

2013 Tri-Valley Community Needs Assessment



Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc.

Community Action: Helping People. Changing Lives.

Characteristics and Service Needs of Low-Income Residents in Marshall, Norman & Polk Counties

Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc. is a not-for-profit community action agency headquartered in Crookston. In existence since 1965, Tri-Valley provides services in 84 counties in Minnesota and Northeast North Dakota with a primary service area of west Polk, west Marshall and Norman counties. The mission of Tri-Valley is to provide opportunities to improve the quality of life for people and communities.

Board of Directors Priorities

The Tri-Valley Board of Directors priorities were discussed during their October 2012 meeting. The tasks the board directed Tri-Valley staff to undertake are organized under the three priorities originally set by the board at the onset of the planning process. Follow up on each of the items listed in this document will occur in June 2013.

Priority 1 – Improve/promote/ advance the objective of promoting Tri-Valley through Community Engagement:

- Create a comprehensive communication plan
- Take steps to educate the public about the services we provide, avoid simply listing our services. Ensure success stories are shared with stakeholders and the public as appropriate.
- Coordinate between programs any booths set up at county fairs, etc. Ensure employees are prepared to discuss Tri-Valley programs and understand they are representing the entire agency.

Priority 2 – Improve/promote/advance the objective of keeping seniors in their homes and avoiding premature nursing home placement:

- Develop a new program that fills the needs of seniors that do not qualify for the Senior Companion program and the needs of volunteers that do not wish to volunteer 15 hours a week.
- Promote awareness of the fact that avoiding premature nursing home placement is a team effort between many services and the efforts put forth by team members are cost effective.
- Ensure services for seniors are marketed to not only seniors themselves but the children of seniors and those about to become seniors.

Priority 3 – Improve/promote/advance early childhood education:

- Identify ways to provide services to working families that may not qualify for Head Start or may be on the waiting list.
- Provide more opportunities to fill gaps in area child care needs and braid services when possible with Head Start.
- Provide resources on Tri-Valley's website to educate child care providers and new parents on what quality child care is to enhance the work of Child Care Resource and Referral.

Demographic Summary

Population

While Minnesota, as a whole, increased its population from 2000-2010, we have seen a steady decline since 1980. Minnesota grew by 7.81% while our service area declined by -4.75%. Of our population, 26% are under the age of 19, 52% are between the ages of 20 and 64, and 21% are over 64. Our three county service area has 8% more people 65 and over, compared to the state average. (<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/27000.html>)

Income

Family incomes are well below the state's median family income. The median income in our service area in 2010 of \$45,126 is over \$10,000 less than the statewide median income of \$55,422. (Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE)*, 2010)

Economic Development

The economic condition in northwest Minnesota is worsening. Employment levels have been stagnant for several years, we have seen recurring flooding, and there are fewer quality employment opportunities. Wages in the area are low to moderate, and are not high enough to attract our young people to remain in the area.

Nutrition

In 2009-2010, roughly 43.38% of students in the three county service area receive free or reduced price lunches, compared to 35.46% statewide. (Source: National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES), *Common Core of Data (CCD)*, 2009-10 School Universe data)

Poverty

Roughly 15.4% of children in the three county area lived in poverty in 2010, compared to 15% statewide. (Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE)*, 2010)

Ethnicity

The vast majority of area residents are White (96%), with 1.6% being listed as other races. (Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *2010 Census Summary File 1*, Release Date August 25, 2011)

Child Care

The number of children ages 0 - 5 potentially needing child care in the three county area is 3,056. The capacity of licensed child care providers for children 0 - 5 is 2,307. These numbers indicate that an estimate of 749 children and their families must find alternative sources of care which is generally unlicensed friends, family or neighbor care.

Unemployment

The current unemployment rate for our service area is 7.9% as compared to 6% for the state. (Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Local Area Unemployment Statistics*, April 10, 2013)

Overall

Community perceptions indicate that this area has a high quality of living standard.

