



Our 2026

Legislative Policy Agenda

Wilder is a collective force for social good that works to see all people thrive. We not only champion stability and wellness through direct services and research, but also advocate for public policies that strengthen families, reduce disparities, and promote long-term community well-being.

For more than a century, Wilder has worked in partnership with coalitions and networks to break down barriers and create lasting change. Our legislative advocacy is informed and grounded in the lived experiences and expertise of our client and staff communities.

Our 2026 legislative policy agenda reflects our commitment to lead, support, monitor, and explore efforts that advance social and economic opportunities across Minnesota, centering the voices of people, families, and communities directly affected by policy decisions.

Lead

Wilder introduces and defends Minnesota legislation that advances our Whole Family strategies and meets the needs of the people.

Defend and Expand Access to Healthcare Coverage:

- Uplift service providers' and recipients' voices to guide state implementation of HR1 and mitigate impacts on families.
- Advocate for the federal overturn of HR1 through grassroots organizing, coalition leadership, partner development, and education.
- Explore state legislation to mitigate coverage loss, including options to raise revenue for improved health care access independent of federal policy.

Defend Appropriations that Enable Wilder Programs to:

- Promote healthy child development, culturally responsive care, and community empowerment to help all families thrive.
- Provide comprehensive data that helps policymakers and organizations identify leading drivers of homelessness, improving programming, and ultimately end homelessness.

Support

Wilder intentionally supports coalitions, advocates, and community partners to address policies that directly impact our work at Wilder.

Coalition Priorities:

- Stable and accessible public health care programs, in partnership with This Is Medicaid Coalition and the Mental Health Legislative Network.
- Improved access to affordable housing, in partnership with the Homes of All Coalition and the Equity in Place Coalition.
- Homelessness prevention, in partnership with the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless.
- Quality intergenerational services, in partnership with the Education Partnership Coalition, Aspire Network, and the Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging.

Community Network Priorities:

- Affordable child care access to improve access to quality, affordable child care.
- Protect rent stabilization by connecting policymakers with supportive housing providers and recipients, ensuring lived experience and provider perspectives are central to rent control and stabilization decisions.
- Oppose local and state-level efforts to compel local entities to over-comply with ICE authorities. Wilder is committed to supporting our immigrant neighbors and we recognize their many contributions to a flourishing and prosperous Minnesota.

Monitor

Wilder will monitor proposals aligned with Wilder's mission and vision. These include, but are not limited to:

- Racial equity and anti-discrimination initiatives
- Culturally specific/relevant approaches to social services
- Efforts to address food insecurities for children and adults
- Increase access to affordable housing
- Closing the opportunity gap
- Revitalization of Saint Paul, MN

Explore

Wilder service providers or recipients have identified items that require further development, research, or partnership.

- Federal funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) have been proposed for transfer away from the Continuum of Care (CoC).
- Child endangerment and addiction: Exploring potential changes to child endangerment laws that currently allow individuals to be charged if they use substances in a space where a child could reasonably be expected to be present.

Legislative Priorities



Health Care

Policies that meet the interconnected needs of children, caregivers, and families, recognizing that whole-family well-being is essential for strong, thriving communities.



Mental Health

Policies that address the needs of entire families, expanding access to culturally responsive care, early intervention, and community-based mental health support.



Housing

Housing solutions that support stability across generations. We advocate because we know families thrive when they have a safe place to call home.



Healthy Aging

Wilder supports solutions that help older adults live well, stay connected to the people and places they love, and age with dignity.

Contact Us

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