

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

## ECONOMIC SUPPORT SERVICES

Economic Support provides a variety of services to families and individuals. Programs include Wisconsin Works (W-2), Child Care Subsidy, Medicaid, FoodShare, and Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP). The Economic Support staff provides assistance to children, families, able-bodied adults, elderly, and disabled.

### MEDICAID OR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

Medicaid is available to assist participants with the cost of health care. Medicaid is available to a variety of populations including elderly, blind & disabled and children and families.

### NORTHERN INCOME MAINTENANCE (IM) CONSORTIUM (NIMC)

\* Expenditures based on recipient county of residence  
Individuals and cases may be counted in more than one county's tally due to factors including but not limited to moves.

Member County	2023 MA Cases	Annual Amount
Ashland	6,648	\$ 47,285,845
Bayfield	4,823	\$ 33,357,024
Florence	1,265	\$ 7,643,008
Forest	3,569	\$ 22,153,661
Iron	2,053	\$ 16,102,452
Lincoln	7,808	\$ 61,178,938
Price	4,550	\$ 33,835,224
Rusk	5,570	\$ 40,541,826
Sawyer	6,593	\$ 46,797,449
Taylor	5,523	\$ 33,004,044
Vilas	7,094	\$ 37,360,541
Wood	24,024	\$174,729,984
<b>NIMC TOTAL</b>	<b>79,520</b>	<b>\$553,989,996</b>

### WISCONSIN WORKS (W-2)

W-2 is a time-limited program that provides temporary cash assistance and case management services to low-income parents and pregnant women. W-2 is a work program for adults willing to engage in work activities.

Placement	No. of cases served in 2023
<b>W-2 Payment Cases</b>	<b>7</b>

Payments through the State W-2 System

<b>W-2 Benefit</b>	<b>\$ 13,335</b>
<b>W-2 Emergency</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>
<b>Emergency Assistance Applications</b>	<b>0</b>

### FOODSHARE

FoodShare assists low-income families and individuals to buy food. FoodShare Wisconsin was created to help stop hunger and to improve nutrition and health. The majority of individuals served by FoodShare are the elderly, disabled or children. A total of **\$1,532,249** in FoodShare was issued to Iron County families in 2023.



Average Number of Cases/Month	513
Average Number of Recipients/Month	817
Average Benefits/Household/Mo	\$ 394
<b>Total Annual Food Share Benefits</b>	<b>\$ 1,532,249</b>



## CHILD CARE

Iron County Human Services contracts with Northwest Connection Family Resources to certify and monitor in-home family childcare providers.

WI Child Care Subsidy applications are processed by Child Care Workers in the Northern Income Maintenance Consortium (NIMC). This subsidy provides financial assistance for families to aid in paying for the costs of child day care.

IRON COUNTY - 2023	
Average Monthly Families Served	3
Average Monthly Children Served	3
Average Monthly Benefit	\$ 1,943
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>\$ 23,315</b>



## NORTHERN CHILDCARE CONSORTIUM

2023 Childcare Expenditures\*

Member Name	County	Amount
Ashland		\$ 190,138
Bayfield		\$ 88,244
Florence		\$ 12,897
Forest		\$ 24,259
Iron		\$ 23,315
Lincoln		\$ 197,082
Price		\$ 63,706
Rusk		\$ 175,410
Sawyer		\$ 161,328
Taylor		\$ 52,008
Vilas		\$ 113,862
Wood		\$1,069,980
<b>NIMC TOTAL</b>		<b>\$2,172,229</b>

\* Expenditures based on recipient county of residence

## ENERGY ASSISTANCE

Energy Assistance (EA) provides a one-time payment during the heating season (October – May) to qualified applicants. Eligibility and benefit level are based on family size, income and fuel usage, to assist with the cost of home heating. It can also provide crisis assistance, furnace repair and replacement to homeowners.



<b>Regular Energy Assistance Applications</b>	<b>536</b>
<b>Number of Households paid</b>	<b>480</b>
<b>Total Amount Paid</b>	<b>\$ 460,705</b>
<b>Average Payment</b>	<b>\$ 960</b>
<b>Crisis Energy Assistance Households Paid</b>	<b>419</b>
<b>Total Crisis Assistance Payments</b>	<b>\$ 291,920</b>
<b>HVAC Number of Households Paid</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Total Furnace Repair/Replacements</b>	<b>\$ 81,254</b>



## ADULT & BEAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

### MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE USE SERVICES

In 2023, clients were seen via Zoom, via phone and in person. If a client did not have the ability/equipment to connect to a Zoom session, the client was able to come in and utilize a computer in a private office. This allowed clients to stay safe, feel comfortable and still have access to our services.



We continue to offer our clients the option of Zoom, phone or face-to-face services. Staff continued to work diligently to assist clients who prefer electronic access to services.



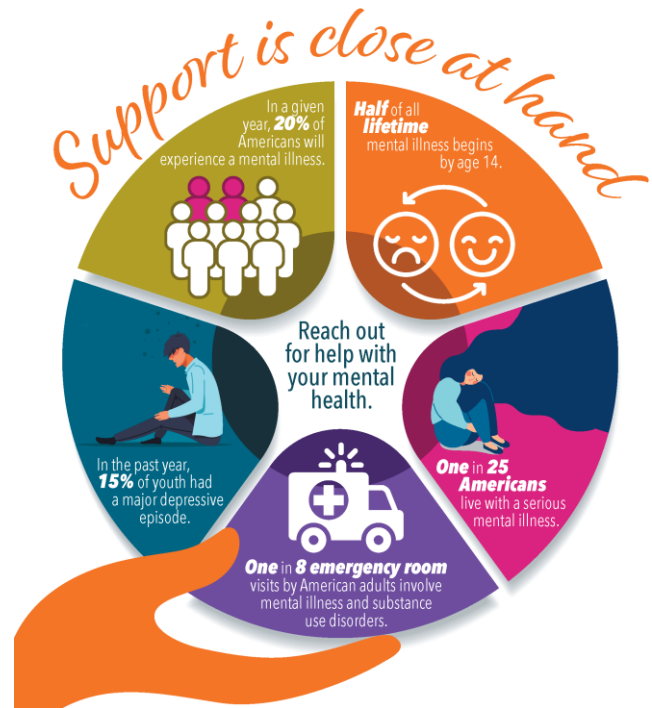
Approximately 138 adults and 17 youth received mental health services, including 9 adults and 3 children in inpatient care. Approximately 67 consumers received outpatient counseling services through the Iron County Human Services Mental Health Clinic.

