

Southwestern Minnesota Opportunity Council Annual Report 2025



Annual Report 2025

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Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope,
improves communities, and makes America a better place to live.



Building on Strengths, Creating Opportunities

Celebrating Our Impact and Shaping Our Future

A message from Darci Goedtko, Executive Director

As we reflect on 2025, I am reminded that the true strength of SMOC has always been our people—our dedicated employees, committed Board of Directors, valued partners, generous supporters, and the individuals and families who place their trust in us. Together, we continue to build on a strong foundation of service while creating new opportunities that help our communities thrive.

This year's theme reflects not only what we accomplished in 2025, but who we are as an organization. For more than six decades, SMOC has adapted to meet changing community needs while remaining grounded in our mission of empowering people and strengthening communities.

Throughout 2025, we continued to demonstrate our impact across southwestern Minnesota by providing essential services that helped families achieve greater stability and independence. From preparing children for lifelong success through Head Start, to helping households remain safe and warm through Energy Assistance, to connecting individuals with housing, transportation, family resources, and community supports—our programs created opportunities for thousands of people to overcome challenges and move forward with confidence.

This year also demonstrated the power of collaboration. We strengthened relationships with local governments, schools, healthcare providers, businesses, foundations, and community organizations because we know that lasting change happens when we work together. These partnerships allow us to respond to emerging needs, develop innovative solutions, and ensure that our communities remain resilient.

In 2025, we also focused on strengthening our organization from within. We invested in our operational systems and positioned SMOC to remain a trusted steward of public and private resources. These efforts ensure that we can continue delivering high-quality services while adapting to the evolving needs of the communities we serve.

Our accomplishments belong to every member of the SMOC family. I am continually inspired by the compassion, professionalism, and dedication of our employees, who show up every day with a commitment to making a difference. Their work transforms lives—not only by meeting immediate needs but by helping individuals and families build brighter futures.

As we celebrate this year's achievements, we are equally excited about what lies ahead. The challenges facing our communities continue to evolve, but so do the opportunities to innovate, strengthen partnerships, and expand our impact.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the entire SMOC team, thank you to our employees, volunteers, funders, donors, partners, and community members for believing in our mission. Your support makes our work possible and our communities stronger.

Together, we celebrate the impact we've made. Together, we are shaping a future filled with opportunity.

SMOC at a Glance

Founded: 1965

Serving: Primarily 4, but up to 15 counties
across southwestern Minnesota

Mission

Strengthening communities through opportunities and service

2025 Impact

People served by all programs: 23,184

Our Team

Employees in 2025: 115

Volunteers in 2025: 215

Board of Directors: Community, public, and private sector representatives
providing governance and strategic oversight.

Financial Snapshot

Annual Operating Budget: \$6,500,000

Funding Sources: Federal, state, local, private foundations, grants,
donations, and community partnerships

SMOC's Core Values

At the heart of our work are the values that guide our actions
and define how we serve our community:

PARTNERSHIP: We believe in the power of collaboration, teamwork,
and community involvement. Through active outreach and shared purpose,
we build strong relationships that make a lasting difference

ACCOUNTABILITY: We are committed to financial responsibility, consistency,
efficiency, and sustainability in all we do—
ensuring resources are used wisely to strengthen our programs and community

RESPECT: We foster an inclusive, fair, and welcoming environment
where all individuals are treated with grace and understanding

INTEGRITY: We act with honesty, ethics, and dedication,
earning the trust of those we serve and those who support our mission

RESPONSIVE: We value input, strive to reduce barriers, and approach our work with empathy.
As a trusted community partner, we seek to create meaningful impact in the lives of others.

