

# 2022 Tri-Valley Community Needs Assessment



**Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc.**  
*Community Action: Helping People. Changing Lives.*

# Community Needs Assessment Summary (2022)

## Top Five Values Tri-Valley Demonstrates:

- |                 |                            |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| #1 = Respect    | #4 = Customer Satisfaction |
| #2 = Compassion | #5 = Fairness              |
| #3 = Commitment |                            |

## Top 10 Strengths of the Report Area:

- |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| #1 = Basic Needs                | #6 = Income Security                    |
| #2 = Education                  | #7 = Community Services                 |
| #3 = Environmental Quality      | #8 = Consumer Services                  |
| #4 = Health Care                | #9 = Mental Health Care                 |
| #5 = Individual and Family Life | #10 = Criminal Justice & Legal Services |

## Top 10 Weaknesses of the Report Area:

- |                          |                                |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| #1 = Poverty             | #6 = Shortage of Child Care    |
| #2 = Affordable Housing  | #7 = Affordable Medical Care   |
| #3 = Crime               | #8 = Domestic Violence / Abuse |
| #4 = Drug Abuse          | #9 = Young People Leaving Area |
| #5 = Substandard Housing | #10 = Alcohol Abuse            |

## Possible Community Needs Over the Next 12 Months:

- #1 = Help making your home more energy efficient to lower heating costs
- #2 = Finding a job which pays enough to meet your family's basic needs
- #3 = Finding a job where the employer offers benefits
- #4 = Help with payments for home heating expenses
- #5 = Help with having enough money to buy food

## Comments From Community Needs Assessment Survey:

- I am disabled. It's hard to pay my bills and other unexpected issues like car troubles and stretching the dollar when you don't even make enough to pay your bills.
- Thanks for being here.
- Didn't know about a lot of the services you provide. The few I knew about I was very satisfied. Would like more info on the services provided for the elderly. Thank you.
- I appreciate the help with heating assistance!
- Very helpful, respectful, and timely.
- Your staff is very helpful. Also, very pleasant and patient on the phone! Thank you!
- I have not used any services for many years. But when I did, it was appreciated. They also helped my dad with fuel assistance.
- I need a furnace, mine is broken.
- Hope I answered it all okay.
- Income limits are too high for LIHEAP. I have a disabled child and can barely make it and won't qualify because my nephew lives with me and goes to high school. When he moves out, I won't qualify and will probably have to sell my house.
- My house is freezing. Very hard to heat. Applied for weatherization and was told I was high priority. Met 4 of 5 boxes. Two years later, nothing. Was told it goes on a point system and I was very low points. Basically will never get help. I won't qualify much longer with my income I get for my son for a DD waiver program. That money should not count as income. So then I don't qualify because I make too much. That is non-taxed money and his social security does not count it as income. So basically I will probably have to sell my house because I won't be able to afford to heat it. Very disheartening matter what with having a handicapped son. Thanks, Mary (phone number on survey)
- It would be nice to get help with roofing and windows also appliances when they stop working.
- Keep up the good work helping people up in emergencies. Thanks for all you guys do.
- Contractor to call to fix things

(Year 2)

## **Comments From Community Needs Assessment Survey:**

- Thank You for your much appreciated heating assistance over the past few years!!
- Please help us find dentists that will accept medical assistance.
- Bullying is a huge issue!
- TVOC is a great asset to any community it serves.
- I am absolutely and thoroughly impressed with Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, all TVOC's staff, and all the programs TVOC offers for our community. TVOC is an absolutely outstanding non-profit agency lead and managed by professional individuals that take the work serious and completely mindful. All the citizen's of the town of Crookston greatly benefit from TVOC's existence. I would like to see, if possible, if TVOC could secure \$50,000 from HUD (Tahran) to purchase more homes for people in need of a home. There are a few homes in the Crookston community selling for about \$50,000 and perhaps TVOC could help secure those homes for people who would want to buy them. Other than that (homes for people in need), TVOC is doing an absolutely perfect, 1st class, masterful job. TVOC exceeds and excels above and beyond expectations and is highly effective and efficient in all that they do. Commendations to TVOC and all those who are employed there in addition to the wonder volunteers who give so humbly and graciously of their time and other resources.
- Major issues to focus on in our area: Health care, child care mental healthcare, and not enough people to fill job vacancies. Partner with places like Alluma or Riverview to fill jobs, and get access to the healthcare for under served areas of our community. Ex: Community outreach clinics, outreach mental health, outreach chemical dependency. Talk more about dementia and nursing home services located right here in Crookston. Many people don't know about what there is to offer.

