

2020 Houston County County Impact Report

OCTOBER 1, 2018 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2019



Semcac

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Impact Report for Houston County | 2020

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 Houston County

- Houston County Food Shelf and the county Outreach & Emergency Services office is located at 138 E. Main Street, Caledonia
- Senior Dining sites are located in Caledonia, Eitzen, La Crescent & Spring Grove
- Head Start classrooms are located in Caledonia and La Crescent

About Semcac



Semcac was established as a private, non-profit 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—and provides services in five additional counties—Goodhue, Olmsted, Rice, Wabasha and Waseca.

Semcac offers over 25 programs from multiple locations, including the main office in Rushford, Semcac Center in Winona (including the family planning clinic, Semcac Clinic), 7 county offices (Contact Centers), 9 Head Start centers, Transportation Dispatch Center in Kasson and 43 Senior Dining sites and/or kitchens. We currently have a workforce of approximately 230 people.

This reporting period, in July 2019, the agency welcomed a new executive director, Doug Grout. Semcac has been connecting people with resources to ensure that they can achieve their goals of self-reliance and independence for 54 years. We invest private, federal and public dollars back into the communities to strengthen our greatest resource- the people.

Semcac Overall - 2019 Statistics

- Semcac served 23,448 unduplicated individuals (12,410 households) in addition to providing 49,879 rides via public transit, Rolling Hills Transit bussing.
- Semcac has partnerships with 973 organizations, in 2019.
- Every year, volunteers provide services to help others through Semcac. In FY19, volunteers contributed 67,808 hours to the programs and people we serve. Thank you to all of our passionate volunteers!

Impact in Houston 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.

- 12,450 hot, nutritious meals were served in a congregate setting at Senior Dining to 361 seniors in Houston County.
- 9,985 nutritious meals were delivered by Meals on Wheels volunteers to 89 Houston County seniors in Eitzen, Hokah, Houston, La Crescent and Spring Grove.

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

- 44 seniors and/or caregivers in Houston 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.

- 450 households in Houston County received assistance with their utility payments during the winter season. And, 128 households received additional crisis assistance.

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

17 households in Houston County had their homes weatherized and learned more about energy conservation. 4 households received home conservation services funded through the local utility companies' Conservation Improvement Programs administered by Semcac.

- 10 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.

- 2 households were assisted via the Minnesota Housing Rehab Loan Program, in Houston County, administered by Semcac.
- 14 households were assisted via Small Cities Development Program, in Houston 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.

- 43 children and their families were educated at the Head Start Centers, in Houston County during the program year.
- 24 children (age birth – 3 years) and/or pregnant women received Early Head Start services, at their home, in Houston County.

Outreach and Emergency Services supports people through a crisis and allows them to utilize their limited income until they reach stability.

- 365 households (873 people) accessed food for their families and extended their limited incomes by visiting the Houston County Food Shelf located in Caledonia. These households visited more than once; we provided food shelf assistance 2,193 times.
- 5 households in Houston County attended budgeting or financial literacy education/counseling.
- 59 families (161 individuals) received crisis financial assistance for transportation, a medical issue or another immediate basic need in Houston County.
- 252 families, in Houston County, were provided with holiday/Christmas presents who could not afford gifts during the holiday season. The majority of the gifts were for children and seniors.
- 4 families were assisted with payments such as rent or mortgage, to prevent homelessness in Houston County.
- Staff provided information & referrals to other sources/organizations for 247 individuals from 95 families in Houston County. Staff also provided information & referrals within the agency to 833 households from Houston County.

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

- 21 patients residing in Houston County were provided services at Semcac Clinic in Winona.
- Last year, the Clinic's education efforts involved presenting comprehensive, reproductive and sexual health education information at several community events, reaching 534 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.

- 9,559 rides were provided on Rolling Hills Transit buses in Houston County.
- 2,252 rides were provided to 110 people through the Volunteer Driver Program in Houston County.

Agency Resources

Federal— \$6,705,346

- Department of Energy
- Department of Health & Human Services
- Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Department of Transportation
- Department of Agriculture

State— \$4,684,089

- 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— \$3,249,444

- Program participants, reimbursements from insurance providers, utility companies, contracts for services, etc.
- 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



Contact Us, Stay Informed, Get Involved

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Text *Semcac* to 22828 to receive our bi-monthly e-newsletter, the *Semcac Sentinel*.

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