



2025 Community Impact

Creating opportunities. Building self-sufficiency.

Each year, ADVOCAP works alongside thousands of our neighbors across Fond du Lac, Green Lake, and Winnebago Counties to overcome barriers, create opportunities, and build self-sufficiency.

Through a comprehensive, community-based approach, we help individuals and families meet their basic needs while supporting housing stability, workforce opportunities, childhood development, and services for older adults.

Who We Are

ADVOCAP is a nonprofit Community Action Agency supporting Fond du Lac, Green Lake, and Winnebago Counties in Wisconsin. For over 60 years, we have worked alongside families to build strong communities where our low income neighbors have access to opportunities for stability.

As part of the national Community Action network, we focus on addressing the root causes of poverty while helping people meet essential needs. This approach allows us to help create long-term impacts and stronger outcomes for our communities.



ADVOCAP

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Meeting Basic Needs

Helping families stabilize through food and nutrition access, emergency support, and connections to essential services such as mental health counseling.

- Senior Nutrition
- Homeless Assistance
- Opportunity Center
- Mental Health Partnership
- Emergency Food Assistance (TEFAP)
- Community Gardens



Strengthening Housing Stability

Supporting safe, affordable housing through rental units and assistance, energy programs, home repairs and improvements, and housing navigation resources.

- Affordable Rental Units
- Homeless Assistance
- Utilities Assistance (WHEAP)
- Weatherization Assistance
- Home Energy+ Services



Fostering Childhood Development

Preparing children for lifelong success through early learning, education supports, and expanded access to quality childcare.

- Head Start
- Foster Grandparent Program
- Childcare Incubator



Creating Workforce Opportunities

Supporting employment and economic growth through education, job training, transportation, childcare, and business development services.

- Business Development
- Skills Enhancement
- GED/HSED Classes
- Work N Wheels
- Funds for Fines
- Opportunity Center
- Childcare Incubator



Supporting Older Adults

Promoting independence and wellness through nutrition, transportation, social connection and volunteer opportunities.

- Senior Nutrition
- Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)
- Volunteer Transportation
- Foster Grandparent Program
- Senior Friends



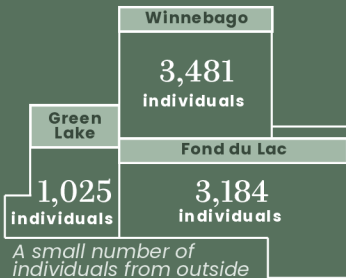
Our Mission & Vision

ADVOCAP's mission is to create opportunities for people and communities to reduce poverty and increase self-sufficiency.

Our vision is that all low-income and disadvantaged people in our service area will have the opportunities, assets, and tools necessary to obtain the necessities of a healthy and dignified life.

2025 Impact by the Numbers

7,795
individuals
supported
in 2025



A small number of individuals from outside these counties accessed our services in 2025.

Strengthening Housing Stability

1,158 people
in healthy and energy-efficient homes due to Home Energy+ and Weatherization Services

\$151,679
WHEAP benefits administered by ADVOCAP for **316 households**

82 families
accessed safe, affordable housing in rental units managed by ADVOCAP

\$2,500,000
paid to **60** materials vendors and contractors for Weatherization services

271 families
received support to maintain stable housing

\$1,398,721
paid to **197** vendors for rent payments, security deposits and utility allowances

430 homes
improved through Home Energy+ and Weatherization Services

Addressing Homelessness

1,326 individuals from **755 families** were provided support to help meet essential needs in times of crisis

724 individuals from **271 families** received supports to access and maintain stable housing

515 individuals
accessed the Opportunity Center for support and resources

Center participants accessed supports including:

-  Basic needs
-  Housing
-  Benefits
-  Employment
-  Transportation

Increasing Food Security

169,726 meals and snacks provided through Senior Nutrition and Head Start Programs

1,231 seniors and children accessed nutritious meals and snacks as part of ADVOCAP programs

Our Senior Nutrition Program provided:

87,375 meals delivered to participants' homes	17,695 meals served at congregate meal sites	6,104 meals prepared for carry out
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880,444 pounds of food distributed to pantries through TEFAP, providing **24,066 people** emergency food assistance