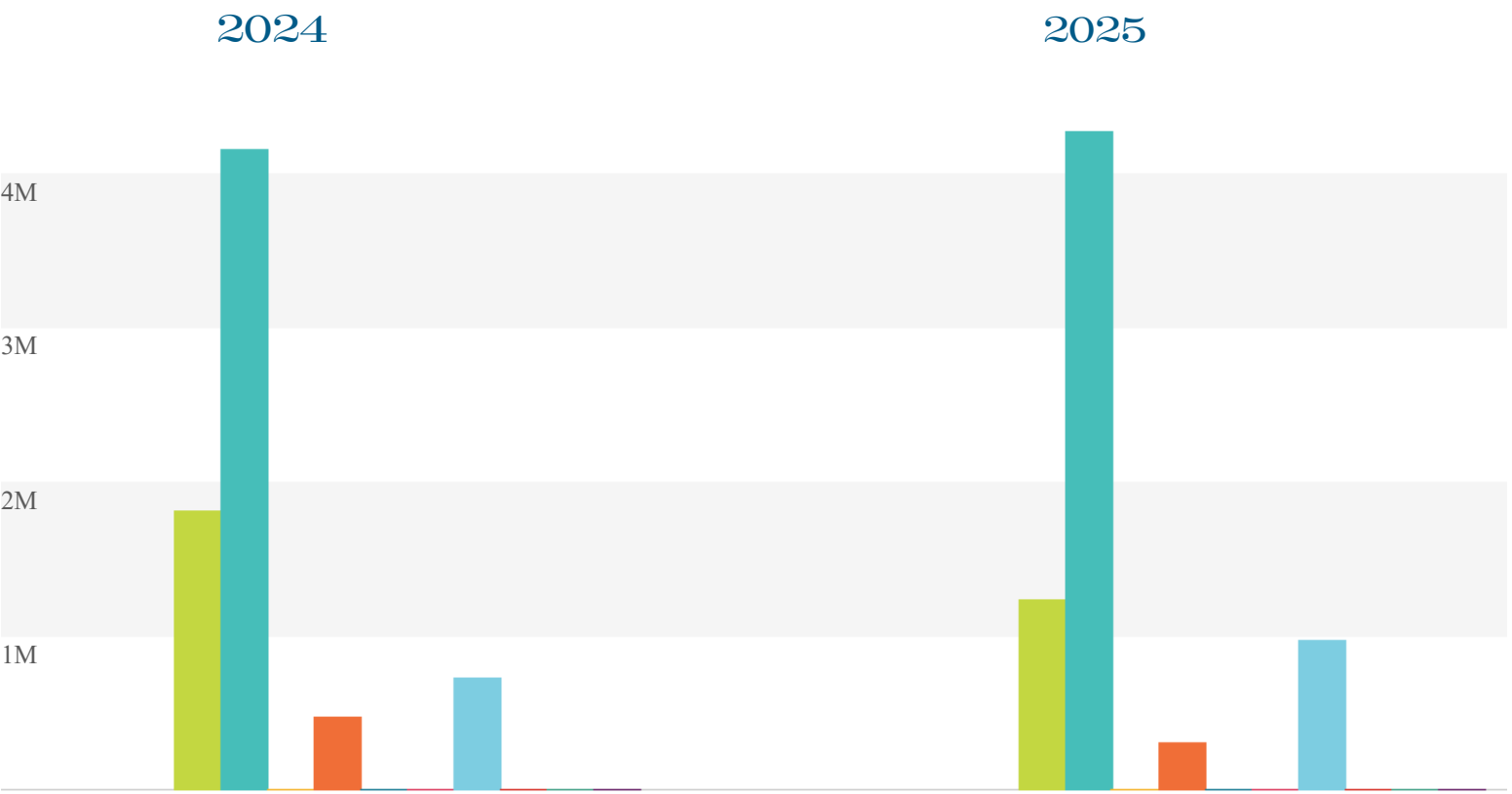
Financial Highlights



Southwestern Minnesota Opportunity Council Statement of Financial Position As of December 31, 2025

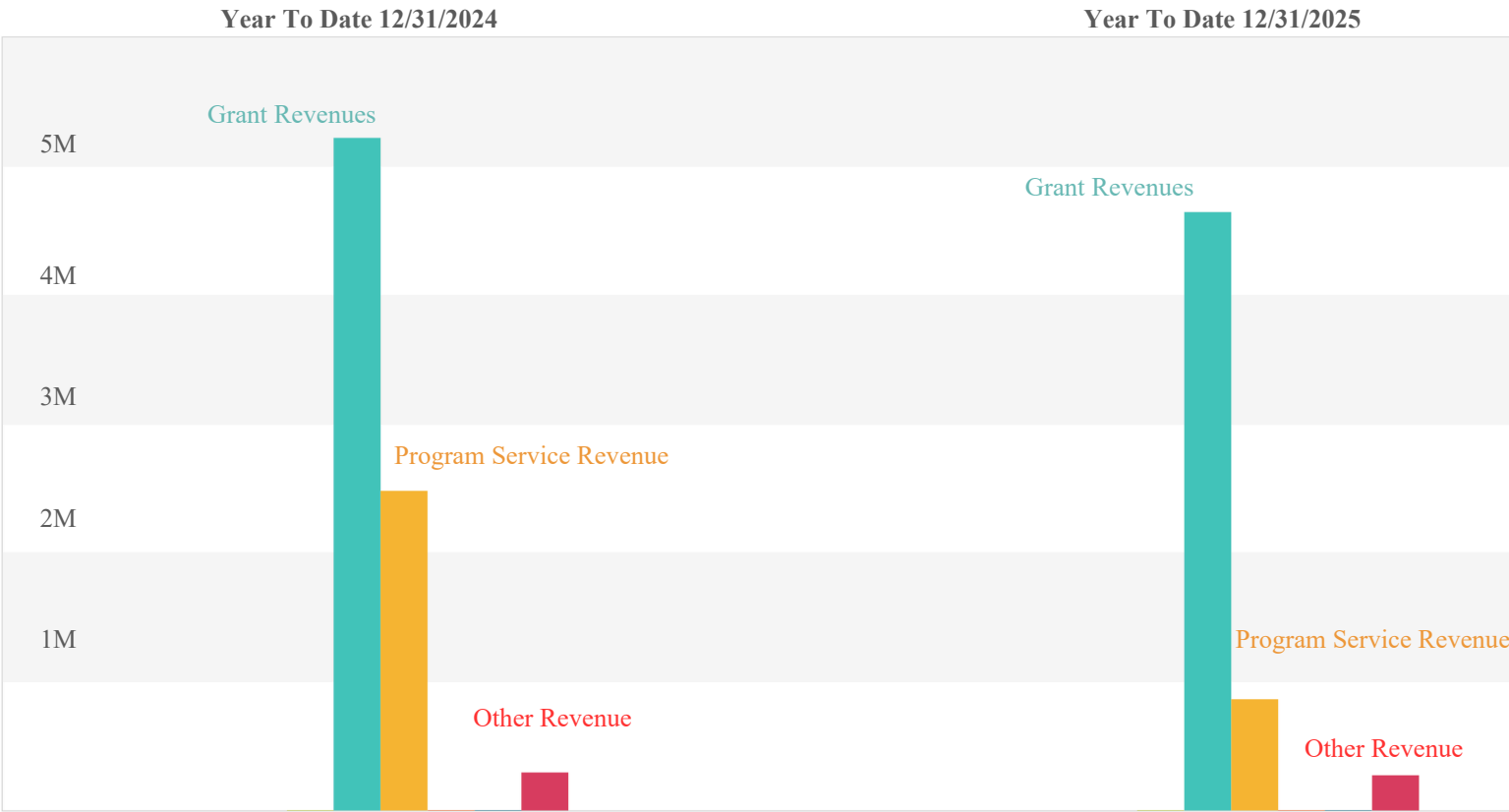
Account number and n	Month To Date 12/31/2025 Actual	Year Ending 12/31/2024 Prior Year
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents		
10000 - First State Southwest Bank Operating 1567	(89,096.99)	67,673.21
10100 - First State Southwest Bank 4856	438.78	438.78
10200 - First State Southwest Bank PTO 9153	139,351.80	141,600.87
10300 - First State Southwest Bank Aflac 1575	3,049.29	3,049.29
10400 - First State Southwest Bank 5075	132,870.46	779,697.92
11000 - Edward Jones 1084	1,444,618.43	1,284,772.03
11100 - Edward Jones 3444	206,262.76	541,252.64
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,837,494.53	2,818,484.74
Accounts Receivable, Net	54,770.68	20,549.40
Grants Receivable		
14100 - Grants Receivable: Other	0.00	28,987.00
14110 - Grants Receivable: Fed	51,945.37	156,758.21
14120 - Grants Receivable: State	462,142.24	279,275.59
Total Grants Receivable	514,087.61	465,020.80
Other Current Assets	13,004.97	1,583.97
Total Current Assets	2,419,357.79	3,305,638.91
Long-term Assets		
Property & Equipment		
