



INTRODUCTION

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

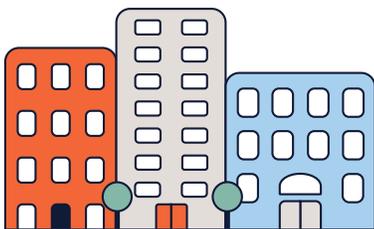
The agency has identified the following priorities for the 2022 Legislative Session. These priorities were chosen based on careful consideration of the agency's 2020-2202 Strategic Plan, its 2020 and 2021 Community Needs Assessments, and where CAP-HC has subject matter expertise. Furthermore, because these priorities promote greater opportunity and justice for traditionally marginalized communities in Hennepin County, they align with CAP-HC's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING



Lower-income households typically spend significantly more than the recommended 30% of their income on housing, making it difficult to pay for other basic needs and/or invest in education or job skills training that can lift them out of poverty. CAP-HC supports additional funding to preserve the existing supply of affordable housing and to build more affordable as well as deeply affordable housing (30% Area Median Income).¹

PRE-EVICTION NOTICE AND EXPUNGEMENT REFORM



The agency supports reforms that address the current power imbalance between landlords and tenants. This includes 14-day pre-eviction filing notices that provide tenants an opportunity to fix the problem, negotiate with the landlord, or quit the lease and vacate housing so that an eviction filing does not occur. The agency also supports expungement reform that prohibits eviction reporting until a court judgment is rendered in favor of the landlord.¹



EXPANSION OF ASSET-BUILDING PROGRAMS



Building assets is one of the surest ways out of poverty. Family Assets for Independence in MN (FAIM) helps Minnesotans with lower incomes build assets through purchasing their own home, starting a business, pursuing higher education or buying a car. Participants' savings are matched 3-to-1 by the State. Program expansion will help more Minnesotans move out of poverty.²

AUTO INSURANCE AFFORDABILITY



The lowest-income drivers often pay the most for insurance because factors like their zip code, credit score, and education level drive up their rates. CAP-HC supports collaborative efforts by regulators, consumer protection advocates, and auto insurance industry representatives to create better options for those with good driving records for whom the cost of auto insurance is a barrier to work and financial stability.³

COALITION AGENDAS



CAP-HC also supports the advocacy efforts of several coalitions of which it is a member by offering input, direction and educational support for their legislative agendas.

- ♦ Minnesota Community Action Partnership – State Association for 24 Community Action Agencies and 11 Tribal Nations
- ♦ Minnesota Asset Building Coalition – Coalition of 140 organizations
- ♦ Homes for All – Coalition of 150 organizations

¹ Also on Homes for All Policy Agenda

² Also on MinnCAP Policy Agenda

³ Also on Minnesota Asset Building Coalition Policy Agenda

ABOUT CAP-HC

CAP-HC is a private 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that serves Hennepin County residents who are experiencing poverty. We are a proud member of a national network of over 1,000 Community Action Agencies committed to poverty reduction. The network was established in 1964 with the passage of the Economic Opportunity Act.