

2024 Legislative Priorities



Catholic Charities' 2024 legislative priorities aim to strengthen our direct service programs and address systemic inequities in housing. Together we can disrupt trends in homelessness and help people achieve stable housing that is foundational to their health, education and employment success.

Sustainable Emergency Shelter Operations

Investments made by the 2023 Legislature are supporting emergency shelter operations throughout the state, but after years of underinvestment, providers like Catholic Charities continue to experience significant budget shortfalls for their most essential services. Without additional public aid, shelter safety net programs — including those providing basic needs and access to healthcare, housing navigation, employment services and more — risk reducing services for the most vulnerable in our communities.

Catholic Charities supports:

- State aid to address immediate budget shortfalls for emergency shelter operations.
- The development of a more sustainable, predictable funding model for shelter operations and providers.
- Efforts to clarify the roles of government jurisdictions in responding to the homelessness crisis.



The number of people served at Catholic Charities' St. Paul Opportunity Center, an emergency day shelter, increased 37% from 2022 to 2023.

Reducing Barriers to Supportive Housing

Minnesota's Housing Support program pairs housing assistance (e.g., rent, linens, laundry) with case management for low-income seniors, veterans and adults with disabilities who are at risk of homelessness. It is one of the state's best tools to prevent and end homelessness, but challenges driven by inequitable income formulas, eligibility and referral processes mean available units too often sit vacant while shelters are full and rates of unsheltered homelessness rise.

Catholic Charities supports:

- Extending Housing Support's 30% of income protections (passed in 2023) to include individuals with disabilities and veterans who reside in Board & Lodge settings.
- Adjusting the personal needs allowance for Housing Support residents who receive General Assistance.
- Simplifying supportive housing eligibility and referral processes to ensure our highest-risk neighbors are not told they "aren't homeless enough" to qualify for support.



Some Housing Support residents still pay up to 90% of their monthly income for housing. Many choose to stay in shelter or on the streets instead.

Partner-Led Priorities

Catholic Charities supports the advocacy of our partners to improve housing and homelessness outcomes, including:

- Clarifying the use of the Metro Sales Tax to fund recurring supportive housing expenses.
- Expanding tenant rights to include source of income protections.
- Improving coordinated entry systems to place residents in housing more quickly.
- Building more deeply affordable, accessible housing.
- Reforming Housing Stabilization enrollment and payment processes.

About Catholic Charities Twin Cities

We serve those most in need and advocate for justice in our community.

As an independent nonprofit organization, Catholic Charities works to prevent poverty before it starts, respond to immediate crises, and offer pathways to greater stability. Our programs for children, families and adults help more than 25,000 people every year — regardless of faith, background, or circumstance. We are uniquely focused on housing justice and addressing systemic inequities that perpetuate poverty.

Our program areas:

Support for Children and Families

Providing high-quality childcare, a specialized mental health program to help kids get back on track at school, and an emergency shelter where families can stay together.

Emergency Shelter Services

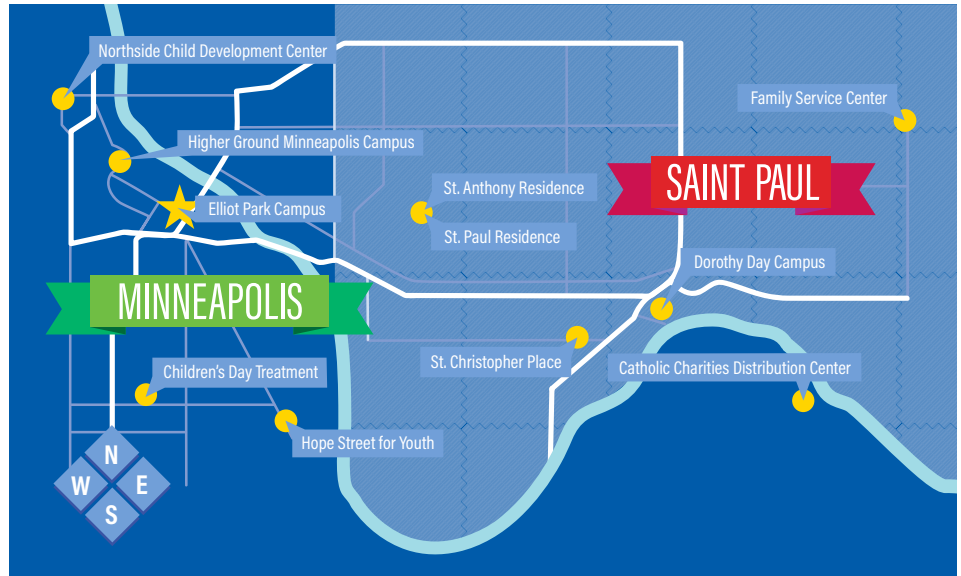
Providing daytime and overnight shelter for youth and single adults experiencing homelessness.

Deeply Affordable Housing

Providing nearly 1,000 deeply affordable apartments across the Twin Cities.

Dignity for Older Adults

Providing case management for elders to help them attain and keep stable housing.



Contact

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