016-2020*

	BENTON	SHERBURNE	STEARNS
<b>*TOTAL COUNTY POPULATION</b>	40,476	96,015	159,788
<b>*% OF POPULATION EXPERIENCING POVERTY BY COUNTY</b>	9% 1,485	6% 1,945	11% 6,639
<b>*DEMOGRAPHIC MAKEUP BY COUNTY</b>			
White	89%	91%	88%
Black or African American	5%	3%	7%
American Indian & Alaskan Native	>1%	>1%	>1%
Asian	1%	1%	2%
Two or More Races	3%	3%	3%
Other	1%	1%	>1%



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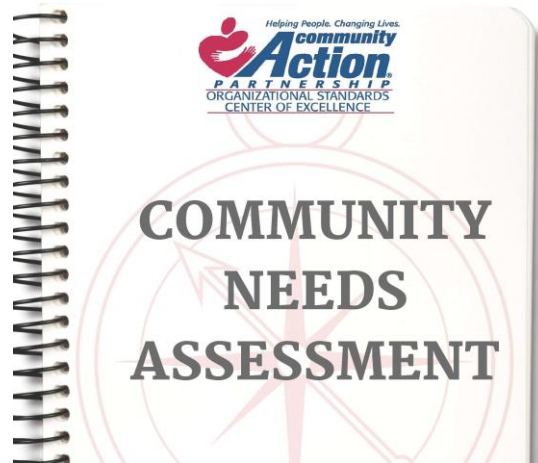
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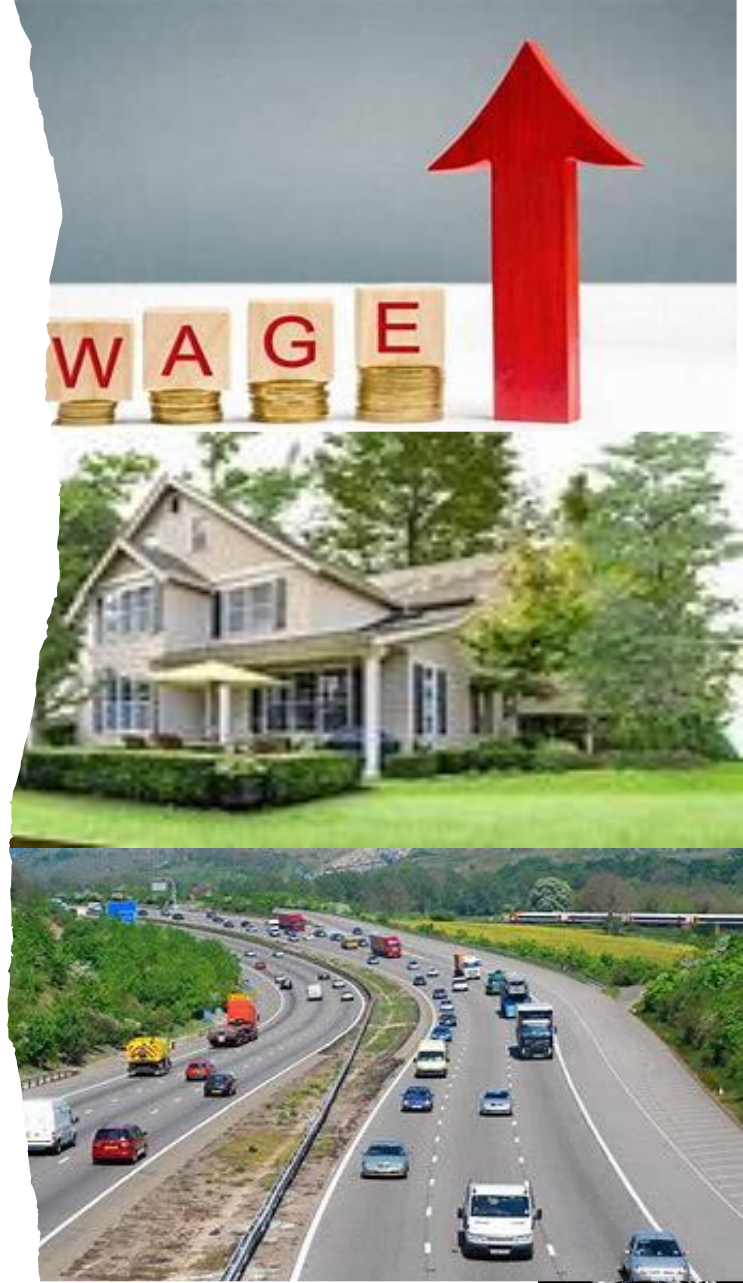
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# Tri-CAP Profile- Community Needs



