



MINNESOTA COUNCIL  
ON FOUNDATIONS

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May 2, 2023

Dear members of the State and Local conference committee,

Congratulations on assembling your omnibus bills. We are here to support your work as you craft the conference bill. To that end, we'd like to share our top priorities for the legislation.

1. Investment in increased oversight of state grants to nonprofits

We are extremely grateful that both bodies included funding for increased oversight of the state's grants to nonprofit organizations. These investments will allow the state to provide core support and more specific guidance to state agencies, producing grant decisions and outcomes that promote accountability and equity.

**We ask this committee to use the Senate's recommendation for increasing capacity for oversight at the Office of Grants Management – the Senate language maintains this investment beyond the FY 24/25 biennium.** These dollars are primarily for staffing, and it is critical that the funding be ongoing.

2. Nonprofit Grants Oversight Amendment

Our organizations have been working closely with committee members, committee staff, and the Department of Administration to finalize language that would provide additional financial review of potential state grantees. **We anticipate language will be ready this week that meets the state's goals of increasing financial review of potential grantees while being efficient for state agencies to administer and potential grantees to manage.**

3. Census enumerators, access to multi-unit housing

We ask that you **include in your conference bill the House language providing Census enumerators with access to multi-unit housing facilities.** Extending multi-unit access to census employees allows for more communities to be represented and promotes a fuller and more inclusive count of Minnesotans into the future.



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4. State Demographer

**We heartily thank both bodies for including funding for State Demographers Office.** As you know, this funding would help community members access and interpret valuable social, economic, and demographic data through trainings and resources, and help prepare the state for the 2030 Census.

5. Restore the Vote education campaign

**Finally, we encourage the committee to include the Senate's proposal to fund an education campaign on restoration of voting rights.** The new law is only impactful if the Minnesotans impacted know of their new voting rights.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Marie Ellis in cursive.

Marie Ellis  
Public Policy Director  
Council of Nonprofits  
(612) 518-0612  
[mellis@minnesotanonprofits.org](mailto:mellis@minnesotanonprofits.org)

Handwritten signature of Katina Mortensen in cursive.

Katina Mortensen  
Public Policy Director Minnesota  
Minnesota Council on Foundations  
(612) 335-3597  
[kmortensen@mcf.org](mailto:kmortensen@mcf.org)

*The Minnesota Council of Nonprofits is an association of over 2,000 nonprofit members from every part of the state and every area of nonprofit activity.*

*The Minnesota Council on Foundations is the statewide association of grantmakers, representing 150+ foundations across the state that collectively provide more than two billion dollars to nonprofits annually.*

Regional chapters in:

- Central Minnesota
- Northeast Minnesota
- Northwest Minnesota
- Southeast Minnesota
- South Central/Southwest Minnesota
- West Central Minnesota