City of Minneapolis
2015 Policy Positions

As Amended on January 8, 2015

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Funding and Running a City that Works

Local Government Finance

Local government's main source of revenue is the property tax, as Minnesota has a tax revenue system that centralizes most tax authority, collections and disbursements with the State. Cities may not impose non-property taxes, such as sales taxes, without legislative approval.

To compensate for restricting cities' ability to impose local non-property taxes, and to enable cities with high needs and low property-wealth to provide services at a reasonable tax rate, the State redistributes tax revenue to local government with a complex system of intergovernmental aids and other state-local revenue sharing programs.

Ensuring that the state and local fiscal relationship is strong and reliable is critical to being able to provide public services for the residents and visitors who live, work and play in the City of Minneapolis.

Minneapolis is supportive of policies that address local government finance, including:

- Diversification of revenue sources available to cities.
- Reduction of statutory exemptions to the property tax, require local government approval of exemptions, and provide increased flexibility for local governments to collect payments for services on tax exempted property.
- Ensuring balance in the state-local fiscal relationship, recognizing the support of state revenues generated by local government and the need to fairly redistribute these revenues to better reduce overburden and overreliance on property taxes.
- Repealing the special law related to the Convention Center (Laws 1986, Chapter 396) that reduces the Minneapolis lodging tax when the sum of other sales taxes applied to lodging exceed 13%.
- Funding for homeowner and renter direct property tax relief programs that base property tax relief on income, and simplification of the delivery process for these programs.
- The current Local Government Aid (LGA) program, including increased funding and other resources to local governments.
- Elimination or reduction of unfunded mandates and levy limits imposed on local governments.
- Pension legislation that ensures the long-term viability of all state-wide public pension funds without overburdening local governments. Such legislation should fulfill the commitments made to our City employees, and could include reasonable adjustments to investment assumptions, employee employer contributions as well as continued state contributions including those to all local funds folding into the state-wide plans.

Capital Bonding

State support for capital bonding projects in the City will provide infrastructure to ensure that Minneapolis is a great place for those who live, work, and visit here. There were three projects that Minneapolis submitted to Minnesota Management and Budget as bonding priorities for the 2014 Legislative Session, but they were not funded. These projects include:

- 35W S & 35W N Storm Tunnel Preservation Project $4.5M
- Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery Rehabilitation $1.9M
- Regional Drinking Water Back-Up Supply $1.5M

In addition, the City of Minneapolis supports state capital bonding money to rehabilitate the 10th Avenue Bridge, which serves as an important connection over the river between downtown Minneapolis and the University of Minnesota. It accommodates motorized traffic but also serves as a critical connection for non-motorized traffic.

The City of Minneapolis also supports continued metro-wide efforts to secure bonding funds for local inflow and infiltration and other storm water projects.

Minneapolis is also supportive of bonding for statewide bridge replacement and rehabilitation and the Transit Capital Improvement Program including funding for: Bottineau, Cedar, Northern Lights Express, 35W BRT Lake Street Transit Access Project, and Southwest transit corridors.

City capital bonding priorities will be updated in 2015 for submission to Minnesota Management and Budget for the 2016 Legislative Session.

Transportation

State funding for transit and roads is critical to ensuring that the City runs well, including stable and secure financial resources to meet both the capital and operational needs of the expanding regional transit and transportation systems. Our state and local economy rely on a well-funded transportation system to ensure our ability to connect to jobs, housing, and amenities.