14700 - Buildings	3,135,026.03	3,135,026.03
14710 - Furniture and Equipment	665,916.26	656,145.26
14720 - Land	188,900.00	188,900.00
14730 - Leasehold Improvements	816,268.66	785,556.80
14740 - Software	80,891.15	80,891.15
14750 - Vehicle	1,035,786.56	1,035,786.56
14800 - Accumulated Depreciation	(2,816,624.75)	(2,594,078.08)
Total Property & Equipment	3,106,163.91	3,288,227.72
Total Long-term Assets	3,106,163.91	3,288,227.72
Total Assets	5,525,521.70	6,593,866.63
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Liabilities		
Short-term Liabilities		
Accounts Payable		
22000 - Accounts Payable	90,211.83	112,740.96
22001 - AP Accrual	(21.83)	2,836.36
22002 - Rock Family U Payable	63,917.08	0.00
22100 - Divvy GL Account	124.30	0.00
Total Accounts Payable	154,231.38	115,577.32
Accrued Liabilities		
24000 - Payroll Liabilities	116,909.72	115,359.10
24105 - Accrued PTO	129,563.72	134,270.18
24110 - Accrued Payroll	0.00	177,649.15
Total Accrued Liabilities	246,473.44	427,278.43
Deferred Revenue		
29000 - Deferred Revenue	81,238.08	0.00
Total Deferred Revenue	81,238.08	0.00
Other Short-term Liabilities	8,705.57	(3,045.21)
Total Short-term Liabilities	490,648.47	539,810.54
Total Liabilities	490,648.47	539,810.54
Net Assets	5,034,873.23	6,054,056.09

