

# Wilder Foundation 2021 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 by all appropriate means. And, in general, the conservation of human resources by the provision of human services responsive to the welfare needs of the community, all without regard to, or discrimination on account of, nationality, sex, color, religious scruples or prejudices.

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 results because of the many differences that exist among groups in one place: race, class, sexual orientation, ability, gender, etc. 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 persons resident or located in the greater Saint Paul metropolitan area and beyond. We acknowledge the disparate impacts, economic and otherwise, of longstanding public policy and the current public health crisis.

## LEADING PARTNER

- **Stable and Accessible Public Health Care Programs – Wilder will work to preserve and improve access to mental and physical health care in Minnesota.**
  - **Protect & Enhance Medicaid** – Wilder will work through the This is Medicaid (TIM) Coalition to solidify and improve access to Medical Assistance - Minnesota's Medicaid Program.
- **Affordable Housing and Homelessness Prevention – Wilder will work to increase access to safe and affordable housing and to prevent and end homelessness for all Minnesotans.**
  - **Homes for All agenda** – Wilder will work as a core member of the Homes for All coalition to improve housing stability and support people experiencing homelessness in Minnesota.

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## SUPPORTING PARTNER

- **Equitable approaches to balancing the state's budget – Wilder will support nonpartisan efforts to solve Minnesota's budget deficit, including raising revenue, which are grounded in fairness and equity, as well as acknowledge the inequities compounded by COVID-19.**
- **Holistic Approaches for Whole Families – Wilder will support efforts that recognize the power of family in building thriving communities, including:**
  - **Child Care Assistance Program –** Wilder supports increased funding and policy changes to expand access for eligible families and improve reimbursement rates for CCAP providers.
  - **Full Service Community Schools –** Wilder supports investments to sustain and expand access to Full Service Community Schools.
  - **Education partnership Coalition (EPC) –** Wilder supports the work to increase state support for the Saint Paul Promise Neighborhood and other EPC sites around the state
  - **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 our work on Medicaid, Wilder will support efforts which seek to improve disparities in physical and mental health care, including:**
  - **Mental Health Services and 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 funding for prenatal, birth services and post-partum care including funding for our work in the African American Babies Coalition and Projects.
  - **COVID-19 Related Service Delivery Waiver –** Wilder supports a robust conversation about the continuation or permanent codification of waivers established to improve service delivery during the pandemic.

## ENDORISING POLICIES

**Wilder will consider endorsing proposals which are aligned with the organization's mission and vision. The issue areas could include, but are not limited to:**

- **Ending intergenerational cycles of poverty**
- **Reforming the criminal justice system**
- **Rebuilding Saint Paul**
- **Promoting access to our democratic systems**
- **Closing the opportunity Gap**

**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 will may lend an endorsement to efforts related to this issue.

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