



INTRODUCTION

Advocacy is a key lever Community Action Partnership of Hennepin County (CAP-HC) uses to help move people out of poverty. CAP-HC pursues its advocacy goals through an educational lens. This includes sharing information about the needs and experiences of community members to expand policymakers' awareness of the impact and/or urgency of legislation.

CAP-HC has the following priorities for the 2026 Legislative Session. These priorities are consistent with the 2026 Legislative Agenda from our statewide association, MinnCAP.* By promoting greater opportunity and support for Hennepin County residents with low incomes, CAP-HC is creating a community where everyone can thrive.

CAP-HC INITIATIVES



Minnesota Community Action Grant (MCAG) Expansion & Stabilization

- MCAG base funding is currently \$9.9M/biennium.
- In 2023, MCAG received a one-time increase of \$5.4 M/biennium for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

Proposal: Seek to reinstate additional \$5.4M biennial MCAG funding and secure in base budget, resulting in an ongoing \$15.3M biennial appropriation.



Family Assets for Independence in Minnesota (FAIM) Grant Expansion & Stabilization

- FAIM base funding is \$650K/biennium.
- In 2023 FAIM received a one-time increase of \$3M/biennium for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

Proposal: Seek to reinstate \$3M biennial funding for FAIM and secure in the base budget.



Getting to Work Grant Funding

- In 2024, the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) awarded Getting to Work grants totaling \$1.9M for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.
- Getting to Work funding was not included in the Minnesota state budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027.

Proposal: Seek DEED funding for organizations to establish and operate programs that provide vehicle repair and maintenance to assist people with low incomes in obtaining or maintaining employment.



Community Action
Partnership of Hennepin County

2026 Legislative Priorities

COALITION SUPPORT



CAP-HC's advocacy efforts include direct collaboration with coalitions, as well as support of MinnCAP partner coalitions, as opportunities arise. Examples include:

- ♦ Energy Assistance Expansion Coalition
- ♦ ERASE Campaign: End Rental Arrears & Stop Evictions
- ♦ Hunger Coalition
- ♦ Minnesota Lifeline Low-Cost Auto Insurance Campaign
- ♦ Minnesota Public Transit Association
- ♦ Minnesotans for Consumer Financial Protection Coalition

ABOUT CAP-HC

CAP-HC is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that helps Hennepin County residents with lower incomes stabilize and lift themselves out of poverty. We are a proud member of a national network of over 1,000 Community Action Agencies committed to poverty reduction in the United States. The network was established in 1964 with the passage of the Economic Opportunity Act.



*Minnesota Community Action Partnership (MinnCAP) is the state Association for 23 Community Action Agencies and 11 Tribal Nations in Minnesota.