Expenditure Composition



	<u>Direct</u>	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Professional Fees</u>	<u>General/Admin</u>
Year to Date 12/31/2024	\$1,808,709.65	\$4,161,573.61	\$474,708.80	\$727,647.08
Year to Date 12/31/2025	\$1,233,049.80	\$4,279,598.63	\$307,258.63	\$969,042.24

Revenue Composition



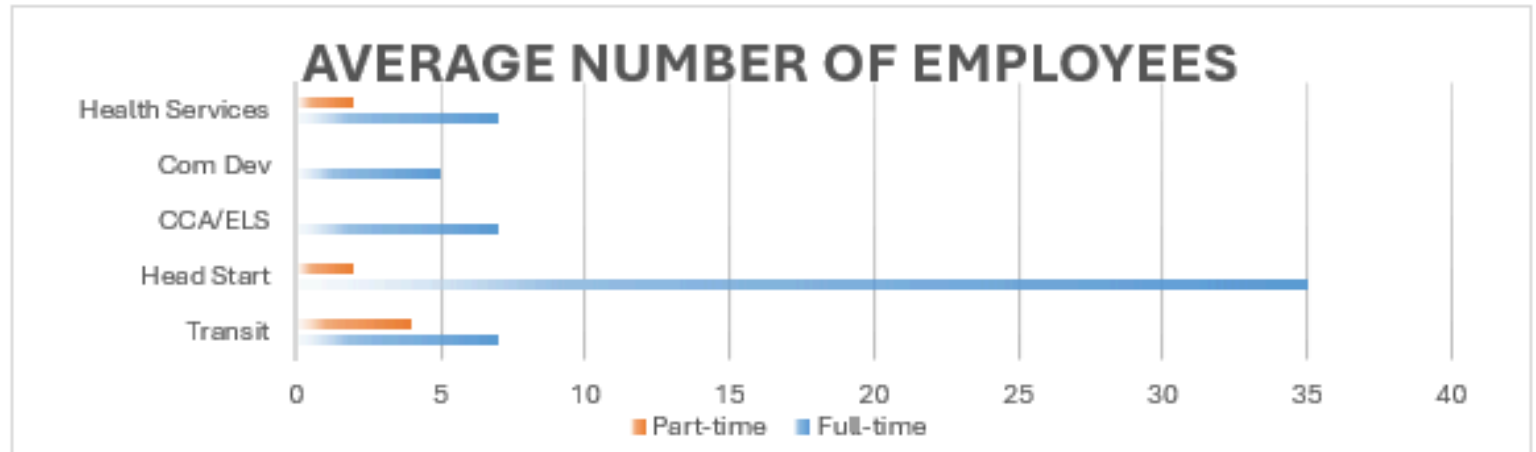
YTD 2024

YTD 2025

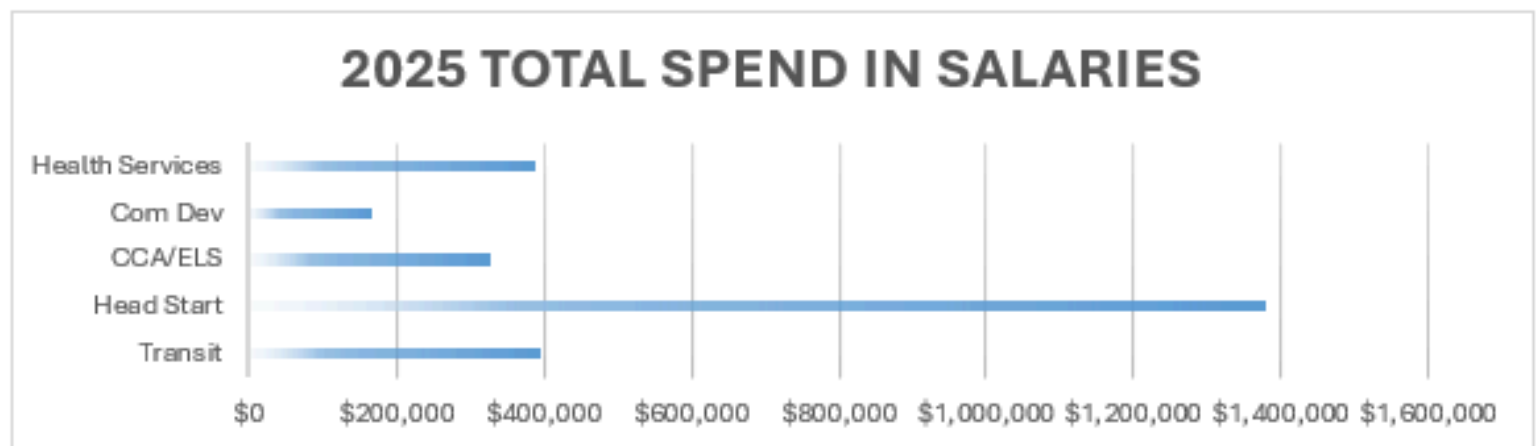
Grant Revenues	\$5,224,991.25	\$4,648,272.73
Program Service Revenue	\$2,487,006.56	\$869,722.64
Other Revenue	\$297,446.49	\$273,798.41

SMOC Employees

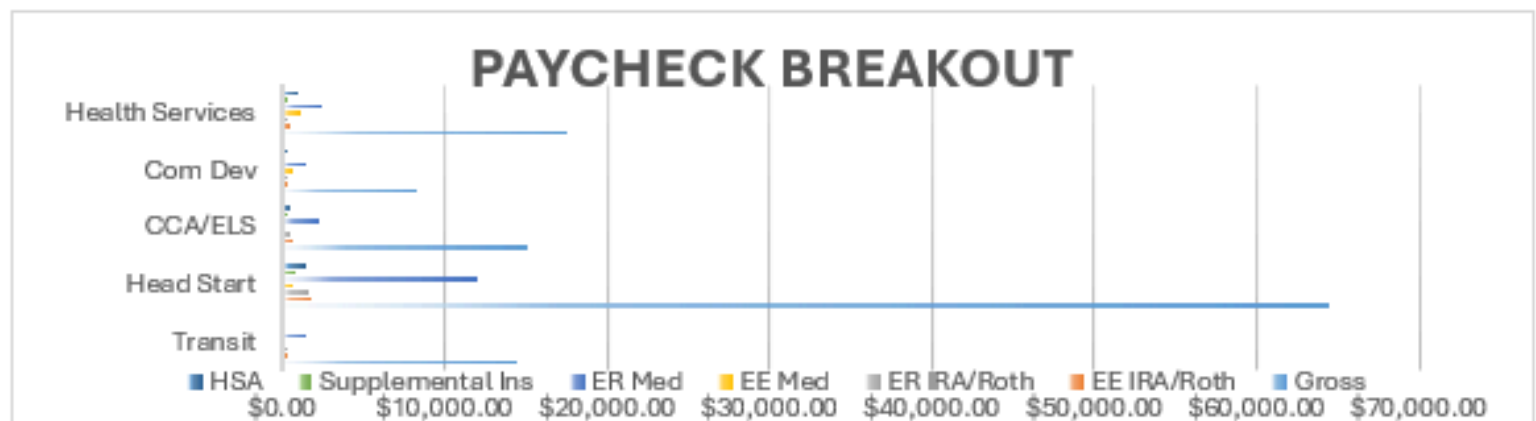
The average number of employees by program:



