



Helping People ~ Changing Lives
 Connecting communities to remove obstacles
 and provide opportunities, tools and hope
 as a pathway out of poverty.

SERVICES



Imagine living in a poverty-free community. Imagine living in a place where no child grows up poor or hungry or living in unsafe conditions. Imagine that every individual and every family is valued, respected and living in an atmosphere of hope. Imagine vibrant communities where no one is left to struggle alone.

Proudly serving the following counties

COTTONWOOD | JACKSON | KANDIYOHI | LINCOLN | LYON | MCLEOD | MEEKER | REDWOOD | RENVILLE

<p>Access to Health Care Initiative -</p> <p>Cottonwood, Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon & Redwood</p>	<p>UCAP’s certified Navigators help people through the process of applying for health insurance through MNsure.</p>
<p>Angel Tree -</p> <p>Jackson</p>	<p>Providing gifts to children who otherwise would go without during the Holidays.</p>
<p>Big Buddies Youth Development -</p> <p>Cottonwood, Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon & Redwood</p>	<p>Big Buddies provides mentoring and after-school programs for children in need helping them navigate the opportunities of growing up and equipping them for success in school and beyond.</p>
<p>Bridge Street Bargains Thrift Shop -</p> <p>Cottonwood, Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon & Redwood</p>	<p>This thrift store in Redwood Falls, run mostly by volunteers, offers gently used clothing, household items, books, antiques and furniture. Proceeds support crisis services in our area.</p>
<p>Child Care Aware -</p> <p>Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker & Renville</p>	<p>Provides help to families searching for child care by giving information and referrals for licensed family child care homes, child care centers, school-age programs, and preschools. A resource for childcare providers that promotes professional growth and development with training, grants, and consultations.</p>
<p>Coats for Kids -</p> <p>Cottonwood, Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon & Redwood</p>	<p>Coats For Kids provides warm winter clothing (coats, boots, caps, mittens, snow pants) for families in need.</p>

SERVICES

Community Blooms -

Cottonwood, Jackson,
Lincoln, Lyon & Redwood

Community Blooms is dedicated to growing a healthy community one garden/er at a time. We see gardening as one of those perfect activities that feeds the soul as well as the body enabling us to become partners with people and nature as we coax beauty and nourishment from the earth.

Community Circles of Marshall -

Cottonwood, Jackson,
Lincoln, Lyon & Redwood

Community Circles brings together people of all ages and backgrounds with the aim of helping their community become a more welcoming place and where people are able to thrive.

Community Transit -

Cottonwood, Jackson,
Lincoln, Lyon & Redwood

Community Transit is a public transportation system operating throughout much of our area.

Crisis Assistance Funds -

Kandiyohi, McLeod,
Meeker & Renville

Provides limited individual grants for emergencies including bus tokens, rent, mortgage and emergency shelter. Emergency Food and Shelter Program Funds are available at limited times in Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker, and Renville counties. Also partners with Salvation Army, churches, etc.

Early Head Start (EHS) -

Kandiyohi, McLeod,
Meeker & Renville

Provides comprehensive child development services to infants, toddlers and pregnant women. The program promotes healthy prenatal outcomes for pregnant women and assists parents with very young children take a lead role in their child's learning and development. The program also serves children with special needs. Income guidelines apply.

Emergency Services Program (ESP) -

Kandiyohi, McLeod,
Meeker & Renville

Provides short-term emergency shelter to families and individuals experiencing homelessness through motel vouchers or leased motel rooms in select communities. Participants agree to work toward goals and identify permanent housing.

Energy Assistance Program (EAP) -

Cottonwood, Jackson,
Kandiyohi, Lincoln, Lyon,
McLeod, Meeker, Redwood,
& Renville

Energy Assistance provides home heating assistance, emergency assistance and repair or replacement of old or unsafe heating systems to qualifying low-income families who own or rent.

Esther's Kitchen by Loaves & Fishes -

Cottonwood, Jackson,
Lincoln, Lyon & Redwood

Food, fellowship and fun served up every Tuesday & Thursday from 5:00pm to 6:30pm, Wednesdays noon to 1 p.m., at the Christ United Presbyterian Church. This program helps build community and helps people struggling with food security.

SERVICES

Family Based Services

Kandiyohi

Provides home-based parenting and life skills development to families with children with the goal of strengthening or reunifying families. Available in Kandiyohi County only; must be referred by Social Services.

(FHPAP) Family Homeless Prevention & Assistance Program

Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker & Renville

Provides a combination of services including information and referral, advocacy, budget review, landlord/tenant education and housing assistance to assist households in stabilizing their housing. Type of assistance may include: security deposits, first month's rent, mortgage payment or past due rent.

Financial Empowerment -

Cottonwood, Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon & Redwood

UCAP helps build knowledge and skills to encourage people to make informed and effective decisions about money management. Areas addressed include budgeting, debt reduction, credit rating, consumer protection and financial institutions.

