

WISCAP

2024

Membership Benefits





About WISCAP

WISCAP's statewide network of sixteen local Community Action Agencies and two single purpose agencies is uniquely positioned to address the grinding poverty that exists in our rural, urban, and suburban communities alike. The people of our state who struggle in these circumstances deserve our respect — and our boldest, most innovative efforts to find solutions.

30 Mifflin Suite 406
Madison, WI 53704

(608) 244-4422

www.WISCAP.org



Staff Directory

Brad Paul

Executive Director
bpaul@wiscap.org

Administrative & Membership Benefits

Kassidy Farrey, Deputy Director
kfarrey@wiscap.org

Tom Behnke
tbehnke@wiscap.org

Housing Services

Andy Heidt
aheidt@wiscap.org

Marlo Fields
mfields@wiscap.org

Take Root Wisconsin

Johanna Jimenez
jjimenez@wiscap.org

Food Security

Jonathan Bader
jbader@wiscap.org

Jorey Dvorak
jdvorak@wiscap.org

Workforce Development

Amy Loeffelholz
aloeffelholz@wiscap.org

Health Programs

Samantha Kozlowski
skozlowski@wiscap.org

Member Directory

ADVOCAP

Green Lake, Found du Lac, Winnebago
(920) 922-7760 | www.advocap.org

CAP Services

Portage, Waupaca, Outagamie, Waushara, Marquette
(715) 343-7500 | www.capservices.org

Central Wisconsin CAC

Juneau, Adams, Sauk, Columbia, Dodge
(608) 254-8353 | www.cwcac.org

Community Action Coalition SCW

Dane, Jefferson, Waukesha
(608) 237-1255 | www.cacscw.org

Community Action Inc.

Rock, Walworth
(608) 313-1300 | www.community-action.org

Couleecap

La Crosse, Monroe, Vernon, Crawford
(608) 782-4877 | www.couleecap.org

Indian Head Community Action Agency

Burnett, Washburn, Sawyer, Rusk, Taylor, Clark
(715) 532-4222 | www.indianheadcaa.org

Lakeshore CAP

Sheboygan, Manitowoc, Kewaunee, Door
(920) 682-3737 | www.lakeshorecap.org

Newcap

Vilas, Oneida, Florence, Forest, Marinette, Langlade, Menominee,
Shawano, Oconto, Brown
(920) 834-4621 | www.newcap.org

North Central CAP

Lincoln, Marathon, Wood
(715) 424-2581 | www.northcentralcap.org

Northwest WI Community Services

Douglas, Bayfield, Ashland, Iron, Price
(715) 392-5127 | www.northwest-csa.org

Member Directory (continued)

Racine Kenosha CAA

Racine, Kenosha
(262) 637-8377 | www.rkcaa.org

Southwest CAP

Grant, Richland, Iowa, LaFayette, Green
(608) 935-2326 | www.swcap.org

Social Development Commission

Milwaukee
(414) 906-2700 | www.cr-sdc.org

West CAP

Polk, Barron, St. Croix, Dunn, Chippewa, Pierce, Pepin
(715) 598-4750 | www.swcap.org