Approximately 47 consumers received substance use services. These services included 15 in outpatient services, 22 OWI assessments, 8 consumers in the

Intoxicated Driver Outpatient Program and 2 in youth prevention.

Adult services staff assisted with 1 voluntary placement. There were 11 Emergency Detentions for consumers with significant mental health concerns, substance use or a combination of concerns under Chapter 51. Through Court Ordered Services, the following number of individuals received inpatient services:

FACILITY	NUMBER OF ADULTS
Norwood	1
St. Mary's – Rhinelander	4
Koinonia	1
Winnebago Mental Health Inst.	4
Willow Creek	1



The children services staff completed 4 Emergency Detentions for children with significant mental health concerns, substance use or a combination of concerns under Chapter 51.

FACILITY	NUMBER OF YOUTH
Willow Creek	1
Winnebago Mental Health Inst.	3



## TELEHEALTH

Telehealth or Telepsychiatry is the use of videoconferencing to connect local patients with a psychiatrist from a distant site. Children and adults received psychiatric services from Dr. Stephanie Burrows in Holly Hill, Florida two days per month. While Dr. Burrows was in Florida, she saw and talked to patients that were either seated in the Human Services Department or also met via Zoom with patients in their homes in 2023. In addition, Dr. Burrows provided staffing and case consultation for difficult cases. Dr. Burrows services are billable through Wisconsin Medicaid and most private insurances.

**3 children, 46 adults, 5 CCS clients and 22 CSP clients received psychiatric telehealth services in 2023.**

All equipment and technology are secure and meet the requirements of HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act).



## COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY SERVICES (CCS)

Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) is a program that helps individuals of all ages live their best life by providing supports that address their unique needs related to mental health and substance use. CCS is intended to assist individuals who are in need of care outside of inpatient settings, but who may have ongoing needs that, if left unaddressed, could result in hospitalizations during times of crisis. **Iron County CCS served 7 consumers in 2023.**

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAM (CSP)

Community Support Programs (CSP) are for adults living with a serious and persistent mental illness. CSPs provide coordinated professional care and treatment in the community that includes a broad range of services to meet an individual's unique personal needs, reduce symptoms, and promote recovery. CSPs are designed to be capable of providing services that can be tailored to the individual's needs at any given time, ranging from minimal to intensive, or a level that might otherwise require care in a hospital setting. **Iron County CSP served 24 consumers in 2023.**

# Iron County Children & Family Unit

## MISSION

---

The mission of the Iron County Children & Family Unit is to assure the welfare and safety of children and youth in Iron County and to promote accountability and responsibility for youth offenders.

## GENERAL PURPOSE

---

The general purpose of Children & Family programs is to administer state and federally mandated child protective service and youth justice programs and advocate & promote stability for children and youth.

## PROGRAMS

---

Child Protective Services (CPS)

Child Welfare

Juvenile Court Intake

Mentoring Program

Foster Care Program

Kinship Care Program

Coordinated Services Team (CST)

Youth Justice & Truancy Prevention Program

Target Specific Mentoring



### **Child Protective Services (CPS)**

Child Protective Services (CPS) agency is required by Wisconsin state law to investigate reports of suspected child abuse and neglect. The purpose is to protect children, to prevent further abuse and neglect, and to preserve families whenever possible. The agency's job is to keep children safe in their own homes or place them in out-of-home care when they cannot safely stay with their parents. Anyone can report suspected child abuse or neglect to the local County Department, or to law enforcement. The CPS social worker will investigate the report and, where needed, work with the family to provide needed services.

### **Child Welfare (CW)**

Child Welfare (CW) provides support and services to families or links the family with external community services to increase the likelihood that the child will remain in the home without further agency intervention. Examples of child welfare cases can include but are not limited to: children with disabilities and their families who are unable to meet their treatment needs without agency assistance; and youth with challenging behaviors or mental health conditions and their families are unable to meet their treatment needs without agency assistance.

### **Youth Justice (YJ)**

Iron County Human Services works to reduce delinquent behavior and promote safety for victims and the community, promote a youth justice system that balances protection of the community, youth accountability, and competency building for responsible and productive community living.

### **Mentoring**

The Iron County Mentoring Program is designed to match a youth with an adult to provide a positive role model, to assist youth in developing social and communication skills and to empower youth in their own development. The mentors provide a positive and trusting relationship with the youth to provide support, guidance, consistency, and stability. The mentor will give individual attention to the youth while exposing the youth to new and positive experiences to enhance self-esteem, improve social skills, and encourage positive problem-solving skills.

### **Foster Care**

Through the Foster Care program, Iron County families are licensed to provide a safe environment for children who are placed out of their home. These placements are designed to be temporary if and until the child can safely return to their home. Foster parents provide continuing 24-hour care for these children, and since it can be difficult, supports are provided to the foster families. Every child has an ongoing caseworker that supports the foster parents as well as the foster child.

