

Wilder Foundation 2025 Legislative Agenda



Wilder is a collective force for social good that works to see all people thrive. We champion stability and wellness through direct services, advocacy, and research.

Wilder welcomes the complexity that comes from the many differences that exist among groups in one place. We believe diversity adds value and makes us stronger.

This legislative agenda has been informed by our client and staff communities. It reflects Wilder's commitment to **Lead, Support, Monitor, and Explore** efforts that promote the social welfare of our community members.

LEADING PARTNER

Definition: Lead on policy efforts to advance Whole Families Strategy or in areas where Wilder holds unique expertise

Education:

- Full Service Community Schools (FSCS) funding (\$38 m & \$19 m annually) and language changes relating to prioritized sites

Maternal & Birth Outcomes:

- AABC Retain funding (defending current funding at state level)

Research:

- Minnesota Homeless Study ongoing funding

SUPPORTING PARTNER

Definition: Support Wilder Programming with policy efforts that improve systems in which we offer services. Support Coalition & Partner Priorities.

Housing:

- MN Coalition for the Homeless (See website)
- Homes for All Agenda items (See website)

Economic Dev/Community Resources:

- Guaranteed Basic Income Pilot Program with MN Basic Income Coalition.
- Family Resource Centers bill (multiple)
 - Creation of a Statewide network of FRCs (support & oversight)
 - Angie Thies & MN Assoc of Counties

Mental Health:

- Align on MACMHP and MHLN items including to offer support around:
 - CTSS, Mental Health Workforce, MA reimbursements/rates, ARMHS, etc.

General Health:

- Continuous Eligibility for Adults. *This is for folks in Medical Assistance who need to affirm eligibility every month. Wilder helps to pass this same bill for youth (20yrs old and under), so they can affirm eligibility once a year instead of monthly.*
- Protect against work requirements for Medical Assistance.
- This is Medicaid (TIM) coalition agenda items (*agenda not announced by coalition*). *This will be also federally focused.*

Education:

- Education Partnership Coalition (EPC) agenda items (not announced by coalition yet).

Federal Policy:

- CMHW and Wilder Research Mn Homeless Study requests
- Defending against Medicare and Medicaid harmful changes
- Nonprofit Tax status

MONITOR

Definition: Wilder endorses or opposes policy efforts in alignment with its mission & values.

Housing:

- Opportunities for flexible funding that could support Direct Housing Assistance.
- General Assistance (Housing Support) - continuation of unearned income bill from 2023. Continue to support to Catholic Charities and others in field around possible changes to the existing bill. Despite, many groups previously impacted in the bill have been addressed in previous sessions; there is still work to address benefit cliffs for many communities/groups.

Economic Dev/Community Resources:

- Guaranteed Basic Income Pilot Program with MN Basic Income Coalition.
- Family Resource Centers bill (multiple)
 - Creation of a Statewide network of FRCs (support & oversight)
 - Angie Thies & MN Assoc of Counties

Mental Health:

- Certified Peer Specialists
 - Wellness in the Woods is calling for expanding billability of CPS, may also be calling for a board to provide direction for peers. Final language has not been introduced, Wilder will engage accordingly.

General Health:

- Medical Assistance reimbursement rates. This impacts many different teams at the Wilder Clinic.

Aging Services

- Respite Grants or support, connect with Kimelyn if there is movement this year.

Education:

- St. Paul Promise (SPP) interested in supporting, Increase Teachers of Color's Act (ITCA)

Public Safety:

- School Based Mental Health (SBMH) team has highlighted gun control/safety as a need. Monitor bills relating to gun control and connect with BOTH SBMH team and Executive team for possible support via LOS and perhaps testimony if relating to school safety.

Municipal Policy:

- Affordable housing via zoning and rent control.
- Monitor- Post election Child Care support from St. Paul.

Federal Policy:

- CCBHC changes. Connect relevant staff.
- Section 8 prohibition of other monthly benefits/supports.
- Censorship around journalism.

Maternal and Birth Outcomes:

- General environmental birth equity improvements (state).

EXPLORE

Definition: Wilder is exploring legislation that we may engage with in future sessions (*vetting, partnerships cultivation, research, etc.. is needed first*).

Mental Health:

- Continuation of Innovations Grants for School Based Mental Health (SBMH)/TTM. Looking out for other actors who may be engaging in this work.

Aging Services

- Extended Care in Customized Living settings. Looking at the ecosystem between customized living and hospice services.

Maternal and Birth Outcomes:

- Possible extending AABC funding.

CONTACT US

Adrián Magaña, Director of Public Policy & Community Relations

mobile: (612) 300-8054

email: adrian.magana@wilder.org

Wilder Foundation

451 Lexington Parkway N, Saint Paul, MN 55104

wilder.org