Western Dairyland EOC

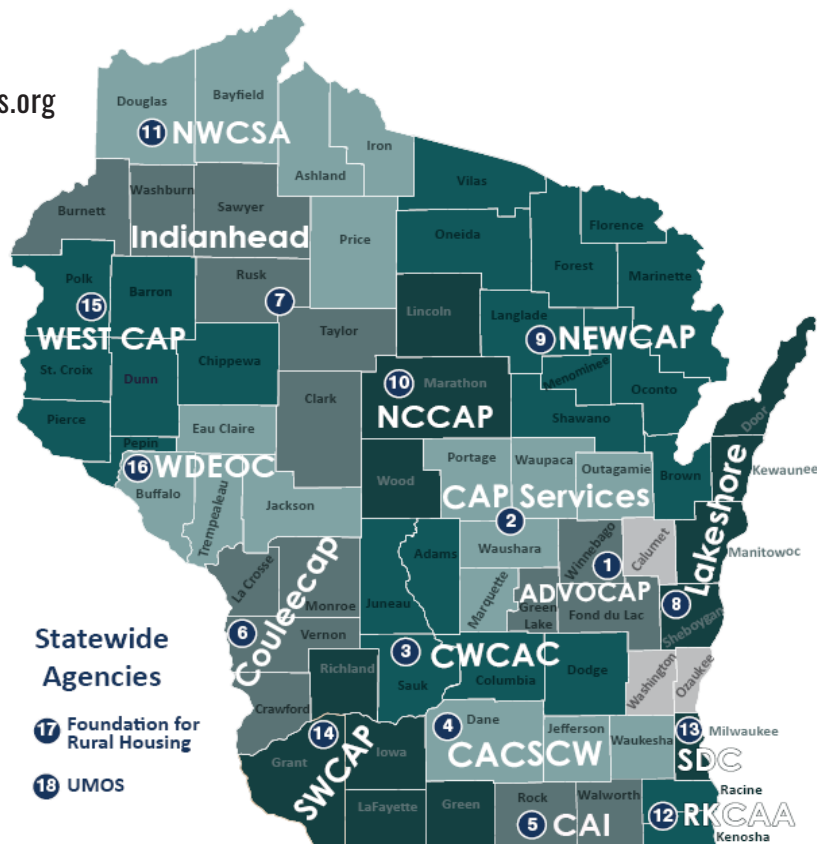
Buffalo, Eau Claire, Trempealeau, Jackson
(715) 985-2391 | www.westerndairyland.org

Foundation for Rural Housing

Statewide
(608) 238-3448 | www.wisconsinruralhousing.org

UMOS

Statewide
(608) 334-2221 | www.umos.org



Skills Training

WISCAP provides an annual menu of trainings to help member agencies meet the Organizational Standard and CSBG requirements. Members co-develop the annual training plan in partnership with the WISCAP training committee and Wisconsin Department of Children and Families.



WISCAP is your ROMA Resource!

Results Oriented Management and Accountability is the official quality improvement process for Community Action Agencies.

Introduction to ROMA Training- CSBG Mandated

This free one-hour webinar is a great way to introduce your new staff and board directors to the basics of the ROMA framework.

Nationally Recognized ROMA Training

Ensure your team is ROMA certified by attending this full day training. WISCAP offers members both an agency-focused and access to this nationally recognized offering which covers the basic tools and approaches to implement the ROMA processes at your agency.

Nationally Certified ROMA Implementer Training

A ROMA Implementer (NCRI) is often a member of the agency's leadership team who is responsible for managing the ROMA process. The ideal person should have good oral and written communication skills and have at least 12 months of experience with Community Action.

Nationally Certified ROMA Trainer

Building upon the implementer training, a ROMA trainer is able to implement the official ROMA training. The ideal person should have training skills and experience in providing training. The person should be someone who is interested in sharing information about ROMA to the Community Action network.

ROMA Virtual Board Training

WISCAP has developed a 15-minute ROMA training course for Board Directors to use as an annual refresher. Member agencies can view the training on YouTube or via the WISCAP website.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ph2pCwfu5z8>



New Executive Director Orientation

Serving as a Community Action Agency (CAA) Director is a big responsibility. This multi-session program brings together new directors from across region 5 to explore critical topics such as fiscal management, board governance, ROMA, and many other topics. Training Sessions are held in April and October each year.

CSBG Organizational Standards Bootcamp

This full day training offers CAA leaders a deep dive into the CSBG Organizational Standards and best practices.

CSBG Community Needs Assessment & Reporting

WISCAP coordinates statewide training and offers aid members in the implementation of their community needs assessments and reporting findings to DCF.

Certified Community Action Professional (CCAP)

Members interested in obtaining a personal CCAP credential can join study groups with other region 5 CAA leaders.

Curds of Wisdom

The Curds of Wisdom speaker series is a free, monthly forum focused on creating and preserving housing options throughout Wisconsin. The series aims to share effective practices and build relationships among advocates and practitioners.

Specialized Training

Members have access to value-added training to meet the needs of CAA leadership, board, and agency staff. In 2023, WISCAP was able to offer a subsidized OMB Uniform Guidance training for members. Specialized training offerings vary by year and are determined by the WISCAP training committee.