Minneapolis supports funding for all modes of transportation and puts a high priority on model options that provide alternatives to the use of single occupancy vehicles and supports legislation that requires that all state funded transportation projects consider appropriate accommodations for all transportation modes. Minneapolis supports investment in transportation and transit, including:

Transportation and Transit System Funding:

- State capital investment money for transportation and transit projects.
- Funding for the state's portion of high speed rail funds for a Chicago to Twin Cities route.
- Funding of all other transit corridors that help build a complete transit system.
- New funding mechanisms for alternative transportation forms including street cars.
- Adequate funding for transit operations without reductions in metropolitan development funds.
- Legislation creating alternative sources of revenue for transportation improvements and Transit Improvement Areas, including local authority to create and make use of a street utility, and new forms of Tax Increment Financing.
- Changes to Municipal State Aid standards that allow cities to design and build streets that safely meet the needs of all who use them.
- Increased funding for pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and programming including programs that seek to incentivize innovation in bicycling infrastructure including appropriate flexibility on design standards.

Transportation and Transit System Policies:

- Complete Streets policies throughout the state, including for MnDOT projects.
- Local flexibility and ease of implementation when seeking to design and implement pedestrian and bicycling safety efforts unique to urban environments.
- A state-level study of the economic impact of bicycling.
- Efforts to promote electric vehicles and charging station use development and manufacturing in Minnesota.

Municipal Governance

State policies that maintain oversight but still support local control are critical for Minneapolis to conduct business in an orderly and efficient manner with the best possible service to our residents and customers. In some cases, there are changes to state law that can enhance Minneapolis' ability to provide good municipal governance while ensuring that the City is working well for all to live, work and play. Minneapolis is supportive of many policies that would enhance enterprise operations:

General Government:

- Legislation that eliminates outdated or unnecessary publications and permits cities to elect alternative means such as the internet to publish notices and official proceedings.
- Authority in State Building Code to enhance and enforce local green building regulations related to housing.
- Legislation to allow for alternative methods to collection of unpaid fines on a vehicle that has multiple unpaid parking violations.
- Legislation that provides for complete reimbursement of the costs incurred by local governments in enforcing state and local laws. Such legislation should include requiring that if a court reduces the amount paid by a violator, any reduction should be made from the surcharge and not the fine.
- Maintain city authority to license entities and set fees that enable cities to recover full regulatory and enforcement expenses of pawnshops, massage establishments, and tattoo and piercing establishments.

Animal Control:

- Legislation that would permit qualifying nonprofit animal welfare organizations to provide subsidized spay and neuter services to animals belonging to low-income persons.
- Ensure local government ability to provide highest level of service to animals in our care, and oppose efforts to place additional unnecessary and costly requirements regarding animal control.

Sewer Access Charge:

- Support a SAC program that emphasizes equity, simplification, and lower rates.
- Support changes to the SAC program so that fees are better based on the need of those paying into the system for their corresponding capacity.
- Support a comprehensive and long-range study of the overall SAC program and structure.

Elections:

- Flexibility and authority for cities to conduct alternative election-related initiatives, including but not limited to expanded vote-by-mail, early voting, vote centers, ranked choice voting, and additional translation assistance in the polling place.
- Legislation that adopts rules to implement instant runoff voting or authorizes the Secretary of State or cities to promulgate the rules.
- Legislation allowing cities to require write-in candidates for municipal office to register for office prior to the election.
- Current law with regard to access to polling place, and would oppose legislation that requires a voter to present authorized photo identification in the polling place to obtain a ballot.

Staffing and Human Resources:

- State law allowing the Office of Police Conduct Review (OPCR) to be granted limited subpoena power to compel the production of documents, records, and other physical evidence to improve

the quality of (OPCR) staff investigations by obtaining information relevant to the allegations from entities outside the City organization.
- Retaining the functions, powers, and authority of municipal civilian review authorities.
- Special legislation pertaining to the City of Minneapolis to modify the certification procedure for filling vacant positions in the classified service.
- Legislation that modifies the Minnesota driver's license procedures to allow information regarding the applicant to be gathered from an identification card issued by a government other than the United States.
- Legislation providing flexibility in the Municipal Contracting law to allow a city to select a software vendor whose product best matches the city's needs.

