Three Rivers works with community partners to provide warmth, transportation, food, housing, advocacy, and education to individuals and families across southeastern Minnesota. Our offices are located in Zumbrota, Rochester, Wabasha, Faribault, Plainview, Northfield & Red Wing.

Partnering in Rice County

History

Three Rivers Community Action is a nonprofit human service organization incorporated in 1966. Created by community leaders to provide citizens and communities in southern Minnesota with anti-poverty strategies, the Three Rivers mission is “to work with community partners to address basic human needs of people in our service area, thereby improving the quality of life of the individual, family and community.”

For over 50 years Three Rivers has responded to the needs of the community and today operates over 40 programs in Rice County in the areas of Housing, Community Development, Early Childhood, Transportation, and Senior Services.

Faribault Office

201 South Lyndale Avenue
Faribault, MN 55021

Phone: 507-316-0610
www.threeriverscap.org

Housing Development

New Construction & Preservation – Working with community partners to plan and develop new affordable housing projects that meet local needs, and to rehabilitate existing rental and ownership housing stock.

Community Development Services

Homeless Assistance and Prevention Programs – Assistance and support to households experiencing or nearing homelessness.

Senior Advocacy and Caregiver Coaching – Classes and individual advocacy for seniors, their families and their caregivers to help seniors remain independent and in their own homes longer.

Home Delivered Meals – Meals delivered by volunteers to people over 60 or with a disability who are home bound and have difficulty preparing their own nutritious meals.

Energy Assistance Program – Helps pay home heating costs and provides emergency furnace repairs for income-qualified households.

Weatherization – Provides home energy upgrades to income-eligible owners and renters to save energy and improve health and safety in the home.

Homeownership – Classes, coaching and downpayment assistance to help households prepare for and succeed in their homeownership dreams.

Early Childhood

Head Start – Pre-school education focused on the growth and development of children and parents, and assisting families to achieve self-reliance.

Early Head Start – Home visiting program for children ages 0-3 and their parents, providing comprehensive child development and family services.

Childcare Center – Site-based partnership with Early Head Start provides childcare to infants and toddlers.

Transportation

Hiawathaland Public Transit – Public bus service that includes route service in Faribault and Northfield and dial-a-ride service throughout the county.

HART Volunteer Transportation Program – Volunteer drivers transport seniors, people with disabilities and residents who are unable to utilize public transportation.

Community Collaboration

Continuum of Care – Coordination of the 20-county regional planning group that coordinates services and facilitates the competitive mechanism by which federal funding is awarded to projects that serve the homeless.

Homeless Response Team – Coordination of inter-agency team to identify and address the needs of people experiencing homelessness in Rice County.
Results in Rice County

Housing Development
- Bought and renovated 14 single family homes, then sold them to first time buyers through a contract for deed program.
- Owned and operated 125 units of affordable multi-family housing in Northfield, Faribault, and Lonsdale.

Community Development Services
- Prevented 27 households who were facing eviction from becoming homeless.
- Re-housed 13 homeless households into affordable rental housing.
- Volunteers delivered 10,924 meals to residents in Faribault.
- Supported 320 caregivers by providing information, resources, and service referrals.
- Provided 1,165 households with over $500,000 to help meet their energy needs.
- Hired local contractors to repair or replace 45 furnaces and 9 water heaters, and weatherized 13 homes.
- Enrolled 49 people in homebuyer counseling and education in 2018, 8 purchased homes in Rice County.

Early Childhood
- Provided Head Start classroom education and family support services to 153 preschool students and their families in Faribault and Northfield.
- Since opening in August 2018, 16 infants and toddlers and their families have been provided childcare and support services in Northfield.

Transportation
- Operated bus routes in Faribault and Northfield and a dial-a-ride bus service that runs weekdays throughout Rice County.
- Provided 89,327 rides on public transportation bus services in Northfield, and another 42,174 rides in Faribault.
- 15 volunteer drivers provided 795 rides to Rice County residents.

Infant and Toddler Child Care Center—Northfield
In response to the critical child care shortage for families with low incomes in Northfield, Three Rivers Community Action transformed unused space in our Head Start center and opened an Infant and Toddler Child Care that operates as an Early Head Start Partnership site.

To address cost barriers of child care, the Three Rivers Infant Toddler program allows families to use their Child Care Assistance as payment for the tuition and operating expenses are supplemented by other resources including funds from grants and scholarships.

Families receive wrap around support in the form of parent education, referral services and health screenings. With this focus, children and families are able to focus on the learning and growing that supports their family and their futures; and, at the same time, communities and employers retain more young working families to continue to grow the community.

We recently housed a person that was long-term homeless. Over the last several years, this person has been in CD treatment, literally on the streets, or in various homeless shelters. After assisting the client to secure housing with the limited income that he receives from SSI, we were able to sign him up for other support services, including SNAP, to help stretch his income for paying for expenses, but also stabilize his household.