Board Training

From Community Action 101 to facilitating your next Strategic Planning process, WISCAP staff can offer a wide-range of options to deepen your boards understanding of their unique roles and responsibilities. Agency-specific training is available upon request.

DCF Policy Manual Requirement

All board members receive ROMA training and be familiar with the ROMA requirements. This virtual training meets this requirement.

Professional Development

Community Action is a national movement with nearly 1,000 sister agencies working collaboratively to address and eliminate poverty in the United States. As Wisconsin's statewide CAA Membership agency, WISCAP represents member interests on a statewide, regional and national scale. WISCAP ensures the work of member agencies efforts, success stories and initiatives receive national recognition and attention.

WISCAP's Executive Director, Brad Paul, serves as the agency's main liaison to broader regional and National Community Action efforts. Brad is an active member of the National Community Action Partnership (NCAP) and participates in NCAP State Association meetings. Additionally, Brad has served on the NCAP's State Association Think Tank to give guidance on how NCAP could better serve the community action network. WISCAP regularly presents at national conferences such as the NCAP Annual Convention and Management & Leadership Conference.

WISCAP hosts two annual statewide conferences for member agencies and area stakeholders. These events foster a culture of quality improvement and offer Community Action Professionals an opportunity to network and learn new strategies to meet the needs of low-income community members. Content for the conferences is determined by a bi-annual training needs survey conducted by WISCAP staff and the training committee.

WISCAP ensures members receive timely updates and information regarding the Community Action movement at board meetings.



WISCAP Statewide Events

Annual Conference- Spring 2024/2025

WISCAP's Annual Conference brings together Community Action Agency staff, board members, and community partners around essential topics such as food security, affordable housing and homeless services, weatherization, childcare, and economic development. Attendees are able to receive training and program updates from state agencies and subject matter experts. The annual conference is a great fit for program-level staff and managers to stay on top of trends and changes, while establishing strong relationships with peers across the state.

Poverty Matters Conference- Fall 2024/2025

As Wisconsin's only statewide conference, the Poverty Matters Conference serves as a regional platform to raise awareness on issues impacting low-income families. For over 40 years, this conference has served as a major convening of state and federal agencies, community action agencies, individuals, and stakeholders dedicated to identifying common sense solutions and approaches to address and eliminate poverty.

National Community Action Partnership

Management and Leadership

Each Spring NCAP offers a conference designed to provide resources and tools for individuals serving in management and leadership roles at local and statewide Community Action Agencies.

Annual National Community Action Partnership Convention

The annual convention is the national meeting and conference for all Community Action Agencies their staff, board, and stakeholders. The convention typically occurs in late summer or early fall.

Whole Family Approach

This two-day convening provided workshops designed to help Community Action Agencies reach the next level in their Whole Family Approach innovation journey, as well as time and space for team building and action planning.

Executive Director and Board Chair Symposium

The National Community Action Board Chair/ Executive Director Symposium is an opportunity for leaders to come together in pairs over the course of a day and a half to learn, plan, and re-energize around the impact and values of Community Action.

New Executive Director Institute

A purpose-centered two-day training event designed to prepare Community Action Executive Leaders for today's unique challenges and opportunities. Centered around the Community Action model, attendees will explore leadership functions necessary for success including finance, board governance, HR, equity, and building organizational culture.



CAPLAW

CAPLAW Conference

The CAPLAW annual training conference brings together leaders of Community Action Agencies and other grant-funded organizations across the country to navigate the legal and governance challenges they face as they deliver essential services in their communities. The conference is three packed days of learning from attorneys, accountants, network leaders, as well as your peers to increase your organizational capacity for effectiveness and accountability.

National Community Action Foundation

Annual Community Action Conference

NCAF's annual conference in Washington DC brings together Community Action Agencies (CAA) to share expertise. Embedded into the conference is a legislative breakfast and hill visits to bring attention to the strengths and contributions of the Community Action Network.



Legal Services

WISCAP members have access to CAPLAW services through WISCAP's membership (annual cost of \$9,180 in CAPLAW dues). CAPLAW services available to members include Legal Compliance, Financial Grant Management and Governance and Leadership support. CAPLAW has many free resources for CAAs on their website.

