



Association of
Minnesota Counties

Legislative Policy Priorities 2026

Adopted by AMC Board of Directors 12/7/25

TECHNOLOGY MODERNIZATION

Minnesota counties need an urgent path towards modernizing archaic, state-run human services technology platforms to simplify increasingly complex processes and inefficiencies, reduce duplication and errors, improve client outcomes, and assist in identifying fraud.

Counties administer a wide range of services and supports on behalf of state and federal governments, relying on antiquated software that in some cases date back to 1990 and all pose significant challenges, inefficiencies, and costs for counties and staff. In addition, it is clear that new policy deriving from the federal reconciliation bill passed this spring will cause increased demands for county staff on already strained and inefficient systems, leading many counties to start levying for additional staff in 2026 budgets. Last year, counties were successful in securing broad, bipartisan support to dedicate resources for the eventual replacement of the SSIS (child protection) software. Still, many more programs await state attention, particularly the MAXIS system, which is the core program that determines public assistance and healthcare eligibility for thousands of Minnesotans daily.

Counties are asking for both short term, immediate fixes that help keep these systems operational, support workforce effectiveness and fix longstanding gaps while also attempting to secure language and support for a long-term solution that completely revamps the system to bring it into the 21st century. ●

SNAP/MEDICAID

AMC supports legislation that mitigates the impact of SNAP and Medicaid policy changes that will result in historic cost shifts to Minnesota property taxpayers.

States are managing the local impacts of the federal Reconciliation Act (H.R. 1), passed in July 2025. For counties, the largest impacts come from changes to SNAP and Medicaid (Medical Assistance in Minnesota).

AMC estimates SNAP changes will reduce federal funding to the state by \$189 billion over ten years through lower administrative funding, new cost-sharing tied to error rates, and expanded work requirements. The Minnesota Legislature will decide whether these costs are covered by the state or shifted to counties, which is expected to lead to significant local property tax increases. Outdated SNAP technology will also require major system updates and increase manual work for county staff. Counties strongly support these costs being paid for by the state.

Medical Assistance faces similar challenges, including new work requirements and more frequent eligibility reviews. County eligibility systems are outdated and not built to support these changes, increasing administrative burden and the risk of higher error rates if systems are not improved. ●

MINNESOTA AFRICAN AMERICAN FAMILY PRESERVATION AND CHILD WELFARE DISPROPORTIONALITY ACT

AMC supports the state assuming responsibility for case audits and funding local needs (notably staff and services based on statewide workgroup recommendations and the Legislative Budget Office's local impact study. AMC also supports sustained funding for community-based prevention programs and updates to state training systems so counties are prepared to implement the law by 2027.

Implementing the Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act will require focused investments in workforce capacity, staffing, training, and services to address disproportionality in Minnesota's child protection system.

AMC urges an implementation process with clear definitions and guidance and centralized administrative functions to ensure consistency, reduce administrative burden, and improve outcomes for children and families. ●