



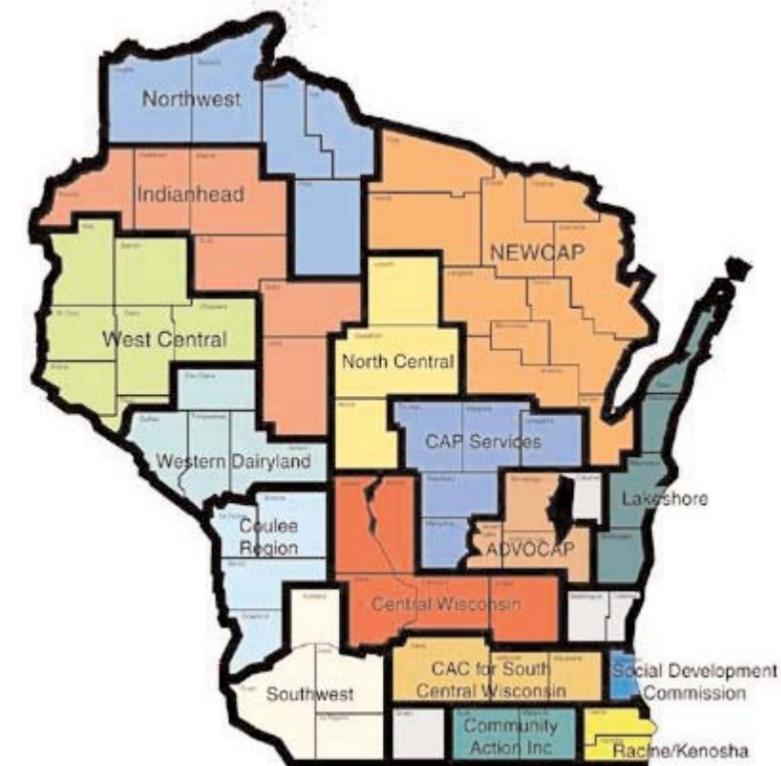
CAAs use other DOJ funds to impact family health

In the fall of 2001, the Wisconsin Department of Justice received funds from the settlement of a multi-state lawsuit alleging six pharmaceutical companies engaged in illegal price-fixing of vitamins. A portion of these funds was distributed by Wisconsin Community Foundations as grants to community organizations for local dental and nutrition projects.

Eight Community Action Agencies received \$144,690 in vitamin settlement monies for projects benefiting low-income families living in nearly half the state's counties. These projects focused on enhancing capacity of local nutrition and dental programs serving thousands of low-income parents, seniors and children. CAAs actively utilized these funds to purchase vehicles, equipment, supplies and appliances for food pantries, soup kitchens, meal sites, Head Start programs and dental clinics located in 30 Wisconsin counties.

This report is available in PDF format and can be downloaded from WISCAP's homepage: www.wiscap.org

A REPORT ON HEALTH AND NUTRITION PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN BY COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES UTILIZING SALTON, INC. SETTLEMENT FUNDS AWARDED BY THE WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



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Overview

In 2004 the Wisconsin Department of Justice (WDOJ) and 44 other states settled a lawsuit against Salton, Inc., the manufacturer of the George Foreman grill. The suit alleged that Salton unlawfully conspired to fix retail prices for the popular grill and discouraged stores from marketing competitor's products. The \$8.2 million dollar national settlement stipulated that each state utilize the funds for health or nutrition-related purposes. WDOJ awarded its share of the funds - \$150,000 - to Wisconsin's 16 Community Action Agencies (CAAs) to undertake health or nutrition-related projects to benefit low-income households. This report summarizes those projects.

What are Community Action Agencies? Wisconsin has 16 CAAs. All are locally controlled, community-based non-profit corporations that help Wisconsin's low-income families move toward economic self-sufficiency by addressing the causes of poverty, not just its consequences. Because poverty is both complex and different in every community, these 16 CAAs offer a diverse array of programs and services to help address local conditions. CAAs create affordable housing, offer energy conservation and energy assistance programs, catalyze the creation of jobs and businesses benefiting low-income individuals, help families acquire assets needed to attain or sustain economic self-sufficiency, provide food assistance and other crisis services, offer a variety of workforce development programs and deliver educational, health and other family-support services. CAAs are engaged on many levels so they are especially well-positioned to implement solutions that address local needs all the while fulfilling their mission of helping low-income people attain economic self-sufficiency.