Legal Compliance

Provides advice to CAAs and other Community Action network organizations on a variety of topics to help strengthen their legal, financial, and operational capacity. Consultation topics typically include CSBG, Head Start, weatherization, housing, Uniform Guidance, board fiduciary duties, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt rules, strategic collaborations, and federal employment law matters.

Financial Grant Management

Helps CAAs navigate the complex federal financial grant management framework that CAAs must work within as recipients of multiple funding streams. We work with a network of financial experts to identify solutions to cost allocation, indirect cost, cost allowability, and grant administration challenges.

Governance + Leadership

Works with nonprofit and public CAA boards of directors and senior leadership staff to increase their governance capacity by providing training, resources, and collaboration in strategic matters. We also work with our Community Action network partners to advocate on policy matters affecting the organizations we serve.



How to contact CAPLAW?

caplawinfo@caplaw.org

(617) 357-6915

CAPLAW.org



Marketing & Communication

WISCAP provides media exposure to agencies and programs via social media. For example, WISCAP coordinated the WERA social media campaign with 12 CAAs and 13 external partners and provided 33,878 engagements at a cost to WISCAP of \$10,463 with no additional cost to the agencies. WISCAP maintains regular external communications including compiling, writing, and editing profiles and stories of member agency program participants for websites, annual reports, and social media.

Communications & Campaigns

Community Action News

WISCAP's official newsletter celebrates Community Action work across Wisconsin and alerts members to pressing issues facing the network.

Press & Media Relations

WISCAP collaborates and builds relationships with media partners across Wisconsin to host press conferences, promote network efforts, and speak on issues related to Poverty in Wisconsin via podcasts, radio and television appearances.

Social Marketing

WISCAP maintains an active presence on many social media platforms. This includes network related campaigns, promoting the work of the network members, and sharing information about WISCAP activities.

Badger State Housing Alliance Newsletter

WISCAP manages an active network of housing advocates and partners across Wisconsin. This monthly newsletter promotes collaboration among the alliance and WISCAP members on the topic of housing.

Take Root Wisconsin Newsletter

WISCAP offers a statewide newsletter on efforts to prevent foreclosure and promote homeownership among low-income Wisconsinites.

Community Action Month

May is Community Action Month. WISCAP spearheads efforts to recognize the great work of members as part of a national campaign.





Triennial Wage & Benefit Study

WISCAP facilitates a process of collecting key wage and benefit data across the CAA members. WISCAP then organizes and distributes a formal Triennial Wage & Benefit Survey and report to help members understand and compare employee benefits across the network. This study is only available to approved CAA leaders. To request the most recent study contact Cassidy Farrey.

As needed, WISCAP facilitates additional conversations related to benefits and employee relations through workgroups, round tables and discussions.



Research & Advocacy

WISCAP maintains relationships to increase community awareness and understanding of the root causes of poverty. By partnering with both academic and private institutions, WISCAP works to deepen the networks' ability to drive new research, enhance public communications and author publications. This includes supporting member efforts to collaborate on bi-annual Community Needs Assessments.

Advancing Efforts to Reduce Poverty

Policy Committee

WISCAP hosts a statewide policy committee to prioritize policies and efforts to address poverty in Wisconsin.

Advocacy Day

WISCAP hosts an annual advocacy day at the state capitol each spring to bring attention to issues impacting low-income communities, community action agencies, and stakeholders. Members are encouraged to schedule hill visits with legislators on this day. All CAA Board and Staff are welcome and encouraged to attend.

United for ALICE

Brad Paul, WISCAP Executive Director, sits on the Research Advisory for ALICE. United for ALICE is an acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed, is a new way of defining and understanding the struggles of households that earn above the Federal Poverty Level, but not enough to afford basic necessities. For far too many families, the cost of living outpaces what they earn. Yet these workers perform jobs that are critical to the functioning of our local communities – educating our children, keeping us healthy, and making our quality of life possible.

Wisconsin Poverty Report

The Wisconsin Poverty Report is a collaborative project between WISCAP and the Institute for Research on Poverty throughout the year. The Wisconsin Poverty Project came into being in late 2008, when a group of researchers at the University of Wisconsin–Madison's Institute for Research on Poverty (IRP) sought to gain a more accurate and timely assessment of poverty throughout the state as the worst recession in the postwar era, the Great Recession, was gripping the nation. The researchers' efforts, which align with broader efforts, including federal development of the Supplemental Poverty Measure, sought to inform policy with up-to-date and place-specific data that go beyond the official poverty statistics for Wisconsin. The project produces an annual Wisconsin Poverty Report.

