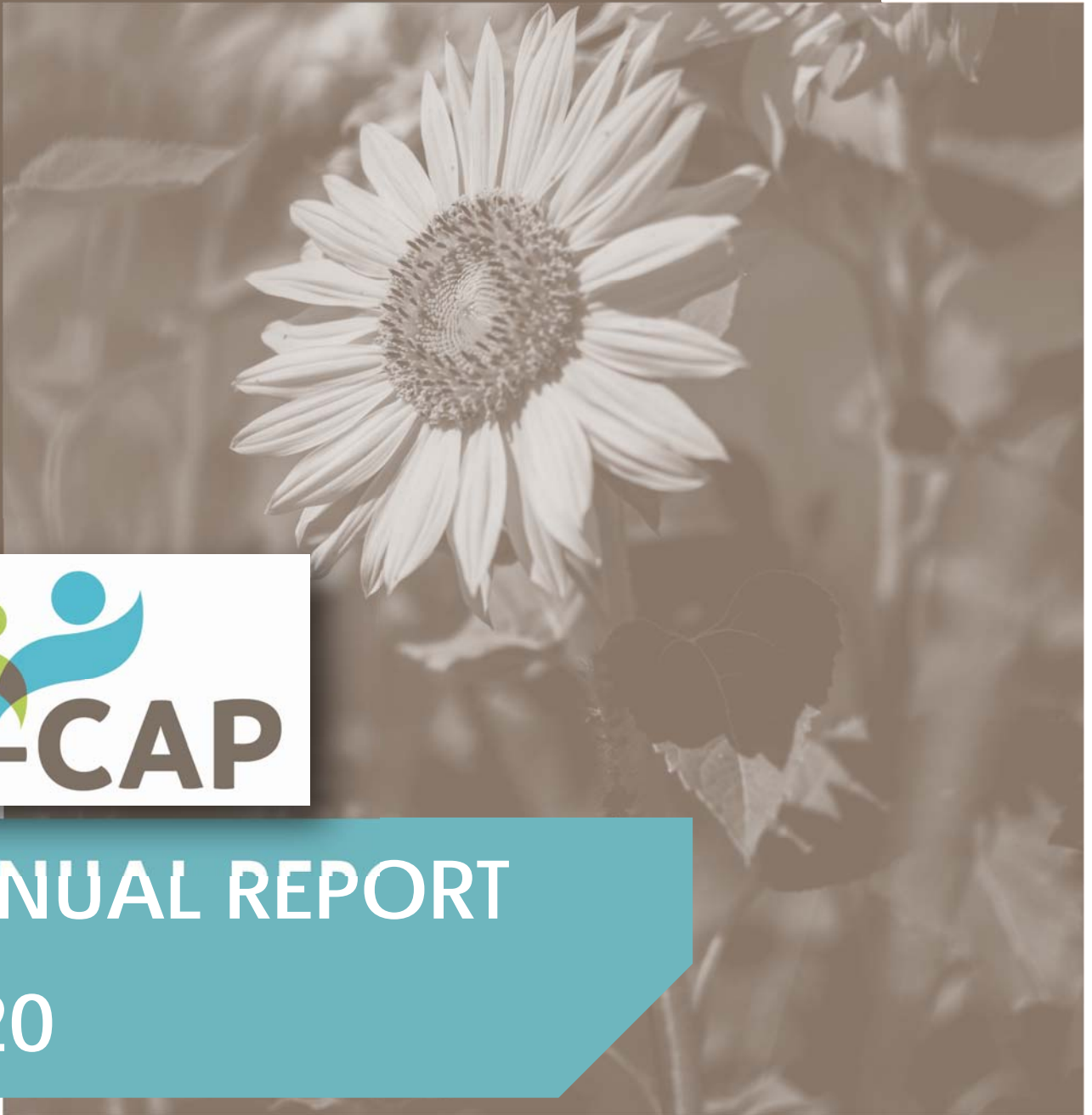


Helping People. Changing Lives. Building Community.



ANNUAL REPORT

2020

FULFILLING THE PROMISE OF COMMUNITY ACTION

BI-CAP is here to help those in need



Our staff of 115 assist more than 5,000 low-income residents in Beltrami and Cass Counties.

Our programs prepare children and families for kindergarten and beyond; help families meet their home energy needs; make housing more affordable; save energy; and help youth learn a trade and life skills.