Ensuring that the City is Safe and Livable

Public Safety

Keeping residents and visitors safe is a top priority for the City of Minneapolis. Providing public safety, a core responsibility of local government, is threatened by insufficient funding. Minneapolis supports policies that will ensure a safe and livable City, including:

Resources and Funding for Public Safety:
- Funding for the entire public safety system, including such critical functions as police, fire, prosecutors, public defense, communication systems, probation, the courts and victim services.
- Sufficient funding for programs that fund mental health treatment and other safety net services.
- Continued funding for re-entry programs and efforts to coordinate the programs with existing opportunities, including legislation that supports the re-entry of ex-offenders into their communities through voting rights, public/private training and employment programs, and access to affordable housing.
- Initiatives to address livability crimes, including continued and increased state funding for restorative justice programs.
- Continued and increased state financing of local costs to participate in the Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response (ARMER). Such financing should include the acquisition and modernization of console and tower site equipment and subscriber equipment, such as portable and mobile radios required for ARMER users when such modernization is mandated and driven by a state timeline to comply.
- Imposing a statewide, wholesale level impact fee equivalent to a per-drink surcharge on alcoholic beverages and using the proceeds for public safety, crime prevention and rehabilitation.

Public Safety Policies and Coordination Efforts:
- Creating a statewide coordinated plan for dealing with released sex offenders that addresses the overall concentration of offenders located within the City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County and especially mitigates the concentration of sex offenders within vulnerable neighborhoods. To ensure this equitable distribution of sex offenders, the State must fund additional housing options and placement of half-way houses throughout the metropolitan region.
- Protecting the human rights of immigrant populations and establishing a culture of mutual trust between law enforcement and immigrant populations to foster greater community public safety.

Strengthening Criminal Code:
- Changing the criminal code to address chronic offenders of indecent exposure laws and allowing for enhancement to felony level offenses.

- Amending the burglary statues to make it a crime for a person to enter a building without consent and commit invasion of privacy offenses.
- Legislation creating tougher penalties for offenders convicted of tagging, which includes the suspending of drivers' licenses for up to one year; and also support a statewide age limit on the purchase of spray paint.
- Allowing "any equivalent crime in another state" to be added to the increased penalty for certain misdemeanors statute and clarifying when prosecutors may charge offenders.
- Creating a misdemeanor to refuse to submit to a chemical test if a peace officer has lawfully placed a person under arrest for carrying a pistol in public while intoxicated.
- Establishing a gross misdemeanor for assault against code enforcement officers while they are performing their duties.
- Strengthening laws regarding the health, safety and wellbeing of vulnerable adults, including indecent exposure and neglect laws.

Data Practices:
- Classification of data collected from automatic license plate readers as private data.
- Legislation classifying criminal intelligence data received from other states in the manner it was designated in that other state at the time of the request.

Sex Trafficking:
- Efforts to reduce trafficking and exploitation.
- Legislation designating funding for treatment and creation of transitional housing programs to support survivors of sex trafficking.
- Efforts to end the sexual exploitation of youth by building a system that responds effectively to their needs, including sufficient resources and training for law enforcement and service providers.

Domestic Abuse:
- Amending the existing definition of "family or household members" to clarify that it does include persons *formerly* involved in such a relationship.
- Strengthening the existing domestic abuse no contact order statute to provide increased safety for victims and to enable police, prosecutors, probation and the courts to hold domestic abuse offenders who violate those orders more accountable.

Traffic and Driving Safety:
- Allowing for a gross misdemeanor and increasing penalties for careless driving offense if driving conduct results in a fatality or great bodily harm.
- Establishing an aggravating factor to the driving while impaired statute for having caused an accident resulting in property damage or physical injury to another person.
- Amending the reckless or careless driving statute to address aggressive driving perpetrated with malicious intent.
- Legislation enabling cities to efficiently leverage public safety resources by allowing the use of technology such as photo enforcement systems.
- Legislation making it a crime to drive under the influence of any drug that makes a person an unsafe driver.
- Amending the driving while impaired statute to change to .16, the level at which a person's alcohol concentration becomes an aggravating factor.