Families Served and Community Capacity Expanded. CAAs utilized the WDOJ funds in diverse ways resulting in an impact on tens of thousands of low-income citizens in 65 of Wisconsin's 72 counties. Individual CAA projects served many different populations, including children, at-risk youth, parents, seniors, racial and ethnic minorities and disabled individuals. Individual projects differed widely from one another, but all of them focused on 2 major areas:

> Providing direct service to low-income families. This included providing food or prepared meals (12 projects); providing health care (1 project); and, providing educational workshops or materials (8 projects). Note, there is some duplication of numbers because several CAAs implemented more than one type of project.

> Supporting and expanding community capacity to better meet families' health and nutrition needs. CAA activities here included educating service providers (5 projects); supporting and improving the emergency food infrastructure (7 projects); and, conducting community planning on food or health-related projects (3 projects).

The 16 project summaries on the following pages demonstrate how CAAs used modest funding of \$9,423 per agency to make a real impact on the lives of thousands of poor families. The wide variety of project activities detailed there reveals the ability of Community Action to identify local needs, leverage resources and implement solutions that address local priorities with impressive results.

West Central CAP (Glenwood City)

Salton funds were used to pay for costs associated with the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, a federal program that provides \$30 in coupons to low-income seniors to buy fresh produce at farmers markets and farm stands. West CAP operates the program in Barron, Chippewa, Dunn, Pepin, Pierce, Polk and St. Croix Counties. Grant funds paid for staff to undertake more intensive outreach in remote rural areas with a particular emphasis in Pierce County. During the 2005 season staff distributed 798 packets of coupons worth nearly \$24,000 to area seniors.

Funds were also used to provide grocery store vouchers in St. Croix County for emergency use and to enable pantry clients to buy perishable items like milk, eggs, bread and cheese that aren't usually available in the pantry. Some clients with special nutritional needs have used vouchers to buy Ensure and other nutrient enriched liquid supplements. By the end of 2005 West CAP provided a total of 70 grocery vouchers.



West CAP also used Salton funds for a computer workstation in its main office in St. Croix County so low-income individuals could use the Internet to check their eligibility for nutrition, health and financial assistance programs. Clients use the self-screening tool on DHFS' new ACCESS website to see if they qualify for FoodShare, child nutrition programs, Medicaid, BadgerCare, Senior Care or tax credit programs. ACCESS will soon allow online applications as well. West CAP has also added several more online screeners for Disability/SSI programs and prescription drug programs and will add other websites in the future that offer information on hunger and poverty programs.

Western Dairyland EOC (Independence)

Salton Funds were used to overhaul and update the Community Food and Nutrition Resources Directories for Buffalo, Eau Claire, Trempealeau, and Jackson Counties. The Directory lists a wide range of local nutrition resources. Western Dairyland EOC anticipates the Directory will be distributed to an estimated 2,000 low-income families at area food pantries and various other community locations.



Salton funds were also used to host a workshop (conference) for key food and nutrition specialists from Western Dairyland's four-county region. The conference resulted in outreach education to approximately 4,000 Hmong and provided 600 Hmong farmers with alternative farmer market outlets. This project was a collaborative project with Couleecap.

Social Development Commission (Milwaukee)

Salton funds were used to acquire needed kitchen equipment, supplies, shelving and nutrition education materials. The kitchen equipment includes a Vulcan Hart Convection Range Oven and 12 multi-shelved storage racks needed to meet the demands of the year-round and summer food service programs for youth. SDC's food service programs provide over a million meals and snacks annually to thousands of low-income children, helping families meet their basic nutritional needs in Milwaukee County.

Salton funds increased SDC's capacity to serve families more efficiently by streamlining preparation techniques and food storage. The Food Programs are located in schools, churches, day care centers, after-school programs and Head Start sites serving Milwaukee's low-income families. Families served at these locations have incomes at or below the poverty level and the majority meet low-income eligibility requirements. SDC also used Salton funds to provide nutrition education and training materials to over 110 food service sites to assist in teaching children the importance of healthy eating habits. Materials include two hundred (200) "Give Me 5 A Day" books in both English and Spanish.

Southwest CAP (Dodgeville)

Salton funds were used to support Southwest CAP's planning efforts to establish two dental clinics that would serve low-income people lacking access to dental services in Grant, Richland, LaFayette, Iowa and Green Counties.

Specifically, Salton funds partially paid for a consultant to prepare a business plan for a twelve chair dental clinic in the new Health Services Building at the Southwestern Wisconsin Technical College in Grant County. The business plan is needed to obtain grant funds and financing to build and equip the clinic, which will be operated by the Beloit Area

Community Health Center. The Center will also provide an educational site for a new technical college dental hygienist program.