**TOP THREE NEEDS:**  
Affordable Housing  
Transportation Access  
Livable Wages



# Tri-CAP Profile – Scope of Services

Public Transit in Five  
Counties

Energy Assistance/  
Weatherization

Volunteer Driver  
Program

VITA- Volunteer Tax  
Assistance Program

Housing Assistance  
Programs

Workforce  
Development  
Programs

Outreach Programs-  
SNAP, Affordable  
Connectivity, Child  
Care Asst.

Personal  
Transportation  
Programs - DRIVE



# Tri-CAP Profile- Funding/Staff

- 90 FT/PT Employees
- \$14 Million Annual Budget
- Funding Sources Include:
  - Federal Transit Authority, MN Dept of Transportation
  - Dept of Commerce, Dept of Energy
  - HUD
  - MN Dept of Human Services
  - MN Dept Employment and Economic Development
  - Local County Support and Private Foundations



# Highlighted Program- DRIVE

“Delivering **R**eliable, **I**ndependent **V**ehicle **E**mpowerment”

To JUMPSTART this program:

CSBG Discretionary Innovative Grant  
2018

\$36,400.00

+

CSBG Regular Grant Funds  
\$65,000.00

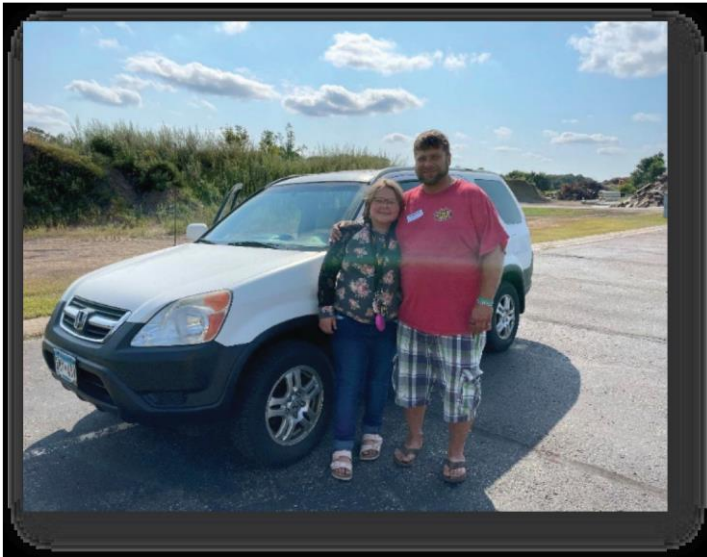


# Highlighted Program- DRIVE

Initiated as a Car Lease and Car Donation Program

In addition to these aspects, the program has evolved over time.

## **Personal Transportation with a Multi-faceted Approach**



Additional Components:

Vehicle Repair

Volunteer Driver Services

Support Services, Financial Coaching

# Highlighted Program- DRIVE

- Planning & Development Phase

Hire Vehicle Programs Manager

Research other programs

Build community partnerships

Determine program services, eligibility

Determine legal requirements

Create systems, processes, administrative requirements





## Highlighted Program- DRIVE

### Leased vehicles-

- Partnership with local dealer- started with three- now up to 8
- Eligibility: CSBG income guidelines and ability to pay monthly payment/ insurance
- Monthly visits: Look at the vehicle, provide education on maintenance, address budget concerns, referrals, etc.

# Highlighted Program- DRIVE

## Donated Vehicles-

- Marketing Plans
- Outreach/Advertising
- Partnerships- local repair shops, towing companies, volunteers
- Assess for safety/appropriate for sale
- Required repair investment
- Sell or scrap? Evaluate
- In 2018, 3 donated vehicles. 2019, 25 donations.



