



A publication of Community Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin

Be Counted in 2010 - Census 2010

In order to achieve an accurate assessment of the number and location of the people living within our nation's borders, the U.S. Constitution mandates a census of the population every 10 years.

In March of 2010, every household in Minnesota will receive the 2010 Census Form. With only 10 questions, the 2010 Census questionnaire is one of the shortest questionnaires in history and takes just 10 minutes to complete. **Census Day is April 1, 2010.** Questionnaire responses should represent the household as it exists on this day. Every member of a household will be asked to provide name, phone number, race, ethnicity, home ownership, number of occupants, and other administrative questions. The answers will be later combined to provide a once-in-a-decade snapshot of the nation's population.



Why is the Census Important to our community?

- **Numbers mean power.** The Census count is the basis for determining the number of each state's Congressional representatives. Completing and returning the Census questionnaire will help ensure Minnesotans' interests are fully represented in Congress.
- **Numbers mean money.** For every 100 Minnesotans who fail to answer the Census, the state will lose **\$1 million** in federal funds over the next 10 years. The federal government gives out approximately **\$300 billion** each year based on the Census count.
- **Numbers mean information.** Businesses, governments, schools and non-profit agencies use Census data for planning programs, land use, businesses and services. Census data tells us who our clients are, where our students live and what our greatest needs are.

*To view the 2010 Census form, please visit www.mn2010census.org
For more information, contact CAPSH's Cecilia Howard at 952-697-1395*

Helping People.
Changing Lives.

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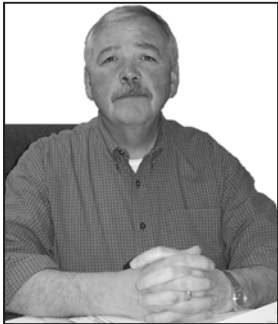
In Need of Car Repair?

If your car is in need of repair, you may qualify for the CAPSH- ARRA Car Repair program. The program is available to all suburban Hennepin county residents whose income does not exceed 200% of the federal poverty line and who need their vehicle to obtain or maintain employment. The program covers approximately \$600 of safety-related or mechanical problems.

To apply, clients must present documentation of annual income, a car title, VALID MN driver's license and proof of current insurance.

For more information, contact Jennifer Romero at 952-933-9639 ext . 238.

Executive Director's Corner



As we near the end of summer and begin to prepare for the bounty and harvests of fall and the deprivations and challenges of winter, and in this renewed atmosphere for change, let us seek out the challenges and opportunities before us that will help us improve the lives and conditions of those around us. In his work, Conduct of Life, Ralph Waldo Emerson noted, "Poverty demoralizes." Do we really need to be motivated by any more succinct and astute observation?

In this newsletter, you will see stories about the array of programs that we will be offering this upcoming fall and winter to help low-income people with their housing and heating needs; to cope with our sometimes frigid weather. More importantly you will see stories about our growing attempts and emerging successes in improving the 45 communities in suburban Hennepin County through our community development outreach and programs. The more locally we can focus our attentions on, and into, these many and varied communities, the better we can develop initiatives and programs to help each community become nurturing, distinct and creative environments, moving forward toward the inevitable changes that tomorrow always brings with it.

In this spirit we would like to challenge all of our communities, however you define yourselves geographically and characteristically, to move away from the television, computer, cell phone and the confines of rooms to move out into that community and begin meeting with your neighbors and friends and like-minded citizens to begin addressing what you wish your community to be and how to get there. Call our Planning and Development department and arrange for our staff to join you, not as guides but as facilitators to meet with your group; let's start building that plan. We will also help you to identify other community partners who will join you in this exciting process of learning and building. Most importantly, do not let anyone tell you that it is impossible to build as a group. It is difficult at times but it is possible, it is done all the time, and it is the only way that more than one person ever has, can or will affect change or advance or build. We look forward to hearing from you and your group soon.

-Richard Zierdt

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Community Events

The following is a list of some of the community events happening in suburban Hennepin County. To have your organization's event included in future issues, call 952-697-1304.

CAREER & COMMUNITY FAIR

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Wednesday September 16th

Mall of America, 60 E Broadway Minneapolis, MN 55425

Hennepin County, City of Minneapolis and Brookdale Center, along with 18 affiliated Employment and Training agencies throughout Hennepin County are sponsoring the fair. The event will present up to 50 employers with current and future job openings.

THE SENIORS EXPO

September 16-17, 2009

Treasure Island Casino 5734 Sturgeon Lake Rd Welch, MN 55089

The Seniors Expo is the Midwest's largest expo serving the senior market. Each year, thousands attend the two-day event to hear valuable seminars and to explore aisle after aisle of exhibits featuring products and services geared specifically to them. For more information please visit <http://www.101expos.com>

YOUTH CONNECT

2:00 to 6:00 p.m. Monday October 5th

St. Mary's GOC, 3450 Irving Ave S. Minneapolis 55408

A one stop shop youth event that connects youth to services including Employment, Education, Health Services, basic Needs, Legal Services & More. For more information contact Laura Prink at 612-377-8800.