## **Comments From "Tri-Valley on the Go" Community Visits:**

- The sidewalks don't get cleaned in Warren and are dangerous to walk on.
- Tri-Valley transit able to bring people for groceries in Warren?
- Affordable / available housing.
- How to get more housing for staff at DigiKey?
- Addiction and recovery options.
- Mental health options.
- Senior activities during the holidays. (Singing / crafts / center pieces / fun holiday options at Senior Living places facilitated by Tri-Valley Senior Programs.
- Has Tri-Valley looked into opening a Thrift Store?
- Winter... options for shoveling roofs / sidewalks / driveways / etc.
- Is there assistance for water bills?
- Can Tri-Valley facilitate a clothing driver for those in need?
- Cost of food is using up all the money.
- No food at the food shelves.
- Can expired magazines from stores be given to Senior Living facilities. Magazines with games, crosswords, etc. that haven't been done. They just go in the garbage.
- Energy Assistance is always needed.
- Facilitate music groups at Senior Living centers.
- T.H.E. Bus has been very helpful for transportation!
- Can transit work with the DAC in Norman / Mahnomen to try and figure out a cost-effective plan? Current contract is not sustainable. Mahnomen could help with cost as well, possibly.
- Transportation to help shop during the winter months.
- More waiver programs.

(Year 2)

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

Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc. is a non-profit community action agency headquartered in Crookston. In existence since 1965, Tri-Valley provides services in 74 counties in Minnesota and eastern 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**

### **Priority 1 – Improve/promote/advance the objective of increasing the availability of quality child care slots in the areas we serve:**

- Increase the number Early Head Start slots.
- Develop family and center based resources in area.
- Develop Early Childhood Workforce.

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

- Expand reach of Tri-Valley programming outside of income-eligible population.
- Enhance effectiveness of existing community resources for Seniors.
- Aggressively market resources available outside of Tri-Valley along with internal options.

### **Priority 3 – Improve/promote/advance housing options in the service area:**

- Bring Homeownership classes and renter classes to area to coordinate with financial literacy.
- Bring housing rehab resources to the service area.
- Add 1 FTE to Community Services team.

### **Priority 4 – Improve/promote/advance Community Partner Engagement in the service area:**

- Develop a cross-program workgroup to produce internal/external communication around programming with a 2-generation focus.



# Demographic Summary

## Demographics

The population average from 2016-2020 in the report area (Marshall, Polk, Norman Counties) was 46,673. Males accounted for 50.7% and females accounted for 49.3% of the population. The largest age group was 55-64 years old which comprised 14.3% of the population. The white population comprised 87.7% of the report area, black population represented 1.7%, and other races combined were 8%. Persons identifying themselves as mixed race made up 2.1% of the population. Foreign-born residents comprised 2.9% of the population in the report area.

## Economy

The median annual household income in the report area in 2020 was \$58,682 and 29.6% of households had an income of less than \$35,000.

## Poverty

Households with incomes below the poverty level were 10.5%. 72.4% of households reported an income of 200% of poverty or higher.

## Health

Total population age 65 and under for whom health insurance coverage status is determined was 37,746.

## Housing

The total housing units in the report area were 23,251, of which, 19,342 were occupied housing units. 62.6% of the total household were family households. In 33.1% of the households, the householder was living alone. 4,294 households were paying rent with a median rent paid in 2017 of \$642.

## Transportation

The report area showed that 94.2% of households had access to between one and three vehicles. 12.2% of workers walked, biked, worked at home, or other to get to employment.

