

# 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](http://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.

## Client Services

**Homeless Assistance and Prevention Programs** - Assistance and support to individuals and families who are 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, counseling, and downpayment assistance to help households prepare for and succeed in their homeownership dreams.

**SNAP Outreach & Assistance** - Sharing information about the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and assisting households to complete applications for food assistance.

## 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 a private provider serving infants and toddlers, including slots for families with low incomes.

## 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

**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.



People-focused, community-driven

# 2022 Results in Rice County

## People Served in Rice County, 2022

- 1,814 households served
- ⇒ 49% at or below the poverty line
- ⇒ 45% homeowners
- ⇒ 52% renters
- ⇒ \$19,080 median annual income\*

- 4,894 individuals
- ⇒ 46% children
- ⇒ 19% older adults
- ⇒ 34% persons of color
- ⇒ 25% Hispanic or Latinx
- ⇒ 14% have a disability
- ⇒ 85% have health insurance

## Spring Creek II—Northfield

Three Rivers Community Action has a long history of developing and owning affordable rental housing in Rice County. The newest project is a new 32-unit townhome development that is an extension of the successful Spring Creek Townhomes developed in 2013.

Spring Creek II will include 4 supportive housing units for people experiencing homelessness, 4 supportive units for persons with developmental disabilities, and 24 affordable family units.

Construction will be complete in Fall 2023. Funding partners include the City of Northfield, Rice County, Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, Minnesota Equity Fund and Greater Minnesota Housing Fund.

## Housing Development

- Secured funding to create 32 new rental townhomes in Northfield. The project will include 8 units of supportive housing with services.
- Owned and operated 125 units of affordable multi-family housing in Northfield, Faribault, and Lonsdale.

## Community Development Services

- Prevented 20 households who were facing eviction from becoming homeless and re-housed 11 homeless households into affordable rental housing.
- Volunteers delivered 16,42 meals to residents in Faribault and Lonsdale, where service was added this year.
- Supported 224 caregivers by providing information, resources, and service referrals.
- Provided 1,617 households with over \$1,346,645 to help meet their energy needs, plus an additional \$379,887 in crisis funding and \$26,277 in water assistance.
- Hired local contractors to repair or replace 66 furnaces and weatherized 26 homes.
- Enrolled 50 people in homebuyer counseling and education, 5 purchased homes in Rice County.

## Early Childhood

- Provided Head Start classroom education and family support services to 175 preschool students and their families in Faribault and Northfield.
- Supported 10 parents, their children ages 0-3 and their families through Early head Start.

## Transportation

- Operated bus routes and a Dial-A-Ride bus service Faribault and Northfield, including weekday and weekend service.
- Provided 51,123 rides on public transportation bus services in Northfield, and another 20,050 rides in Faribault.
- Volunteer drivers provided 1,111 rides to Rice County residents.

*A household presented to Three Rivers in need of back rent assistance, the long wait for their disability benefits made it difficult for them to contribute to their rent. Our advocate was able to resolve their past due rent and connect them with resources within their community. Shortly after assistance, the household was approved for their disability benefits and was able to remove themselves from their current housing crisis!*