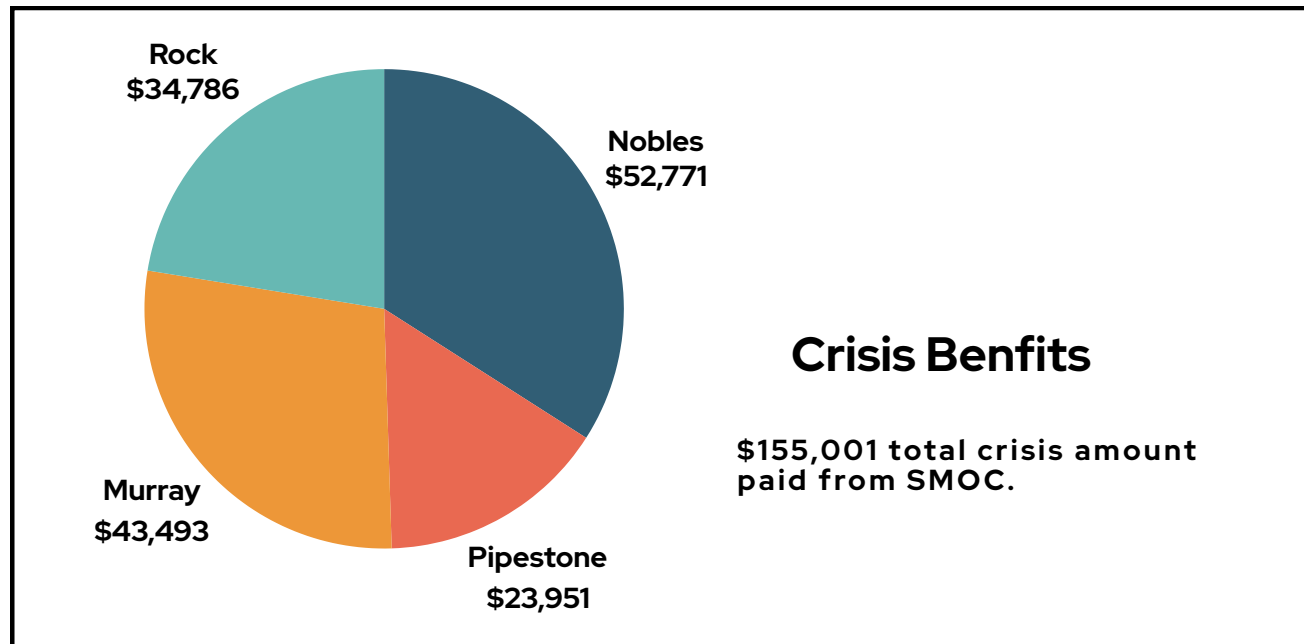
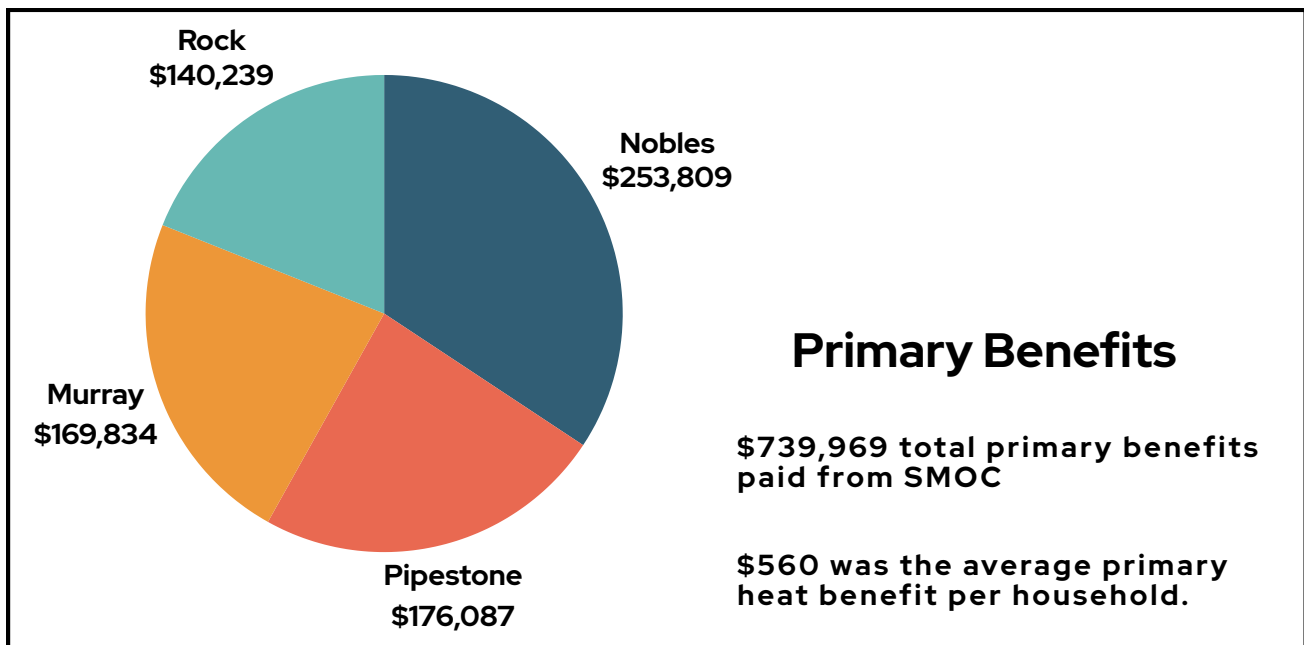
The total amount spent on salaries by program in 2025:



A breakout of gross salaries and benefits paid by program:



Energy Assistance



1,539 total **received** applications

1,321 total **approved** applications

ERR

39 households were served to repair or replace heating system in our service area.

\$84,092 total obligated amout for ERR.

EAP Audit

Audit conducted in April 2026 and Program Performance Auditor found no errors or findings!