## Education

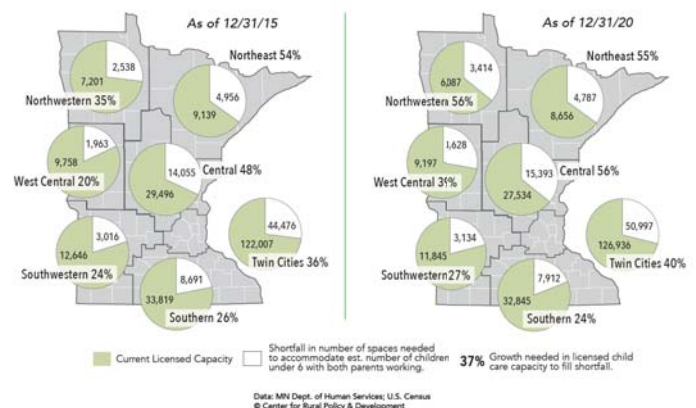
Of those in the service area age 25 years and older (32,128), 7.5% had less than a high school education. 92.5% were a high school graduate or higher and 24.7% had a bachelor's degree or higher.

## Workforce

Working adults in the service area between the ages of 18-64 totaled 26,447. Of that population, 79.3% were employed. 23.3% were 29 or younger, 50.1% were 30 to 54, and 26.6% were 55 or older. In 2019, 54.8% of workers earned under \$40,000. 32% of workers in the report area worked in either educational services or health care and social assistance. 74.5% of those employed traveled less than 30 minutes to work while 25.5% traveled 30 minutes or longer.

## Child Care

Even with the growth trend in child care centers, every region of the state still shows a shortfall between the number of children potentially needing child care and the number of spaces available. Currently in Northwest Minnesota, there are roughly 6,087 licensed providers and shortfall of 3,414 (56%) spaces needed to accommodate the number of children under six with both parents working. (Center for Rural Policy and Development)



Data from Minnesota Compass: [www.mncompass.org](http://www.mncompass.org)

# Quality of Life Indicators



## Population



Decennial Census	Marshall, Polk, Norman
2010	47,891
2020	46,673



## Age



Age (2016-2020)	Marshall, Polk, Norman	
Under 5 years	3,120	6.6%
5-9 years	3,115	6.6%
10-14 years	3,217	6.8%
15-17 years	1,861	3.9%
18-24 years	3,762	8.0%
25-34 years	5,457	11.6%
35-44 years	5,259	11.1%
45-54 years	5,508	11.7%
55-64 years	6,748	14.3%
65-74 years	4,831	10.2%
75-84 years	2,846	6.0%
85 years and older	1,479	3.1%



## Sex



Sex (2016-2020)	Marshall, Polk, Norman	
Male	23,938	50.7%
Female	23,265	49.3%



## Race & Ethnicity



Race & Ethnicity (2016-2020)	Marshall, Polk, Norman	
White	41,411	87.7%
Of Color	4,203	8.9%
Black or African American alone	796	1.7%
American Indian and Alaskan Native alone	536	1.1%
Asian or Pacific Islander alone	365	0.8%
Other alone	224	
Two or more races alone	1,009	2.1%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	2,857	6.1%

# Quality of Life Indicators

## Income & Poverty

Household income (2020 dollars) (2016-2020)	Marshall, Polk, Norman	
Total households	19,342	100.0%
Less than \$35,000	5,722	29.6%
\$35,000-\$49,999	2,674	13.8%
\$50,000-\$74,999	3,374	17.4%
\$75,000-\$99,999	2,921	15.1%
\$100,000 or more	4,651	24.0%
Median household income (2020 dollars)	\$ 58,682	

Poverty (2016-2020)	Marshall, Polk, Norman	
All people for whom poverty status is determined	45,806	100.0%
With income below poverty	4,787	10.5%
With income 100-149 of poverty	3,831	8.4%
With income 150-199 of poverty	4,039	8.8%
With income 200 of poverty or higher	33,149	72.4%
17 years and younger (percent of people under age 18)	1,488	13.4%
18-24 (percent of people age 18-24)	355	10.8%
25-34 (percent of people age 25-34)	528	9.8%
35-44 (percent of people age 35-44)	609	11.7%
45-54 (percent of people age 45-54)	405	7.4%
55-64 (percent of people age 55-64)	548	8.2%
18-64 (percent of people 18-64)	2,445	9.4%
65 years and older (percent of people age 65+)	854	9.9%

## Health Coverage

Health coverage (2016-2020)	Marshall, Polk, Norman	
Total population age 65 and under for whom health insurance coverage status is determined	37,746	81.4%
Population 65 and under without health insurance coverage	1,909	5.1%