The Good News

- We have higher rates of children staying in school, as compared to the state. (Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *American Community Survey, 2010 Data Release, December 2012*)
- We have the lowest rates of children arrested for a serious crime in 2010. (Source: Minnesota Department of Public Safety, *2010 Bureau of Criminal Apprehension*)
- We have higher rates of children receiving services and not requiring out of home placements, as compared to the state. (Source: Minnesota Department of Human Services, *Minnesota's Child Welfare Report for 2010*)
- The average percent of households paying more than 30% of their income for housing is less than the state average. (Source: US Census Bureau, *2010 American Community Survey*)
- We have one of the lowest rates of children being abused or neglected in the state in 2010. (Source: Minnesota Department of Human Services, *Minnesota's Child Welfare Report for 2010*)

The Community Response (from Community Focus Groups)

As part of the Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc. two year Strategic Planning Continuum we held four Community Forums in the Tri-Valley primary service area in the following locations and dates:

- **East Grand Forks – February 14, 2013**
- **Crookston – February 15, 2013**
- **Warren – February 19, 2013**
- **Ada – February 20, 2013**

The forums held in East Grand Forks and Warren were sparsely attended. The forums in Crookston and Ada had double digit attendance. It is important to note that Tri-Valley's mission of providing opportunities to improve the quality of life for people and communities remains strong.

GENERAL:

- The Strategic Plan from this previous year remains valid and appropriately targeted to: Early Childhood Education, Senior Programming, and Community Engagement.
- Although our demographics remain stable, it is clear that we are getting older, our incomes are not increasing at rates that will bring us to our state average, our children do a bit above average in High School graduations, home ownership is flat or declining a small amount, and, in general, our quality of life measures are stable.
- Federal, state and local financial resources are in flux. Due to the federal sequestration we expect a 5% cut in federal funded programs. The state budget holds some hope for increases. Local contracts are in place but little is expected in increased rates of remuneration.
- We will need to manage our resources frugally over the next year or two. Still, there are some opportunities before us to garner additional resources and we will need to position ourselves strategically in order to be successful.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

- Tri-Valley needs to inform the communities more about what they are doing.
- More information and means to address community cultural diversity problems need to be developed.
- Increase volunteerism.

TRANSPORTATION:

- Increase the number of volunteer drivers.
- There is a need for more medical and dental services in our area in order to reduce the travel costs just to get to services.

HOUSING:

- There is a need for more Transitional Housing.

CHILDREN & YOUTH:

- Effort needs to be made to provide transportation to Head Start Children.
- There needs to be more slots made available for enrollment in Head Start and Early Head Start.
- There needs to be more effort put into mental health and family development education.
- Families need help with children who are struggling emotionally, academically, and financially.
- Youth obesity needs to be addressed.
- Families need support and training to deal with dysfunction in families.
- More education for children in Head Start and day care.

SENIORS:

- Increase the number of homemakers in our service area.
- Increase the number of Senior Companions.

Quality of Life Indicators

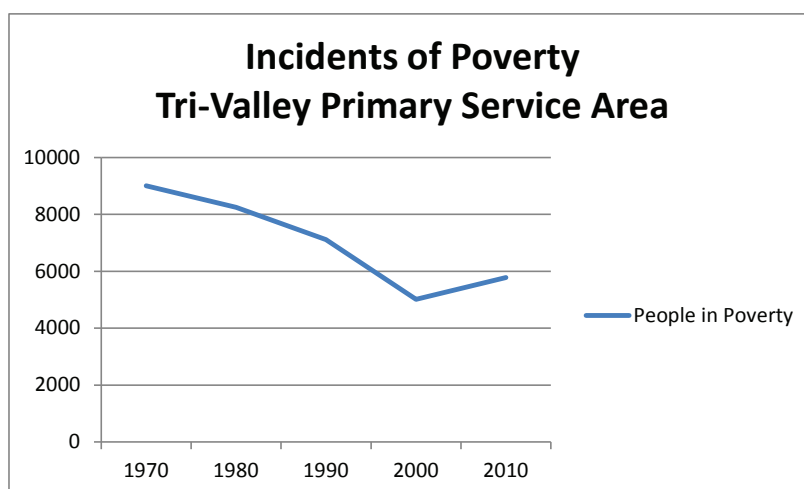
POVERTY INCIDENCES (Rate Change)

