

2026 Minnesota Inter-County Association Legislative Priorities

Dedicate State Funds to Counties to Modernize and Streamline HHS Programs and

Technology: MICA urges the state to dedicate new funding and prioritize use of already-appropriated funding for systems improvement and technology that support the health and human services system used by the state, the counties, and, most importantly, the clients that we mutually serve. The current system is complex, fragmented, and administratively burdensome for all. Counties spend millions of dollars each year on data [re]entry and systems work; we are eager to strengthen the technologies and processes that support local administration of health and human services programs – particularly in light of recent federal actions. The state must also consider longer term funding solutions to funding essential human service needs so that these stopgaps and band aid approaches are less necessary every year.

Responding to Unfunded Federal Mandates: Counties are already dealing with nearly \$100 million (FY 28-29) in cost shifts and aid reductions from the 2025 legislative session. New cost shifts from the federal government to the state in the form of changes to SNAP and Medicaid greatly exceed that. County property taxes are already increasing at the highest rates in over 25 years and cannot accommodate more pressure. MICA supports the state bearing these costs to ensure that local property taxpayers don't end up paying for these shifts.

Resourcing the Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare

Disproportionality Act (MAAFPCWDA): The MAAFPCWDA was signed into law in 2024 with a timeline for initial phase-in counties (Hennepin and Ramsey) followed by statewide implementation on January 1, 2027. MICA supports the successful implementation of the MAAFPCWD through the funding of prevention services, state ownership of case review, and timely completion of SSIS improvements; however, it cannot happen without state investment.

Support a Robust Capital Investment Bill and Maintain Current Transportation Distribution

Formulas: Counties across the state face critical infrastructure needs. That's why supporting \$250 million for local bridge replacement and \$200 million for local road improvement grants is essential. Most county roads are on the state aid system and provide vital, high-quality connections necessary for the overall state transportation network to work well. Revenues provided from different dedicated transportation taxes assist counties to upgrade and maintain aging infrastructure as well as support safety improvements to enhance facilities for walking, biking, and transit. These formulas were carefully negotiated to make sure they met present and future needs so they should be given the chance to work properly without changes.