## Housing

Total housing units (2016-2020)	Marshall, Polk, Norman	
Total housing units	23,251	100.0%

Owned and Rental Housing (2016-2020)	Marshall, Polk, Norman	
Vacant housing units (seasonal units included)	3,909	16.8%
Occupied housing units	19,342	83.2%
Average household size	2.3	
Owner-occupied	14,544	62.6%
Average household size	2.5	
Renter-occupied	4,798	20.6%
Average household size	1.8	

# Quality of Life Indicators

 Workforce			
<b>Educational attainment (2016-2020)</b>		<b>Marshall, Polk, Norman</b>	
Population (25 years and older)	32,128	100.0%	
Less than high school	2,398	7.5%	
High school diploma or GED	10,528	32.8%	
Some college or associate's degree	11,278	35.1%	
Bachelor's Degree	5,695	17.7%	
Graduate or professional degree	2,229	6.9%	
High school graduate or higher	29,730	92.5%	
Bachelor's degree or higher	7,924	24.7%	
<b>Working Adults (2016-2020)</b>		<b>Marshall, Polk, Norman</b>	
Total civilian non-institutionalized population, age 18-64	26,447	100.0%	
Working age adults who are employed	20,985	79.3%	
Civilian labor force	21,689	100.0%	
Unemployed	704	3.2%	
<b>Total employed workers (LEHD) (2019)</b>		<b>Marshall, Polk, Norman</b>	
Total employed workers	22,448	100.0%	
<b>Worker age (2019)</b>		<b>Marshall, Polk, Norman</b>	
Age 29 or younger	5,226	23.3%	
Age 30 to 54	11,252	50.1%	
Age 55 or older	5,970	26.6%	
<b>Workers by earnings (2019)</b>		<b>Marshall, Polk, Norman</b>	
\$15,000 per year or less	5,533	24.6%	
\$15,001 to \$39,999 per year	6,773	30.2%	
\$40,000 or more per year	10,142	45.2%	
<b>Workers by industry of employment (2019)</b>		<b>Marshall, Polk, Norman</b>	
Accommodation and food services	1,678	7.5%	
Administration & support, waste management, and remediation	71	0.3%	
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	440	2.0%	
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	275	1.2%	
Construction	1,049	4.7%	
Educational services	2,728	12.2%	
Finance and insurance	627	2.8%	
Health care and social assistance	4,448	19.8%	
Information	330	1.5%	
Management of companies and enterprises	393	1.8%	
Manufacturing	2,105	9.4%	
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	71	0.3%	
Other services (excluding public administration)	672	3.0%	
Professional, scientific, and technical services	575	2.6%	
Public administration	1,359	6.1%	
Real estate and rental and leasing	145	0.6%	
Retail trade	2,291	10.2%	
Transportation and warehousing	716	3.2%	
Utilities	123	0.5%	
Wholesale trade	1,758	7.8%	



# Quality of Life Indicators

## Transportation



Vehicles per household (2016-2020)	Marshall, Polk, Norman	
No vehicles	1,126	5.8%
1 vehicle available	5,543	28.7%
2 vehicles available	7,066	36.5%
3 or more vehicles available	5,607	29.0%


Transportation to work (2016-2020)	Marshall, Polk, Norman	
Workers (16 years and older)	22,675	100.0%
Car, truck, or van (including passengers)	19,824	87.4%
Public transportation	95	
Walked, biked, worked at home, or other	2,756	12.2%

Travel time to work (2016-2020)	Marshall, Polk, Norman	
Total workers age 16+ (not home based)	20,995	100.0%
Less than 10 minutes	6,593	31.4%
10-19 minutes	6,235	29.7%
20-29 minutes	2,811	13.4%
30 minutes or longer	5,356	25.5%

## Minnesota's population at a glance

	2000	2020		2000	2020
Overall population	4.9 million	5.7 million	Older adults (age 65+)	594,000	949,000
Twin Cities	2.6 million	3.2 million	Twin Cities	255,000	467,000
Greater Minnesota	2.3 million	2.5 million	Greater Minnesota	339,000	482,000
Children and youth (age 0-17)	1.3 million	1.3 million	Foreign-born residents	260,000	472,000
Twin Cities	698,000	729,000	Twin Cities	206,000	373,000
Greater Minnesota	589,000	589,000	Greater Minnesota	54,000	99,000
Working-age residents (age 18-64)	3.0 million	3.4 million	People of Color	582,000	1.4 million
Twin Cities	1.7 million	1.9 million	Twin Cities	444,000	987,000
Greater Minnesota	1.3 million	1.5 million	Greater Minnesota	138,000	366,000

Numbers may not add up to totals due to rounding.

