

HENNEPIN COUNTY  
MINNESOTA

Federal Legislative Platform  
2018

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Hennepin County is the 34th most populous county in the United States, and the largest in Minnesota. Within the county are 45 cities, including Minneapolis, and the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.

Hennepin County  
Intergovernmental Relations

[hennepin.us](http://hennepin.us)



# Transportation

**Sustain and strengthen the federal-state-county partnership that supports the nation's roads, bridges, transit, and rail systems. Ensure Minnesota's transportation infrastructure supports a 21st century economy and vibrant, active communities.**

- Increase infrastructure investment through new sources of revenue and support continued federal partnerships in projects such as the Capital Investment Grant (CIG) program
- Support key investments:
  - Green Line extension (Southwest LRT)
  - Blue Line extension (Bottineau LRT)
  - Orange bus rapid transit line
- Support cash and innovative financing options in any comprehensive infrastructure package

# Health and human services

**Encourage innovation in solving complex health and human services problems and recognize crises such as opioids through prevention. Maximize partnerships among federal, state, county, and private funders to support sustainable models of health and wellness.**

- Maximize state flexibility under Medicaid to encourage innovation in the delivery of care that improves overall population health and rewards efficiency
- Oppose mandatory Medicaid enrollee work requirements or changes to the Medicaid system such as block granting or payment caps
- Support changes to the Affordable Care Act that maintain or improve health access and lower costs

- Support welfare reform initiatives that streamline and simplify access to services and encourage innovation at the local government level to create pathways out of poverty
- Support interventions to address critical public health needs such as the epidemic of opiate overuse, emergency preparedness, infectious diseases, maternal and child health, and pregnancy prevention

# Safety-net health services

**Ensure access to meaningful and affordable health care by protecting and promoting the financial vitality of safety-net hospitals, like HCMC, in the context of federal reforms to publicly funded health care programs, like Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and Medicare.**

- Protect critical funding streams and payments to safety-net providers, including the 340B Drug Pricing Program, Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) program, and supplemental payments for Medicare and Medicaid
- Support beneficial adjustments to federal payment methodologies in both Medicaid and Medicare for safety-net providers, including the Medicare readmission penalty, to take into account social determinants of health that unfairly penalize hospitals that serve a large proportion of low-income seniors and people with disabilities

## Taxes

**Support federal tax policies to leverage local investment in infrastructure, housing, and services.**

- Support continued tax-free status of municipal bonds and private activity bonds
- Preserve and strengthen the low-income housing, Federal Historic, and New Markets tax credit programs.

## Criminal justice

**Support criminal justice, mental health and sentencing reforms that advance proven diversion strategies and facilitate offender re-entry.**

- Reduce regulatory burdens (e.g., Institution of Mental Disease (IMD) exclusion, data sharing limitations) that compromise services for people experiencing mental illness before they become involved in the justice system
- Support continued federal investment in local offender re-entry programs and other initiatives critical to reducing adult and juvenile involvement in the justice system

## Housing and community development

**Address the crisis in long-term affordable housing through direct federal investment.**

- Maintain adequate funding for the Community Development Block Grant program
- Support funding for HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) and other programs that advance affordable housing initiatives and supportive services at the local level

## Workforce development

**Support next-generation workforce needs by aligning federal incentives with partnerships among local governmental leaders and regional employers.**

- Strengthen local control under Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act programs to support career pathways for underskilled workers
- Reduce barriers to employment by aligning workforce program reporting requirements with skills and credentials needed by employers



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