Senior Community Service Employment

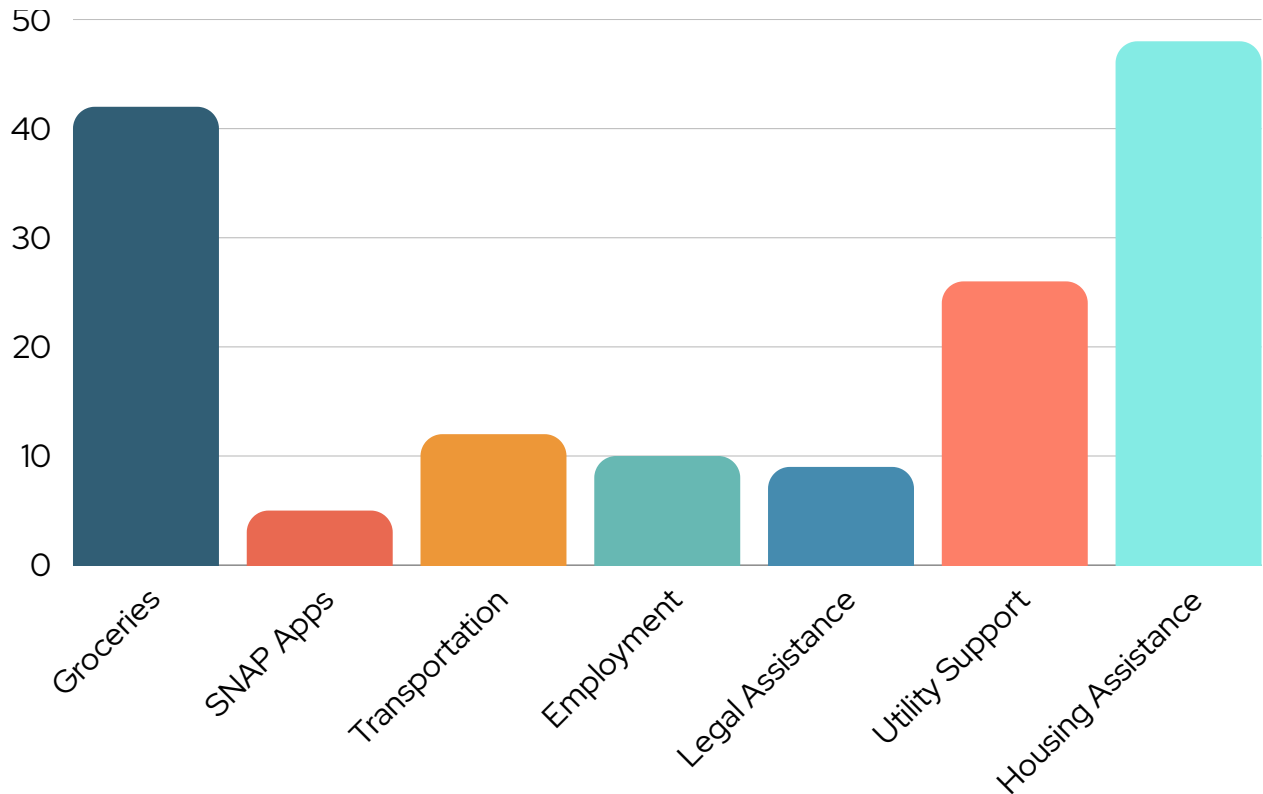
County	Participants	Exits	Host Sites
Rock	2	0	2
Nobles	8	0	6
Murray	1	1	1
Pipestone	1	1	2
Cottonwood	1	0	1
Jackson	6	6	1

Partnering Host Sites

- Atlas of Rock County
- Rock County Historical Society
- LSS Dining
 - Adrian
 - Pipestone
 - Jackson
 - Mountain Lake
- Head Start
- Manna Food Shelf
- Legacy of Thrift
- UCAP
- Ray's Unlimited
- Murray County Historical Museum



Family Resource Center



- 214 families served with referrals and/or concrete supports
- 107 individuals served through our partnership for Housing Navigation with Ampact/Americorp
- \$6,250 in Good Neighbor funding helping support
- Homeless Prevention Funding supporting
 - Rock County
 - 7 families totaling \$15,005
 - Pipestone County
 - 7 families totaling \$11,534
- \$5,000 in DCYF Event Support for programming support
 - In house Family Resource Fair - including 17 resource partners
 - Take What You Need resource shelves
 - Warm Welcomes programming -
 - Coffee & Conversations, Little Learners, and Baby Steps
- Collaborative Programming Partners:
 - CareerForce
 - ElevaCare
 - Creative Healing Space

Prairieland Transit (Funded by MnDOT)



Our services:

- Nobles 1 (County Route)
- Paycheck City Bus
- Worthington Dial-A-Ride

Newly named Nobles 1 (County Route) provides on-demand, weekday public bus service to all 14 communities in Nobles County.

Paycheck the City Bus (formerly 'Wgtn City Bus') provides a brand-new loop route service from 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday.

Worthington Dial-A-Ride continues to run as an on-demand service within Worthington city limits.

2025 Service Analysis **TOTAL of 20,473 riders**

1,317 total rides provided by the
Nobles 1 route service

1,799 total rides provided by Paycheck the City Bus.

17,357 total rides provided by the Worthington Dial-A-Ride.

7,353 hours of public transportation services were provided.