Funds were also used to partially pay for planning of a three-chair dental clinic to be operated by the Beloit Area Community Health Center at a senior cooperative housing project being developed in Darlington in Lafayette County. This innovative project combines cooperative housing for low-to moderate-income seniors with a local clinic, and should catalyze economic development in this rural community by refurbishing part of the downtown.

None of these accomplishments, however, would have been realized without the Salton grant funds designated by WDOJ. WISCAP and the 16 member agencies want to express their profound appreciation and gratitude to WDOJ and to Attorney General Peg Lautenschlager for making these funds available. The CAAs also recognize the Attorney General's desire to ensure the funds were used to improve the difficult circumstances facing Wisconsin's low-income families. Such funds are especially meaningful in the current period of fiscal constraints, rising poverty and challenging economic conditions, in which many families find they are unable to meet their basic health and nutrition needs.

WISCAP thanks the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for providing Community Food and Nutrition Programs funds to coordinate the Salton Funds as well as other nutrition grants and food resources.

Richard Schlimm
Executive Director

CAA Project Activities	Advocap	CACSCW	CAI	CAP Services	CWCAC	CouleeCap	Indianhead	Lakeshore	NEWCAP	North Central	Northwest	R/K CAA	SDC	Southwest	West CAP	Western Dairland
DIRECT SERVICE TO FAMILIES	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Provided Food																
1. Bought food or grocery store vouchers for pantry clients																
2. Served meals in conjunction with educational programs																
3. Provided farmers market vouchers or operated a mobile market																
4. Supported gardening projects																
Provided Health Care																
5. Provided health screenings, treatment or direct care																
Provided Education																
6. Prepared or distributed materials on health & nutrition resources, or offered internet access to those resources																
7. Educated families about gardening and/or food preservation																
8. Educated families on nutrition and/or health issues																
COMMUNITY CAPACITY	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Education for Providers																
9. Conducted educational workshops for providers																
10. Provided CAA staff with education and training																
Emergency Food Infrastructure																
11. Bought equipment or supplies for pantry or kitchen facilities																
12. Bought a vehicle or paid operational costs to pick-up/deliver food																
13. Supported regional food storage facilities																
Planning																
14. Supported planning activities to develop dental clinics																
15. Supported work of a hunger coalition or gardening network																

Individual CAA Project Descriptions

ADVOCAP (Fond du Lac)

Salton funds were used to provide meals for six at risk youth and young adults during their participation in the Fresh Start Program in Fond du Lac County. Each participant was involved in 29 hours per week of basic education, life-skills training, and home construction activities. Participant outcomes included GED/HSED certification, high school graduation, and employment.



ADVOCAP also provided oversight to a community garden project in Winnebago County that involved 84 families and 167 garden plots. Most gardeners were low-income, elderly and/or Hmong.

Funds were also used to provide 152 food vouchers to homeless individuals/families; 39 in Fond du Lac County, 32 in Winnebago County, and 81 in Green Lake County. These individuals and families also received long-term case management to assist them in securing permanent housing and employment.

Central Wisconsin Community Action Council (Wisconsin Dells)

Salton funds was used by CWCAC to purchase an estimated 30,000 pounds of food from the Second Harvest Food Bank in Madison to support pantry operations in Juneau,

Adams, Sauk, Columbia and Dodge counties. These foods were distributed to an estimated 600 low-income families and over 2,000 adults and children.



CWCAC also used the funds to purchase refrigeration, shelving, and a distribution counter for their new food pantry in Adams and to reimburse 12 volunteers for mileage and other out-of-pocket

expenses incurred in support of pantry operations.

Community Action Coalition for South Central Wisconsin (Madison)

Salton funds were used to organize and provide technical and support assistance at 16 Community gardens sites in 2004 used by 620 families in growing over 300,000 pounds of fresh, nutritious produce. In 2005, one new garden was added and another garden was expanded to 50 plots at 400 square feet each (20,000 additional square feet) to

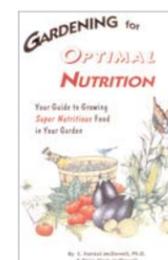
Northwest CSA (Superior)

Salton funds were used to support the activities of the Nutrition Coalition of the Chequamegon Region, a collaborative community-based group in Ashland and Bayfield Counties that is addressing the food needs of area communities and forging new links to benefit consumers, producers, agencies, and retailers. The Coalition undertook several projects to increase access to quality food. This included conducting a food security assessment to measure community needs, visiting other communities to obtain new ideas on providing food, operating a mobile farmers market, distributing donated apples, and designing a website.

