

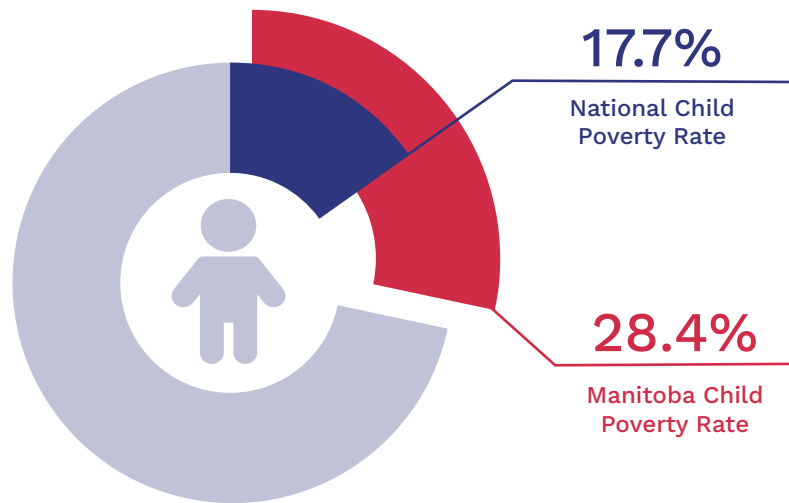
**COMMUNITY ACTION
PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN**

**RESPONDING
TO THE NEEDS
OF MANITOBA
CHILDREN.**



MANITOBA FAMILIES ARE STRUGGLING

The 2020 report *Manitoba: Missed Opportunities* states that 88,840 Manitoban children are currently living in poverty. With a child poverty rate of 28.4%, more families are living in poverty in Manitoba than in any other province. This compares to the national rate of 17.7%.



Not only does Manitoba have the highest child-poverty rate, but two of the three federal ridings with the highest rates are in Manitoba: Churchill-Keewatinook Aski (64.4%) and Winnipeg Centre (39.6%).

The rates of poverty are even higher for young children, single parent families, and children in Indigenous families.

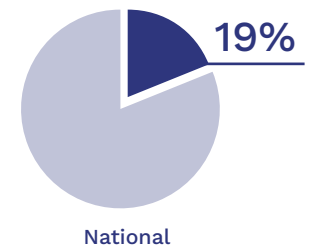
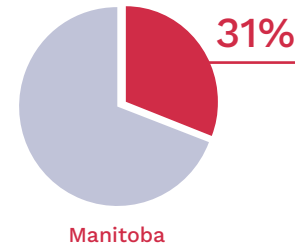


Insecure, unaffordable or overcrowded housing, lack of suitable and nutritious food and/or inadequate clothing are daily realities for 88,840 children in Manitoba.

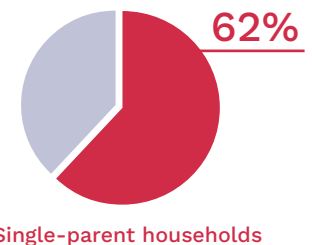
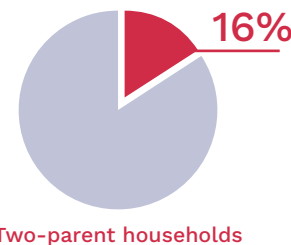
Manitoba: Missed Opportunities, 2020



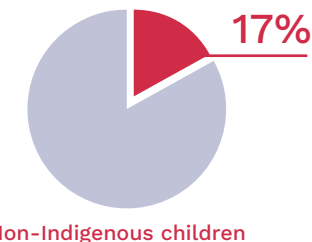
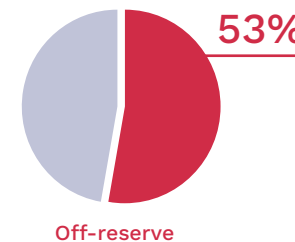
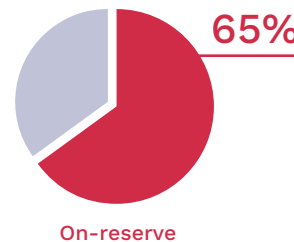
Children Aged 0-6 Living in Poverty



Manitoba children living in poverty



Manitoba First Nations, Inuit & Metis children living in poverty



WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

High rates of poverty lead to:



Hunger and long-term food insecurity



Poor health



Homelessness and insecure housing



Difficulty finding livable wage jobs



Lower educational outcomes



Higher rates of alcohol and drug use



Increased mental health challenges



Increased rates of children in care

With all these impacts, Manitoba families are dealing with increasingly complex and inter-connected challenges.

