Semcac’s Impact in Steele 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 Steele County**

- The Steele County Outreach & Emergency Services office is located at 545 Dunnell Drive in Owatonna.
- Semcac Senior Dining sites are located at 4 different locations in Steele County, including in Blooming Prairie, in Ellendale and at two locations in Owatonna.
- A Semcac Head Start center classroom is located at 1820 Hartle Ave. in Owatonna.

**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 administrative 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 230 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 Steele 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.
- 40,210 nutritious meals were delivered by Meals on Wheels volunteers to Steele County seniors in Blooming Prairie, Ellendale, Medford and Owatonna.

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

- 149 unduplicated seniors and caregivers in Steele 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.

- 573 households in Steele County received assistance with their utility payments during the winter season. And, 150 households received additional crisis assistance.

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

- 42 households in Steele County had their homes weatherized and learned more about energy conservation. 6 households received home conservation services funded through the local utility companies’ Conservation Improvement Programs administered by Semcac.
- 18 households received energy related repairs, such as furnace replacement.

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

- 1 household was assisted via the Minnesota Housing Owner Rehab Loan Program, in Steele 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.

- 70 individuals (41 children and their families) were educated at the Head Start classrooms, in Steele County during the program year.

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

- 479 individuals received crisis financial assistance for transportation, a medical issue, utility payment assistance or another immediate basic need.
- 161 families (477 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 Steele County.
- Outreach & Emergency Services staff provided information & referrals to other/outside organizations for 1,656 individuals from 637 families in Steele County. Staff also provided information & referrals within the agency to 7,649 people in Steele County.

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.

- 623 rides were provided to 74 individuals utilizing the Volunteer Driver Program in Steele County.
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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Contact Us & Stay Informed

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