Geographic Area	Persons in Poverty, 2000	Poverty Rate, 2000	Persons in Poverty, 2010	Poverty Rate, 2010	Change in Poverty Rate, 2000 - 2010
Marshall County, Minnesota	877	8.9	768	8.2	<u>-0.7</u>
Report Area	877	8.9	768	8.2	-0.7
Minnesota	336,594	6.9	595,485	11.5	<u>4.6</u>
United States	31,581,086	11.3	46,215,956	15.3	4.0

Geographic Area	Persons in Poverty, 2000	Poverty Rate, 2000	Persons in Poverty, 2010	Poverty Rate, 2010	Change in Poverty Rate, 2000 - 2010
Norman County, Minnesota	734	10.2	754	11.3	<u>1.1</u>
Report Area	734	10.2	754	11.3	1.1
Minnesota	336,594	6.9	595,485	11.5	<u>4.6</u>
United States	31,581,086	11.3	46,215,956	15.3	4.0

Geographic Area	Persons in Poverty, 2000	Poverty Rate, 2000	Persons in Poverty, 2010	Poverty Rate, 2010	Change in Poverty Rate, 2000 - 2010
Polk County, Minnesota	3,217	10.7	3,578	11.7	<u>1.0</u>
Report Area	3,217	10.7	3,578	11.7	1.0
Minnesota	336,594	6.9	595,485	11.5	<u>4.6</u>
United States	31,581,086	11.3	46,215,956	15.3	4.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE), 2010.



Quality of Life Indicators

MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME (2010)

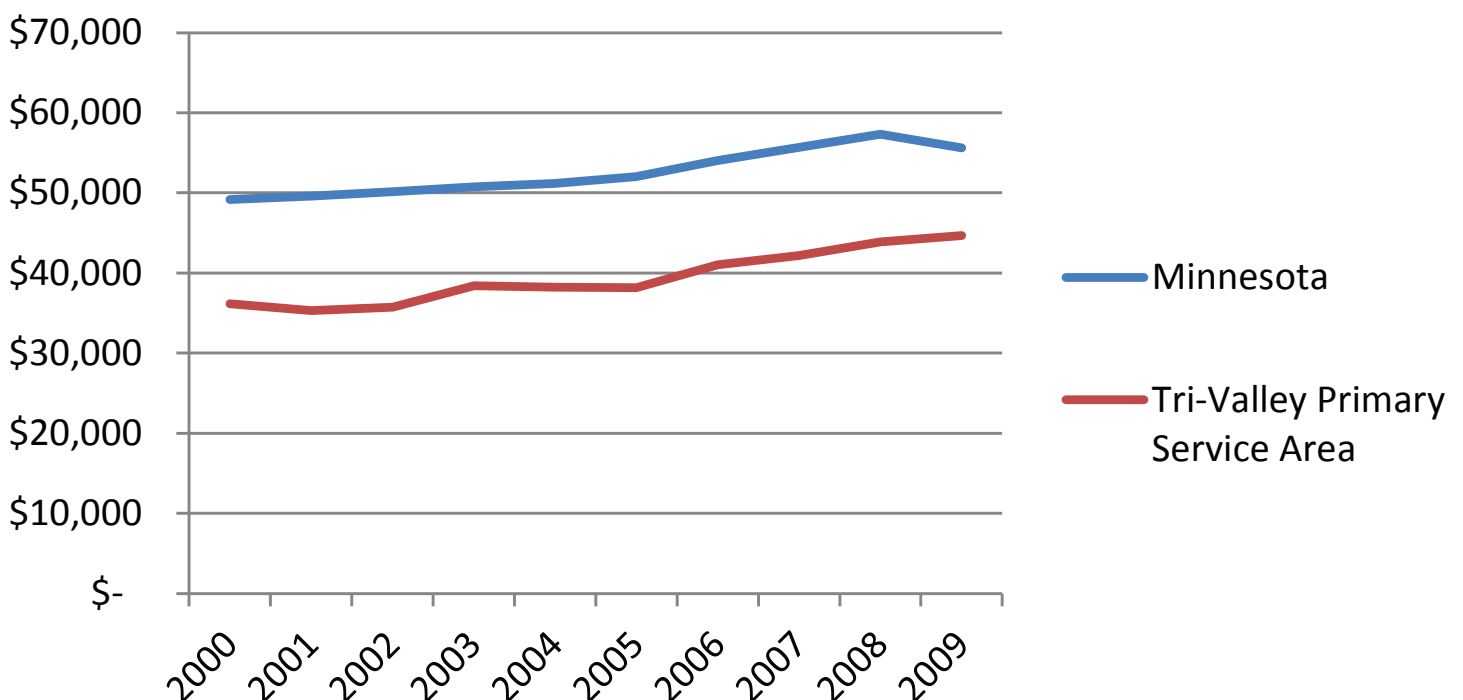
Geographic Area	Median Household Income (\$)
Marshall County, Minnesota	47,504
Minnesota	55,422
United States	50,046