To become foster parents, there is a multi-step application process, as well as home visits conducted by the Foster Care Coordinator. Foster parents also need to provide evidence of a physical health examination, homeowners/renter's insurance, as well as background checks. The foster home also needs to be compliant with the Wisconsin Building Code. There is a 6-hour training online that needs to be completed within six months of being licensed. Afterwards, there is also a 30 hour in-class training program that needs to be completed within the first two years from being licensed. These trainings are always in the evenings or on Saturdays, so they coordinate with typical work/school schedules.

**Iron County has 3 licensed foster homes.**

### **Kinship Care**

The Kinship Care program allows for a monthly payment for adults caring for their relative children. To be eligible for the Kinship Care program, the child must be residing with the applicant (without the parent in the same home), the applicant must be a relative or like kin to the child, the basic needs of the child can be better met with the relative than with the parent, the placement is in the best interests of the child and the child currently or might meet the requirements to be in need of protection or services if the child were to remain with his or her parents. The relative caregiver must also complete a background check as well as a Kinship Care application provided by Iron County Department of Human Services. The Kinship Care Coordinator can also assist the applicant with services to assist in caring for their relative child.

### Coordinated Services Teams (CST) Initiatives

CST Initiatives develop a comprehensive, individualized system of care for children with complex behavioral health needs. The CST itself is a group that includes family members, service providers, and others that work to design and carry out a coordinated services plan for the child. This model of care is often referred to as wraparound. The result is a plan of care that addresses the needs of the child and family with community-based supports, which allows the child to live in their home and community and realize their hopes and dreams.

### Youth Justice and Truancy Prevention Program

The Youth Justice and Truancy Prevention (YJTP) Program is geared towards youth ages 10-17. The Truancy Prevention program is for youth that are struggling with school attendances. The program collaborates with the youth, school, and family to identify barriers and causes of truancy. The program assesses motivation for change and school engagement and works with the youth through the Phoenix Truancy Prevention Curriculum. The program aids in improving school attendance, engagement, and grades.

The Youth Justice Prevention Program is for youth that are struggling with mild delinquent behaviors to get back on the right track, before being brought to court or introduced to the justice system. The Youth Justice Prevention Program works through appropriate curriculums, educates the youth on behavior(s) and the possible consequences of it and assists the youth to develop the necessary skills needed to be successful. The Youth Justice Prevention Program works with the youth and the family to work through barriers that may be contributing to these struggles, provide resources that may help, and refer the youth and/or family to other programs that may be needed (substance use, mental health, mentoring, etc.).

### Target Specific Mentoring

Target Specific Mentoring is geared towards youth ages 10-17. The program focuses on specific risk factors of the youth and is a one-on-one program. The Target Specific Mentoring Program addresses self-esteem, healthy relationships, bullying, stress-management, and anger. The program works with youth through appropriate curriculums, provides a positive and trusting relationship with the youth, aids the youth in developing the skills needed to successfully navigate their stressors and risk factors.



A word cloud graphic with "Foster care" as the largest, central text. Other words include "child", "family", "happiness", "placement", "court case worker plan", "support healing trama", "home hope", "loved", and "safe". Several red hearts are scattered throughout the text.

<u>Services Provided 1/1/2023 – 12/31/2023</u>	<u>Number Served</u>
<b>Child Abuse &amp; Neglect</b>	<b>53 Reports 20 Investigations</b>
<b>Children in Need of Protection &amp; Services (CHIPS) Petitions filed</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Protective Plans Implemented (to prevent removal)</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Youth Emergency Detained Chapter 51</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Child Welfare</b>	<b>12 Reports – all screened in for services</b>
<b>Subsidized Guardianship</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>CPS Independent Investigations requested from other counties in Wisconsin</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Coordinated Services Team (CST)</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Mentoring/Prevention Programs</b>	<b>10 Referrals</b>
<b>Youth Justice</b> Juvenile Court Intake Services, Court Disposition, Intensive Supervision Program, Electronic Monitoring	<b>23 Referrals 20 Individual Youth</b>
<b>Juvenile In Need of Protection or Services (JIPS) Petitions Filed</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Deferred Prosecution Agreement (DPA)</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Delinquency Petitions Filed</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Secure Detention</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>The Interstate Compact for Juveniles (ICJ)</b> An agreement between states that has the force of federal law. The ICJ provides for the cooperative supervision of juveniles on probation and parole who move across state lines.	<b>0</b>
<b>The Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children (ICPC)</b> The Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) is a law that ensures children moving from state to state under court jurisdiction have the same rights and protections as children in Wisconsin. The ICPC establishes uniform legal and administrative procedures governing the interstate placement of children.	<b>0</b>



## Trends

### CPS Reports

Year	Number of Referrals Received	Screened In	Screened Out	Physical Abuse	Neglect	Sexual Abuse	Other
2023	53	20	33	15	28	11	0
2022	45	16	29	11	33	4	1
2021	66	30	36	15	47	5	1
2020	64	36	28	16	45	9	1
2019	69	44	25	19	45	4	4

Because a CPS Report can have multiple alleged maltreatment allegations, the sum may exceed the total number of unique CPS reports.

### Removals

Year	Number of Removals
2023	10
2022	1
2021	9
2020	8
2019	16

### Youth Justice

Year	Number of Referrals Received
2023	23
2022	11
2021	10
2020	4
2019	13

### Child Welfare

Year	Number of Referrals Received
2023	12
2022	5
2021	4
2020	12
2019	13

## Out-of-Home Care Breakdown

<b>Children Removed from Their Home</b>	9
<b>Children Reunified Home/Aged out of Programming</b>	4
<b>Children Placed into Guardianship</b>	0
<b>Total Secure Detention</b>	0
<b>Total Unlicensed Relative</b>	1
<b>Total Kinship Care</b>	1
<b>Total Residential Center</b>	2
<b>Total Group Home</b>	0
<b>Total Treatment Level Foster Care</b>	8
<b>Total Local Foster Care</b>	6
<b>Total Subsidized Guardianship</b>	1
<b>Cases Transferred to the State for Adoption</b>	0