HMONG RESOURCE FAIR

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Saturday, October 3rd

Aldrich Arena, 1850 White Bear Ave North. Maplewood MN 55109

The Hmong Resource Fair is committed to providing opportunities for the Hmong Community. The fair will bring together community resources including health, education, employment, housing and more. For more information please visit <http://www.hmongresourcefairmn.org>



FREE Voicemail Services

Twin Cities Community Voice Mail helps low-income Minnesotans without phones by providing them with free voice mail service. This communication link connects them to the community to help them find jobs, homes, health care and other services necessary for self-sufficiency.

For more information call 651-643-0883 or visit www.tccvm.org

CAPSH can help advertise your events!

CAPSH is now highlighting nonprofit events and classes on its website and in the *CAPSH Communicator*. To have your event listed, call or email Alona Posherstnik, 952-697-1304 or aposhernstnik@capsh.org.

CAPSH Allocation of ARRA Funds

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) provides economic stimulus funding. They are administered by the state through the Office of Economic Opportunity.

With the stimulus money, Community Action of Suburban Hennepin (CAPSH) has partnered with two experienced providers, Jewish Vocational Service (JVS) and HIRED, to increase employment services to residents of suburban Hennepin County. CAPSH has also partnered with an experienced emergency service provider, Jewish Family and Children's Service (JFCS), to provide emergency financial assistance.

Employment Services

Jewish Vocational Service (JVS)

Suburban Hennepin Employment Program (SHEP)

Founded in 1910, JVS is an innovative career development agency that strives to benefit its customers and clientele and enhance the community and society. Every year JVS helps more than 1,800 people with diverse backgrounds to attain employment and develop a strong career life. The agency's services include:

- Goal setting and employment plan development
- Job search and job placement assistance
- Coaching in networking and job search
- Connecting to employers and providing information about current labor market conditions.

For more information please visit www.jvsmn.org

Janet Flam 952-417-2112

HIRED- SHARRA Program

The foundation of the SHARRA program is to help clients attain employment through participating in Networking groups lead by Senior Employment counselors. The groups meet on a weekly basis to discuss employment search related issues (i.e. cover letters, resumes, interviewing skills, shared job leads, etc.), receive support from peer group members, and maintain a high level of accountability for the participants in their own job search.

HIRED, founded in 1968, is a leading Twin Cities area provider of job-skills training and employment training.

For more information contact Melissa Erickson
952-697-1329 or Liz Watters 952-697-1328

Emergency Services

Jewish Family and Children's Service (JFCS)

"Inspired by the wisdom and values of our tradition, Jewish Family and Children's Service of Minneapolis supports people of all backgrounds to reach their full potential."

When a financial crisis occurs, JFCS offers a wide array of programs to Suburban Hennepin County residents in need of financial assistance and counseling. Services include:

- Rent
- Utility Repair
- Other emergency needs
- Food
- Car Repair

JFCS counselors have access to a variety of financial programs that will provide the fastest possible relief for each emergency situation depending on each person's needs; Last year JFCS served more than 13,000 people.

For more information visit www.jfcsmpls.org or call 952-546-0616

Energy Assistance: Keeping Families Warm

When heating prices skyrocket or a financial situation changes, many families must worry about their heat being shut off. During the 2008-2009 winter, Community Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin helped approximately 12,083 households pay their energy bills.

The Energy Assistance Program (EAP) gives grants to those who qualify to help them pay their energy bills. The program runs from Oct. 1 to May 31 each year. To receive assistance, participants must meet income guidelines. Both renters and homeowners can apply. While energy assistance can help get families back on track with their energy bills, it only pays for a portion of people's bills. It's important that people continue to pay their energy bills, even after they receive energy assistance.

Through EAP, people can also sign up for help making emergency energy repairs and weatherizing their homes. Weatherization makes houses more energy efficient, helping to save money on future energy bills.

"EAP provides a vital service to low-income families in suburban Hennepin County," said Richard Zierdt, CAPSH Executive Director. "For those living on a fixed income, rising energy prices are a serious problem. Energy Assistance can help those who are struggling to pay their bills or are facing having their heat shut off."

To apply, call 952-930-3541 or visit www.capsh.org.

The Energy Assistance Program is supported by public and private funds. For more information on donating to this program, call 952-697-1304.

Persons in Household	Annual Income	3-Month Income
1	\$21,695	\$5,423
2	\$28,397	\$7,092
3	\$35,046	\$8,761
4	\$41,722	\$10,430
5	\$48,398	\$12,099
6	\$55,073	\$13,768
7	\$56,325	\$14,081
8	\$57,576	\$14,394
For households 8+ please call 952-930-3541		

Tips to Conserve Energy



- ◆ For each degree you turn down the thermostat in the winter, you save up to 5 percent on your heating costs. ◆ Weather-stripping drafty doors and windows can reduce your heating bill by 10 percent ◆ Compact fluorescent light bulbs can save you \$40 to \$50 over their lifetime.
- ◆ TVs, computers, video games and other electronics use electricity even when they are not "on." Plug them into power strips and use the power strip switch to completely cut off electricity when not in use.

