Semcac’s Impact in Fillmore County

Mission: Empower and advocate for people to enhance their self-sufficiency by maximizing community resources.

Vision: Thriving individuals, families and communities leading a vibrant southeast Minnesota region.

Semcac offers a network of partnerships and comprehensive assistance to help people in rural southeastern Minnesota communities. Semcac is an equal opportunity employer.

Semcac locations in Fillmore County

- Administration, Energy & Housing Office at 204 S. Elm St., Rushford
- Rushford Food Shelf and Senior Dining site at 113 E. Jessie St., Rushford – Tenborg Building
- Senior Dining sites in Harmony, Lanesboro, Mabel, Preston, Rushford & Spring Valley
- Head Start Classroom at Eagle Bluff Environmental Center, 28097 Goodview Drive, Lanesboro
- Public transit bus services (Rolling Hills Transit) provided in Chatfield, Ostrander, Rushford, Spring Valley & Wykoff

About Semcac

Semcac was established as a private, nonprofit organization in 1966. Originally known as the Southeast Minnesota Citizens Action Council, Inc., the agency’s legal name has been Semcac since 1995. Beginning in Winona, Fillmore and Houston counties, Semcac is now the designated Community Action Agency for seven counties—Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Houston, Mower, Steele and Winona. Additionally, Semcac provides limited services in five additional counties—Goodhue, Olmsted, Rice, Wabasha and Waseca.

Semcac offers over 20 programs from multiple locations, including the main office in Rushford, Semcac Center in Winona (Semcac Clinic), 7 county offices (Contact Centers), 9 Head Start centers, Transportation Dispatch Center in Kasson and 43 Senior Dining sites and/or kitchens. Semcac currently has a workforce of approximately 233 people.

Semcac has been connecting people with resources to ensure that they can achieve their goals of self-reliance and independence for 56 years. The agency invests private, federal and public dollars back into the southeastern Minnesota communities, to strengthen our greatest resource- the people.

Semcac Overall – Fiscal Year 2021 Statistics

- Semcac served 19,283 unduplicated individuals (9,993 households) in addition to providing 47,687 rides via public transit, Rolling Hills Transit bussing.
  - 2,346 clients were assisted via the COVID Housing Assistance Program (CHAP)
- Semcac has partnerships with 946 organizations.
- Every year, volunteers from all of the counties we serve, join Semcac efforts to help people. Last year, 1,559 volunteers contributed 40,742 hours to the programs and people we serve.
Impact in Fillmore County - Helping Greater Minnesota’s Rural Communities

Senior Nutrition results in seniors who are empowered to maintain their health and nutritional wellbeing and allows at-risk seniors to remain in their own home.

- The congregate meal site, Senior Dining, adapted for COVID19 restrictions and mitigation efforts by switching to delivered meals for seniors due to COVID19. Figures reflected below.
- 45,169 nutritious meals were delivered by Meals on Wheels volunteers to Fillmore County seniors in Canton, Chatfield, Harmony, Lanesboro, Mabel, Peterson, Preston, Rushford, Spring Valley and Wykoff.

Senior and Caregiver Advocacy results in seniors maintaining safe and independent living.

- 51 seniors and/or caregivers in Fillmore County received individual assistance to identify needs, access resources, make informed decisions and reduce feelings of isolation.

Energy Assistance results in keeping people warm by heating homes during the winter season, thus extending the limited, low household income.

- 500 households in Fillmore County received assistance with their utility payments during the winter season. And, 101 households received additional crisis assistance.

Weatherization results in greener communities, lower energy bills for low-income people and creates new jobs.

- 30 households in Fillmore County had their homes weatherized and learned more about energy conservation. 18 households received home conservation services funded through the local utility companies’ Conservation Improvement Programs, in Fillmore County.
- 15 households received energy related repairs, such as furnace replacement.

Housing Rehab Loans result in improved living condition for low-income people and the preservation of quality affordable housing.

- Semcac launched a new residential rehab program in collaboration with the City of Rushford and Rushford EDA in May 2020. 5 Residential Rehab Loans were provided and 5 Rushford Impact Fund Loans were provided.
- 3 homes were assisted with rehabs through the MN Owner Rehab Loan program, in Fillmore County.

Head Start & Early Head Start result in empowered families and young children who are ready for kindergarten. Head Start families receive comprehensive services from Semcac.

- 23 individuals (12 children and their families) were educated at the Head Start Center, in Lanesboro, in Fillmore County during the program year. Head Start has relocated their Fillmore County classroom to Lanesboro, Eagle Bluff Environmental Center!
- 9 children (age birth – 3 years) and/or pregnant women received Early Head Start services, at their home, in Fillmore County.
Outreach and Emergency Services supports people through a crisis and allows them to utilize their limited income until they reach stability.

- 436 households (1,019 people) accessed food for their families and extended their limited incomes by visiting one of the two food shelves, located in Rushford and Preston. These households visited more than once; we provided food shelf assistance 2,330 times.

- 191 individuals received crisis financial assistance for transportation, a medical issue, utility payment assistance or another immediate basic need.

- 161 families (678 individuals), in Fillmore County, were provided with holiday/Christmas presents who could not afford gifts during the holiday season, the majority of the gifts are for children and seniors. Additionally, 236 families participated in the Shop with a Cop program.

- 74 families (192 individuals) were assisted with payments such as rent or mortgage, provided with motel vouchers, or assisted with COVID Housing Assistance Program to prevent homelessness in Dodge County.

- Outreach & Emergency Services staff provided information & referrals to other/outside organizations for 322 individuals from 124 families in Fillmore County. Staff also provided information & referrals within the agency to 715 households in Fillmore County.

Family Planning – Semcac Clinic services result in an increased number of cancer screenings for women, prevention & treatment of STI’s, a reduced number of unplanned pregnancies, an increase in education about sexual health.

- 13 patients permanently residing in Fillmore County were provided services at Semcac Clinic in Winona.

- Last year, the Clinic’s Education & Outreach Specialist presented comprehensive, reproductive and sexual health education information at events in the area, reaching 100 people.

Semcac Transportation results in people getting to their medical and dental appointments, senior dining and other locations to meet essential needs; assisting people with no other means of transportation.

- 10,453 rides were provided on Rolling Hills Transit buses in Fillmore County.

- 1,636 rides were provided to 106 people through the Volunteer Driver Program in Fillmore County.

2021 Annual Report Video, via Animoto

https://video214.com/play/MYJC0FW0yTpikiNTH6Thaw/s/dark
Agency Resources

**Federal—$9,345,492**
- Department of Energy
- Department of Health & Human Services
- Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Department of Transportation
- Department of Agriculture

**State—$3,219,997**
- MNCAG
- Minnesota Housing & Homeless Programs
- State Day Care & Early Childhood Programs
- State Energy Programs
- State Head Start Programs
- State Health Programs
- State Transportation Programs
- Department of Employment and Economic Development

**Local, Private and Other Funding—$4,017,043**
- Program participants, reimbursements from insurance providers, utility companies, contracts for service
- County government contracts and contributions
- United Way agencies, foundations, corporations or other nonprofit agencies
- Donations from individuals, businesses, churches and civic organizations & in-kind
- Income to offset expenses, miscellaneous and other income

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- Tim Tjosaas - Dodge County
- Greg Peterson – Dodge County
- **Randy Dahl - Fillmore County**
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**Contact Us & Stay Informed**

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