



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Crow Wing County Community Services Reports Savings From Fraud Investigations Fraud Hotline Number 1-800-627-9977**

Crow Wing County prevented the issuance of \$130,776 in fraudulent government benefit claims in the first eight months of 2017, according to a report released by the County's Community Services Department.

From January through August 2017 the County's Fraud Investigator completed 285 investigations of pending and open cases and identified the following cost savings:

- \$22,811 from Cash Programs, SNAP (Food Support), Federal Medical, State Medical and Child Care Assistance programs at application.
- \$107,965 from Cash Programs, SNAP, Federal Medical, State Medical and Child Care Assistance programs on open cases.
- \$131,531 in overpayments were identified. These cases were sent to the Collections Unit for recovery.
- We currently have 9,909 public assistance cases, and of those cases 285 were reported and investigations were completed, 89 cases were unfounded.

The report added that four households were disqualified from receiving assistance and two cases were referred for criminal charges.

Sheila Skogen, Operations Division Manager, said the agency is committed to safeguarding the public money by actively pursuing all fraud referrals. "Our fraud investigator will thoroughly investigate all reports made to our office."

For more information, or to report fraud, contact Barb Dusbabek at (218) 824-1208 or [barb.dusbabek@crowwing.us](mailto:barb.dusbabek@crowwing.us). Reporters may remain anonymous. You can also call the Fraud Hotline number at 1-800-627-9977 to report suspected fraudulent activity.

Community Services expends more than \$163 million dollars annually, of which 4.66%, \$7.6 million is funded by the county levy. In 2015, total program costs were \$163,133,479 with Medical Assistance programs being the highest spending area at \$110 million, or 67.5% of the total program costs. Social Service programs represent the second largest portion of the total at \$41.4 million, or 25.4%. Cash assistance programs were 6.3% of the total at \$10.2 million. While this is a large portion of the county budget we have seen a significant decrease. For example, from 2009 to our proposed 2017 budget, we have reduced tax levy dollars by \$1,209,306, a decrease of 14.3%.

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**Our Vision:** Being Minnesota's favorite place.  
**Our Mission:** Serve well. Deliver value. Drive results.  
**Our Values:** Be responsible. Treat people right. Build a better future.

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