BI-CAP works with more than 170 organizations (public and private) in Beltrami and Cass Counties— expanding resources and opportunities for those we serve.

From the board:

Surmounting challenges together



With 2020 behind us and the hope that we see ahead of us in 2021, it is time to take a moment to recognize the amazing work that was done by BI-CAP in a previously unimaginable situation. The global pandemic created incredible challenges and yet the organization rose to meet those challenges. I am humbled by the ongoing dedication of the BI-CAP staff and board of directors.

2020 may have tested us all, but I have hope that many of the hard-earned lessons of the last year will allow us to serve our community in new and better ways. Thank you to the staff and board members who stepped up to meet these challenges and make Beltrami and Cass Counties better communities to live and work.

Rebecca Stone, Board Chair

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Rebecca Stone
- Reed Olson
- Colleen Moravek
- Nicole McKinnon
- Margaret Kinder
- Pam St. Pierre
- Theresa Eclov
- Kathryn Smith
- Chris Walters
- Linda Tran
- Debra Halver
- Antonio Franklin, Jr.
- Sandy Miller
- Scott Bruns
- Dr. David Frison III
- Tim Sumner

Thank you to Outgoing Board Members: Joel Anastasio, November, 2018 – June, 2020; Jodee Treat - July, 2014 to July, 2020; Corrina Spears - October, 2018 to September, 2020 and Ashley Charwood, May 2006-June 2007 & March 2015 to March 2021.

INNOVATIONS DURING COVID



When COVID 19 arrived, BI-CAP's mission was to continue assisting the low-income community with all its services and programs with as little disruption as possible. BI-CAP assessed our challenges and teamed collectively to provide services in light of the pandemic.

In order to work safely and socially distance staff spaces, the agency had to get creative and secured an offsite location in which to locate the Weatherization Department.

The Weatherization move provided needed space for the Supportive Housing and Energy Assistance staff. In separate locations, Head Start and YouthBuild modified staff space and provided a blend of services by utilizing remote technology.

With the doors closed, the agency geared up to serve clients remotely by phone and through online services. Secure drop boxes for pick up and drop off of applications and documents were set up at each site. Providing front line services, the agency remained nimble in our approaches to deliver services and feel confident we have worked hard to meet the needs of our clients.

COVID RESPONSE

Kept our staff and people we serve safe.

Adapted to continue to meet needs.

SERVING the COMMUNITY

3,336

households served

1,519

Persons with disability

8,057

individuals

3,186

Children
(17 or younger)