Geographic Area	Median Household Income (\$)
Noman County, Minnesota	41,375
Minnesota	55,422
United States	50,046

Geographic Area	Median Household Income (\$)
Polk County, Minnesota	46,500
Minnesota	55,422
United States	50,046

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, April 10, 2013.

Median Household Income



Quality of Life Indicators

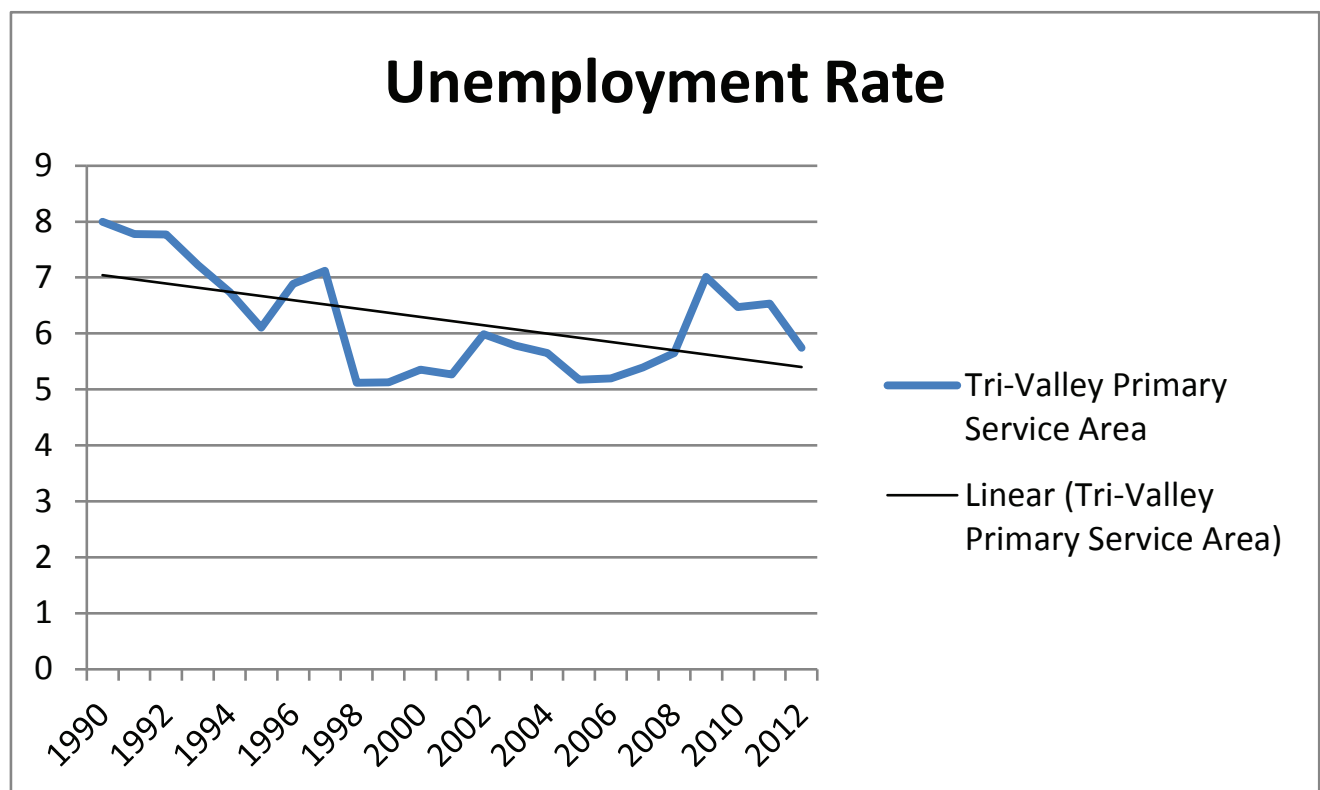
EMPLOYMENT (February 2013)