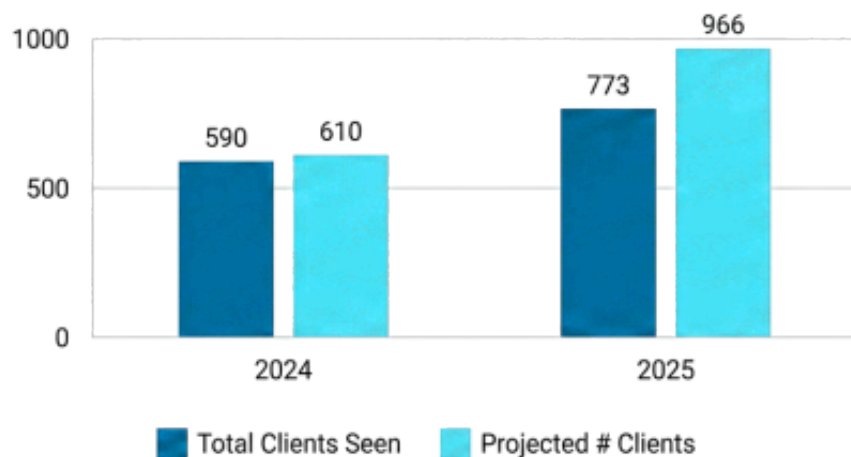
89,642 miles were driven by Prairieland Transit



Health Services



Essential Community Provider | 2025 Reporting

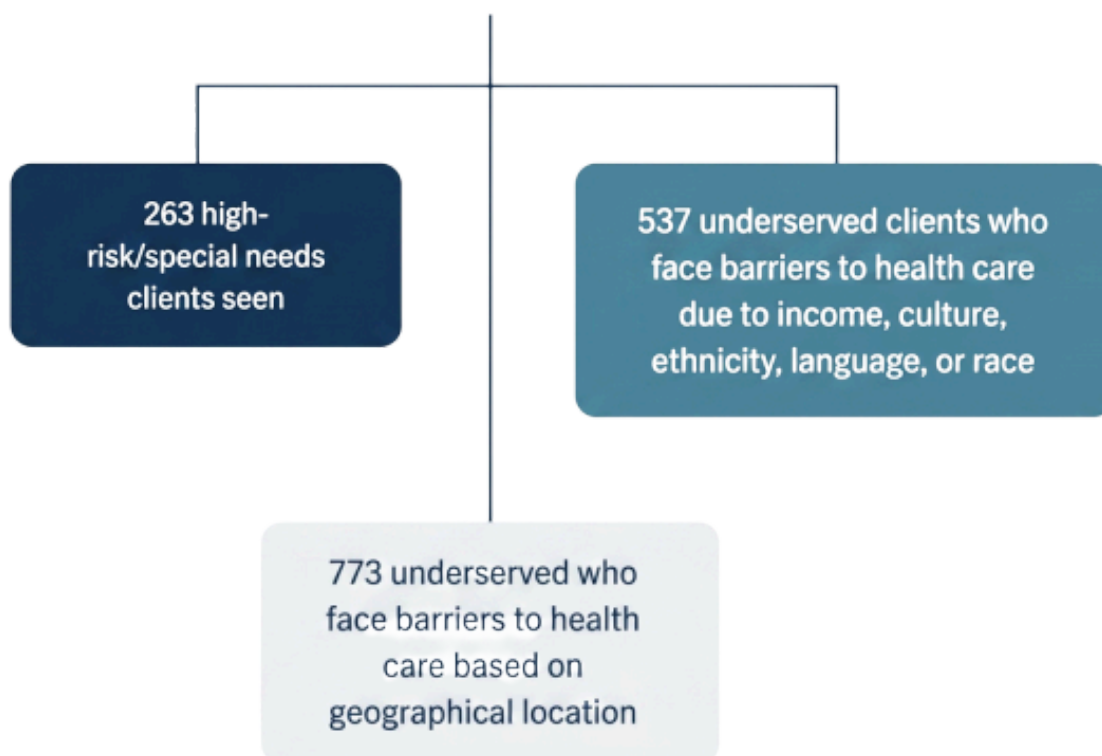


31% More Patients Seen

What did we do?

We added a Full-Time Provider

773 Patients Seen



NOTE: Data above as
Community Provider report. The sum of
because a client may be included in more than one category.

reported on our annual Essential
these 3 numbers is greater than total patients seen



2025 Health Services Annual Report Highlights

Growing Access. Improving Health. Strengthening Communities

Year in Review:

SMOC Health Services experienced continued growth in 2025, serving more patients while expanding access to high-quality, affordable healthcare throughout southwest Minnesota.

Highlights:

 New Provider: Victoria Blanchette joined as our first full-time provider in June 2025. Her arrival strengthened our capacity to meet the increasing demand for services

 Continued services: With two part-time providers and one CCM Health–Montevideo contracted provider, we ensure two additional clinic days each month in Worthington and Marshall

 Campus Clinics: Clinics every other Tuesday at Minnesota West (Worthington) and the first Thursday each month at SMSU (Marshall)

 Preventive Screenings: 62 patients received follow-up care after abnormal A1c screenings identified prediabetes or newly diagnosed diabetes

 Access to Care: 352 uninsured patients enrolled in MFPP/SAGE; \$502 in scholarship assistance helped patients receive needed care

 Community Outreach: 68 outreach events reached 3,590 people through health education, campus events, and community engagement

 Looking Ahead: Needs assessment launched for a new School-Based Health Clinic, with discussions underway in two high-need school districts.