# Highlighted Program- DRIVE

## Donated Vehicles-



- To date, we have received over 80 donated vehicles.
- Most of these have come through our advertising efforts, outreach/presentations and word of mouth.
- Approximately 50% of those donated cars have been resold to clients. The remaining are scrapped and we utilize those funds to do necessary repairs on those we sell.

# Highlighted Program- DRIVE

Other Services:

- Vehicle Repair

\$800 cap, focused on safety repairs  
(tires, brakes, transmission, etc.)

- Gas vouchers and bus passes

- Volunteer Driver program

- Credit Repair, budgeting, car maintenance education

## THE 5 MOST IMPORTANT CAR MAINTENANCE TIPS

Basic vehicle maintenance keeps your car running smoothly and can prevent breakdowns and even accidents. Follow these car maintenance tips to keep your vehicle in good working order:



**TIP #1: TAKE CARE OF YOUR TIRES**

Tires in poor condition pose a dangerous threat to the safety of you and your loved ones.

Here are a few items to be mindful of:

- Tire pressure – Check your tires' pressure at least once a month. Underinflated tires affect your fuel efficiency and cost you money.
- Tire rotation – Rotate the tires every 5,000-8,000 miles.
- Tire condition – Inspect your tires regularly for any signs of bulges or bald spots. If you spot any of these danger signs, have the tire replaced as soon as possible.
- Uneven wear – Uneven wear on a tire indicates wheel alignment problems. Have the wheels aligned properly as soon as possible.
- Spare tire – Check your spare tire at least once a month to ensure it's usable if you find yourself having to replace a flat.



**TIP #2: CHECK FLUIDS**

At least every 5,000 miles, check and refill your fluids.

These include:

- Changing the oil
- Checking brake, coolant and/or antifreeze, transmission, washer and power steering fluids.



**TIP #3: CHECK THE BATTERY**

When your battery goes dead, you're stuck. Checking the battery regularly can help you avoid this uncomfortable situation.

You can have your mechanic check the battery or do it yourself via a car battery tester.



**TIP #4: CHECK THE LIGHTS**

Check your exterior and interior lights regularly. Besides the headlights, make sure your indicators, brake lights and fog lights are in good working order.



**TIP #5: GET AN ANNUAL INSPECTION**

At least once a year, or according to the manufacturer's recommendations, take your car in for servicing. Your mechanic will check the fuel filters, brake pads and spark plugs and replace them if needed.

The mechanic will also flush the radiator to get rid of the old fluid and replace it with new fluid.

Other annual maintenance includes checking the ABS sensor, timing belt and fuel pressure regulator.



# Highlighted Program- DRIVE

Leveraged funds for sustainability:

- Continued CSBG regular grant support
- Private Foundation funding
- MN DHS “Getting to Work” grant
- FAIM – Family Assets for Independence MN



# Highlighted Program- DRIVE

## *A Snapshot of the Program Budget Today:*

Annual Operating Budget:      \$95,000  
Salary/Benefits  
Car repairs  
Advertising  
Administration

Revenue Sources:                CSBG program support funds  
Otto Bremer Trust  
Program Income-  
Lease Payments  
Car Purchase Income



# Highlighted Program- DRIVE

## ***Lessons Learned...***

- Value and Cost of Leased Vehicles
- Affordability
- Readiness of Clients
- Monitoring of Assets
- Client Support
- Legal Implications, Liability

*(not a real program photo!)*



# Highlighted Program- DRIVE

Ruby uses a wheelchair and was looking for transportation, having not been able to drive for the last few years due to her health.

Ruby has regular appointments, and it has been difficult for her to get out of her home without a modified vehicle. Each time Ruby wanted to leave the house, her husband needed to lift her and then her wheelchair in and out of their truck.

Because of the generous donation of this accessible van, Ruby is now able to get into the vehicle on the electric ramp where she is then secured safely. With the accessibility of the vehicle, Ruby is able to drive using hand controls. Having been unable to drive for many years, this has provided her with the vehicle to start driving again!

Ruby and her husband praise Tri-CAP's DRIVE program which helps provide low-cost transportation to families with limited income. This purchase ended with double joy; not only was it a good quality well-maintained vehicle, but it is also accessible for both entering the vehicle AND driving it. Ruby was so grateful and overwhelmed to have this opportunity to purchase exactly what they needed, and Tri-CAP was so happy to be able to be a part of this process.



# Questions?!?

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