



Wilder Foundation

2022 Legislative Agenda

The mission of the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation is to promote the social welfare of persons resident or located in the greater Saint Paul metropolitan area.

We understand that society has created advantages for certain groups and not others; we find ways to see and change how we are making decisions that impact marginalized or disadvantaged groups in unintended ways. Wilder welcomes the complexity that comes

from the many differences that exist among groups in one place: race, ethnicity, class, sexual orientation, ability, gender, nationality, and other differences. We believe diversity adds value and makes us stronger.

Informed by these values and principles, this legislative agenda reflects Wilder's commitment to Lead, Support and Endorse efforts which promote the social welfare of our community members.

LEADING PARTNER

- **Stable & Accessible Public Health Care Programs:** Wilder will work to improve access to healthcare in Minnesota.
 - **Enhance Medicaid:** Wilder will work through the This Is Medicaid (TIM) Coalition on proactive efforts to solidify and improve Minnesota's Medicaid Program.
 - **Healthcare Workforce:** Wilder will work with its statewide partners to address the critical workforce crisis by seeking to implement practical solutions to ensure that our healthcare workforce, particularly home and community based services and behavioral health, have the needed resources to provide quality care for all.
- **Affordable Housing & Homelessness Prevention:** Wilder will work to increase access to safe and affordable housing and to prevent homelessness for all Minnesotans.
 - **Homes for All Agenda:** Wilder will work through the Homes for All Coalition, as a key leader, to improve housing stability and increase supports for people experiencing homelessness in Minnesota.

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SUPPORTING PARTNER

- **Holistic Approaches for Whole Families:** Wilder will support efforts that recognize the power of family in building thriving communities, including:
 - **Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP):** Wilder supports increased funding and reimbursement rate modifications for CCAP providers to improve access to early learning for families.
 - **Full Service Community Schools:** Wilder supports investments to sustain and expand access to Full Service Community Schools (FSCS).
 - **Education Partnership Coalition (EPC):** Wilder supports initiatives to increase state support for the Saint Paul Promise Neighborhood and other EPC sites around the state.
 - **Benefits Cliff:** Wilder supports policy efforts to address the “cliff” effect which locks families into cycles of instability.
 - **Paid Family Leave:** Wilder supports efforts to provide access to paid family leave for all Minnesota workers.
 - **Healthy Aging:** As a member of the Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging, Wilder supports making Minnesota the best state for healthy aging for people of all ages.
- **Access to Equitable Healthcare:** In addition to the TIM agenda, Wilder will support efforts which seek to improve disparities in physical and mental healthcare, including:
 - **Mental Health Services & Standards:** Wilder supports improving the client experience, reducing administrative burden, increasing efficiency and accountability of providers, and creating more capacity in our mental health system. Additionally, Wilder supports efforts to increase access to culturally competent behavioral health services through increasing workforce diversity and retention.
 - **Birth Equity:** Wilder supports securing long term funding for our work in the African American Babies Coalition and Projects.
 - **Increase Access to Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare:** Wilder supports initiatives to expand access to Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare.

ENDORISING PARTNER

- Wilder will consider endorsing proposals which are aligned with the organization's mission and vision. These issue areas include but are not limited to:
 - Closing the Opportunity Gap
 - St. Paul Recovery & Revitalization
 - Criminal Justice System Reforms
 - Ending intergenerational cycles of poverty
 - Racial Equity Initiatives

Agenda Tiers: The following tiers represent how Wilder believes we can best allocate resources to advance these issues:

Lead: Wilder public policy will center this strategic or core priority during session.

Support: Wilder public policy will lend support through coalitions and partners to this priority.

Endorse: Wilder may lend an endorsement.

