2021 Public Policy Priorities

Our public policy priorities provide practical solutions and remove barriers so that all Minnesotans can thrive.

INNOVATE SERVICES THAT RESPOND TO COMMUNITY NEEDS

As Minnesotans face unprecedented challenges, immediate and long-term solutions are needed to help our neighbors achieve stability, health and social justice. LSS is a leader and partner in innovative, person-centered service delivery that prioritizes the health, well-being and safety of employees, volunteers and neighbors served. To this end, we support policies that improve and protect access to services, promote social connectedness, and enhance the quality of life for our neighbors.

Requests:

• HF976|SF492 Extend remote supports for certain waiver services to June 2022 and direct DHS to work with stakeholders to create a service that ensures Minnesotans with disabilities have access to individualized direct support while in the hospital.

• HF1412|SF1160 Expand access to telemedicine services as established during the COVID-19 pandemic with the inclusion of audio-only services and reimbursement equal to in-person service.
2021 Public Policy Priorities - Continued

HOUSING STABILITY

Where we live impacts every area of our lives. People with disabilities, older adults, youth and families who access LSS’ services all need stable, affordable and accessible housing. We support policies that create equitable access to housing supports, direct resources to the greatest unmet need, and end discriminatory practices so that all Minnesotans may achieve housing stability.

Requests:
- HF835|SFXXX Amend Minnesota Human Rights Act to clarify that source of income discrimination encompasses all forms of housing assistance, including housing choice vouchers.
- HF20|SF766 Require a written pre-filing eviction notice for unpaid rent be given to a tenant before filing an eviction action.
- HF265|SF771 Expand the eligibility and accessibility of ways someone can get their eviction record expunged and amend eviction reporting to minimize the collateral consequences associated with evictions.

FAMILY PRESERVATION AND EQUITABLE CHILD WELFARE PRACTICES

Keeping families safe and together improves outcomes and reduces trauma related to out-of-home placement for youth, families and communities. We support policies that prioritize prevention and early intervention services that meaningfully support families. We also support policies that eliminate barriers and prioritize kinship and relative caregivers during out of-home placements. This will promote family preservation and address outcome disparities for Black, Indigenous and people of color communities.

Requests:
- HF1287|SF1558 Eliminate unnecessary barriers to licensure by removing convictions unrelated to child safety from the list of automatic disqualifiers and aligning Minnesota foster care licensing standards with federal and state adoption standards.