316

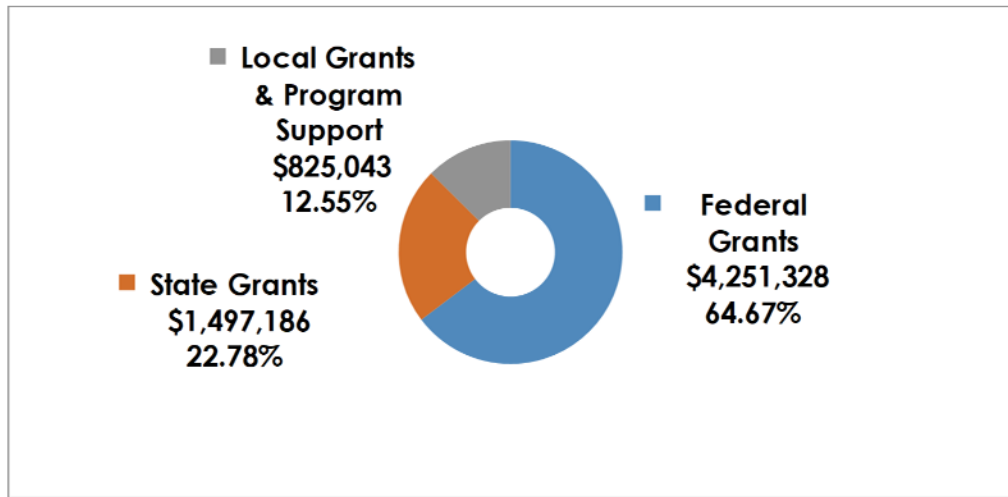
veterans

1,659

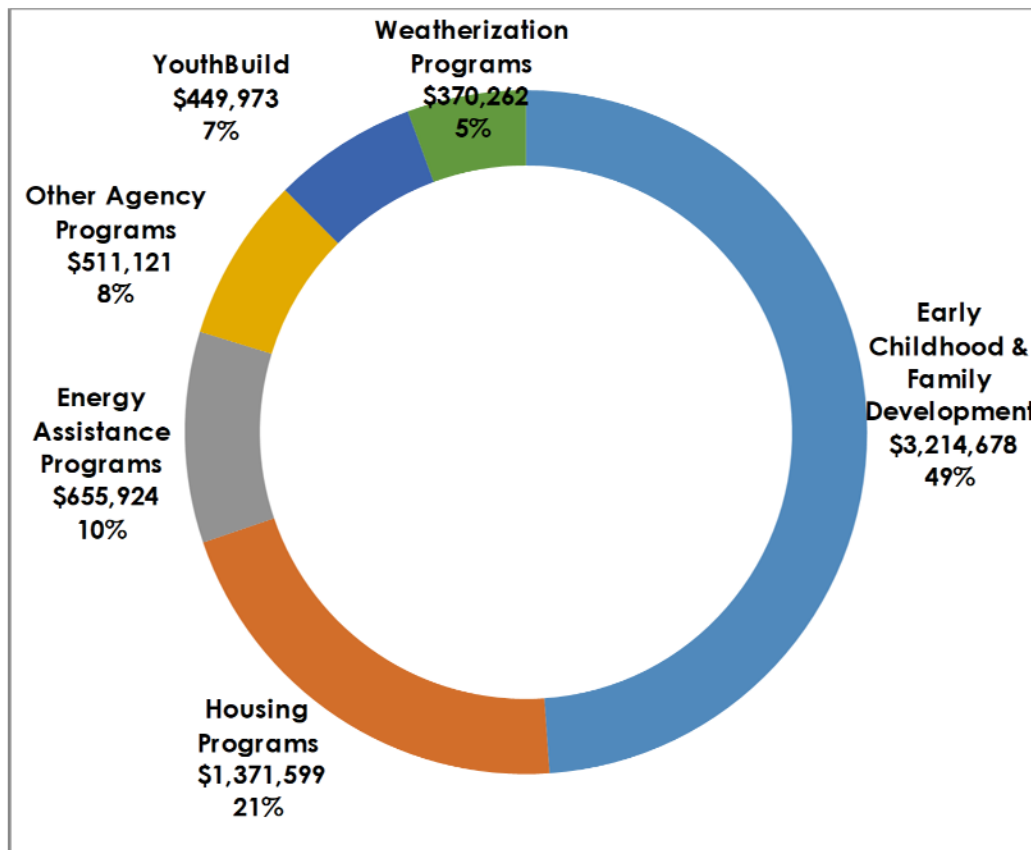
seniors
(60+)

FINANCIALS

Revenues— 10/1/19 to 09/30/20



Expenses — 10/1/19 to 09/30/20



DID YOU KNOW?

BI-CAP receives revenue from more than 11 funding sources and 30 different grants, bringing federal, state and local dollars into our communities, totaling approximately \$7 million.

Financial Statement: BI-CAP is audited each fiscal year by independent Certified Public Accountants. The audit is conducted in accordance with U.S. Generally Accepted Auditing Principles (GAAP). The summarized data that appears on this page are from the audit.

HEAD START: PRENATAL TO FIVE



Head Start is a school readiness program which helps families provide the best opportunities for their children in preparation for Kindergarten.

With a two-generation approach, Programs work with families to make connection in the communities they live, support needs and set goals.

Early Head Start promotes healthy prenatal outcomes, enhances the development of infants and toddlers, and promotes healthy family functioning. Services are designed to meet the unique needs of each community.

Find Us - BI-CAP Head Start on YouTube, Facebook and our website at www.bicap.org.

IMPACT

- 320 Children served
- 286 Families served

SUPPORTIVE HOUSING



BI-CAP's Supportive Housing Program consists of over 15 programs utilizing a variety of funding sources including HUD, MN Housing, and DHS.

Supportive Housing services range from one-time assistance to on-going case management and rental subsidies. BI-CAP places emphasis on homeless prevention, which is a more effective and efficient resolution to stabilizing households.

When prevention is not possible, BI-CAP utilizes the "housing first" strategy of rapidly re-housing participants to mitigate crisis situations and then provides support services to assist participants as they work on housing stability and self-sufficiency goals.