 2019 data

# Minnesota quality of life indicators

## Arts & Culture

**57%**

Adults age 18+ who attended a cultural event in the past year

RECENT TREND: ↔ Same

NATIONAL RANK: 8

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**40%**

Adults age 18+ who created or performed art in the past year

RECENT TREND: ↔ Same

NATIONAL RANK: 17

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**20%**

Students participating in artistic lessons at least once a week

RECENT TREND: ↓ Worse

NATIONAL RANK: --

## Children & Youth

**58%**

Students who are connected to a caring adult

RECENT TREND: ↔ Same

NATIONAL RANK: --

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**60%**

Students participating in enrichment activities 3x/wk

RECENT TREND: ↓ Worse

NATIONAL RANK: --

## Civic Engagement

**80%**

Voted in 2020 election (voting-eligible)

RECENT TREND: ↑ Better

NATIONAL RANK: 1

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**41%**

Residents age 16+ who volunteer

NATIONAL RANK: 5

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**64%**

Adult neighbors who help neighbors

NATIONAL RANK: 5

## Early Childhood

**68%**

Children screened before age 5

RECENT TREND: ↔ Same

NATIONAL RANK: --

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**7%**

Low-weight births

RECENT TREND: ↔ Same

NATIONAL RANK: 3

## Economy

**\$57,000**

Per-capita GDP (2012 chained dollars)

RECENT TREND: ↓ **Worse**

NATIONAL RANK: **15**

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**2.8 million**

Number of jobs

RECENT TREND: ↓ **Worse**

NATIONAL RANK: **19**

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**\$74,500**

Median household income (2019 dollars)

RECENT TREND: ↑ **Better**

NATIONAL RANK: **13**

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**9%**

Poverty rate (2019)

RECENT TREND: ↑ **Better**

NATIONAL RANK: **4**

## Education

**49%**

3rd graders who are proficient in reading

RECENT TREND: ↓ **Worse**

NATIONAL RANK: **--**

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**40%**

8th graders who are proficient in math

RECENT TREND: ↓ **Worse**

NATIONAL RANK: **--**

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**845**

Students who graduate high school on time

RECENT TREND: ↑ **Better**

NATIONAL RANK: **36**

## Environment

**72%**

Days air quality was rated "good" (Twin Cities)

RECENT TREND: ↑ **Better**

NATIONAL RANK: **10 (25 largest U.S. metros)**

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**29**

Tons of greenhouse gas emissions per person

RECENT TREND: ↔ **Same**

NATIONAL RANK: **--**

## Health

**31%**

Adults age 18+ who are obese

RECENT TREND: ↓ **Worse**

NATIONAL RANK: **17**

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**6%**

Residents under age 65 who are uninsured (2019)

RECENT TREND: ↓ **Worse**

NATIONAL RANK: **5**

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**9%**

Adults age 18+ with diabetes

RECENT TREND: ↓ **Worse**

NATIONAL RANK: **10**

## Housing

**11,371**

People experiencing homelessness

**RECENT TREND:** ↓ **Worse**

**NATIONAL RANK:** --

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**25%**

Households that pay 30% or more of income for housing

**RECENT TREND:** ↑ **Better**

**NATIONAL RANK:** 10

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**33%**

Homeownership gap (white, of color)

**RECENT TREND:** ↔ **Same**

**NATIONAL RANK:** 46

## Public Safety

**24**

Serious crimes committed per 1,000 residents

**RECENT TREND:** ↓ **Worse**

**NATIONAL RANK:** --

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**367**

Traffic injuries and fatalities per 100,000 residents

**RECENT TREND:** ↑ **Better**

**NATIONAL RANK:** --

## Transportation

**4%**

Highway miles rated in poor condition

**RECENT TREND:** ↔ **Same**

**NATIONAL RANK:** --

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**20%**

Household income spent on transportation (Twin Cities)