Community Needs Assessment Workgroup

WISCAP supports and coordinates collaborative efforts among members to develop shared community needs assessment metrics and share best practices to assess the needs of the community.



Legislative Relations & Lobbying

WISCAP continually advocates on behalf of the network as a registered lobbyist. WISCAP staff track legislation and attend committee meetings and informational briefings in the interest of the network. In partnership with member agencies WISCAP provides public testimony and written comments to both legislative bodies as well as Departmental rulemaking.

In 2023 this included WISCAP Testimony on Assembly Bill 119-144"; DEHCR's "Proposed Change to the HAP Distribution Process; and "Performance Metrics for "A Hand and A Home."



Wisconsin Opportunity Act

The Wisconsin Opportunity Act aims to provide meaningful policies and investments to reduce poverty and fundamentally improve people's economic circumstances in Wisconsin. The omnibus bill furthers the goal of addressing the systemic barriers to achieving economic stability by providing housing, health, job training, transportation, and income supports. WISCAP collaborates with bi-partisan policy makers and state agencies to identify evidence-informed programs and approaches outlined in the act.

What is in the Wisconsin Opportunity Act?

The Wisconsin Opportunity Act recognizes the intersection of many social determinants of health and root causes and their impact on poverty. The act is designed to scale evidence-based and community informed strategies to increase economic mobility of low-income people. The act includes multiple components to increase housing stability, civil legal services, workforce development & job supports, transportation, and health supports.



Endorsement and Support of the Wisconsin Opportunity Act

Support for the Wisconsin Opportunity Act is possible through registration of organization endorsements, calling State Representatives & Senators, and facilitating the passage of local resolutions in support of the bill.

Contact Brad Paul, Representative Lisa Subeck or Senator Jeff Smith for more information.

Visit [WISCAP.org](https://www.wiscap.org) for more information.

Technical Assistance

WISCAP's Executive Director, Brad Paul supports and advocates for agencies when challenges arise with private, state, and local programming/funding. Support for member agencies is determined by the Board of Directors as defined by the strategic plan.

Statewide Training & Technical Assistance

WISCAP maintains close relationships with state agencies and the state legislature to expand grant-based training and technical assistance for member agencies. WISCAP serves as a liaison to Wisconsin's Department of Children & Families CSBG program.

Fiduciary Support for Statewide Efforts

Administration of large funding awards to allow agencies to access programmatic dollars with a reduced performance risk and reduced administrative costs (compliance, accounting, reporting, etc.).

Collaborative Community-based Efforts

WISCAP staff establish and nurture collaborations around regional issues to identify strategies and funding opportunities to address them. (e.g., Expansion of federal & state nutrition program access/benefits in Foodshare, Summer Food, and School Breakfast programs, Project Recovery, Crisis Counseling Grant).

Advocacy and Support

WISCAP also provides behind the scenes support and letters of recommendation for member agency grant-seeking. In addition, WISCAP coordinates Congressional earmark requests for the network and assists with individual agency requests.



WISCAP Funded Technical Assistance Programs

Economic Development

Jobs and Business Development

The Jobs and Business Development program provides low-income entrepreneurs with a variety of business development services and access to financial capital to start or expand businesses to create jobs.

Workforce Development

Education/Skills Development

Education, training, and re-training have become all-important for those entering the job market. WISCAP supports members implementing a variety of education and skill development programs.

Increasing Nursing Skills Program

The Nursing Skills program provides eligible Wisconsin residents with funding for tuition, transportation, childcare, and other school related expenses through participating CAA members.

Health Programs

Community Vaccination Outreach project

WISCAP collaborates with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and member agencies to provide outreach services to increase the vaccination rate among low-income and underserved populations.

FEMA/Project Recovery

WISCAP works with members to establish and maintain a network of FEMA certified and trained crisis counselors. This includes training and support for CAA staff to receive Mental Health First Aid Training, Crisis Counseling Training during an environmental or situation emergency.