Head Start and Early Head Start



PROGRAM INFORMATION 2025-2026

Funded Enrollment

- Head Start: 115 Children
- Early Head Start: 45 Children

Drops

- Number of children that dropped during program year: 54
- Number of children replaced during program year: 50

PROGRAM INFORMATION 2025-2026

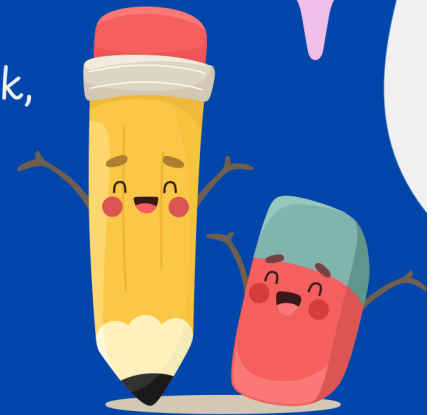
- Number of Children and Family Served
 - Head Start: 125 Children & Families
 - Early Head Start: 99 Children & Families



- Number of Foster Children: 2
- Number of Homeless Children: 28

HEAD START CENTER-BASED ATTENDANCE DATA

- 69 out of 116 children had attendance over 90%
- 24 children had attendance between 85%-90%
- 23 children were chronically absent (had attendance below 84%)
- 27 children set a family goal to improve their attendance, using Attendance Success Plan
- 4 children met their family, received a book, and an Attendance Work certificate



PARENT INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

- **SMOC Head Start:**
 - A total of 93 families that completed 460 hrs of family involvement activities.
- **SMOC Early Head Start:**
 - A total of 498 families that completed 3,798 hrs of family involvement activities.



COMPLETED HOME VISITS AND FAMILY ADVOCACY VISITS

Home Visits

- A total of 1941 Completed Home Visits for 167 families
- Center: 262 completed Home Visits for 110 families
- Home-Based Head Start = 185 completed home visits for 9 families
- Home-Based Early Head Start - 1494 Completed home visits for 56 families

Family Advocacy Group

- 92% of our families attended a parent group meeting at least one time during the program year.
- 29% of our families had 100% attendance for monthly meetings

BUDGETARY AND FISCAL

- All funds used to operate the Head Start program are received from publicly funded sources, including federal and state grants. No private funds are used.

- Federal Funds: \$2,058,610
- State Funds: \$362,911
- Pathway II Funds: \$176,617.50
- CACFP Funds: \$122,222.40

Area 8 Early Learning Scholarships

Between July 2024 and July 2025, programs and staff transferred from the Departments of Human Services, Education, Health and Public Safety to the newly created Department of Children, Youth and Families. The Early Learning Scholarships is one of the Minnesota Department of Education programs to make the transition. An Early Learning Scholarship Hub was launched to allow families the opportunity to apply online and track the status of their award.

Early Learning Scholarships are available in the nine counties of Region 8: Cottonwood, Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood and Rock.

During the period of January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025, Early Learning Scholarships were awarded/renewed for 125 children attending child care centers, family child care, and preschool programs in Region 8:

26 Infants
25 Toddlers
74 Preschool

21 children aged out 09/01/2025 (became age eligible for Kindergarten) and 73 children were on the waitlist, never receiving an award.

Area 8 Early Learning Scholarship staff include:

Director – Karen DeBoer

Support Staff – Carrie Ling and MuGay Tin

Early Learning Scholarships

Administered by the Minnesota Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF), Early Learning Scholarships give qualifying children funds to access quality early education and care programs.



"Helping children succeed in school and life by supporting the professional growth of early childhood educators and connecting families to quality child care."

-Child Care Aware of Minnesota



On July 1, 2025, Child Care Aware was one of the statewide programs from the Department of Human Services transitioning to the newly formed Department of Children Youth and Families. During 2025, Child Care Aware services were provided in the nine counties of Region 8: Cottonwood, Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood and Rock. Services included:

- **Wayfinder/Child Care Startup and Retention – supporting programs and educators new to the field with technical assistance, access to grants, access to professional development, and support**
- **Parent Aware Quality Rating/Coaching – increasing the knowledge and skills of both family child care and child care center staff; access to grants; access to professional development, and support**
- **Child Care Outreach and Technical Assistance – supporting 274 DCYF licensed programs:**
 - 15 Child Care Centers**
 - 247 Family Child Care Providers**
 - 12 Community Preschool Programs**
- **Through coordination with our West Central District Child Care Aware office, grants were awarded to child care providers and programs for start-up, emergency, quality improvement, and retention.**
- **Training/professional development opportunities were offered in Region 8. At least one training was scheduled in each of the nine counties.**
- **Child Care Aware staff are involved in early childhood committees and community events throughout the nine counties with the goal of improving access to quality child care for all children in SW MN.**

Region 8 Child Care Aware staff include:

Director – Karen DeBoer

Parent Aware Quality Coaches – Darian Jarmer and Brooke Ossefoort

Child Care Startup and Retention Navigators – Alva Monterroso

Hernandez and Sandie Polfliet

As we look ahead, SMOC remains committed to strengthening our impact through collaboration, innovation, and accountability. Guided by our strategic priorities and grounded in the needs of the communities we serve, we will continue to expand access, support stability, and create opportunity.

Strategic Priorities

The first year of SMOC's strategic plan focuses on strengthening internal systems, expanding outreach capacity, and deepening partnerships to better connect individuals and families with services across the region.

Outreach Expansion

SMOC will identify underserved communities, explore opportunities for an additional outreach location, and strengthen partnerships with community organizations to host outreach events. An updated outreach communication plan will support increased visibility and engagement.

Data System Development

The agency will complete an internal assessment of current data systems, explore integrated platform options, and develop a funding strategy to support implementation of a unified client data system.

Workforce Development

Efforts will focus on assessing staff training needs, developing a cross-training model across programs, and identifying key leadership roles to support succession planning and long-term capacity building.

Housing Partnerships

SMOC will strengthen relationships with local housing providers, support development of housing navigator services, and participate in regional housing planning efforts to improve coordination and access.

Financial Sustainability

The organization will pursue new grant opportunities aligned with strategic priorities, strengthen funder relationships, and explore partnership-based funding strategies to enhance long-term stability.

Employment and Training

SMOC will increase referrals to workforce development partners and expand collaboration to bring employment and training services more directly into Family Resource Center locations.