\*Some children fall into multiple categories

Total Children in Out-of-Home Care as of 1/1/2023: 10

Total Children in Out-of-Home Care as of 12/31/2023: 15

### Approximate Cost of Placements per Month

<b>Secure Detention</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>
<b>Un-Licensed Relative</b>	\$0
<b>Kinship Care</b>	\$300
<b>Residential Care Center</b>	\$13,300 – 33,300
<b>Group Home</b>	\$9,000 – 10,500
<b>Treatment Foster Care <u>plus</u> administrative rate</b>	\$700 - 3,000
<b>Local Foster Care</b>	\$420 - 2,000
<b>Subsidized Guardianship</b>	\$394 - 2,000

## **Outreach & Collaborations**

The Children's Unit participated in various events throughout the year, including the KISS Dance, the Open House, and Health Fair at the Hurley K-12 School. We also hosted an information and resource table at two suicide prevention events in Ironwood and Mercer.

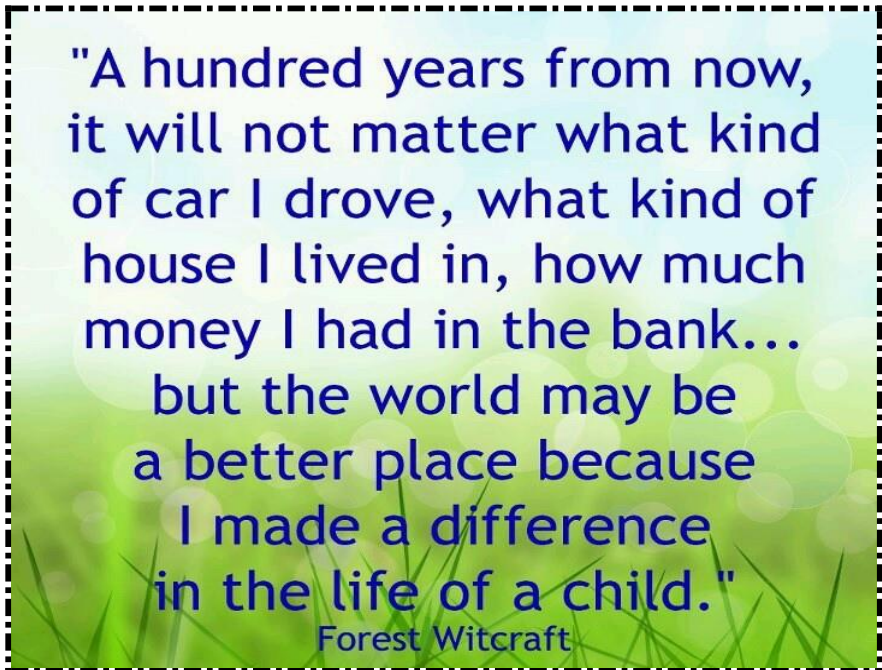
The "Squeaky Clean" event was able to take place with donations of toiletry items that were distributed to children and families in need in an effort to begin the school year "Squeaky Clean".

Project Prom was held for the first time. This event offered free prom apparel to students who may not be able to afford to buy items new. It was successful and we received donations of 173 dresses, 40 items of menswear, 25 pairs of shoes, 16 bags, and jewelry/perfume. We plan to hold this event every other year. Over 60 kids were able to get items to help make their prom experience one to remember.

We also held a Pi Day fundraiser for the mentoring program in March 2023. We were able to raise approximately \$250 toward the program to help kids in the community.

Mandated reporter trainings were held in the community, including to the Hurley K-12 School, Iron County Sheriff's Office Jail Staff, and the Iron County Health Department. This training is a reminder of the types of information that should be reported to the Department that may indicate that a child is being abused or neglected.

Assistance was provided to Sawyer County Human Services for Kinship Care services and to Florence County Human Services to help train their new staff. Our Department is fortunate to be fully staffed and able to provide assistance to other counties who are struggling with their staffing.



"A hundred years from now,  
it will not matter what kind  
of car I drove, what kind of  
house I lived in, how much  
money I had in the bank...  
but the world may be  
a better place because  
I made a difference  
in the life of a child."

Forest Witcraft

## **Child Abuse Awareness Prevention Month**

April is recognized as Child Abuse Prevention Awareness month. We held our annual coloring/poster contest and with the help of Human Services Staff and local law enforcement, served root beer floats to all students and staff at Hurley and Mercer K-12 Schools, and Northwoods Christian Academy. Donations were made by several individuals, businesses and organizations and fantastic prizes were awarded to top finishers at each school. The coloring contest is judged by the District Attorney, the Iron County Sheriff and the Chief of Hurley Police.

**The following individuals, businesses, and organizations provided prizes for the coloring/poster contest and made it a huge success.**

*thank you*

- About the Hair
- Ann Marie Batiste
- Attorney, Dan Johns
- Big Moose Home Inspections
- Broadway Automotive
- Cally Bucknell
- City of Hurley Public Works Department
- Contrast Coffee
- Dan & Karen Soine
- Days Inn – Hurley
- Hurley Police Department
- Iron County Extension Office
- Iron County Health Department
- Iron County Professional Police Association
- Iron County Sheriff’s Office
- Ironwood Area Business & Professional Women’s Club
- Kathy Bates
- Kathy Peterson
- Kwik Trip
- Lauren and Jan Vinopal
- Mercedes Anderson
- Michigan State Police – Wakefield Post
- Midland – Hurley
- Nora’s Red-Carpet Lounge
- North Star Beverage
- Northwinds Food Co-Op
- Pat’s Foods
- Sharon’s Coffee Company
- Subway (Ironwood)
- Suffolk Street Eatery
- Taco Dan
- Teresa Way
- Twin City Dairy
- Waste Management

Outreach is an important part of what we do. Human Services is generally seen in a negative light - one that only exists to disrupt families. However, as a Department, we are working hard to negate those assumptions by focusing on positive projects that we can do to provide opportunities to youth and families in the community. Not only do we want to spread awareness of the valuable programs we offer, we want to ensure that all youth and families feel supported and respected.

