

HENNEPIN COUNTY

MINNESOTA

Federal Legislative Platform

2019

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.

February 2019

Congressionally directed project funding requests

- **Green Line extension (Southwest LRT)** — \$150 million under FTA Capital Investment Grants Program
- **Blue Line extension (Bottineau LRT)** — \$20 million under FTA Capital Investment Grants Program
- **West Broadway (CSAH 103) in Brooklyn Park** — \$5 million under FHWA Surface Transportation Program
- **CSAH 610 Extension in Maple Grove** — \$4 million under FHWA Surface Transportation Program
- **Better Together Hennepin (teen pregnancy prevention)** — \$3 million under the Administration for Children and Families
- **Hennepin County Opioid Strategy Implementation** — \$500,000 under COPS Meth
- **Emergency Shelter Program** — \$750,000 under HUD's Community Development Fund Program
- **Hennepin Healthcare System Laboratory/Surgical Center Renovation Project** — \$10 million under HRSA's Health Center Program

Hennepin County
Intergovernmental Relations

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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)
- 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 or SNAP enrollee work requirements or changes to the social safety net such as block granting or payment caps
- Support changes to the Affordable Care Act that strengthen systems of health care delivery, expand 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, unsheltered homelessness, emergency preparedness, infectious diseases, maternal and child health, and pregnancy prevention
- Eliminate federal barriers to data sharing so that local governments can better support care coordination and efficient service delivery

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), Basic Health Plan, 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 that take into account social determinants of health that unfairly penalize hospitals that serve a large proportion of low-income seniors and people with disabilities
- Protect access to coverage and prevent uncompensated care by opposing the federal 'Public Charge' Rule and work requirements for Medicaid.

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. Restore local government authority to refund tax-exempt bonds (authority was eliminated in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017)
- 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
- Encourage and reward state and local collaborations that reduce barriers to employment and housing

Housing and community development

Address the crisis in 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
- Expand shelter and supports to address the immediate needs of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness

Workforce development

Support partnerships among local government, employers and training partners to meet regional workforce needs, address economic disparities and improve the economic competitiveness of our region.

- Provide flexibility in Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act programs to better support career pathways and career technical education for dislocated or under-skilled workers, youth and higher-barrier populations. (e.g. Recognition of employer and industry-recognized credentialing for use of federal funds.)
- Support regional sector-based partnerships providing career pathways to promote economic inclusion, address employment and income disparities, and meet industry hiring needs.

Immigration

Support comprehensive immigration reform that creates pathways to citizenship, addresses workforce development opportunities, provides access to health care and education, and supports fair and equitable interface with local public safety agencies. Oppose efforts to reduce or restrict access to the social safety net for immigrants.

Hennepin County

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