



# 2020 Public Policy Agenda

The Minnesota Council of Nonprofits (MCN) informs, promotes, connects, and strengthens individual nonprofits and the nonprofit sector at the local, state, and federal levels. MCN's policy work is grounded in a racial equity lens with a vision of Minnesota being a state where all can thrive, regardless of who they are or where they live.

The nonprofit sector is a steady source of job growth and economic vitality, and an important part of strong, thriving communities. MCN's public policy team works to support and advance the nonprofit ecosystem, which includes 385,000 dedicated staff, over 9,000 nonprofit organizations, and the millions of Minnesotans who engage with nonprofits every year. MCN's Minnesota Budget Project works to expand Minnesota's prosperity to all Minnesotans through budget, tax, and economic policies.

## Uphold and Advance the Role of the Nonprofit Sector

- Strengthen tax policies that enhance the nonprofit sector's ability to maximize its partnership with the community, including tax exemptions for nonprofit organizations and tax incentives for charitable contributions that treat all donors and types of giving equally.
- Affirm nonprofits as desirable employers and promote employment policies that take into consideration the unique circumstances of nonprofit organizations while supporting the communities with whom nonprofits partner.
- Improve systems that distribute government resources to reduce barriers and increase racial equity in government funding.
- Oppose unreasonable and/or unconstitutional nonprofit fees and assessments on nonprofits by government entities, including those imposed upon their volunteers, which limit nonprofits' ability to fulfill their missions.
- Protect the decision-making autonomy and self-governance authority of nonprofit boards and officers.

## Create a More Inclusive and Equitable Minnesota by Addressing Structural Racism and Economic Disparities

- Promote budget, tax, and economic policies that expand opportunity, close racial disparities, and improve the economic security of low- and moderate-income Minnesotans.
- Support fair and sustainable tax systems that raise adequate revenues to fund essential investments in broader prosperity and thriving communities.
- Foster inclusive policies that allow immigrants and refugees to thrive, and address barriers that keep them from fully contributing to our communities and economy.

## Build a Strong Democracy and Encourage Civic Participation

- Encourage improvements to structures and systems of democracy in order to increase access to civic engagement opportunities, including nonpartisan redistricting plans and improved judicial selection.
- Reinforce Minnesota's history as a leader in voter turnout by expanding trust in and access to voting, including ballot privacy, voting rights restoration, and automatic voter registration.
- Energize nonprofits in their roles of encouraging participation in the 2020 Census and voter engagement in the 2020 elections.