



COULEECAP HELPS REMOVE THE BARRIERS TO HOME OWNERSHIP

The road to home ownership for Rose and her family wasn't easy; she had some struggles along the way. But it was really important to her that she give her boys a home of their own. For that, she turned to Couleecap's home ownership program.

"Couleecap staff are very encouraging but very honest. They looked at my entire life and goals," says Rose. "This program made sure I could be successful long-term." Couleecap works with home-buyers like Rose to give them the tools they need for long-term success and financial stability.

[Click to learn more about Rose's story.](#)

"This program has removed huge barriers to make that possible and has given not only myself an opportunity but my children and ultimately their children as well."

-Rose Reinert



In This Issue

02

Home Weatherization Impacts Household Budgets

03

The Wisconsin Opportunity Act Comprehensive Legislation to Fight Against Poverty

04

2019 Pop-Up Shop Program Expands



Home Weatherization Impacts Household Budgets

Saving Families \$740 a Year on Their Energy Bills

Coulecap weatherizes hundreds of homes each year. The weatherization program is designed to reduce heating and electrical costs while providing a safer and healthier home at no cost to homeowners and landlords.

Weatherization is a process where a home is evaluated for air leakage, insulation, and energy efficiency. Then based on the findings; air sealing, insulating, and repair or replacement of mechanicals such as water heaters, furnaces, and ventilation fans may be able to be addressed to reduce heating usage and improve indoor air quality.

Who is eligible for Weatherization Services?

- Those who apply and are found eligible for Energy Assistance through their County WHEAP office also become eligible for Coulecap Weatherization services.
- Homeowners as well as renters receiving property owners' consent qualify for services.
- Coulecap weatherizes a few hundred homes each year in Crawford, La Crosse, Monroe, and Vernon counties targeting homes with the highest energy burden thus providing relief to those most in need.
- In the most recent program evaluation conducted by the Wisconsin Department of Energy, Housing, and Community Resources, Coulecap energy services were found to have an annual energy cost savings of \$740.00 per home.



“My house is lot warmer now. I thank you so much, I could not have done this on my own. I needed this for a long time and I am so grateful.”
-Weatherization participant

WEATHERIZATION | WHAT WE DO

MECHANICAL MEASURES

- Clean, tune, repair, or replace heating and/or cooling systems.
- Install duct and heating pipe insulation.
- Repair leaks in heating/cooling ducts.
- Install programmable thermostats.
- Repair/replace water heaters.
- Install water heater tank insulation.
- Insulate water heating pipes.

BUILDING SHELL MEASURES

- Install insulation where needed.
- Perform air sealing.
- Repair/replace windows/doors.
- Install window film, awnings and solar screens.
- Repair minor roof and wall leaks prior to attic or wall insulation.

HEALTH & SAFETY MEASURES

- Perform heating system safety testing.
- Perform combustion appliance safety testing.
- Repair/replace vent systems to ensure combustion gas draft safety outside.
- Install mechanical ventilation to ensure adequate indoor air quality.
- Install smoke and carbon monoxide alarms when needed.
- Evaluate mold/moisture hazards.
- Perform incidental safety repairs when needed.



ELECTRIC & WATER MEASURES

- Install efficient light sources.
- Install low-flow showerheads.
- Replace inefficient refrigerators with energy-efficient models.

CLIENT EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

- Educate on potential household hazards such as carbon monoxide, mold & moisture, fire, indoor air pollutants, lead paint and radon.
- Demonstrate the key functions of any new mechanical equipment or appliances.
- Discuss the benefits of using energy-efficient products.



 Learn more about Home Weatherization on our website coulecap.org

The Wisconsin Opportunity Act Comprehensive Legislation to Fight Against Poverty

The Wisconsin Community Action Program Association (WISCAP) applauds the introduction of the Wisconsin Opportunity Act (SB 467, AB 508) in the Wisconsin State Legislature. The proposal, authored by Senator LaTonya Johnson and Representative Lisa Subeck, advances comprehensive legislation designed to aid communities in the fight against poverty; calling for a renewed investment in housing, transportation, employment and business development training, and other services. The bill, currently co-sponsored by 24 members, was referred to the Senate Committee on Local Government, Small Business, Tourism and Workforce Development and the Committee on Housing and Real Estate, respectively.

