



# Partnering in Wabasha 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 Wabasha County in the areas of Housing, Community Development, Early Childhood, Transportation, and Older Adult Services.

## Wabasha Office

*By Appointment Only*

611 Broadway Avenue  
Wabasha MN 55981  
Phone: 507-316-0610

## Hiawathaland Transit

*Dispatch and Training Facility*

55049 241st Ave  
Plainview, MN 55964  
Dispatch Phone: 866-623-7505

[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.

## 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.

## Transportation

**Hiawathaland Public Transit** - County-wide public bus service that provides 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 Wabasha 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 Wabasha County

## People Served in Wabasha County, 2020

552 households served

- ⇒ 43% at or below the poverty line
- ⇒ 53% homeowners
- ⇒ 47% renters
- ⇒ \$15,704 median annual income\*

1,117 individuals

- ⇒ 34% children
- ⇒ 20% older adults
- ⇒ 9% persons of color
- ⇒ 8% Hispanic or Latinx
- ⇒ 21% have a disability
- ⇒ 86% have health insurance

\*Of households reporting income source

## Hiawathaland Transit Facility

Plainview, MN

Three Rivers completed its new Hiawathaland Transit program facility in 2019. Located in Plainview, the facility houses our centralized dispatch and transportation operations for Wabasha, Goodhue and Rice counties. The new building is adjacent to the existing bus garage and small office, which has been housing operations in only 400 square feet of office space. The new building provides 3,415 square feet of much needed office space for our transit dispatchers and program staff, as well as a large training space. The project was funded by the Minnesota Department of Transportation with Federal Transit Administration funds.

## Housing Development

- Owned and operated 20 units of affordable multi-family housing in Plainview.

## Community Development Services

- Prevented 13 households who were facing eviction from becoming homeless and re-housed 2 households experiencing homelessness into affordable housing.
- Helped 78 households maintain housing stability through the COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program (CHAP).
- Volunteers delivered 5,087 meals to residents in Wabasha and Mazeppa.
- Supported 44 older adults and their caregivers by providing information, resources, and service referrals.
- Provided 432 households with over \$225,000 to help meet their energy needs.
- Hired local contractors to repair or replace 16 furnaces.

## Early Childhood

- Provided Head Start classroom education and family support services to 20 preschool students and their families in Wabasha.
- Supported 23 parents, their children ages 0-3 and their families through Early head Start and have since received funding to expand the program.

## Transportation

- Operated dial-a-ride bus service 6 days a week in Wabasha, Kellogg, and Lake City and weekdays throughout Wabasha County.
- Drove 22,267 miles in Elgin & Plainview, 20,211 miles in Lake City, and 21,906 miles in Wabasha.
- Volunteer drivers provided 542 rides to Wabasha 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.