Reducing Gun Violence:
- Legislation supporting significant gun control measures including the mandatory reporting of any lost or stolen firearm, strengthening laws regulating the transfer of firearms, the prohibition of possessing replica guns in public, and measures to stop the flow of handguns to youth.

- Prohibiting carrying a pistol with a blood-alcohol concentration of .08 or more.
- Creating a gross misdemeanor offense for carrying a firearm while under the influence.
- Clarifying that uninvited people and trespassers on private land may not circumvent Minnesota's permit to carry law.
- Reductions in access to firearms and revocation of firearms permits for those who have experienced a mental health incident that required the intervention of law enforcement, such as a 72-hour hold.
- Amending state law to allow local jurisdictions to implement firearms safety ordinances different from state law that are appropriate to that community.
- Increased discretionary power for municipalities to grant or deny firearm permits.
- Creation of a legislatively mandated, multi-disciplinary gun violence policy committee to look in-depth at Minnesota's gun laws, and to make recommendations to the legislature.
- Raising the legal age for purchasing guns from 18 to 21.

Fire Safety:

- Required inspections by the State Fire Marshall to include private schools, assisted living facilities and resorts.
- Methods to secure reimbursement for medical care provided by first responders.
- The City of Minneapolis supports creation of a Community Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) standard to allow fire departments across the state to partner with health care systems to become incorporated in a patient's treatment plan via home visits in order to ensure the patient is following their doctor's orders, has their required medication, obtain vital signs and conduct home safety audits for elderly patients.

Opposition to Policies that Compromise Public Safety:

- Expansion of the sale and use of fireworks.
- Efforts to decriminalize misdemeanor and livability-related offenses.
- Transfers from the dedicated Fire Safety Account to the state general fund.
- Efforts to divert dedicated ARMER funds to the state's general fund.

Affordable Housing and Homelessness Prevention

Recognizing that an individual's housing needs may change over time or due to circumstance, all parts of the housing continuum are important to maintain, invest in and support. Minneapolis has adopted and implemented policies to provide lifecycle housing throughout the City.

Providing all residents with safe, quality and affordable housing is a priority in Minneapolis. In cooperation with public and private partners, the City assists in the production of affordable rental and owner-occupied housing. To address affordable housing and issues of homelessness, the City of Minneapolis supports:

Policies to Enhance Community Stabilization and Strength:

- Prevention of mortgage foreclosures, secure and reoccupation of vacant and abandoned properties, and stabilization of communities that have suffered from foreclosures and abandonment. Such policies include but are not limited to:
    - Improved notices of foreclosures to cities and renters
    - Modifications of mortgage terms
    - Increased availability and public awareness of counseling services
    - Modifying the foreclosure process to provide additional time prior to the sale
    - Maintain owner occupancy of foreclosed homes by current or new owner occupants
    - Lender-owner mediation

- Initiation of a state-supported land trust project.
- Elimination of tax incentives that encourage the conversion of single family housing to rental property.
- Prospective repeal of the relative homestead property tax classification.
- Providing cities with additional authority related to property maintenance and upkeep, including but not limited to: assessing for the remediation of nuisance vegetation, and acquiring properties in neighborhoods impacted by concentrated foreclosures.
- Expansion of the Tenant Remedies Action law to permit cities to seek a court appointed administrator to manage rental properties in cases where the owners have failed to comply with rental licensing standards.

Funding for Housing and Homelessness Prevention Initiatives:

- Continued funding for the Homeless Youth Act.
- State income tax credits for affordable housing
- Capital and programmatic funding for Heading Home Hennepin.
- Funding for local governments or non-profits to purchase homes for owner-occupancy
- Appropriations, including Housing infrastructure Bonds, for MinnesotaHousing at a level significant enough to have statewide impact on shelters as well as permanent, supportive, assisted and transitional housing that serve affordable housing needs throughout the State. The Legislature should also continue the homelessness prevention programs, including the outreach project and provide additional resources for housing preservation and mortgage foreclosure prevention programs.