IMPACT

- 173 households maintained safe and affordable housing.
- 117 received help for paying a housing deposit
- 14 clients were placed in transitional housing
- 58 were placed in permanent housing

COVID-19 Response

With the COVID Housing Assistance Program, 182 households who were negatively impacted by COVID-19 were served with \$188,613 in direct assistance in the form of past due rent payments, utility arrears, and past due mortgage payments to maintain housing stability during the pandemic.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE

The Minnesota Energy Assistance Program provides financial assistance to households to help pay a portion of their home energy and heating bills. The grants are based on the household size, income, fuel type, and energy usage. Primary Heat grants are sent directly to the household's fuel and/or electric vendors to assist households' ability to maintain affordable and continuous energy by providing grants to lower their energy burden.

THANK YOU

"My husband and I are extremely grateful to have been able to receive assistance for a new furnace. When our furnace went out we had no idea what to do or where to turn. Our hearts are full of gratitude to have had the Energy Assistance Program and staff to meet our emergency need. The prompt attention and courteous attention will always be remembered and appreciated."

IMPACT

- 7080 utility payments paid*
*including emergency utility payments

WEATHERIZATION

BI-CAP's Weatherization department works with clients to improve the energy efficiency, health and safety, and to decrease the energy consumption of their home.

Priority is given to elderly and disabled households with high energy consumption and single head of households with children.

IMPACT

- 142 served with Energy Efficiency Improvements



The Weatherization Department replaced 700 light bulbs with LED upgrades in 60 apartments at Delton Manor in Bemidji with the help from Otter Tail Power. Ten apartments received a new Energy Star refrigerator.

Activities include:

- *Energy audits*
- *Air sealing*
- *Upgrading furnace efficiency*
- *Insulation*
- *Health and safety measures*

YOUTHBUILD

BI-CAP YouthBuild is a comprehensive work experience training program for opportunity youth, ages 16-24, who have left the traditional school system.

The program provides an opportunity for youth to spend 29 hours per week in academics, leadership development, construction/work experience training, life skills learning, and career/post-secondary exploration.

YouthBuild participants are mentored for four days a week, alternating their time between the classroom, construction site, and other activities to resolve barriers, set and achieve goals, explore careers and more. They receive school credit and an hourly wage for participation in all activities during their time in the program. Participants receive guidance and support while pursuing post-program placement and a full year of follow-up support after completing the program.



YouthBuild participants and BI-CAP staff pose for a picture at a YouthBuild built home. YouthBuild homes are sold to qualified buyers who meet income limits or qualify as homeless. The money from the sale is reinvested into the program.

IMPACT

- 34 youth gained employment and skills



Cass Lake Bena ALC is BI-CAP YouthBuild's educational partner. They provide an onsite Teacher/Learner Manager to assist participants in working toward their high school diploma. They also provide teaching staff through Adult Basic Education to prepare those participants more suited to earning their GED or Adult Diploma equivalency.

CORE COMPONENTS

- *Education*
- *Construction/Work Experience*
- *Leadership Development*
- *Mentoring/Case Management*
- *Post Program Placement*



Finding Success and Stability

Family benefits from Transitional Housing Program



Sam and Lil are a young couple, both age 32, with four children, ages 2, 3, 4, and 10. The family experienced homelessness for over two years bouncing from shelters to doubling up, with no significant time spent at any one place. This period of homelessness was very destabilizing and traumatic for the whole family. Their personal and parental relationships, Lil's mental health, and family finances suffered tremendously. Sam got into legal trouble that has been hard to resolve due to the transiency of their housing. Both Sam and Lil's ability to maintain stable employment was negatively impacted. The family came to BI-CAP facing many barriers. They were enrolled into BI-CAP's Transitional Housing Program which has been a stabilizing factor for them. Since that time Sam has finally been able to effectively address his probation requirements and Lil's mental health has improved significantly to the point where she has been able to find and maintain steady employment. All of the children's behavior has dramatically improved along with their eldest son's school attendance. With the stability provided by transitional housing and accompanying support services which includes linkages to other BI-CAP programs, mainstream resources and other community supports, the family is able to set and achieve goals to improve their lives and effectively address life's challenges. They are currently working on a permanent housing plan.

Find us on Facebook, YouTube and
www.bicap.org

ABOUT US—CONTACT US

Beltrami County:
1-800-332-7161
front.desk@bicap.org

Cass County:
1-800-332-7135
front.desk@bicap.org

Sign up for our newsletter on our website: www.bicap.org/contact