



Our 2026

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, making impact investments—and 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 investing in public schools, fueling economic mobility, and building wealth in historically underserved communities. Increasingly, we pair that grantmaking with direct advocacy.

Our 2026 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 and support solutions that are shaped by local communities.

Legislative Priorities



EDUCATION

Supporting students and schools 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 \$250,000 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.
- **Requiring Minnesota teacher preparation programs to align their literacy instruction with READ Act standards.** This will help ensure future teachers learn proven, research-based methods so they can help all Minnesota students read at or above grade level.
- **Adopting recommendations made by the Student Attendance and Truancy Legislative Study Group.** During the COVID-19 pandemic, schools in Minnesota and nationwide paused public reporting on attendance and other measures of school performance. When reporting resumed, the data showed a dramatic drop in the percentage of students who consistently attend school, from 85% in 2019 to less than 70% in 2022. In 2024, Minnesota lawmakers created a bipartisan legislative study group that recommended discussion of statutory and agency changes to address this issue.
- **Expanding the definition of instructional hours for high school students to allow for more engaging and relevant educational opportunities.** State law requires schools to provide a minimum number of instructional hours and days each year, often called “seat time.” However, the law is unclear about what counts as “seat time,” which can make it harder for students to earn credit outside a traditional classroom. Clarifying the law will help schools give students more flexibility to learn in ways that are personalized and relevant to their interests, while still meeting state requirements.



HOUSING

Expanding access to safe, affordable homes by...

- **Putting the Our Future Starts at Home Amendment to the Minnesota Constitution on the ballot for voters to ratify.** Everyone in Minnesota deserves a safe, healthy, and affordable home. This amendment would generate steady, dedicated state funding for housing—much as we already invest in schools, health care, roads, and transportation.





ECONOMIC MOBILITY

Driving financial resilience and equitable opportunity for all Minnesotans by...

- **Providing state funding to Twin Cities and Greater Minnesota businesses that experienced significant revenue losses during Operation Metro Surge.** This investment would help offset the economic impact of increased immigration enforcement on small businesses, helping them stay open as customers return.
- **Investing \$50 million in the GroundBreak Capital Access and Innovation Fund.** GroundBreak is a coalition of philanthropic, private, and civic organizations working to build Black wealth, close racial wealth divides, and create a more vibrant Minnesota for all. Over the next decade, the [GroundBreak Coalition](#) is working to unlock over \$5 billion in capital to ensure that entrepreneurs who do not come from wealthy networks can grow their businesses, developers without traditional collateral can realize their visions, and mortgage-ready families can build lasting generational wealth.

Most of these resources will come from financial institutions, as well as philanthropic and private partners. This state investment in the GroundBreak Capital Access and Innovation Fund, which is administered by the Minneapolis Foundation, is critical for bridging one-time gaps, scaling solutions, and maximizing private investments. State funds would flow through the Minneapolis Foundation and be deployed by GroundBreak originating partners (Community Development Financial Institutions and nonprofits) that work directly with wealth builders.



IMMIGRATION

Preserving constitutional boundaries and local public safety priorities by...

- **Ensuring state and local resources are not used for federal civil immigration enforcement, including data sharing or federally conditioned funding.** 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 our neighbors, friends, and family. The recent ICE surge has made it clear how urgently our state must act to prevent federal overreach and ensure Minnesota remains a place where newcomers are welcome and everyone can live in peace and contribute to our communities.



EQUAL RIGHTS

Ensuring equal protection under the law for all Minnesotans by...

- **Putting the Equal Rights Amendment to the Minnesota Constitution on the ballot for voters to ratify.** 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.



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