City Livability

City livability is a critical component to ensuring that Minneapolis residents live well. From health-related policies to investments in our youth, Minneapolis supports a variety of policies that ensure Minneapolis is safe and livable for all to live, work, and play:

General City Livability

- Legislation authorizing the development of a statewide aviation policy to diversify air traffic throughout the State.
- Support policies and tools to prevent, reduce, or mitigate noise and health impacts to airport adjacent communities.
- Inclusion of e-cigarettes in the Minnesota Clean Indoor Air Act (MCIAA) while preserving the ability of local government to enact more restrictive ordinances.
- Supporting efforts to increase the monitoring of air quality in the City of Minneapolis and the investigation of any resulting human health and environmental impacts.
- Legislation to expand access to medical cannabis for authorized individuals with a debilitating medical condition.
- Flexibility for the City of Minneapolis regarding governance of neighborhood revitalization programs.
- Retention of current law prohibiting the purchase of wine in grocery stores.

Youth Violence Prevention:

- Establishing competitive grant funds for existing state or local mentoring partnerships to increase the number of mentors statewide.
- Increased funding for youth development, early intervention, out-of-school time, and mentoring opportunities.

- Increasing the quantity of, appropriation for, and ease of access to existing state resources such as the Youth Intervention Program grants that fund prevention and intervention programs that address youth violence and associated risk and protective factors.
- Maintaining state and federal workforce funding and policies to employ at-risk youth and youth reentering the community from the criminal justice system.
- Supporting policies that help local law enforcement track illegal guns and restrict the access of young people to illegal guns.
- Supporting funding for the Youth Violence Prevention Act of 2009.

Public Health Funding and Policy:

- Maintain funding to community health boards for the State Health Improvement Program.
- Adequate funding and preservation of the Local Public Health Grant Program.
- Support increased funding for public health emergency preparedness and response.
- The use of Health Impact Assessments and funding to conduct them.

Public Health for Children:

- Sustaining the minor's consent law permitting adolescents to see medical providers for confidential reproductive, mental health and chemical dependency services.
- Strengthening physical and health education curriculum in schools to prevent obesity and promote healthy lifestyles.
- Policies and enhanced funding to increase the number of children who can bike and walk to school safely.
- Increased reimbursement for pre-school developmental and health screening, to ensure that reimbursements cover the actual cost of preschool screening.
- Policies that identify and replace toxic chemicals in children's products with safer alternatives.
- Establishing and enforcing quality standards, and restoring and maintaining the funding for early childhood programs.

Closing the Health Equity Gap:

- Expanding health care access and resources to help low-income persons obtain health care coverage and health services, such as the Minnesota Health Plan Act.
- Ensuring comprehensive benefit set that emphasizes primary and preventive care and includes physical health, mental health, substance abuse, dental services, medications and quality interpreter and translation services.
- Sufficient funding for and improved access to MinnesotaCare, Medical Assistance, and urban family planning programs.
- Controlling both administrative and clinical costs, assures culturally relevant high quality care, and is easy for patients to understand.
- Increasing state funding for HIV and STD prevention and control.
- Increased funding for the Eliminating Health Disparities grants.
- Opposition to efforts to further restrict access to health care programs for undocumented persons.

Creating Great Natural and Built Places in Minneapolis

Environmental Protection and Sustainability

Environmental protection and sustainability efforts are important for the vitality of our future. The City will partner with county, state, federal and other jurisdictions to provide resources to implement policies. Minneapolis supports robust environmental policies focused on improving air, water and soil quality, including:

Environmental and Resource Protection Policies:

- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) initiatives that require manufacturers to finance the costs of collecting, reusing, recycling, or safe disposal of their products such as carpets, mattresses, electronics, and pharmaceuticals.
- Legislation that is intended to protect and preserve the state's drinking water resources.
- State efforts to collect more accurate solid waste data, including Minneapolis-specific data.
- Incentives for use of organics in both composting and anaerobic digestion facilities, as an additional motivation to keep organic material out of landfills.
- Incentives for manufacturers to stop using chemicals and look toward sustainable products and processes.
- Passage of a Low-Carbon Fuel Standard to reduce carbon impact of transportation fuels in Minnesota at least 10% by 2020.
- Legislation that has the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- Support energy efficiency goals and activities by investor owned utilities.
- Legislation that increases distributed generation technologies, such as solar photovoltaic, solar thermal production, wind, combined heat and power for both public and private entities.
- Increasing the State's Renewable Energy Standard.
- Legislation that encourages state and local government to adopt policies and plans that reduce greenhouse gas emissions through land use planning and transportation investments.
- Support legislation directing state energy efficiency and renewable energy goals to be incorporated in local municipal energy franchise agreements.

State Funding and Resources for Environmental Protection:

- Increasing state funding to local governments for rehabilitation of existing stormwater and wastewater infrastructure.
- Increasing state funding to local governments for stormwater infrastructure, particularly projects; necessitated by an "impaired waters" finding or new regulatory mandate, beneficial for flood mitigation, or to advance green infrastructure objectives.
- Supporting grants and other financial resources for investments beneficial to inflow and infiltration reduction, to minimize the risk of combined sewer overflows, or to respond to new regulatory mandates.
- Amend rules and support legislation that expands urban composting efforts including the licensing of facilities to accept co-collected mixed yard waste and source separated organic materials. Support allowances for small composting sites.
- Support increased state funding for the state solid waste block grant program referred to as SCORE to be used for recycling efforts and expansion of organics collection.

Agriculture and Forestry Policies:

- State agency procedures that will increase funding for incentives for tree planting and maintenance.
- Research on insecticide to treat Emerald Ash Borer to determine effectiveness and impacts on human health and environment.
- Legislation that enables and incentivizes more food to be grown, processed, distributed and composted locally, including reduction of regulatory barriers, and which increases access to healthy food for low income households.
- Maintaining constitutionally dedicated conservation funds, and oppose efforts to transfer these resources.
- Legislation that provides cities of the first class limited authority to impose reasonable restrictions on the use of pesticides and require pesticides sold in Minnesota to indicate if they are pollinator friendly.

- Policies, programs and research that protect the health of pollinators and provide vital information, including information about pesticides and insecticide application, to growers and consumers.
- Efforts to prepare for the impacts of climate change on infrastructure, natural systems and human health.
- Health study of synthetic turf and crumb rubber adding a comparable analysis of alternatives.
- Research to address the spread of Asian Carp.

Making Minneapolis a Hub for Economic Activity and Innovation

Ensuring that strong state policies and financial assistance to local governments produce equitable job growth and economic development in the City of Minneapolis will make sure that businesses of all sizes start, move, stay, and grow here.

Redevelopment and Economic Development

Minneapolis supports state financial assistance and policy modifications to enhance redevelopment, economic development, and infrastructure improvements for cities, including:

- Increased funding and flexibility for the state's redevelopment fund
- Additional resources for the brownfield clean-up program
- Additional funding and resources for sustainable development and green manufacturing
- Reauthorization of this "Old House" program, a 10-year tax deferment on improvements made to houses built prior to 1960 and authorization of a similar program for eligible business property.
- Supports special tax increment legislation to assist with the redevelopment of the Upper Harbor Terminal.
- Authorizing the transfer of the proceeds of contamination tax to the clean-up grant account.
- Continuation of the Livable Communities Act programs.
- Increased funding for the Minnesota Historical Society's Historical and Cultural Grant Program.
- Allows cities to use Design-Build process for local project.
- Amend eminent domain statute in response to MN Supreme Court decision holding that the fair market value of contaminated property in a condemnation proceeding is the value of the property as if the contamination had already been remediated.