Funds also supported the Mobile Farmer's Market that provides access to fresh, local produce and nutrition education in three communities without an existing market. The project was developed in response to concerns of the Nutrition Coalition that low-income seniors and WIC clients in some towns couldn't redeem vouchers issued by several Farmers Market Nutrition Programs because there were no certified growers. The mobile market visits each community four times during the growing season. The general public is invited to buy produce and local farmers are encouraged to set up their own stands on days the mobile market visits. Nutrition education was provided on market days by Red Cliff Community Health Center, Bad River Nutrition Program, and the UW Extension Nutrition Program and VISTA.

The grant also supported Northwest CSA's food storage facility in Superior, supported overall food pantry programs through training sessions and mentoring visits, and paid transportation costs to collect donated food from community locations and deliver it to pantry locations in Douglas, Bayfield, Ashland, Iron and Price counties.

Racine/Kenosha CAA (Racine)



Salton funds were used to purchase 2,854 pounds of food to supplement the food distributed to 852 low-income households by Racine/Kenosha CAA's Racine food pantry, to purchase 300 cardboard boxes with handles for use by the food pantry, and to distribute 1,400 packets of vegetable seeds and booklets promoting gardening to households in Racine and Kenosha counties.

The majority of Salton funds were combined with another grant to purchase a refrigerated truck to deliver federal commodities safely to food pantries, meal sites and shelters in Racine/Kenosha CAA's two-county area. The new truck delivers food to six providers in Kenosha County and eleven in Racine County, and saves volunteers considerable time and expense.



Lakeshore CAP (Manitowoc)



Salton funds were used to expand the capacity of food pantries throughout Lakeshore CAP's service area by paying for the delivery of five freezers, acquired through other sources, to pantry locations. Funds also paid to transport food from Second Harvest Food Banks in Omro and Milwaukee to pantries in Lakeshore's multi-county region to supplement local inventories. Additionally, funds paid to warehouse food obtained from other sources, including a refrigerated semi-truck load of perishable deli

products. These quality perishable foods were transported with grant dollars to pantry locations in Door, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Sheboygan and Washington counties.

NEWCAP (Oconto)

NEWCAP targetted the majority of Salton funds for food purchases to supplement pantry inventories so they could better meet rising demand for food assistance in the region. Specifically, funds were used to purchase nearly 10,000 boxes of corn flakes to supplement 24 food pantries in 11 counties in Northeastern Wisconsin. This purchase in combination with food from other sources, such as the Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), community food donations, and additional food purchases were used in more than 65,000 food boxes and 166,000 meals served in the past year. The balance of Salton funds were used to help offset the rising cost of NEWCAP's food delivery to emergency food providers, due primarily to dramatically higher fuel costs.



North Central CAP (Wisconsin Rapids)

Salton funds were used to assist six food pantries in Lincoln, Marathon and Wood counties with a variety of needs. Shelving units were purchased to store items weighing up to 1,500 pounds. At another site 100 families (averaging 5-6 persons each) were provided with a total of 5,000 pounds of rice. Produce vouchers were also provided to 119 households to obtain more than half a ton of nutritious food (1,190 pounds). One pantry used funds to purchase personal care items, like deodorant, shaving supplies, and shampoo, and distributed them to 800 people along with food packages. Another pantry provided 476 gallons of milk to its clients, sufficient for each person in every household to receive one gallon. Salton funds helped many small pantries continue to provide balanced meals to food insecure families.

bring the total served in 2005 to well over 700 families. Funds were also used to provide organizing assistance to 10 sites, as well as translation and cultural assistance to 140 Hmong, 30 Latino, 4 Khmer and 6 Lao speaking families, and conduct 10 educational workshops for the gardeners.

CACSCW used Salton funds to continue support of the Community Food and Garden Network comprised of over 40 community groups and 25 individuals serving children, seniors, and those with special needs in area schools, community centers and organizations. As a part of this effort, CACSCW provided technical assistance on the installation of an Enabling Demonstration garden at a large urban complex serving 1,000 low-income families, seniors, and those with disabilities with full accessibility in a community setting, and assist in the installation of ten raised-beds at other gardens and community locations.