Housing Services

Take Root Wisconsin

Take Root Wisconsin is a new statewide network that brings together private and public stakeholders to increase homeownership and help people buy, fix, and stay in their homes.

Housing Stabilization Services

WISCAP coordinates statewide, large-scale programs (e.g., Wisconsin Rental Assistance Program (WRAP), Wisconsin Emergency Rental Assistance (WERA), Wisconsin Help for Homeowners (WHH) to assist members in the implementation of emergency housing services and aid.

Food Security

TEFAP and Reach & Resiliency

WISCAP works with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to provide logistical support to the statewide TEFAP network of 270+ emergency food providers.

This includes supporting the development of informational resources to enhance program area development and administration (e.g., Guide to Resources for Wisconsin Food pantries, Wisconsin Annual Hunger Report Card, etc.)



Network & Member Relations

WISCAP staff help low-income people, CAA members, and community partners navigate the Community Action Network.

Connecting people and stakeholders to CAA programs

WISCAP staff receive and direct many clients and community stakeholders to individual member agencies. WISCAP's birds eye view can often help the general public navigate the Community Action Network and problem solve in real time to meet the needs of low-income people.

Connecting CAA Members

WISCAP staff help members navigate questions, issues, and opportunities through peer learning and networking. WISCAP maintains a directory of key CAA agency staff and facilitates relationship building and discussions among members.

Connecting the Community Action Networks

WISCAP staff articulate the needs of Wisconsin's Community Action Network to national partners and the Office of Community Services (OCS). In return, OCS provides funding to carry out these priorities. WISCAP is a member of the Regional Performance and Innovation Consortia (RPIC) Region V.

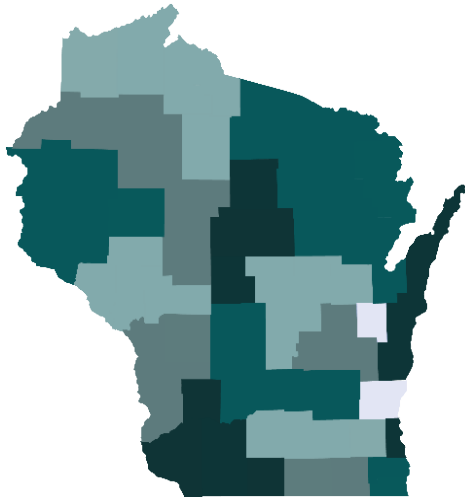
WISCAP Executive Director and WISCAP Board Chair serve on the Board of the MidAmerica Community Action Association (Region V). This board serves as a steering committee for CSBG training and technical assistance for Region V.

Fundraising and Relationship Building

WISCAP collaborates with foundations, private funders and other partners to funnel opportunities and resources to member agencies. WISCAP serves members by helping connect members to unique opportunities across the state and beyond.

WISCAP

Wisconsin's Poverty Fighting Network



ABOUT WISCAP

The Wisconsin Community Action Program Association (WISCAP) is a statewide network of sixteen Community Action Agencies (CAA) and two special purpose agencies. Incorporated in 1974, WISCAP traces its origins to the historic “War on Poverty” and has throughout its history advocated for community-informed policies and greater resource mobilization for its member agencies and the people they serve.

The national network of community action – which includes over 1,000 community action agencies – reaches 99% of America’s counties. WISCAP is one of 49 state associations and a member of the National Community Action Partnership. The work of community action is also served by additional partners including National Community Action Foundation (NCAF), National Association for State Community Services Programs (NASCSPP) and CAPLAW.

Current WISCAP programs include:

- Housing
- Take Root® Wisconsin
- Economic Renewal
- Food Security
- Nursing Skills
- Health
- Training & Technical Assistance

CONTACT WISCAP

Phone: (608) 244-4422
 Facebook: @WISCAP
 Website: www.wiscap.org
 Address: 30 West Mifflin Street
 Suite 406
 Madison, WI 53703

HOW WISCAP & COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES WORK TOGETHER

Community Action Agencies

Our agencies exist to help people get out of and stay out of poverty. These agencies provide services and coordinate community resources to