Unfortunately, not all families are able to provide the "extras" for their children to feel included with their peers. In 2023, we held our first biannual Project Prom where prom attire was donated from community members and given to youth for free who may not otherwise be able to participate in this milestone due to their modest economic backgrounds. This event helped many children experience prom and hold onto those lifelong memories.

We hold an annual Squeaky-Clean drive to gather personal care items for kids and families who may not be able to afford these products, allowing them to improve their self-esteem and hygiene.

Fundraising efforts to support our Mentoring Program go toward providing kids in the community opportunities to engage in activities they might not have the luxury of doing, including bowling, swimming, participating in art activities, etc. allowing them to explore their interests. These projects help children experience normalcy and allow them to "just be a kid", regardless of their home life. By focusing resources on children and families who are perhaps struggling with poverty, mental health challenges, addiction, domestic violence, etc., we are improving our neighborhoods and broader society.



Pi Day Mentoring Fundraiser



**Mercer Root Beer Floats**



**Hurley Root Beer Floats**



**Hurley Health Fair**



## CHILDREN’S LONG-TERM SUPPORT (CLTS) & CHILDREN’S COMMUNITY OPTIONS PROGRAM (CCOP)

The mission of this section is to assure that children with disabilities in need of long-term support receive services in a manner that reflects the child and family choices and assures their health and safety in the community. The CLTS Program provides services to some children until age 22. To be eligible, a child must have a developmental or physical disability, or have a severe emotional disturbance. The services provided include respite care, daily living skills training, adaptive equipment, specialized counseling and case management services through an agency social worker. Children must meet functional and financial eligibility requirements. **In 2023, nine children were served totaling \$129,000 in CLTS waiver funds. Five children were also served under the Children’s COP program totaling \$2,192.**

Funding	Annual Amount	Number of Consumers	Number on Wait List
<b>Children’s COP Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,192</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>
CLTS – Support & Service Coordination	\$ 31,773		
CLTS – Adaptive Aids/Supplies/Education	\$ 8,170		
CLTS – Health & Wellness	\$ 658		
CLTS – Wellness Activity Therapy	\$ 4,284		
CLTS – Respite	\$ 80,277		
CLTS – Conferences / Education	\$ 3,888		
<b>CLTS Total</b>	<b>\$ 127,984</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>



## Adult Unit

### AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER (ADRC)

The Aging and Disability Resource of the North (ADRC-N) is the first place to go to get accurate, unbiased information on all aspects of life related to aging or living with a disability. ADRC-N is a friendly, welcoming place where anyone - individuals, concerned families or friends, or professionals working with issues related to aging or disabilities - can go for information tailored to their situation. The ADRC-N provides information on a broad range of programs and services, helps people understand the various long-term care options available to them, helps people apply for programs and benefits, and serves as the access point for publicly funded long-term care. These services are provided at each of the ADRC-N Branch Offices located in Ashland, Bayfield, Iron, Price and Sawyer counties. Services are provided via telephone, through a home visit or office visit, whichever is more convenient for the individual seeking assistance.

In 2023, the ADRC-N Iron County Branch Office had **797** contacts/activities. Some clients had more than one contact.

<b>Information and Assistance</b>	<b>627</b>	<b>Behavioral Mental Health Screens</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Options Counseling</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>Complaints</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Follow Up</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>Short Term Service Coordination</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Administered LTCFS</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>Memory Screens</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Community Partners</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Enrollment Counseling</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Assisted with MA Application</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>Disenrollment Counseling</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Referral To ADRC</b>	<b>4</b>		

The ADRC-N Iron County Branch served 129 persons with a developmental disability, 791 persons who were elderly, 362 persons with a physical disability, 54 persons with a mental health disability, 75 persons with Alzheimer's or other dementia, 5 persons with substance use issues and 23 persons with an unknown diagnosis.







**4<sup>th</sup> Annual “Across the Border” Senior Information and Awareness Walk**



## AGING AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Under the Older American's Act, Iron County provides a wide array of Aging Services that include senior nutrition, home delivered meals, family caregiver support program, volunteer driver and specialized transportation services for elderly and disabled citizens. The mission of all aging programs is to advocate, educate and help combat common senior mental health issues such as isolation, depression, and loneliness.

In 2023, Aging staff worked diligently to expand the senior nutrition program, keep seniors informed of senior services in Iron County and continued efforts to outreach to seniors about the importance of staying active and social in the community.

In 2023, Iron County Transportation under the Aging & Disability Resource Center provided 1,845 trips to Iron County residents to medical facilities, pharmacy, grocery stores, banks, and other social and recreational programs. These transportation services are available to all seniors, those with disabilities and the general public. Iron County's rural backdrop and pose mobility challenges for seniors and disabled in Iron County. With the use of 85.21 grant funds, the ADRC has been working diligently to provide more opportunities to the aging and disabled target groups to ensure their medical, nutritional and social needs are met.

In 2023, Iron County was awarded \$79,889 in 85.21 funds (Specialized Transportation Assistance Program). The county match was \$15,977, making the total funds available for the 85.21 program \$95,866. The funds were used for transportation services for Aging Services (\$45,933), Highline Corporation (\$45,933), and the volunteer driver program (\$4,000). As of 12/31/23, the trust fund balance was \$8,417. Trust fund money was used towards the maintenance and repairs for both Aging and Highline vehicles. The transportation and Finance Committees also approved to use up to \$20,000 AARPA funds in the event that Aging or Highline went over their 85.21 allocations. Policies and Procedures were reviewed and continue to be updated for the Volunteer Driver Program. Ridership has been increasing for both Aging and the Volunteer Driver programs.

