

THE WEST CAP WIRE

NEWS AND NOTES FROM YOUR COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY

BARRON | CHIPPEWA | DUNN | PEPIN | PIERCE | POLK | ST. CROIX
+ Ashland, Washburn & Burnett

SUMMER 2026

COMMUNITY CONNECTION EVENT



West CAP hosted the first annual Community Connection event outside the Carin House Shelter at Stepping Stones in Menomonie, WI. This was an event for unsheltered individuals to come and gather community resources, a free lunch, and support from agencies that help serve our homeless population. This event was made possible by donations gathered from People's State Bank, WESTconsin Credit Union, Culvers, Bauer Built, Kwik Trip, TS Concrete, Red Cedar Dentistry, Chris and Brenda Thalacker, and O'Sullivan's Rainbow Resort.

This event took place on the day following the annual Point In Time count, which took place on the night of July 22nd. The West CAP Homeless Intervention Team, as well as volunteers across the West Central Homeless Coalition, take to the streets two times each year to take a census of unhoused individuals and families in our seven county service area. This event is called Point-in-Time Count, or PIT. This is done throughout the United States on a specific night to capture a snapshot of what homelessness looks like in our neighborhoods. All information gathered is reported to US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and is

utilized to develop the Housing Inventory Chart for the Balance of State Continuum of Care. The individuals who attend the Community Connection event who were unsheltered on the night of the PIT count are included in the census.

[Click here to read more](#)

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON THE STAGELINE ECO APARTMENTS



Construction is in full swing on our newest development - Stageline Eco Apartments. This affordable housing development is in Hudson, just east of the hospital and immediately to the south of I-94. The 38-unit development will include eight units designated for HUD HOME-ARP Qualifying Populations and is scheduled to be placed into service by April of 2027.



Artist rendition of the completed project.

XCEL ENERGY FOUNDATION GRANT TO SUPPORT SKILLS ENHANCEMENT



The Xcel Energy Foundation has generously approved a \$4,500 grant to support the Skills Enhancement program, as part of Adult Education initiatives available at West CAP. We are so grateful for this meaningful contribution, which will be used to help low wage and/or low income working adults increase their income status and improve their quality of life. Grant funds will be used to support the program operations and to provide direct client assistance in the form of tuition support, mileage reimbursements, books, and/or childcare costs associated with adult learners who are participating in the program.

Over the past ten years, our Skills Enhancement program has increased the average hourly wage of successful program participants by more than \$12.46 per hour, totaling an average annual income increase of \$17,222. [Learn more](#) about our Skills Enhancement program on our website.

The Xcel Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization that awards charitable grants to nonprofit organizations and sponsors the volunteer programs of Xcel Energy and its subsidiaries. The majority of Xcel Energy Foundation funding comes from Xcel Energy shareholder dollars.

[Click here for more information](#)

AGENCY UPDATES



Pictured above is a deep freezer at the Boyceville Food Pantry filled with local meat purchase through the Connecting Farms to Families grant program partnership with Hunger Task Force.

Connecting Farms to Families Program

In June, the Hunger Task Force came to visit the Boyceville Food Pantry to interview West CAP's Food Access Manager, Melissa McCarthy and talk about the new *Connecting Farms to Families* grant program. Hunger Task Force is a hunger relief organization based in Milwaukee that received \$2.5M grant through the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), which is a

state wide initiative to connect local nonprofit food assistance programs with local producers to keep pantry shelves stocked with nutritious and locally produced food. Through *Connecting Farms to Families*, West CAP received a \$25,000 grant to purchase local meat and cheeses to stock the Boyceville food pantry. So far, West CAP has purchased a variety of cheese from Ellsworth Dairy Cooperative and Burnett Dairy, local cheese providers, and meat from local providers including Ross' Locker out of Glenwood City and Riek's Black Angus out of Boyceville/Wheeler.