Job & Business Development



Education/Skills Enhancement



Energy/Utility Assistance



Food Security



Housing



Family Support



Health

WISCAP

WISCAP advances the work of our member agencies to help people and communities become economically



Public Policy & Advocacy



Training & Technical Assistance



Resource Development

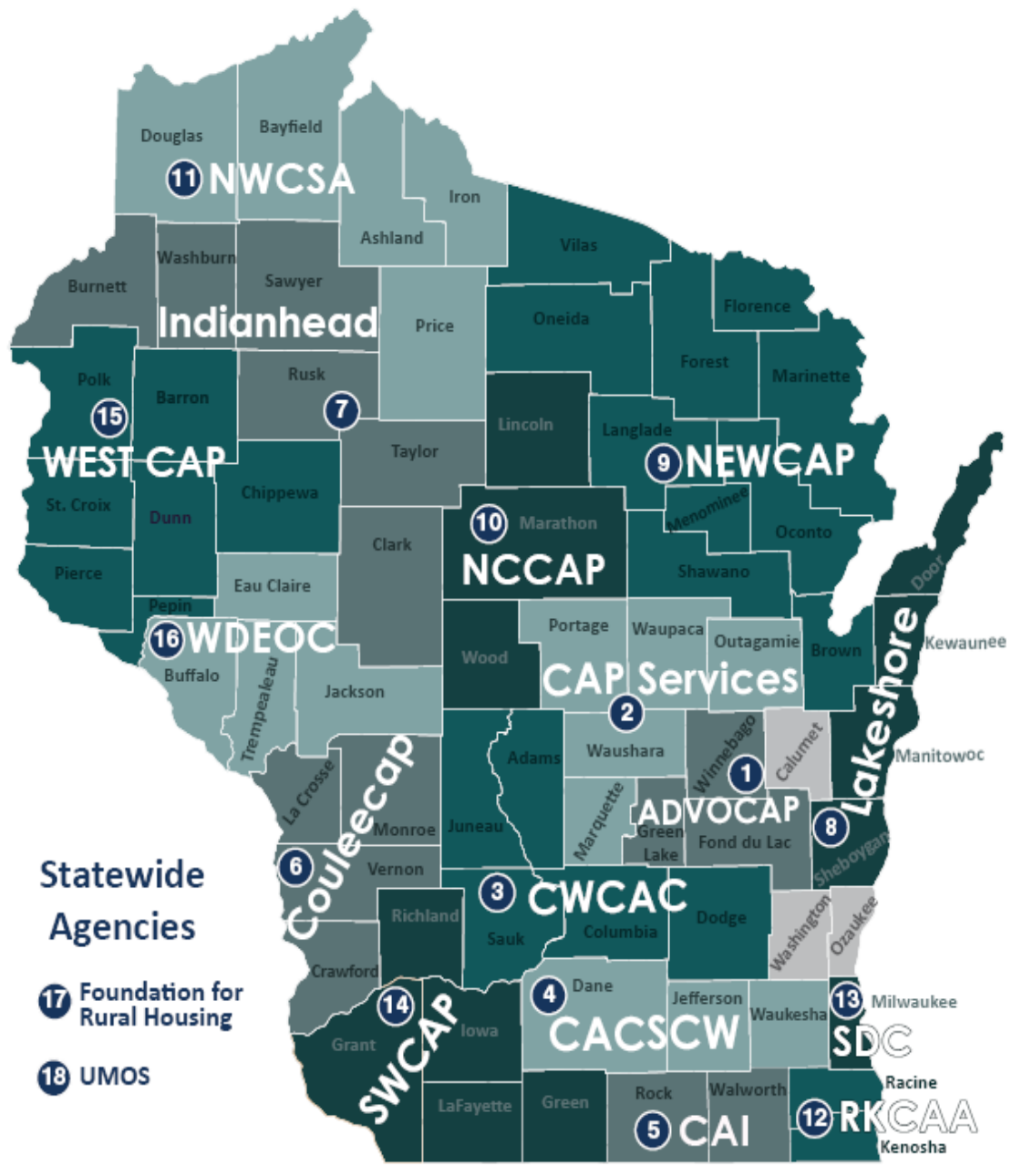


Poverty Awareness



Programs





Wisconsin's Poverty Fighting Network

www.WISCAP.org