Geographic Area	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
Marshall County, Minnesota	5,468	4,870	598	10.9
Report Area	5,468	4,870	598	10.9
Minnesota	2,955,089	2,777,768	177,321	6.0
United States	154,727,461	142,227,798	12,499,663	8.1

Geographic Area	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
Norman County, Minnesota	3,645	3,384	261	7.2
Report Area	3,645	3,384	261	7.2
Minnesota	2,964,553	2,765,147	199,406	6.7
United States	156,007,259	142,647,215	13,360,044	8.6

Geographic Area	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
Polk County, Minnesota	18,285	17,257	1,028	5.6
Report Area	18,285	17,257	1,028	5.6
Minnesota	2,955,089	2,777,768	177,321	6.0
United States	154,727,461	142,227,798	12,499,663	8.1

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, April 10, 2013.



Quality of Life Indicators

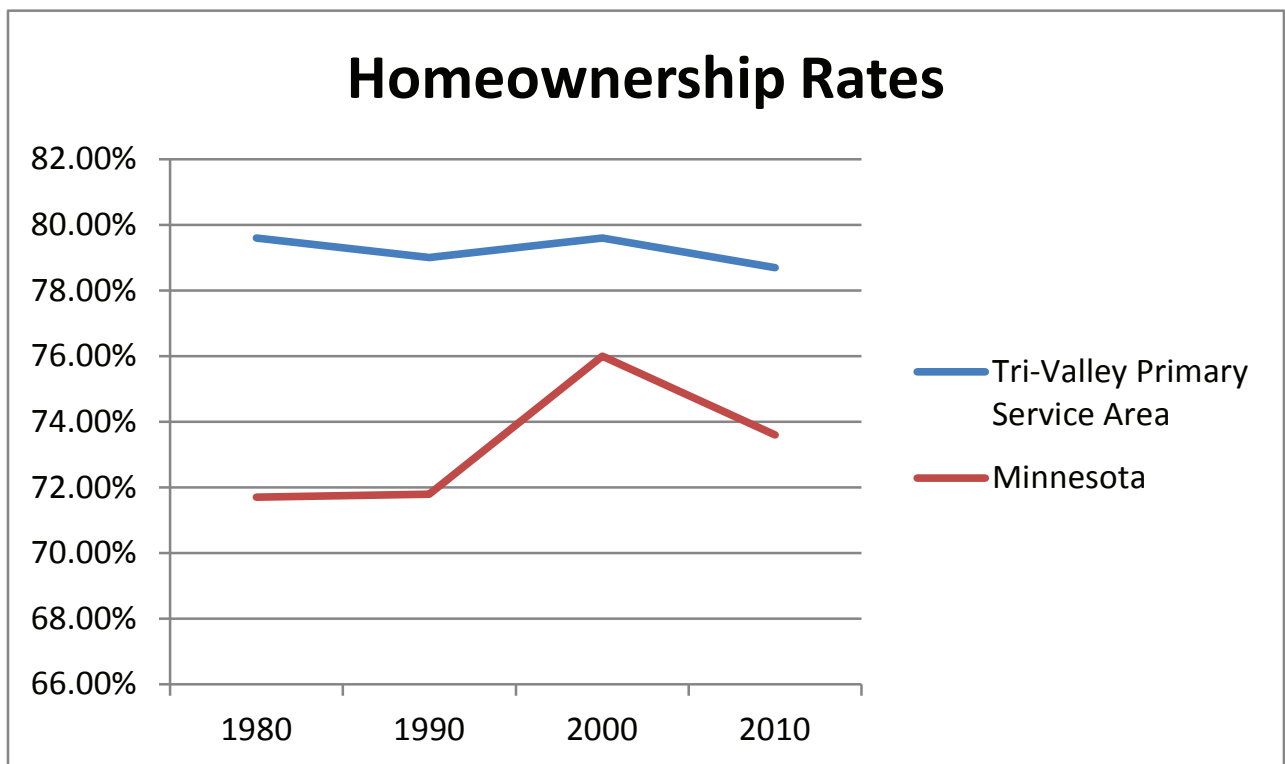
HOMEOWNERSHIP (2000 & 2010)