LET'S TALK ABOUT....

Hunger:

The physical and mental condition that comes from not eating enough food due to insufficient economic, family or community resources.

- 1 out of 17 Minnesotans rely upon local food shelves to help feed their families.
- Last year, there were 2 million visits and 47 million pounds of food distributed at Minnesota's 300 food shelves.
- There has been a 62 percent increase in food shelf visits since 2000.

IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE:

Emergency Foodshelf Network
763-450-3860

Fare For All
763-450-3880

Nutritious food at a great value

CAPSH
952-933-9639 ext. 260

Food Support program assistance

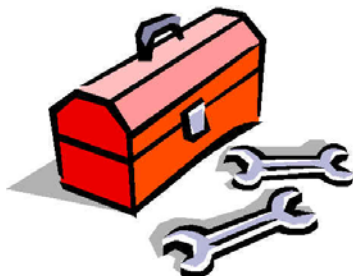
WIC
612-348-6100

Free food & nutrition counseling for women and children

Contact local school for free or reduced lunches

IF YOU CAN HELP:

Please consider making a donation to your local food shelf. Call CAPSH at 952-697-1304 for more information



New Law Postponing Foreclosures

Hennepin County Residents in danger of foreclosure now have another chance to save their homes. With the help of a new Minnesota law, borrowers who find themselves in foreclosure may delay the foreclosure sale for five months. The purpose of the change is to allow borrowers to try and get caught up on their mortgages.

Until now, homeowners in foreclosure only had one option, pay off the entire mortgage within six months or say goodbye to their homes. The new law gives homeowners another option: postpone the sheriff's sale by five months. The new law says homeowners who pay back what they owe during the five months can reinstate their mortgages and cancel a sheriff's sale.

There is one tradeoff for delaying the sale. If you are unable to bring the mortgage current during the five month postponement your redemption period is shortened from six months to five weeks. This means that after the foreclosure sale you only have five weeks to vacate the property or be evicted.

With over 1,500 new foreclosures in July 2009, Hennepin County homeowners now have the potential to save their homes.

For more information about the new law, or for help with your foreclosure situation please call CAPSH's Foreclosure Prevention Hotline at 952-933-1993

Need Emergency Home Repair?

If your home is in need of emergency repairs and you meet program income guidelines, you may be eligible for a home repair grant.

For more information call Bill O'Meara at Community Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin, 952-933-9639 ext. 210.

Community Support

Community Action Partnership changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, and makes Hennepin County a better place to live—but we couldn't do it without the support of the community.

For many, Community Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin is their last stop before foreclosure, homelessness or bankruptcy. For others, it's a place to learn how to buy a home, find a job or start a community group.

Over its 24-year history, residents have come to rely on CAPSH to help them meet their needs and improve their communities. And CAPSH has come to rely on the communities it serves.

Without financial support, CAPSH cannot provide its vital programming. When money is tight, CAPSH staff members have to send clients to other agencies for help and they, too, are often out of funds.

Your support is needed to ensure that CAPSH continues to improve lives and change communities. Please consider donating to Community Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin. Your support makes our communities stronger.

For more information on making a donation, call 952-933-9639.



CAPSH's Dan Park and Cecilia Howard at the 15th Latino Family Resource Fair. Throughout the year, CAPSH staff goes into the community to raise awareness of the agency's services. Those services would not be possible without community support!

Volunteers Needed

2009 Tax Season-



Whether you have tax preparation experience or not, low-income families and individuals need your help. You don't have to prepare taxes to volunteer with CAPSH--

volunteer opportunities reflect many different interests, and types of expertise.

- **Tax Preparer:** Complete federal and state returns using tax software. Training is provided.
- **Tax Site Assistant:** Help manage the flow of activities at the tax site. Greet and register clients and screen for eligibility.

For more information please contact Alona Posherstnik at 952-697-1304 or aposherstnik@capsh.oprg

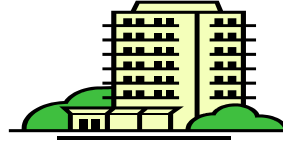


Tenant Training

Renters' Rights and Responsibilities

Learn:

- How to find good, and stable housing
- How to communicate with your landlord
- Laws that apply to renters
- How to approach a new landlord if you have an "Unlawful Detainee"
- Renters; & Landlords' responsibilities



WHEN: October 3rd, 2009
December 5th, 2009

WHERE: 1500 69th Ave. North
Brooklyn Center

TIME: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

TRAINING IS FREE!

Free Child Care & Lunch Provided

Upon Completion participants will receive
\$25 Gift Certificate
Limited Space Available.

CALL 763-561-2481 to reserve a place for this training.
For any questions contact Pat Longs @ 952-697-1320

Community Action Partnership *of Suburban Hennepin*

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Community Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin is a private non-profit organization serving the residents of suburban Hennepin County.