Catholic Charities Legislative Agenda 2021

Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis serves those most in need.

We are a leader at solving poverty, creating opportunity, and advocating for justice in the community.

Our legislative agenda is developed with input from our staff, clients and partners. **Our foremost priority is achieving racial equity and social justice**, and it is through this lens that we approach all our advocacy, which emphasizes enhancing access to housing, health care, childcare, economic opportunity and stability.

Legislative priorities we lead:

- Increase funding for the Emergency Services Program by \$15 million to support emergency shelter operations across the state.
- Strengthen Housing Support for residents and landlords by increasing the base rate by \$100 and waiving temporary absence requirements for individuals in need of healthcare treatment.
- Emergency aid for immediate COVID-19 pandemic response needs.

We also support the work of our coalition partners to further advance racial equity and social justice:

Policies and programs that promote housing stability, prevent homelessness, and recognize housing as health care:

- Eviction reforms that ensure transparency in process and fairly balance the power between tenants and landlords when loss of housing is at stake.
- Renters' assistance to help those with housing keep it.
- Ensure transparency and fair notice of upfront fees and remove discriminatory practices in accessing housing.
- Establishment of a Medicaid recuperative care model.
- Implementation of Housing Stabilization Services, and the extension of funding to account for enrollment delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Reform housing assistance programs so recipients can maintain more of their personal income.
- Investments in Housing Infrastructure Bonds and expanding eligible uses to include projects for <30% AMI.

Policies and programs that promote the health and well-being of children, adults and families:

- Ensure all Minnesotans have access to comprehensive health care and expanded telehealth options.
- Prioritize COVID-19 testing and vaccination for high-risk populations, including emergency shelter and congregate supportive housing residents and staff.
- Strengthen efforts to end hunger and food insecurity, like SNAP.
- Increase access to mental health services, including crisis services in shelters and school-linked mental health.
- Drive innovations for aging in place.
- Prevent domestic violence.
- Increase access to paid family and medical leave and affordable childcare, including the Childcare Assistance Program.
- Increase diversity in the health care workforce and develop structures that help providers of color advance to positions of leadership.

Policies and programs that advance social justice, end racism, and promote economic and community vitality:

- Criminal justice reform and the adoption of standards and ethics centered on advancing human rights and ensuring public confidence in an equitable system, including investing in community prevention programs that improve public safety and ending mass incarceration.
- Remove barriers for people experiencing housing instability to vote, including restoring voter rights.
- End license suspensions for unpaid traffic tickets.
- A robust public transportation system and safe walking and biking paths.





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CONTACT:

Lorna Schmidt 0: 651-647-2582

С: 920-242-2748

E: lorna.schmidt@

cctwincities.org

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- 1. Northside Child Development Center
- 2. Evergreen Residence
- 3. Glenwood Residence
- 4. Higher Ground Minneapolis
- 5. Exodus Residence
- 6. Administration Center
- 7. Mary F. Frey Opportunity Center

- 8. Children's Day Treatment
- 9. Hope Street for Homeless Youth
- 10. St. Anthony Residence
- 11. St. Paul Residence
- 12. Seton Services
- 13. Visitation Place
- 14. St. Christopher Place



- 15. Higher Ground Saint Paul
- The Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation Saint Paul Opportunity Center & Dorothy Day Residence
- 17. Distribution Center & In-Kind Warehouse
- 18. Family Service Center