70 families grew their own fresh produce through ADVOCAP community gardens

Creating Workforce Opportunities



59 small businesses started, maintained, or expanded with support through loans

193 jobs reached by active Work N Wheels vehicle loan recipients

150 entrepreneurs received technical assistance to support their business

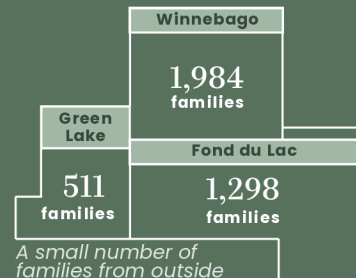
135 households gained access to reliable vehicles to get to work through Work N Wheels

14 new businesses created across our tri-county service area

\$259,538 paid to **48** dealers, private sellers, and repair shops for Work N Wheels vehicle purchases and repairs

208 individuals accessed adult education and job skills training

3,860 families supported in 2025



A small number of families from outside these counties accessed our services in 2025.

Fostering Childhood Development



370 children were provided quality education through ADVOCAP Head Start preschool program

331 families given access to comprehensive support services and engagement activities through Head Start programming

58,552 meals and snacks provided to children in ADVOCAP Head Start preschool program

370 children received health screenings through Head Start

175 children received academic support and mentoring from Foster Grandparent volunteers

Supporting Older Adults



372 volunteers donated their time to our community as part of our senior volunteer programs

88,068 hours donated by ADVOCAP volunteers, valued at **\$3,053,317** based on Wisconsin's estimated hourly volunteer rate of **\$34.67**

50 organizations supported by Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) volunteers

3,662 rides provided by transportation program volunteers

861 seniors and homebound individuals were provided

111,174 meals through our Senior Nutrition Program

28 volunteers provided academic support and mentoring to **175 children** as part of Foster Grandparent program

Poverty Wage vs. Living Wage

Poverty wage refers to income earned from full-time work that is still not enough to cover basic living expenses. Even with steady employment, households at this level struggle to afford essentials such as housing, food, transportation, childcare, and healthcare without assistance.

A living wage is the income needed to meet basic needs in a specific community without relying on emergency assistance or public supports. It reflects the real cost of maintaining safe housing, consistent access to food, and overall financial stability.

In our region, a significant gap between poverty wages and a living wage leaves many working individuals earning too much for some public programs, yet still unable to meet basic living costs.

Income & Cost of Living Snapshot

The cost of living in our region varies by household type and often rises quickly, especially for families with children. Below is a comparison of these costs with typical wages and fixed income sources, along with federal poverty guidelines used for certain public assistance eligibility. **Many households may earn above eligibility limits but still struggle to meet their household's needs.**

For older adults and those on fixed incomes, expenses can exceed average benefit levels. Together, these figures highlight how financial pressures differ across life stages and household types, emphasizing the need for coordinated, community-based and cross-sector solutions.

Annual Expenses in Our Region

The table below shows the estimated annual cost of basic household needs averaged across our region, based on household size and composition. Federal poverty guidelines are also included for comparison. Data reflect averaged figures from the MIT Living Wage Calculator for Fond du Lac, Green Lake, and Winnebago counties in Wisconsin.

	1 adult 0 children	1 adult 2 children	2 adults (both working) 2 children
Housing	\$9,557	\$13,260	\$13,260
Food	\$4,327	\$9,511	\$12,663
Childcare	\$0	\$26,240	\$26,240
Medical	\$3,483	\$8,529	\$9,740
Transportation	\$9,424	\$13,739	\$15,809
Internet & Mobile	\$1,530	\$1,530	\$2,065
Other	\$7,896	\$16,494	\$18,331
Annual taxes	\$7,240	\$18,181	\$16,717
Required income before taxes	\$43,457	\$107,484	\$57,412 (per adult)
Poverty guideline	\$15,960	\$27,320	\$33,000 (household)

'Other' expenses include Other Necessities (apparel, personal care products, etc.) and Civic (reading, education, pets, toys, etc.). For information regarding MIT Living Wage methodology and categories, visit livingwage.mit.edu.

Working Income

Below is the average annual income for workers by county, based on 2025 Q3 data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Figures reflect gross annual wages.

Fond du Lac County: \$60,372

Green Lake County: \$49,504

Winnebago County: \$64,376

Average: \$58,084

Fixed Income

Below is the average annual benefit for Social Security retirement and SSI in Wisconsin (2026), per individual. These are separate programs and are not always received together in full.

Social Security Retirement \$24,331 per year

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) \$11,928 per year