



2021 Policy Agenda

The Minnesota Council of Nonprofits (MCN) informs, promotes, connects, and strengthens individual nonprofits and the nonprofit sector through public policy at local, state, and federal levels. MCN strives to ground our policy work in a racial equity lens and advance our vision of Minnesota becoming a state where all can thrive, regardless of who they are or where they live.

The nonprofit sector is a vital component of the state's economy, and an important part of strong communities. MCN's public policy team works to support and advance the nonprofit ecosystem, which includes 390,000 dedicated staff, over 9,000 nonprofit organizations, and the millions of Minnesotans who engage with nonprofits every year. MCN's Minnesota Budget Project works to expand Minnesota's prosperity to all Minnesotans through budget, tax, and economic policies.

Uphold and Advance the Role of the Nonprofit Sector

- Oppose state budget cuts to the nonprofit sector, recognizing the sector's contributions to the state and the economic damage to the sector caused by the pandemic.
- Strengthen and maintain tax policies that enhance the nonprofit sector's ability to maximize its partnership with the community, including tax exemptions for nonprofit organizations and tax incentives for charitable contributions that treat all donors and types of giving equally.
- Protect Minnesota's charitable assets and promote transparency in philanthropy.
- Affirm nonprofits are desirable employers and promote employment policies that take into consideration the unique circumstances of nonprofit organizations while supporting the communities with whom nonprofits partner.
- Ensure nonprofits are included in state and federal policies responding to the pandemic and economic downturn.
- Improve systems that distribute government resources to increase racial equity in government funding.
- Oppose unreasonable and/or unconstitutional nonprofit fees and assessments on nonprofits by government entities, including those imposed upon their volunteers, which limit nonprofits' ability to fulfill their missions.
- Protect the decision-making autonomy and self-governance authority of nonprofit boards and officers.

Support Budget, Tax, and Economic Policies that Create a More Equitable Minnesota

- Advocate for robust and fair state revenue increases to address state revenue shortfalls, prevent harmful cuts to public services, take needed actions to tackle the pandemic, and promote a more equitable recovery.
- Oppose state budget cuts to affordable health care, child care, and other public services that would harm lower-income Minnesotans; Minnesotans who are Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC); and others facing barriers to economic security.
- Advance state and federal policies to respond to the pandemic and economic downturn so that all Minnesotans can be healthy, safe, and economically secure, with a priority on targeting the specific barriers to well-being faced by BIPOC Minnesotans, Minnesotans with lower incomes, and others facing barriers to economic security.

- Promote policies that expand opportunity, close racial disparities, and improve the economic security of low- and moderate-income Minnesotans and BIPOC Minnesotans.
- Support inclusive policies that allow immigrants and refugees to thrive, and address barriers that keep them from fully participating in our communities and economy.

Build a Strong Democracy and Encourage Civic Participation

- Encourage improvements to systems of democracy in order to increase access to civic engagement opportunities, including participation in public dialogue, nonpartisan redistricting plans, and improved judicial selection.
- Reinforce Minnesota's history as a leader in voter turnout by expanding trust in and access to voting, including ballot privacy, voting rights restoration, and automatic voter registration.
- Bolster access to policymaking processes in a time of limited physical access to the state capitol and other decision-making bodies.