Food Security -

Cottonwood, Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon & Redwood

Food shelves in Heron Lake/Okabena, Marshall, Tracy and Westbrook. The program also helps people get connected to other food services such as Supplementary Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Free Tax Preparation Clinics -

Cottonwood, Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon & Redwood

UCAP clinics provide low to moderate income taxpayers with quality tax preparation and electronic filing. Clinics are located in Marshall, Jackson, Windom and Redwood Falls.

Head Start (HS) -

Cottonwood, Jackson, Kandiyohi, Lincoln, Lyon, McLeod, Meeker, Redwood, & Renville

Provides child and family development services for children ages three through five years old and their families. Child development services include social and emotional development as well as school readiness activities. The program also serves children with special needs. Family development services include assessment, resource referral and goal setting. Income guidelines apply. Early Head Start focuses on very young children and supports parents to develop strong, nurturing relationships with them. (See EHS)

Health Care Enrollment -

Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker & Renville

Provides eligibility screening for insurance assistance programs such as Medical Assistance (MA), MinnesotaCare, or Advanced Premium Tax Credits, and assistance with account creation and application.

Helping People Get There (Transportation Donation Program) -

Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker & Renville

Receives donated vehicles from the community, reconditions them, and partners with Minnesota Jobs and Training/WorkForce Center to provide vehicles to get to work to qualified MFIP/DWP participants.

SERVICES

Homelessness Assistance & Prevention -

Cottonwood, Jackson,
Lincoln, Lyon & Redwood

UCAP provides services to people who are at risk of becoming homeless or who are already homeless, including shelter services.

Karen Community Connect -

Cottonwood, Jackson,
Lincoln, Lyon & Redwood

Providing refugee assistance to the Karen Community to help them create thriving, meaningful lives in southwest Minnesota as well as providing the community with information about this new culture to our area.

Minnesota Housing Finance Agency Rehabilitation & Emergency Loans -

Cottonwood, Jackson,
Lincoln, Lyon & Redwood

MN Housing Finance Agency programs offer deferred loans for low income, single family, owner occupied households in need of improvements that affect the safety and livability of the home.

Minnesota Urban & Rural Homesteading -

Cottonwood, Jackson,
Lincoln, Lyon & Redwood

MURL offers home ownership opportunities to qualified applicants. WCA sells the homes on a 0%, no down payment contract for deed.

Outreach -

Kandiyohi, McLeod,
Meeker & Renville

Provides personal contact with families and individuals, information and referral about Agency and community services, advocacy and assistance in accessing services. Offices located in Hutchinson, Litchfield, Olivia, and Willmar.

(PSOP) Parent Support Outreach Program -

Kandiyohi & McLeod

Provides voluntary, in-home services to assist families in accessing resources to meet their basic needs and provide information/education in areas such as parenting and financial literacy.

Ruby's Pantry -

Cottonwood, Jackson,
Lincoln, Lyon & Redwood

Marshall - 1st Thursday of the month
Redwood - 3rd Tuesday of the month
Jackson - 4th Tuesday

Ruby's Pantry helps anyone stretch their food budget and ensures people meet their nutritional needs. \$20 purchases an abundance of grocery items that equals approximately \$50 if purchased from a retail outlet.

<p>Small Cities Development -</p> <p>Cottonwood, Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon & Redwood</p>	<p>The Small Cities Development Program provides rehabilitation for owner occupied, rental and commercial buildings.</p>
<p>(SNAP) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program -</p> <p>Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker & Renville</p>	<p>Provides education and information to the community about the benefits of the SNAP, Supplement Nutrition Assistance Program, (formerly called the Food Stamp Program). Outreach staff members are available to assist in filling out SNAP applications</p>
<p>SOAR Project SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access & Recovery -</p> <p>Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker & Renville</p>	<p>Assists low-income eligible families with completing an initial Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Disability application, filing an appeal to a SSI/SSDI decision or representing clients at a SSI/SSDI decision hearing.</p>
<p>The Refuge -</p> <p>Cottonwood, Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon & Redwood</p>	<p>Providing temporary housing assistance for people in crisis.</p>
<p>Threads of Hope (thrift store) -</p> <p>Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker & Renville</p>	<p>Provides gently-used and new clothing and small household items at minimal cost. Available to anyone; located in Litchfield.</p>
<p>Transitional & Supportive Housing Program -</p> <p>Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker & Renville</p>	<p>Provides rental assistance for homeless households in the community. Participants receive regular visits with a case manager to connect to community resources and work on goals, including stable, permanent housing. Participants contribute a portion of their income to rent.</p>
<p>Weatherization Assistance Program -</p> <p>Cottonwood, Jackson, Kandiyohi, Lincoln, Lyon, McLeod, Meeker, Redwood, & Renville</p>	<p>Provides diagnostic testing and energy conservation improvements to reduce home heating expenses, at no cost, for qualified applicants i.e.: Exterior wall and attic insulation, air infiltration and bypass sealing, test, repair and/or replace home mechanical systems.</p>
<p>Volunteer Drivers -</p> <p>Cottonwood, Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon & Redwood</p>	<p>Volunteer drivers help others get to necessary appointments. Many of these trips are made to out-of-town locations like Minneapolis and Sioux Falls.</p>