Manitoba had 9,850 children in care in 2021. Because of the long-term impacts of colonization and the residential school system, Indigenous children and children from families living in poverty are disproportionately represented in the system.

As a community, we need to support children and caregivers in need.



CAPC PROJECTS ARE RESPONDING

Since 1997, Manitoba families who are struggling have been able to turn to CAPC programs for support and assistance. CAPC (Community Action Program for Children) is a program of the Public Health Agency of Canada that provides funding to community groups that promote the healthy development of young children who face challenges that put their health at risk. The program's priority challenges include poverty, teen pregnancy, social and geographic isolation, substance use, and family violence.

In Manitoba, CAPC funds 14 projects:



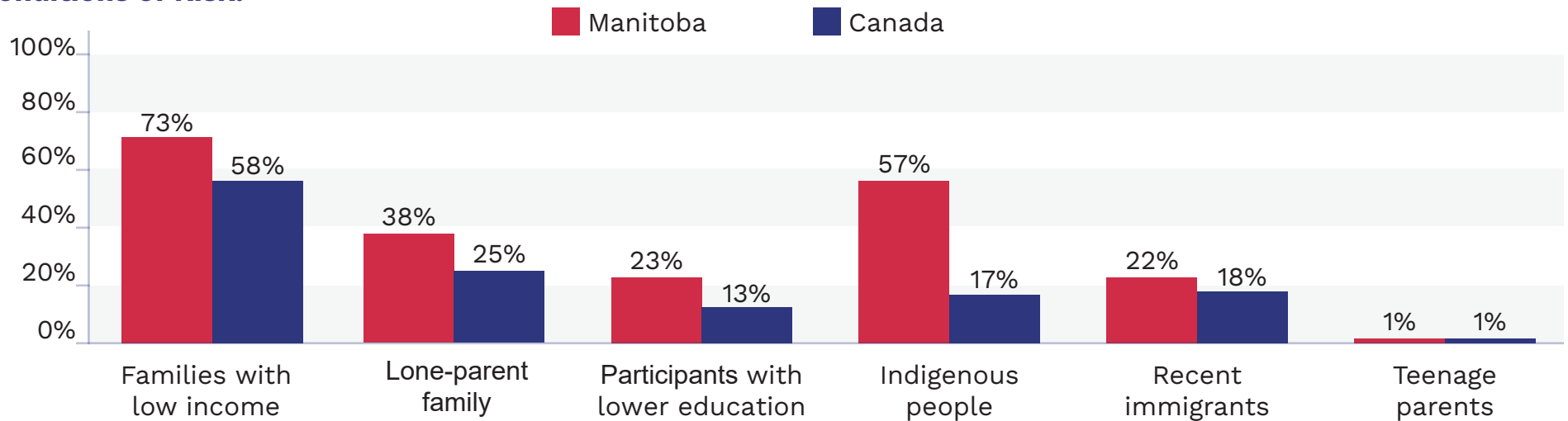
In 2018, the Public Health Agency of Canada compiled a *Project Participant Profile Report* which highlighted the percentage of participants experiencing each of the identified conditions of risk. As the following table shows, Manitoba rates are consistently higher than the national averages.



I didn't know what I was going to do over the holidays. The Family Resource Centre allowed me to not worry about food this holiday so I could spend more time with my family.



Conditions of Risk:



CAPC Projects offer programming tailored to local community needs (e.g., parenting programs, nutritional support and mental health supports), resources, and referrals to support positive health behaviours. The programming also builds protective factors in areas such as early child development, nutrition and healthy eating, mental health and wellbeing, positive parenting, physical activity, child health and safety, and immunization.

CAPC PROJECTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

A 2020 national evaluation completed by the Public Health Agency of Canada showed that CAPC projects are making a difference in the lives of children and families. Each of the outcome indicators cited below is accompanied by a quote from a Manitoba caregiver about the impact of the CAPC program.

85%

of caregivers reported improved parenting knowledge and skills

“

Parenting workshops/classes have helped me become a better parent so my children have a better experience than I had growing up.

”

86%

of caregivers reported a better relationship with their children

“

I used to fight with my child all the time. Now I have tools and a better understanding of my child's development and how to build our relationship.

”

“

(At the centre, my child gets) acceptance for his high needs to be busy and need individual attention. Socialization skills, learning how to get along with others and following the rules – patience.

”

95%

of caregivers reported their child had an increased ability to play with other children

86%

of participants reported their health and wellbeing had improved because of their participation in a CAPC project

“

Self-care wasn't something I'd ever thought of doing. Now I understand how I need to be well in order to provide a good environment for my family.