Jobs and Workforce Development

The City of Minneapolis utilizes state and federal resources to operate a jobs and training program that assists youth and adults in obtaining jobs skills and employment. Minneapolis is supportive of job and workforce development policy and funding, including:

- Increased funding for the summer youth employment program and adult job training and employment programs.
- Ensuring that job training and youth employment programs previously receiving direct state appropriations are able to continue to serve the same number of youth and continue to provide the same high-quality training and employment experience.
- Legislation that prohibits employers from refusing to hire unemployed persons.

Fostering Equity: One Minneapolis

Eliminating Racial and Gender Disparities

Closing racial and gender gaps in the City is not only critical to ensuring that all Minneapolis residents can grow and prosper, but it is also important to our overall quality of life and future success as a City and region. The City of Minneapolis supports policies to eliminate racial and gender disparities in employment and create employment opportunities for communities of color and women throughout the state, including:

Early Childhood Education:

- Initiatives brought forth by the Cradle to K Cabinet, including but not limited to:
  - Increased funding for family home visiting services.
  - Expansion of early learning scholarships.
  - Early intervention eligibility for young homeless children.
  - Policy and fiscal support for changes to the Child Care Assistance Program.

Health:

- The reinstatement of the legislative authority to conduct infant mortality reviews for infant deaths in communities of color, which sunsetted in 2001.
- Support proposals that will create healthy homes for children, including:
  - Requesting that the State Health Commissioner change the definition of an Elevated Blood Level to 5 micrograms per deciliter.
  - Change the statute to allow the City to write lead orders when a child tests below 10 micrograms per deciliter.
  - Promote Healthy Homes legislation that seeks the reduction of asthma triggers, and other indoor environmental health concerns.
  - Support Medicaid reimbursement for asthma home visits and products.

Housing:

- Improving transitions from corrections, including ensuring permanent state funding for additional prison discharge planners and the creation and funding for a jail re-entry pilot project.
- Repeal of the $50 offset for households living in public or rent subsidized housing and receiving financial assistance from the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP).

Building Wealth:

- Policies that reduce access to and use of credit information and criminal records by employers, including mandated notification to job applicants of access to credit and criminal background check reports.

Workforce Development:

- The establishment of workforce goals for state franchise agreement holders to create increased employment opportunities for women and communities of color.
- The creation of a statewide portal for internship opportunities for youth.
- Review and expansion of the state's apprenticeship certification process to allow for increased inclusion of new positions.

Employment Access:

- Legislation creating employment and contracting guidance for state capital projects regarding the recruitment, training and engagement of individuals and companies from communities experiencing high rates of unemployment, including from communities of color.
- Supporting government employment pathways that provide multiple points of entry for workers of various ages and experiences to access public employment.

Certification, Procurement and Business Development

Certification

- Support for organizations and programs that provide technical assistance for minority-owned businesses and those who work with minority-owned businesses to become certified minority vendors for the purpose of increasing markets for their products to government and other purchasers.
- Increased consistency and simplicity in certification standards and processes, such as the development of a single certification or a unified certification portal.
- Clear identification of certified businesses in cooperative agreements.
- Policies that increase the number of certified minority-owned businesses.

Procurement

- Clear goal setting for purchasing from minority-owned businesses for the state and other units of government.
- Development and investment in clear strategies by the state and other government entities to promote themselves as purchasers of the supplies and services provided by minority-owned businesses.
- State investment in minority-owned businesses and a regular reporting mechanism of these investments throughout the state.
- Statewide monitoring and regular reporting of the funds spent by the state and other units of government for procurement from minority-owned businesses.

Business Development

- Investments in outreach initiatives to promote entrepreneurship and business development to increase the number of minority-owned businesses.
- Investment in organizations and programs that provide financial and business development resources to minority-owned businesses to assist them in building capacity and improving management systems.
- State review of unnecessary barriers to minority-owned businesses and entrepreneurs.

Capital Investments

- Conducting of racial equity impact assessments for large capital investments to examine how different communities may be affected by proposed projects to ensure equitable development throughout the state.