

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 Older Adult Services.

Faribault Office

201 South Lyndale Avenue
Faribault, MN 55021

Northfield Early Childhood

1651 Jefferson Parkway
Northfield, MN 55057

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.

Older Adult Services and Caregiver Coaching - Classes and individual advocacy for older adults, their families and their caregivers to help older adults remain independent and in their own homes longer.

Meals on Wheels - 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 older adults, 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.

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.

2020 Results in Rice County

People Served in Rice County, 2020

1,468 households served
 ⇒ 44% at or below the poverty line
 ⇒ 41% homeowners
 ⇒ 56% renters
 ⇒ \$17,352 median annual income*

3,987 individuals
 ⇒ 48% children
 ⇒ 12% older adults
 ⇒ 33% persons of color
 ⇒ 25% Hispanic or Latinx
 ⇒ 13% have a disability
 ⇒ 86% have health insurance

*Of households reporting income source

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.

Housing Development

- Secured funding to create 32 new rental townhomes in Northfield. The project will include 8 units of supportive housing with services. Construction will begin in 2021.
- 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 and re-housed 6 homeless households into affordable rental housing.
- Helped 206 households maintain housing stability through the COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program (CHAP).
- Volunteers delivered 18,560 meals to residents in Faribault.
- Supported 184 caregivers by providing information, resources, and service referrals.
- Provided 1,060 households with over \$415,000 to help meet their energy needs.
- Hired local contractors to repair or replace 37 furnaces and weatherized 5 homes.
- Enrolled 40 people in homebuyer counseling and education, 9 purchased homes in Rice County.

Early Childhood

- Provided Head Start classroom education and family support services to 168 preschool students and their families in Faribault and Northfield.
- Twenty infants and toddlers and their families have been provided childcare and support services in Northfield.

Transportation

- Operated bus routes and a Dial-A-Ride bus service Faribault and Northfield, including weekday and weekend service.
- Added a weekday connector route between Faribault and Northfield.
- Provided 45,941 rides on public transportation bus services in Northfield, and another 24,582 rides in Faribault.
- Volunteer drivers provided 838 rides to Rice County residents.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Three Rivers has established a new Cares Fund that assembled new resources to provide direct assistance to individuals and families affected by the pandemic. Agency wide this assistance helped 1,015 households with a housing, transportation, utilities and other urgent needs.