

# 2022 MCN Public 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, particularly lower-income and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) Minnesotans, through budget, tax, and economic policies.*

## Uphold and Advance the Role of the Nonprofit Sector

- Ensure nonprofits are included in state and federal policies responding to the pandemic and economic downturn, including a state nonprofit relief fund, to sustain nonprofits' ability to effectively meet community needs due to COVID-19 and support long-term recovery.
- 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 donors and types of giving equitably.
- Protect Minnesota's charitable assets and promote needed philanthropic reforms, focusing on reforms that advance racial equity by getting more funds to working nonprofits and that promote transparency in philanthropy.
- Represent the nonprofit sector as desirable employers in policy debates impacting employers and/or wage and job quality standards, taking into consideration the unique financial and regulatory characteristics of nonprofit organizations while supporting the well-being of workers and communities with whom nonprofits partner.
- Improve government systems to increase and improve nonprofits' access to government funding, with particular focus on small, rural, and BIPOC organizations.
- Oppose unreasonable and/or unconstitutional fees and assessments on nonprofits by government entities, including those imposed on their volunteers, that limit nonprofits' ability to fulfill their missions.
- Protect the decision-making autonomy and self-governance authority of nonprofit boards and officers.

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## Support Budget, Tax & Economic Policies that Create a More Equitable MN

- Advocate for a robust and fair revenue system by supporting progressive tax policies and opposing large and/or regressive tax cuts that would undermine the ability to fund public investments in a more equitable future.
- Advance equity and inclusion in the tax code by strengthening tax credits for lower-income Minnesotans, and ensuring BIPOC Minnesotans have equitable access to tax policies that support building income and wealth.
- In allocation of state resources (including ARP and other federal funding sources), prioritize bold action to respond to the ongoing health and economic impacts of the pandemic, address long-standing disparities and areas of disinvestment, and build a stronger, more equitable recovery.
- Advance policies so that all Minnesotans can be healthy, safe, and economically secure, with a priority on targeting the barriers to well-being faced by BIPOC Minnesotans, Minnesotans with lower incomes, and others facing barriers to economic security.
- Expand access to affordable health care by addressing coverage and affordability gaps in public health care programs and the private market, and advance equitable health outcomes.
- Expand access to affordable child care through increasing funding to reach more families, reducing costs and barriers to families, increasing reimbursement rates paid to providers, and improving wages and job quality for child care workers (who are disproportionately BIPOC folks and primarily women).
- Improve wage and job quality standards that promote the economic security of lower-income Minnesotans and BIPOC Minnesotans, including access to paid sick time and paid family leave. Make workers and their families a priority in decisions about unemployment insurance and its financing.
- Support inclusive policies that allow immigrants and refugees to thrive and that address barriers that keep these Minnesotans from fully participating in our communities and economy, such as access to driver's licenses and higher education financial aid regardless of immigration status.
- Advance racial equity in the state's policymaking processes and support targeted investment in BIPOC communities.

## 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 particularly for communities historically excluded from these processes, especially in a time of limited physical access to the state capitol and other decision-making bodies.