”

90%

of caregivers reported that their children's health and wellbeing had improved

“

The program has provided my family with fidgets and other tactile objects that have helped (my daughter) immensely.

”

“

Thank you so much. The staff recognized that my child needed glasses. I can't believe I missed this. I couldn't understand why he was so angry.

”

91%

have seen improvement in their children's communication skills



THE CAPC MODEL IS EFFECTIVE

One of the reasons that the CAPC programs are effective is because the CAPC model itself works. CAPC's guiding principles include being community-based, flexible, and adaptive. Being community-based allows projects to adapt their approach to the needs of their environment. In Manitoba, this allows projects in remote northern communities, for example, to look different than projects in Winnipeg. The principles of flexibility and adaptability are critical, allowing projects to meet community needs as they change. This factor was particularly important as projects responded to critical needs resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic. These guiding principles foster capacity building, resiliency, and effective relationship-based interventions.

Because the Manitoba projects are part of a national network of CAPC projects, the program benefits from a combination of community relevance and shared national priorities. This current funding and governance model is efficient and relevant. It reflects unique community needs, regional priorities, and national programming that allow organizations to meet the needs of participants and communities with complex barriers. Having the National Public Health Agency of Canada guide the work ensures continuity across the country and allows for regional relationships with PHAC to address local priorities and realities.

**Together, we have a role to play
in supporting Manitoba families.**

MANTOBA CAPC PROJECTS NEED YOUR SUPPORT

CAPC projects are stretched thinner than ever before.



CAPC funding has been static for the last 25 years. When grant dollars are adjusted for inflation, projects earn 40% less than they did when their funding levels were last increased. This means that for every \$100,000 they receive, their adjusted spending capacity is \$60,000. Reduced spending capacity together with a high rate of inflation for mandatory expenses like rent and utilities has often resulted in decreased programming capacity.

According to Imagine Canada, the average Manitoban salary is \$47,775. The average salary for Manitoban staff working in a community non-profit is \$34,252 – 28% less than the provincial average.



This lessened spending capacity shows itself most dramatically in staff salaries, which have not been able to keep up with inflation. As a result, staff are often underpaid, sometimes living just above the poverty line. Low salaries also result in higher rates of staff turnover, which is hard on families that rely on consistent, trustworthy support.



The long-term impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic have further stressed CAPC projects and the non-profit sector as a whole. A study of the sector shows that the Covid-19 pandemic has led to 78% of nonprofits adapting their service provision, often focusing on basic needs. Over 50% are experiencing an increased demand with static or decreasing capacity to respond.

CAPC projects have received long-term, renewable funding since 1997. This is critical in enabling organizations to provide effective services that participants rely on. When organizations need to apply for shorter-term grant funding, time and resources are diverted from service provision to seeking funding. Additionally, long-term funding and organizational stability enhances effectiveness, allowing participants to trust that the agency and programs will be available for them while they need them.

Existing contracts are ending and funding is being opened up to additional groups with no increases to the overall funding available. Asking proven CAPC agencies to re-apply along with other nonprofits jeopardizes the organizations and the services that families rely on. This will weaken the national and Manitoba network of effective support that is currently available to families.

In order to continue supporting Manitoba families and increasing the wellbeing of children aged 0-6, CAPC projects need your support.

We ask you to recognize the strength of CAPC projects by encouraging both increasing the amount of funding and confirming long-term sustainable funding of the current network, which is already providing effective services and making a difference. When a program shows strong results as cited above, it is important to ensure its viability in these ways.

Get in touch with a Manitoba CAPC project
in your community to discuss strengthening
Manitoba families.



MBCAPC@gmail.com

MANITOBA CAPC PROJECTS

Winnipeg

[Abinotci–Mino Ayawin
\(Aboriginal Health & Wellness Centre\)](#)

[Acorn Family Place](#)

[Andrews Street Family Centre](#)

[FASD Family Support, Education,
and Counselling Program
\(New Directions\)](#)

[Heartwood Healing Centre](#)

[Pluri-Elles](#)

[Wahbung Abinoonjiiag](#)

Cranberry Portage

[Child/Family Resource Centre](#)

Portage la Prairie

[Family Resource Centre](#)

Thompson

[Futures, \(Marymount North\)](#)

Selkirk

[Growing Years Family Resource Centre](#)

Brandon

[In a Good Way
\(Brandon Friendship Centre\)](#)

The Pas

[The Pas Family Resource Centre](#)

Province-wide

[Enhancement and Expansion of
Children's Programs \(Manitoba
Association of Women's Shelters\)](#)