Following their visit, Hunger Task Force published an article on their website about the partnership with West CAP. Follow the link to below to read the article on their website.

[Click Here to Read the Article](#)



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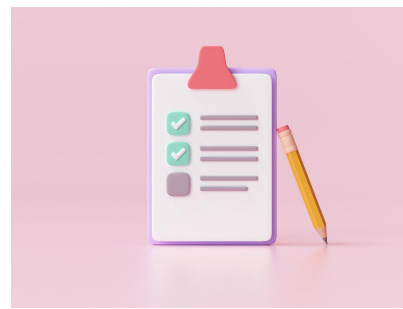


www.westcap.org

GET INVOLVED

LOCAL RESOURCES LISTED BY COUNTY

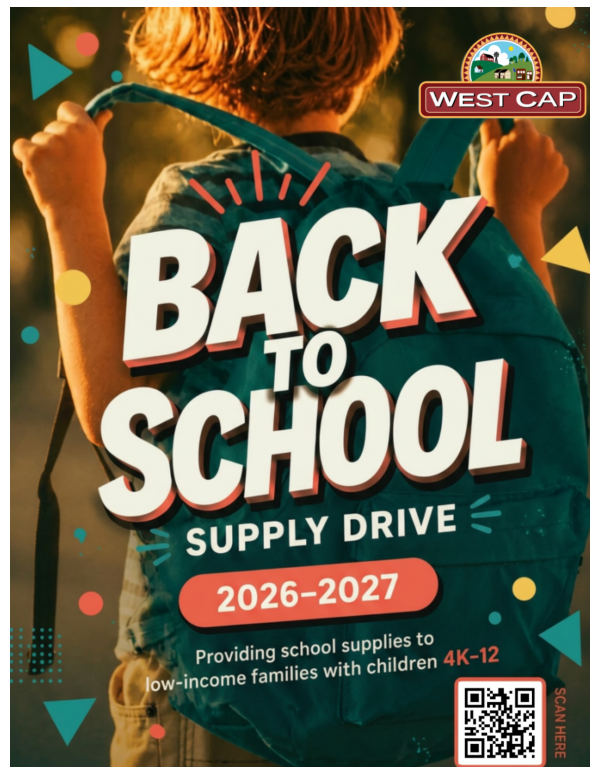
We offer a lot of programs here at West CAP, but there are a TON of great resources in our service area that can help if and when we cannot.



Visit our Resources page and see a listing of local resources we have compiled by county in the areas of food, shelter/housing, mental health/counseling, aging and disability, employment, legal, internet access, and veterans services. The lists are for informational purposes only and do not constitute an endorsement or an approval of any products or services by West CAP.

[Visit our Resources Page](#)

WRAPPING UP OUR 18TH ANNUAL BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE



We are wrapping up our 18th Annual Back-to-School Drive for the Menomonie, Elk Mound, Colfax, Boyceville, and Glenwood City school districts. As schools prepare for the 2026-2027 school year, we recognize how challenging the past few years have been for many families. With your support, we aim to lighten the financial burden of purchasing essential school supplies and help ensure every child starts the year ready to learn.

You can help by doing one of the following:

- Donations of school supplies, crayons, markers, dry-erase markers, headphones, pencils, notebooks, etc. We can arrange pick-up or items can be dropped off at one of our offices.
- Monetary donations to purchase supplies - checks can be made payable to West Cap - Operation Back to School and mailed to PO Box 308, Glenwood City, WI 54013.
- Donations toward the Angel Fund which help pay off lunch balances. Checks can be made payable to West Cap - Angel Fund and mailed to PO Box 308, Glenwood City, WI 54013.

If you have any questions or would like to learn ways that you can help, please contact Kristen at (715) 280-3067 or email westcap@wcap.org.

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American Red Cross

West Central Wisconsin Community Action Agency, Inc. | 525 2nd Street | Glenwood City, WI 54013 US

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