In 2023, Iron County Human Services was responsible for all reporting and oversight for the 85.21 and 53.10 programs.

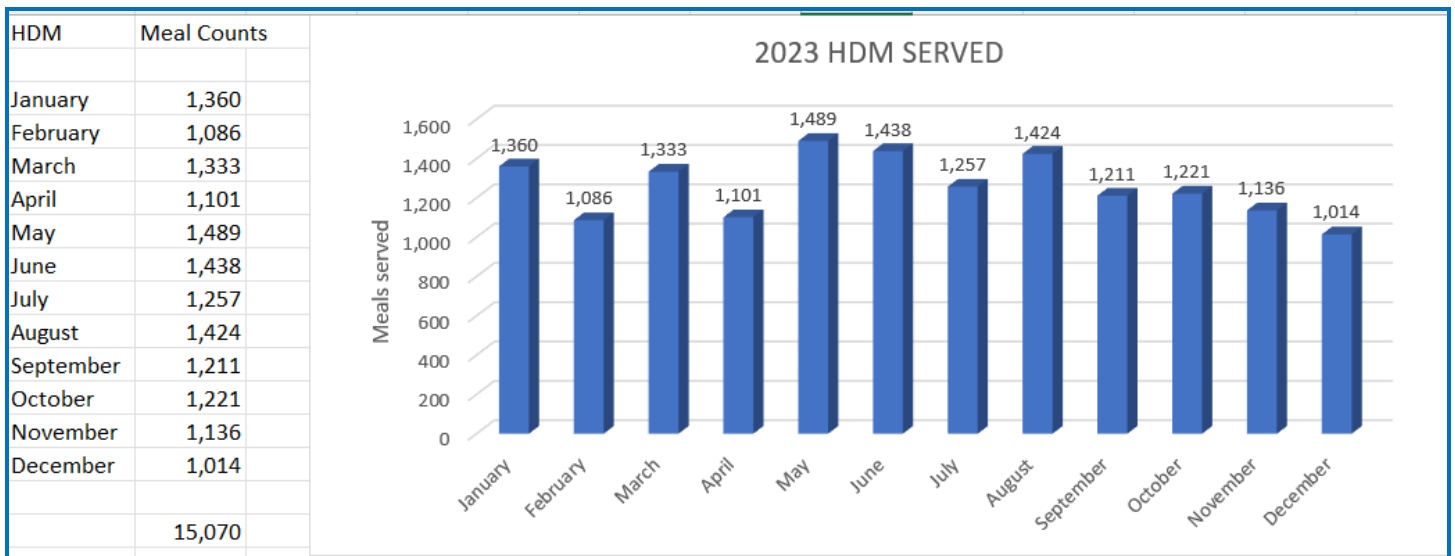
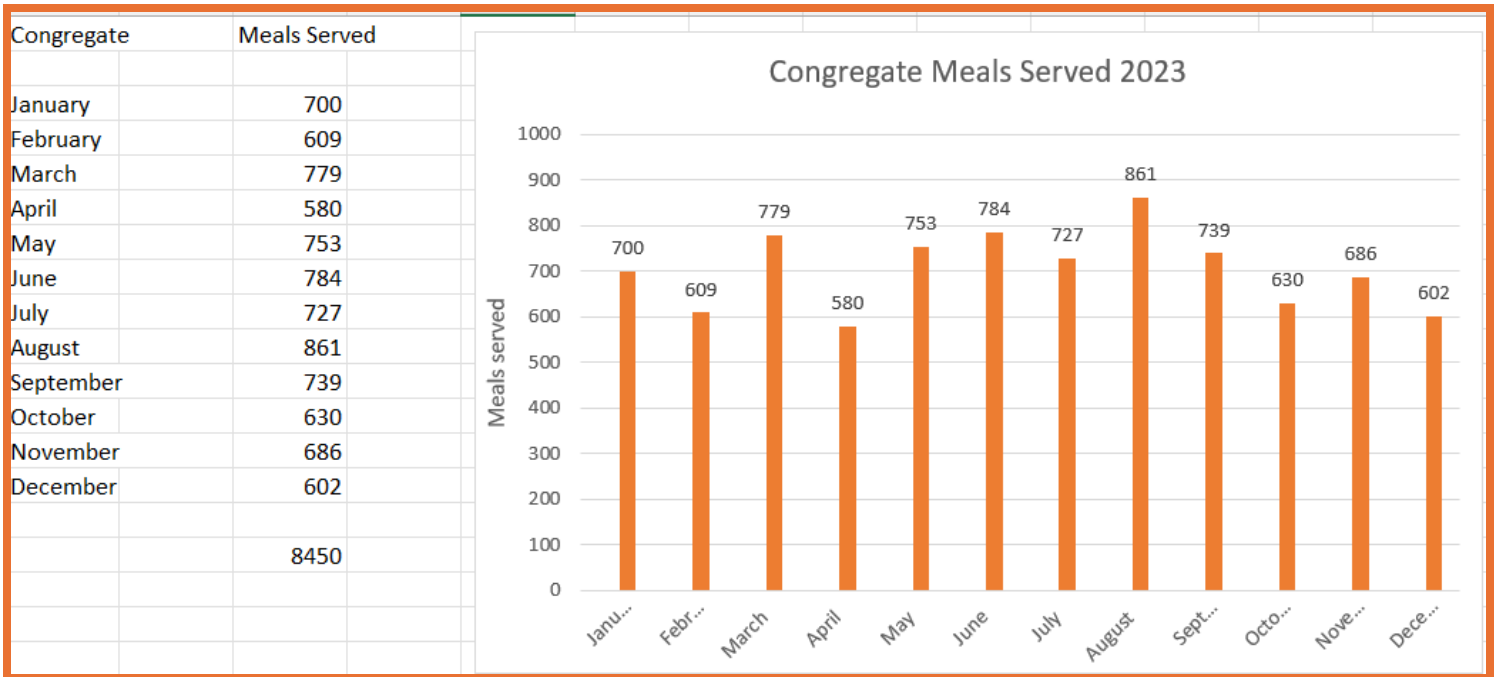
<b>85.21 FUND UTILIZATION</b>	
Iron County Aging	\$ 43,933
Highline	\$ 45,933
Volunteer Driver	\$ 4,000

