

We are neighbors helping neighbors live full and abundant lives. Our public policy priorities provide practical solutions and strengthen resources that inspire hope, change lives and build community.

Develop and Strengthen the Workforce



LSS' workforce provides critical supports helping people remain healthy and living as independently as possible. As the need for home and community-based services grows, workforce challenges persist preventing adequate and stable resources that ensure our neighbors are supported when, where and how they need it.

We support policies that respond to community needs and improve access to service. This includes long-term investments that support community-based nonprofits to recruit, retain and develop the social service and caregiving field. We also support policies that eliminate systemic barriers to strengthen and diversify the workforce.

REQUESTS:

Invest in a Sustainable Direct Support Professional Workforce.

Fully fund and implement regular adjustments to the Competitive Workforce Factor to reduce the wage gap that exists between DSPs and comparable occupations. Continue to refine the Disability Waiver Rate System so it is an accurate reflection of market costs by using most currently available data and moving up scheduled rate adjustments.

Update Background Study Eligibility and Disqualification.

Improve and modernize the Department of Human Services background studies system to create a more effective and just process.

Invest in Mental Health.

Provide immediate relieve through bridge funding that will maintain access to service and build back a strong workforce.

Innovate Prevention and Early Intervention Services

LSS prioritizes service innovation and growth that strengthens prevention, early intervention and family preservation services that meaningfully support our neighbors to overcome barriers and change their lives. We also support policies that promote person-centered service delivery and services that meaningfully support our neighbors to overcome barriers.

Invest in Healthy, Sustainable Communities

Where we live, learn, work, play and age powerfully impacts our health and well-being. LSS commits to taking responsibility for the social determinants of health of our neighbors by increasing access to housing, meals, community connection and other supports that are critical to holistic well-being. We support policies that bring solutions to long-standing social and racial inequities so that all Minnesotans may thrive in healthy, accessible and equitable communities.



REQUESTS:

Support Kinship Caregivers.

Invest in resources that help kinship caregivers navigate services and supports.

Increase Access to Supported Decision Making.

Establish sustained state resources to build a stronger foundation and network of supported decision-making practice.

REQUESTS:

Invest in Meals.

Improve access to nutritious meals for people experiencing increased food insecurity.

Increase Investments in the Homeless Youth Act.

This will strengthen programs that effectively and holistically support the needs of resilient youth.

Prioritize Housing Stability.

Address issues impacting housing access, including amending the Minnesota Human Rights Act to clarify that source of income discrimination encompasses all forms of housing assistance - including housing choice vouchers; requiring eviction notices; and expanding eligibility for and accessibility to eviction expungement.