**RECENT TREND:** ↔ **Same**

**NATIONAL RANK:** 7 (25 largest U.S. metros)

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**32**

Annual hours of delay per auto commuter (Twin Cities)

**RECENT TREND:** ↑ **Better**

**NATIONAL RANK:** 12 (25 largest U.S. metros)

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**18,000**

Average number of jobs reachable within a 30-minute commute by food or transit (Twin Cities)

**RECENT TREND:** ↔ **Same**

**NATIONAL RANK:** 11 (25 largest U.S. metros)

## Workforce

**80%**

Proportion of adults working

**RECENT TREND:** ↑ **Better**

**NATIONAL RANK:** 2

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**37%**

Adults age 25+ with a bachelor's degree (2019)

**RECENT TREND:** ↑ **Better**

**NATIONAL RANK:** 10

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**67%**

Graduation rate at a 4-year institution (within 6 years)

**RECENT TREND:** ↑ **Better**

**NATIONAL RANK:** 14

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**57%**

Graduation + transfer rate at 2-year institutions (within 3 years)

**RECENT TREND:** ↑ **Better**

**NATIONAL RANK:** 11

# Who Did We Serve?

## FOR LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS AND/OR FAMILIES:

- Provided 147,429 rides.
- Provided 4,255 information and referral calls.
- Provided transit services (e.g. bus passes, bus transport, support for auto purchase or repair to 46,203 individuals
- Assisted 190 individuals with eviction counseling and 6 individuals with landlord/tenant mediations.
- Assisted 648 individuals with rent payments (includes emergency rent payments) and 62 individuals with security deposit payments.
- Provided Financial Literacy Education to 10 individuals.
- Assisted with Health Insurance options to 96 individuals.
- Provided SNAP benefits to 1,616 individuals.
- Provided Family Skills Development parenting classes to 40 individuals.

## FOR INFANTS/CHILDREN AND FAMILIES:

- Assisted 1,223 infants and children in obtaining age appropriate immunizations.
- Assisted 722 infants and children in obtaining physicals.
- Assisted 901 infants and children in obtaining child dental screenings/exams.
- Provided preschool activities to develop school readiness to 849 children.
- Ensured that 122 adults improved skills related to the adult role of parent/caregiver.
- Assisted 109 individuals in increasing nutrition skills (e.g., cooking, shopping, and growing food).
- Ensured that 626 parents/caregivers demonstrated increased sensitivity and responsiveness with their children.
- Assisted 487 individuals with volunteer training and 32 individuals with leadership training.

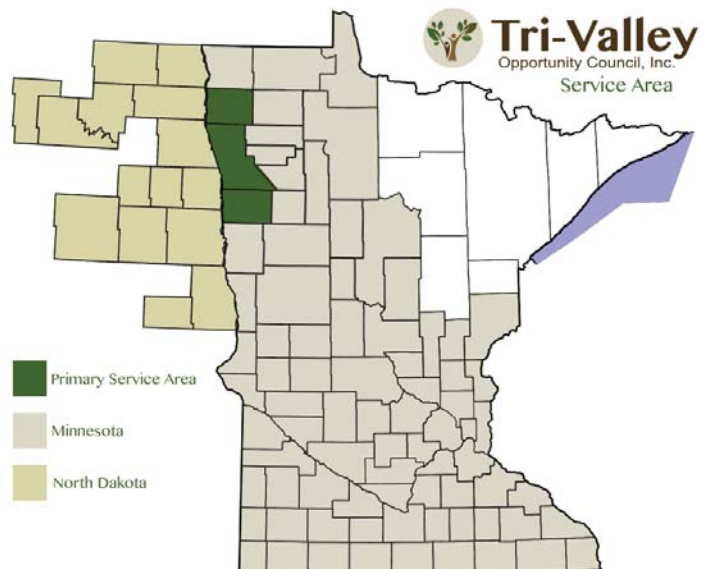
## FOR SENIORS:

- Provided programs and activities to 162 seniors to help maintain their independent living.

## FOR THOSE UNABLE TO WORK:

- Assisted 12 individuals obtain temporary housing placements.
- Assisted 119 individuals obtain permanent housing placements.
- Assisted 2,576 individuals obtain LIHEAP energy assistance.

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**Note:** Tri-Valley has services in 74 counties in Minnesota and eastern North Dakota.