Geographic Area	Homeowners, 2000	Homeowners, 2006/2010
Marshall County, Minnesota	3,427	3,445
Report Area	3,427	3,445
Minnesota	1,412,865	1,548,127
United States	69,815,753	76,089,650

Geographic Area	Homeowners, 2000	Homeowners, 2006/2010
Norman County, Minnesota	2,438	2,281
Report Area	2,438	2,281
Minnesota	1,412,865	1,548,127
United States	69,815,753	76,089,650

Geographic Area	Homeowners, 2000	Homeowners, 2006/2010
Polk County, Minnesota	8,949	9,130
Report Area	8,949	9,130
Minnesota	1,412,865	1,548,127
United States	69,815,753	76,089,650

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census of Population and Housing, Summary File 1, 2000.; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010 Data Release, December 2011. The 2010 American Community Survey 5-year data is an average of data collected from 2006 through 2010.



Quality of Life Indicators

GRADUATION RATES (2006-2010)

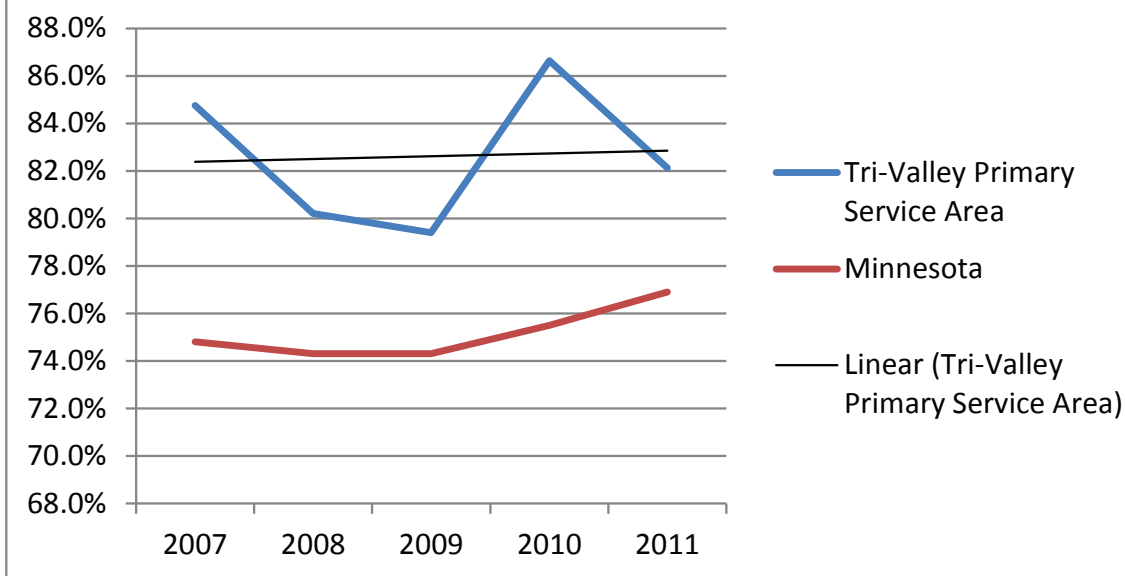
Geographic Area	% No High School Diploma, 2006/2010	% High School Only, 2006/2010	% Some College, 2006/2010	% Associates, 2006/2010	% Bachelors, 2006/2010	% Graduate or Professional, 2006/2010
Marshall County, Minnesota	14.58	38.33	20.09	10.99	12.78	3.23
Report Area	14.58	38.33	20.09	10.99	12.78	3.23
Minnesota	8.67	27.84	22.40	9.67	21.34	10.08
United States	14.97	28.99	20.62	7.52	17.60	10.30

