



Community Action of Minneapolis

"Dedicated to improving people's lives."

Fuel Funds Extravaganza

How It's Done In Minnesota



2011 NEAUAC Conference
Monday, June 27, 2011
2:00 pm - 3:15 pm
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Anthony Spears
Chief Financial Officer
Community Action of Minneapolis



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Presented By

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Reach Out For Warmth (ROFW)

The Reach Out For Warmth (ROFW) Fuel Fund was established by Minnesota Statutes 216C.265, and requires the Department of Commerce (DOC) Commissioner to institute a statewide fuel fund account. This statute also created the Emergency Energy Assistance Advisory Council, with members appointed by the Commissioner. The mission of the Council is to advise the Commissioner on ROFW Fuel Fund policy and coordinate with EAP (Energy Assistance Program) for the benefit of low-income households.

Reach Out For Warmth (ROFW)

Eligibility Criteria

- Income at or below 60% of the state median income for the past three complete months.
- Fuel or energy bill shut-off notice
- Past-due bill.
- Used Primary Heat, less than 20% of fuel remaining in tank, on a cash basis with vendor.
- Has current bill, one household member age 60 or older, inability to pay.
- Has a heating system crisis consistent with the ERR requirements.

Reach Out For Warmth (ROFW)

Income Guidelines

Number in Household	60% of State Median Income for 3 months
1	\$6,786
2	\$8,874
3	\$10,962
4	\$13,050
5	\$15,138
6	\$17,226
7	\$17,617
8	\$18,009
9	\$18,400
10	\$18,792

Reach Out For Warmth (ROFW)

Benefits

ROFW benefits include crisis payments for the primary fuel or electricity. *(Any combination of State-matching and local ROFW funds cannot exceed maximum benefits as follows):*

- \$500 for households paying their own heat
- \$150 for households paying for heat included in rent
- \$100 for subsidized households with heat included in rent but who pay for electricity

ROFW can repair heating systems that are faulty or do not work. The maximum ROFW ERR benefit is \$500.

Households may receive both ROFW crisis and ROFW ERR. All ROFW payments are made directly to the vendor.

Reach Out For Warmth (ROFW)

Matching Funds

ROFW operates with local, state and federal money. The federal money is from the State's Energy Assistance Program (EAP) allocation, and is only available to agencies that receive state or local ROFW funds.

Local Funds are funds raised locally or donated by anyone except the State.

Reach Out For Warmth (ROFW) Matching Funds with CA of Minneapolis

The Pohlad Foundation



Program Year 2009 – 2010

Pohlad Foundation State Wide

\$1,000,000.00

Minnesota State Matches 2.1 State Wide

\$2,000,000.00

Pohlad Foundation Disbursements to
CA of Minneapolis

\$90,000.00

Reach Out For Warmth (ROFW)

Reporting and Accounting

- **Maximizing Your Database**
 - Current Customers
 - Denied Households
- **Tracking Reports**
 - All Funds
 - Benefit Amounts
 - Benefit Types



Reach Out For Warmth (ROFW)

Matching Funds Outcomes

The Pohlad Foundation Outcome Report

Pohlad Foundation Facilitated

- Prevent 185 shut-offs
- Reconnected 141 households

Matching Minnesota State funds helped facilitate serving

- 326 households
- 995 people