Community Action, Inc. (Janesville)

Salton funds were used to provide direct assistance to at-risk and homeless households in a two-county region. CAI provided assistance to 107 individuals throughout Rock and Walworth Counties. Approximately 50% of these individuals were homeless. Forty-one families received food and nutrition assistance; 19 individuals received assistance with health care screening or treatment, prescriptions and dental care. Some specific examples of assistance include:

- > A 7-year old boy residing at the Twin Oaks Homeless Shelter received dental care to have a tooth removed.
- > A transitional living participant received food and nutrition counseling following diagnosis of adult on-set diabetes.

CAP Services (Stevens Point)

Salton funds were used to provide meals and nutrition education to 15 families enrolled in CAP Services' family literacy program (LIFT). LIFT serves functionally illiterate low-income adults in Waushara County who have at least one child under age seven. CAP served two meals per week to an average of 40 participants attending evening adult and early childhood education classes (an estimated 3,500 meals). CAP also used the Salton funds to secure additional funds from the Heart of Wisconsin United Way in order to continue providing meals after the Salton funds were expended.



Providing meals significantly increased participation in evening classes, created a more family-friendly atmosphere, and reinforced the importance of families eating together. For some, Salton-funded meals were the only balanced meals families ate that day, which afforded opportunities to discuss the importance of good nutrition. Topics included the food groups, whole grain vs. refined flour, USDA nutrition guidelines, meal planning, when to eat and how much to eat. Educational activities and materials came from Fox Valley Technical College, WIC, UW-Extension, Healthy Babies Coalition and online resources. By providing meals, CAP increased the number of families participating in LIFT's evening adult educational activities, which helped them move further toward their goal of self-sufficiency.



CAP also used Salton funds to support training for health care providers on "Responding to Sexual Assault Within Intimate Relationships." Workshops were designed to increase awareness of domestic violence, increase competency in identifying victims, improve intervention and increase referrals. The first was held at St. Agnes Hospital in Fond du Lac on September 28/29 (65 attendees), the second at the AmericInn in Merrill on November 10/11 (25 attendees) and a third will be held in Stevens Point later this year. Participants included advocates from domestic violence and sexual assault programs, attorneys, health care providers, adult protective service workers, AODA/substance abuse service providers, child protective services, corrections, school personnel, sex offender treatment providers, social services, tribal government representatives, victim witness specialists, mental health provider, batterer's treatment providers and former victims. Evaluations showed the workshops held to date were both effective and well-received.

Couleecap (Westby)



The funds were used primarily to purchase food for eight pantries in Monroe, Vernon & Crawford counties to supplement diminishing donations. Pantries ordered food specifically needed to complement their inventories or planned deliveries. This allowed them to obtain the most desirable food for their particular needs. These eight pantries serve an average of nearly 3,200 clients each month.

Couleecap also provided 2,800 households that visit pantries and affiliates in its 4-county region (including LaCrosse County) with paper copies of the booklet, "Wisconsin Connections, An Eligibility Guide to Assistance Programs for Wisconsin Households." This 20-page publication designed to help low-income households assess whether they might qualify for 20 nutrition and health assistance programs, and includes information on how to apply.

Lastly, Couleecap used a small portion of the funds to send a staff person to the Community Food Security Coalition Annual Meeting in Milwaukee in August 2005. This national seminar provided valuable information on food/hunger issues, and afforded the opportunity to meet with food security staff from other areas of the nation to discuss different aspects of food distribution to low-income individuals.

Indianhead CAA (Ladysmith)

Indianhead used Salton funds to provide 1,081 households with produce seeds to grow home gardens in six counties: Burnett (120); Clark (105); Rusk (295); Sawyer (102); Taylor (230) and Washburn (229). UW-Extension assisted the project by supplying materials to first-time gardeners on how to plant a successful garden, as well as how to can and freeze harvested produce.



Indianhead provided families with a variety of vegetable seeds, including green beans, peas, squash (2 types), carrots, sweet corn, lettuce, radishes, cucumbers, dill, and onion seed.

Indianhead staff have received positive feedback from families about their gardens and how proud gardeners are with what they have accomplished. Families have regularly commented on how much canning and freezing has helped with their household food costs and how happy they are to have vegetables to eat during winter months that they grew themselves. Some households have made their gardens into family projects. Others have brought extra vegetables to Indianhead's food pantries to help those families who were unable to grow a garden.

The "Garden Seed Program" has been a huge success by helping clients become more self-sufficient, while providing services to local communities and nutritious food to low-income households.