Geographic Area	% No High School Diploma, 2006/2010	% High School Only, 2006/2010	% Some College, 2006/2010	% Associates, 2006/2010	% Bachelors, 2006/2010	% Graduate or Professional, 2006/2010
Noman County, Minnesota	12.43	40.68	21.16	10.88	12.33	2.53
Report Area	12.43	40.68	21.16	10.88	12.33	2.53
Minnesota	8.67	27.84	22.40	9.67	21.34	10.08
United States	14.97	28.99	20.62	7.52	17.60	10.30

Geographic Area	% No High School Diploma, 2006/2010	% High School Only, 2006/2010	% Some College, 2006/2010	% Associates, 2006/2010	% Bachelors, 2006/2010	% Graduate or Professional, 2006/2010
Polk County, Minnesota	13.17	32.02	23.53	10.69	14.32	6.27
Report Area	13.17	32.02	23.53	10.69	14.32	6.27
Minnesota	8.67	27.84	22.40	9.67	21.34	10.08
United States	14.97	28.99	20.62	7.52	17.60	10.30

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010 Data Release, December 2012. The 2010 American Community Survey 5-year data is an average of data collected from 2006 through 2010.

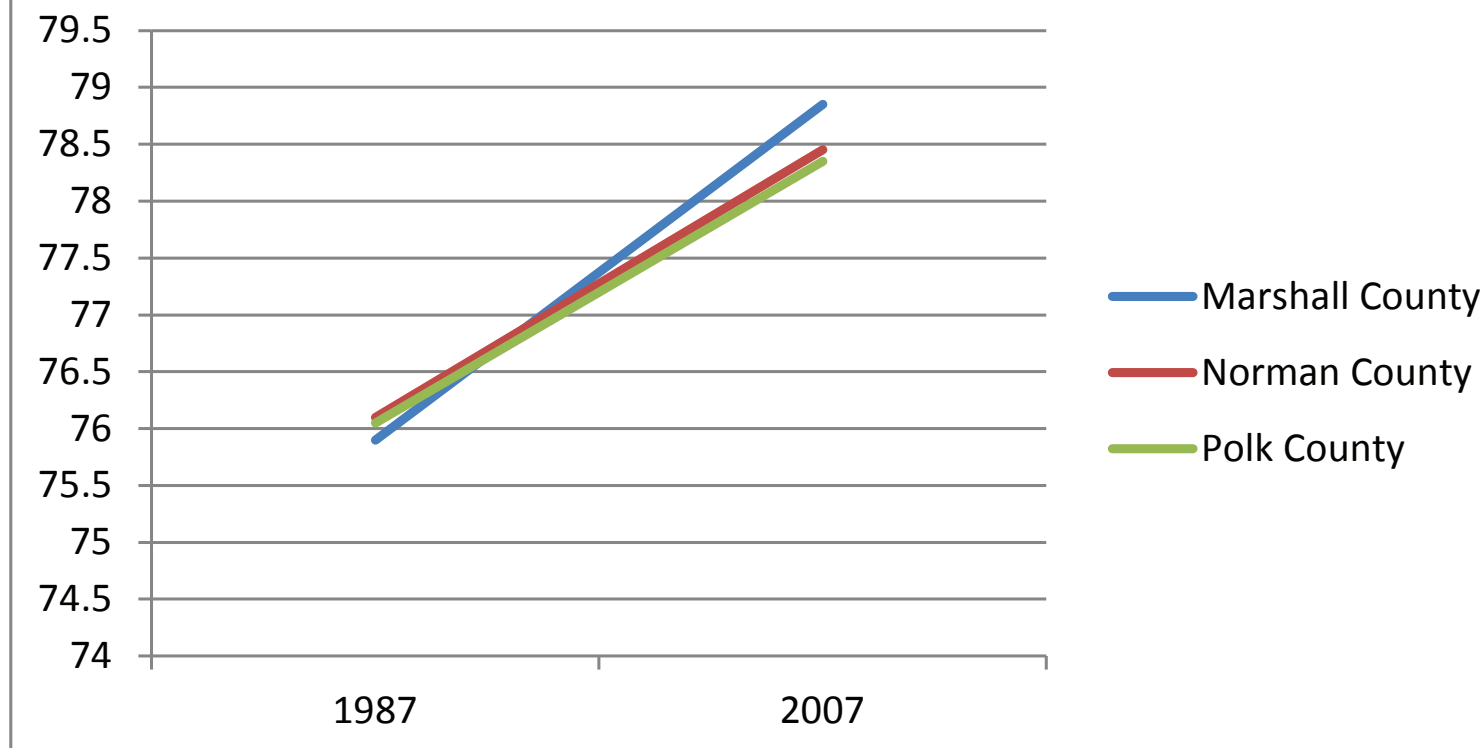
High School Graduation Rates



Quality of Life Indicators

LIFE EXPECTANCY

Life Expectancy by County



Who Did We Serve?

FOR SENIORS:

- Provided programs and activities to 1,806 seniors to maintain their independent living.
- Provided programs and activities to 812 individuals with disabilities to maintain their independent living.
- Provided emergency payments to vendors for fuel and energy bills for 2,957 seniors.
- Provided emergency rent or mortgage assistance to 117 seniors.
- Provided emergency home repair to 155 senior households.
- Provided referrals for emergency food assistance to 474 seniors.