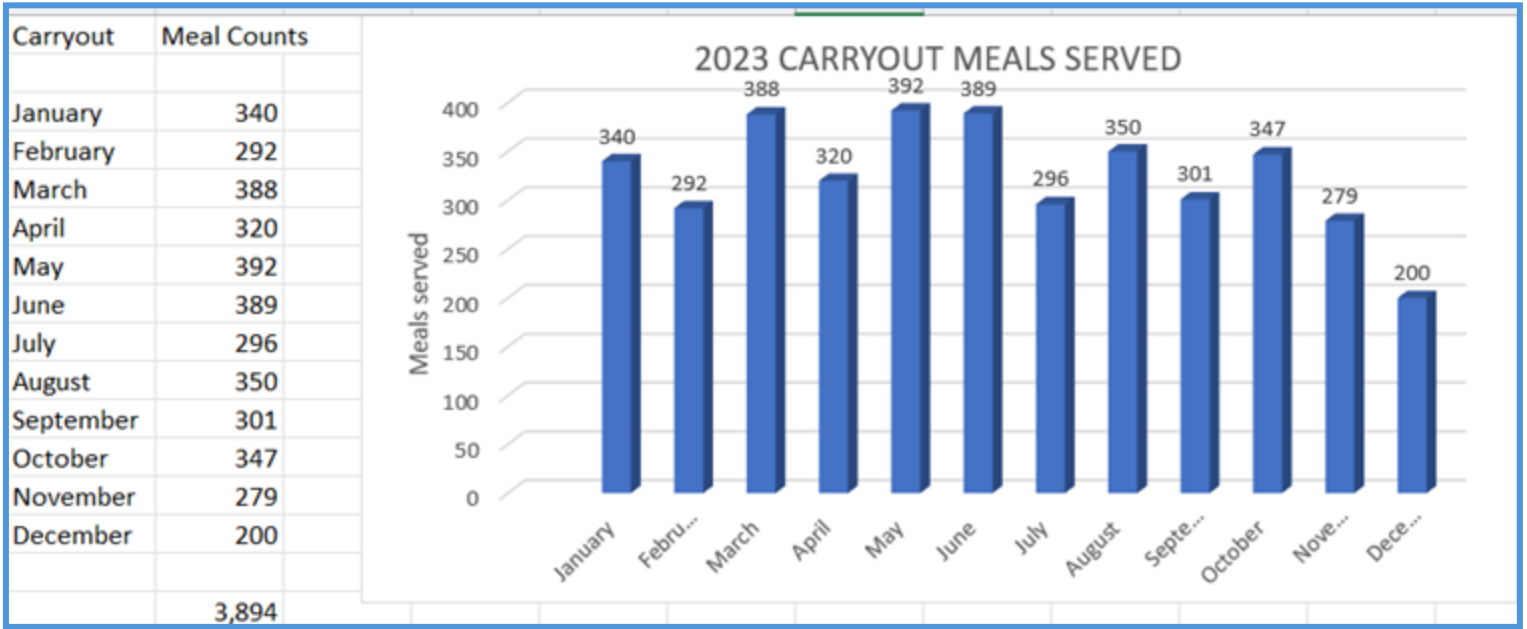
<b>TRUST FUND UTILIZATION</b>	
Iron County Aging	\$ 1,951
Highline	\$ 2,650



## NUTRITION SERVICES

Iron County senior nutrition program offers those 60 and over, five meal locations for dine in, carry out and or home delivery to those who are unable to visit our meal site. In 2023, the Hurley K-12 School donated a salad bar to the Hurley Senior Center. This salad bar has helped to grow its participation by offering a first Friday salad bar lunch menu each month. Monthly taste testing throughout the meal locations provides seniors with opportunities to try new menu ideas, offer feedback and inclusion to be a part of their nutrition program. The nutrition program has helped seniors to obtain healthy and nutritious meals but also stay involved with the community, socialize and meet new people and combat isolation. Programs such as the senior nutrition program and the home delivered meal program have proven to increase life expectancy and lessen healthcare costs in the long term.









**ELDER ABUSE & ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES**

Iron County’s Adult Protective Service Worker is Chanel Levra.

Iron County’s Adult Services Unit received and investigated 10 cases of Adult at Risk and Elder Abuse. Reports of Elder Abuse and Adults at Risk are received by telephone, law enforcement, self-referrals and by mandated professional reporters. Iron County works diligently to educate the community on the signs of elder abuse, the importance of reporting and prevention of such crimes in our community.

**Guardianships** - A legal guardian is a person appointed by the court to care for the personal and property interests of another person because that person cannot make those decisions independently. Medical professionals always make the initial determination and complete specific paperwork to initiate guardianship orders through the court system.