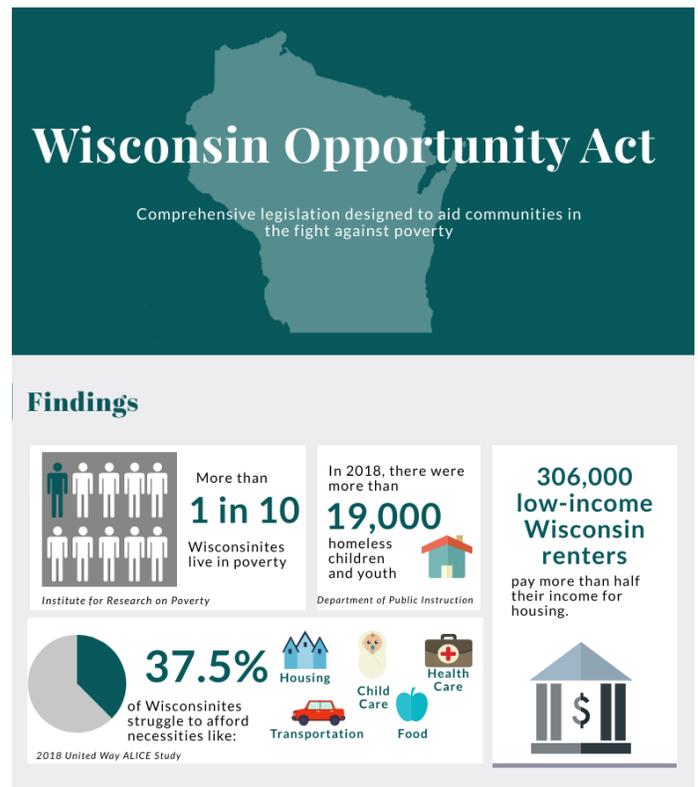
WISCAP sees this legislation as a necessary step to combat poverty statewide. The Institute for Research on Poverty reports that more than 1 in 10 Wisconsinites live in poverty, with the elderly representing the fastest growing segment of the population. In 2018, the Department of Public Instruction identified 18,854 homeless children and youth throughout the state. And, while unemployment remains low, housing costs have increased out of proportion to earnings. In fact, more than 306,000 people in 163,900 low-income households pay more than half their income for housing.

Community action agencies and their local partners throughout Wisconsin provide a wide range of programs and services that help individuals and families respond to crisis as well as achieve lasting economic security and self-sufficiency. If passed, this bill would help expand

What are People's Greatest Needs? Couleecap's Community Needs Assessment Asked

Couleecap surveyed low-income households in our four-county service area to learn more about their everyday needs. We know our neighbors are struggling. 2 in 5 people in our area are considered low income and struggle to meet their basic needs. This means that 1 in 3 working people have to rely on food pantries, Badgercare, and other forms of public assistance to get by.

Couleecap takes action to find innovative strategies to combat poverty. We help people in need with housing, food, transportation, and more. As a community action agency, Couleecap also leverages opportunities to influence state and federal policies and collaborates with other public and private entities to advance entire systems of service.



such outcomes. According to WISCAP Executive Director Brad Paul, “Whether we consider the impact of lagging wages, rising housing costs, the opioid crisis, or the downturn in the farm economy, both metro and small-town Wisconsin continue to face significant challenges and stress, even as major economic indicators are largely healthy. Senator Johnson and Representative Subeck are keenly aware of how poverty reveals itself in our communities and have offered an important response.”

1 in 3 

WORKING PEOPLE RELY ON FOOD PANTRIES,
BADGERCARE AND OTHER FORMS OF
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE TO GET BY.

[Link to 2019 Couleecap
Needs Assessment Report](#)





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Flood Response Gets National Attention



The Couleecap response to 2018 flooding was recently spotlighted in the HUD Exchange, a national newsletter published by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Couleecap currently operates several programs to assist flood survivors, including the CDBG Emergency Assistance Program, Project Recovery, and the Long-Term Recovery Case Management program. Couleecap also has a strong history of responding to disasters when our community needs us. The article highlights this experience and effort. You can access the article [HERE](#).

2019 Pop-Up Shop Program Expands Local Partners make Prairie du Chien Program Possible

In 2018, the Pop-Up Shop Program was conducted in three of the counties we serve through our partnership with Viroqua Chamber Main Street, Downtown Main Street La Crosse, Sparta Chamber of Commerce, and other economic development partners. In 2019, all four of our service counties will receive a program thanks to new partners in Crawford County.

The City of Prairie du Chien, specifically the City Administrator and City Planner, and the UW Extension Community Development Educator are now working with Couleecap to plan and implement the program in the winter holiday season. Prairie du Chien Main Street is also a key partner.

Pop-Up Programs are also being sponsored in La Crosse, Viroqua, Hillsboro, Cashton, and Bangor this year.



An information Town Hall was hosted on September 10 at the Event Center in Prairie du Chien.

Have you ever wanted to have your very own storefront?
Now's your chance! CouleeCO'S 2019 Pop-Up Shop program offers the opportunity for entrepreneurs to try their new or existing business in a storefront for two or three months RENT FREE!

For information, call Aaron at (608) 797-5746
or email aaron.reimler@couleecap.org

Be part of something big

Are you an eligible Thrivent Financial member with Choice Dollars® to direct? What are you waiting for?

Charitable grant funding through Thrivent Choice® can make an impact and strengthen our community. By directing Choice Dollars to Couleecap, you can help fight poverty, hunger, and homelessness. One choice can lead to another, and the impact can be profound.

To direct Choice Dollars, go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call 800-847-4836 and say "ThriventChoice" after the prompt. Be part of something big—right in your own community.