- Provided referrals for temporary shelter to 27 seniors.
- Provided referrals for emergency medical care to 103 seniors.
- Assisted 23 seniors in averting foreclosure and maintaining their home.

FOR INFANTS AND CHILDREN:

- Assisted 1,395 infants and children obtain age appropriate immunizations, medical and dental care.
- Improved the health and physical development of 1,439 infants and children as a result of providing adequate nutrition.
- Provided preschool activities to develop school readiness to 457 children.
- Ensured that 457 children from low-income families are ready for school having developed pre-literacy and pre-numeracy skills as measured by assessment.
- Assisted 88 youth in improving social/emotional development.
- Ensured that 3,079 parents and other adults learned and exhibited improved parenting skills.
- Ensured that 835 parents and other adults learned and exhibited improved family functioning skills.

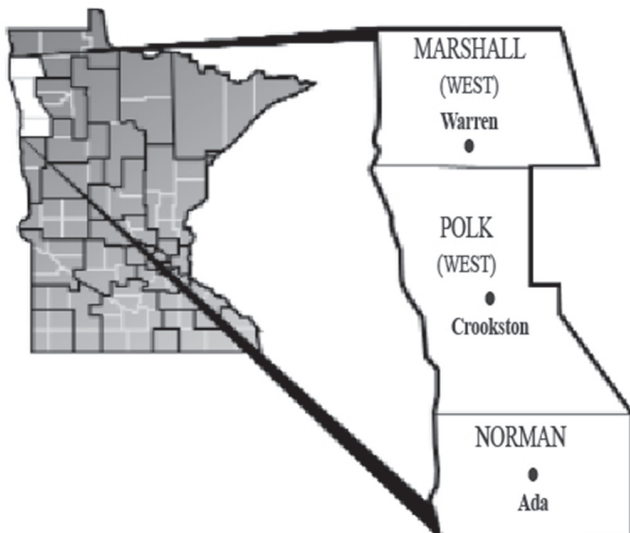
FOR THOSE UNABLE TO WORK:

- Helped 68 obtain care for their child or other dependent.
- Helped 1,841 obtain access to reliable transportation.
- Assisted 514 obtain health care services for themselves or family member.
- Assisted 75 obtain safe and affordable housing.
- Helped 1,489 obtain food assistance.
- Helped 1,912 obtain non-emergency LIHEAP energy assistance.

FOR LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS AND/OR FAMILIES:

- Provided 74,161 rides.
- Provided 1,695 information and referral calls.

Primary Service Area Map



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