

2025 Legislative Agenda

Human Services Priorities



CATHOLIC
CHARITIES
Twin Cities

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

As an independent nonprofit organization, Catholic Charities prevents poverty before it starts, responds to immediate crises, and creates pathways to greater stability. Our programs for children, families and adults help more than 33,000 people every year — regardless of faith, background, or circumstance. We are uniquely focused on housing justice and addressing systemic inequities that impact our most vulnerable neighbors.



Keep Emergency Shelters Open

Investments made by the 2023 Legislature are supporting shelters throughout the state, but after years of underinvestment, providers like Catholic Charities continue to experience significant budget shortfalls for their most essential services.

- In 2023, 10,522 Minnesotans were experiencing visible homelessness.
- Emergency services provide immediate interventions, putting people on pathways to housing stability and future success.

Catholic Charities supports stable funding for the Emergency Services Program this year, which will provide lifesaving resources for the most vulnerable Minnesotans.



Provide Support for Homeless Elders

Catholic Charities' Homeless Elders Program received \$1.5M for the 2023-2024 biennium. Since then, this innovative program has provided lifesaving services and connection to permanent housing to hundreds of older adults experiencing homelessness in Minnesota.

- Older adult (age 55+) homelessness has increased by 7% statewide since 2018.
- Nearly 70% of Homeless Elders clients exited the program to permanent housing.

Catholic Charities supports renewed funding for our unique Homeless Elders Program, which helps vulnerable seniors move out of shelter and into safe, permanent homes.



Help People Find Homes

Minnesota's Housing Support program provides homes for low-income seniors, veterans and adults with disabilities who are at risk of homelessness. However, many residents are still required to pay most of their monthly income to secure this stable housing. It's unsustainable math for many people, meaning available units too often sit vacant while shelters are full.

- Roughly 30% of Housing Support referrals are declined by the client.
- Board & Lodge residents pay up to 90% of their monthly income for supportive housing, leaving many with only \$125 a month to cover clothing, medication, and all other necessities.

Catholic Charities supports extending 30% of income protections passed in the 2023 session to include individuals with disabilities and veterans who reside in Board & Lodge settings; and adjusting the personal needs allowance for Housing Support residents who receive General Assistance.



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Housing Priorities



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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.

Affordable Housing Solutions

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

Aging and Disability Support

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



Preserve Existing Affordable Housing

Affordable rental homes in Minnesota are at risk. We urgently need to address the financial distress of aging buildings and the inadequate funding model for supportive services that help our most vulnerable residents stay housed.

- Invest in the long-term sustainability of affordable rental homes by adding a permanent funding stream for recapitalization to the base budget.
- Implement reforms recommended by MN's Task Force on Long-Term Sustainability of Affordable Housing.

Catholic Charities supports stable funding for affordable housing organizations to ensure the preservation of Minnesota's affordable rental homes.



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