



Our 2024-25

Legislative Policy Agenda

The Minneapolis Foundation drives collective action to realize strong, vibrant communities. We fulfill our mission not only through grantmaking and the philanthropic services we provide to our fundholders, but also by commissioning research, convening stakeholders, and making impact investments—and by advocating for public policies that strengthen the communities we serve.

Our legislative advocacy is informed by many partners who are doing important work to address racial and economic inequities that affect the lives of Minnesotans. For years, the Foundation has made grants to nonprofits that advocate for investments in our public schools, reforms to our criminal legal system, and resources to support economic development and generational wealth-building in communities of color. Increasingly, we pair that grantmaking with direct advocacy at the state Capitol and other levels of government.

Our 2024-25 state policy agenda reflects our commitment to dismantling inequitable systems and practices so that everyone in our community has the resources they need to thrive. It also aligns with the values articulated in our [Strategic Framework](#), which calls for us to listen closely, to amplify the voices of those most affected by injustice, and to support solutions that are shaped by local communities.

Legislative Priorities



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Removing barriers for small business owners by...

- **Amending the eligible uses of an existing state grant or loan program to include property acquisition and pre-development costs along key commercial corridors statewide.** Minnesota has programs that invest in economic vitality and business innovation, and lawmakers have provided critical funding to spur recovery after the pandemic and the destruction that followed George Floyd’s murder. However, regulations limiting the uses of this aid prevent it from flowing to some of the Minnesotans who need it most—especially small business owners and local developers trying to get a foothold without the benefit of generational wealth. Creating a pathway for state aid to be used for commercial property acquisition and pre-development costs as well as business repairs and renovation would make it more accessible and impactful for the people and communities it’s meant to help.



EDUCATION

Supporting school leadership and literacy by...

- **Providing ongoing state funding to conduct the Minnesota Principals Survey.** **Similar to the state-funded Minnesota Student Survey, this biennial survey elevates the voices of K-12 principals statewide.** With an estimated cost of \$200,000 per biennium, investing in this survey—which is administered by the University of Minnesota Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement (CAREI)—will help ensure that our state continues to benefit from the perspectives and insights of these critical school leaders.
- **Establishing a proxy to identify students experiencing poverty for the purpose of determining compensatory funding for schools.** After the state’s wise investment in universal school meals, lawmakers must now address a key piece of housekeeping: Since parents no longer have to complete educational benefit forms in order to qualify for free or reduced-price lunches, schools need another way to get an accurate count of students experiencing poverty. Without one, many schools risk a significant drop in public funding that is allocated according to local poverty rates. A temporary fix will hold all schools harmless through 2026, but the state must find a long-term solution.
- **Providing additional resources to support Minnesota teachers, schools, and other education leaders as they implement the READ Act.** This includes additional funding for professional development and curriculum, as well as resources for the state licensure board and teacher preparation programs to prepare candidates on evidence-based reading instruction. The state should also require the licensure board and higher education to update the Legislature on their progress implementing the Act.

Bills to watch: HF3744/SF3698, HF4615/SF4893



Legislative Priorities



DEMOCRACY

Achieving equal rights for all Minnesotans by...

- **Putting the Equal Rights Amendment to the Minnesota Constitution on the ballot for voters to ratify in 2026.** It has been more than a century since women got the right to vote, but we have yet to constitutionalize equal rights for all citizens of Minnesota and the United States. It's time to guarantee that all of us get equal protection under the law—regardless of sex, race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability.



CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

Ensuring schools are safe spaces for kids by...

- **Prohibiting custodial interrogation of minors without an attorney present, and making student statements made to school staff inadmissible in legal proceedings.** Schools should be places where students feel welcomed, safe, and free to be kids. Interrogations of young people by law enforcement are more likely to result in false confessions and wrongful convictions, and unjust outcomes are strongly correlated with a student's race and family income. We need the state to affirm the right of all students to be seen as children and not as threats.

Bills to watch: HF2859/SF2832, HF2875/SF2836



IMMIGRATION

Protecting our neighbors, co-workers, and family members by...

- **Prohibiting state and local law enforcement from using state resources for civil immigration enforcement.** This includes sharing data or accepting federal funds that would require such cooperation. Minnesota is home to more than 500,000 non-citizen residents who work, pay taxes, and contribute billions of dollars to our economy. They are loved family members and valued co-workers and neighbors—and yet for fear of detention or deportation, many feel unsafe calling 911, seeking help when they are victims of a crime, or giving witness testimony. Immigration enforcement is the sole responsibility of the federal government. When local state and law enforcement overreaches, it erodes community trust, feeds racial profiling, and drains state resources.

Bills to watch: HF3459/SF3516



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