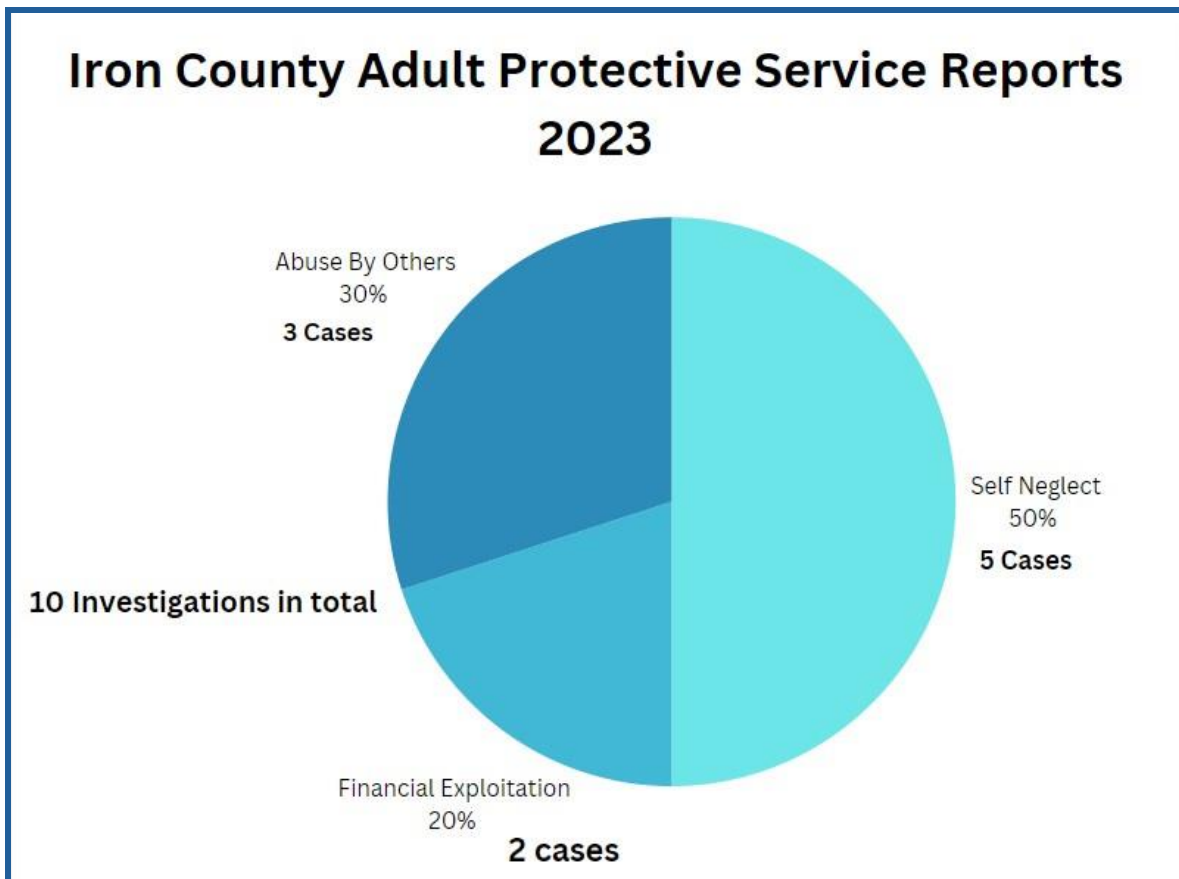
\* In 2023, Iron County managed 9 Guardianship Orders.

**Protective Placements** – A protective placement is a court order approving an individual’s placement into a facility. This is for the primary purpose of providing supervision and care for that individual’s health and safety in a setting that is least restrictive based on their needs.

\* In 2023, Iron County handled 7 new Protective Placement Orders. 25 active Protective Placement Orders were managed and monitored in 2023.

**Watts Reviews** - A Watts review is an annual review of individuals from Iron County who are protectively placed in a facility setting that has been determined the least restrictive environment based off their care needs. A report by Iron County’s Adult Protective Service Social Worker is then submitted to the Court with a recommendation for continued placement or removal to a less restrictive environment. This review is required by Wisconsin State Statutes Protective Service System.

\* In 2023, 25 Watts reviews were completed and reviewed in court.



<b>2023 Expenses &amp; Revenue</b>
------------------------------------

<b>2023 Expenses</b>	
Aging	\$ 482,139
GWAAR – Elder Abuse	\$ 9,923
DCF	\$ 1,091,516
DHS	\$ 1,041,112
IM (Economic Support)	\$ 231,715
WHEAP	\$ 66,715
ADRC	\$ 311,042
CLTS	\$ 43,505
Transportation	\$ 52,592
Children’s Justice Grant	\$ 9,996
CCS	\$ 50,300
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 3,390,555</b>

<b>2023 Revenue</b>	
State Aid – DCF	\$ 345,884
State Aid – DHS	\$ 347,668
State Aid - IM	\$ 147,073
State Aid - WHEAP	\$ 26,154
CLTS	\$ 44,680
ADRC	\$ 235,261
GWAAR	\$ 139,672
85.21	\$ 52,592
Aging	\$ 143,258
Clerk of Courts - IDP	\$ 5,962
HP/MA Rev – MA FFS	\$ 202,926
WIMCR	\$ 97,373
CCS	\$ 49,098
Children’s Justice Grant	\$ 9,996
County Allocation – Aging	\$ 266,008
County Allocation – Aging	\$ 1,276,950
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 3,390,555</b>



## GOALS FOR 2024

- To actively participate in budget reduction measures for the county while maintaining, improving and innovating services for the residents of Iron County.
- To continue to seek and apply for funding opportunities that align with current programs and goals for the Agency moving forward.
- To continue to work with state partners to adhere to state statutes, standards and policies to ensure program compliance.
- To continue implementing mandatory state initiatives within the Agency's programming.



**THANK YOU**  
**to the members of the 2023 Human Services Board**

**Opal Roberts – Chairperson Jan – Aug 2023**

**Kurt Wolff – Supervisor Jan – Aug 2023; Chairperson Sept – Dec 2023**

**Josiah Hewitt   Tom Innes   Karen Lauer (Aug – Dec 2023) Carol Matson**

**Victor Ouimette   John Sendra   Larry Youngs**