



# Case Study

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## Minnesota Coordination of WAP and Co-Op Investments

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### Background

United Community Action Partnership of Minnesota is collaborating with Prairie Five Community Action Agency and Southwestern Minnesota Opportunity Council to complete weatherization work in 18 counties in southwest Minnesota. United CAP is a result of the merger of Heartland Community Action and Western Community Action, the agency has a nine county service area and a number of partnerships.

### Leveraged Partnership

While the state of Minnesota has a requirement for utilities to invest in energy conservation, many of the small co-ops are exempt. Currently, United CAP is working with a number of co-ops with partnerships ranging from \$5,000-\$15,000 to pair up this energy efficiency money with one-on-one energy counseling for households referred through LIHEAP.

### Program Design

Through this engagement, one staff leads the energy counseling while the other is able to install measures with co-op dollars and perform a pre-audit to determine eligibility for DOE WAP, use of the Small Cities Development Grant Program for rehab and repairs, a deferred loan program, or other utility or LIHEAP Assurance 16 programs. This program targets households mainly during June, July, and August when programming for heating assistance has slowed down.

*Interview with Weatherization Leveraged Partnerships Project (Spring 2018)*

*The goal of the Weatherization Leveraged Partnerships Project is to offer training and assistance to WAP subgrantees and their Associations in designing private partnerships and programs that leverage the WAP.*

<https://communityactionpartnership.com/energy-partnerships/>