

# One Minnesota Budget



## PROTECTING THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF MINNESOTANS

Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan know the importance of safe and healthy communities. That's why their One Minnesota Budget increases access to comprehensive health care, creates housing that meets the needs of Minnesotans, and strengthens public safety to address crime while working to prevent it in the first place.



### HEALTH CARE ACCESS

*No one should delay or avoid essential health care because they can't afford it. The One Minnesota Budget helps lower health care costs and increase access for children, families, and Minnesotans across the state.*

#### **Expanding Access to Quality Health Care**

The Governor and Lieutenant Governor propose a MinnesotaCare public option that will offer more choices to Minnesotans and the nearly 300,000 state residents who remain uninsured. This proposal invests \$17 million over the next two years to expand comprehensive health insurance options for people who struggle to afford private coverage.

#### **Lowering the Cost of Health Care**

Minnesotans who have easy access to affordable primary care are more likely to stay healthy. Even so, too many Minnesotans find it difficult, confusing, or expensive to schedule appointments with their primary care provider. The Governor and Lieutenant Governor propose a primary care study to find a structure for payments and reimbursements that would allow all Minnesotans, regardless of income or zip code, to see a primary care provider without payment.

#### **Ensuring Free Preventive Services**

Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan will help Minnesotans receive the care they deserve by requiring health insurance plans regulated by state law to provide preventive services at no cost. The One Minnesota Budget emphasizes saving lives and saving money by improving prevention, early detection, and access to treatment for mental illness.

## **Improving Prescription Drug Price Transparency**

Prescription drug costs are a significant and growing burden for many Minnesotans, and the factors behind those costs are not always clear. The Governor and Lieutenant Governor's proposal will improve transparency by updating the Prescription Drug Price Transparency program and extending it to include pharmacy benefit managers and wholesalers.

## **Keeping Minnesota Kids Covered**

Childhood is a critical time of brain development that impacts education, school readiness, and lifelong health. Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan propose changing Medical Assistance eligibility to ensure a more equitable start for the youngest Minnesotans. This means eligible children under age 6 will remain eligible until their sixth birthday, and eligible children ages 6 to 21 will have continuous coverage for one year. The changes will protect children from losing coverage, which could lead to unmet medical needs, unfilled prescriptions, and delays in well-child visits and preventive care.

## **Removing Health Care Access Barriers**

The Governor and Lieutenant Governor's budget addresses multiple barriers to accessing public health care programs. Targeted investments in the One Minnesota Budget include:

- Improving the accessibility and readability of public health care program information
- Funding community-driven improvements to health care application and enrollment processes
- Enhancing health care coverage information available for parents of children with disabilities
- Extending MinnesotaCare coverage to undocumented Minnesota children under age 19

## **Improving Access to Mental Health Care**

The One Minnesota Budget will improve access to residential and outpatient mental health services. The budget will pay for room and board services at residential facilities for children with serious mental health issues outside of the child welfare system. The Governor and Lieutenant Governor are also proposing a 50% increase in the rate for adult day treatment for group therapeutic services, increased funding to help people exit institutional settings, and sustained funding for an online tool to help people and families find behavioral health programs that meet their needs.

## **Expanding Mental Health Crisis and Early Intervention Services**

Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan propose a series of investments to address gaps in the mental health continuum for children and adolescents. As part of their budget, the Governor and Lieutenant Governor will expand mobile crisis services increase capacity to respond to more calls. The One Minnesota Budget also expands First Episode Psychosis services and includes funding for emerging mood disorder programs.



## SUBSTANCE USE AND OPIOIDS

*The opioid crisis has impacted every community across the state. Addiction is a public health crisis, and the One Minnesota Budget supports Minnesotans to get the help they need.*

### **Reducing Drug Overdose Deaths**

Minnesota and other states are facing an epidemic of drug overdoses and deaths related to overdoses. The Governor and Lieutenant Governor's proposal addresses this complex issue through a multi-pronged strategy that includes:

- Expanding access to non-narcotic pain management services
- Enhancing prevention and supportive services for people experiencing homelessness
- Equipping employers to promote health and well-being of employees in recovery or with a history of substance use
- Improving surveillance and identification of substances involved in overdoses
- Reducing substance use disorder among pregnant women and infants.
- Providing culturally specific outreach

### **Supporting Minnesotans with Substance Use Disorders**

Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan's budget will support better outcomes for people and families impacted by substance and opioid use disorder. The budget includes a new requirement to require grant resources be allocated to disproportionately impacted communities, along with ongoing funding to support grants for traditional healing and overdose prevention.

The One Minnesota Budget also requires programs to meet evidence-based standards and invests in data and evaluation infrastructure. These changes will promote integrated service delivery models and alleviate administrative burdens for providers.

### **Improving Sober Housing**

The One Minnesota Budget ensures people living in sober homes have access to person-centered, culturally responsive, quality services that support their journeys to recovery. To improve health and safety, this proposal establishes a certification program for sober homes that receive state funding and voluntary certification for privately funded sober housing programs. It also codifies consumer protections, requires access to prescribed medications, and specifies staff training and program policy requirements.



## COVID RECOVERY

*As people across the state work to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, the One Minnesota Budget invests in supporting people and communities who have experienced long-term impacts.*

### **Supporting Long COVID Survivors**

The Governor and Lieutenant Governor’s budget supports people experiencing long COVID by raising awareness, improving coordinated care, implementing evidence-based strategies, and assessing the effects of long COVID over time. The One Minnesota Budget establishes infrastructure to assess and reduce the human and economic toll of this condition in Minnesota through engagement with communities, health care providers, employers, schools, local public health, and Minnesotans with long COVID.

### **Promoting Mental Health**

The stress and other impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic worsened mental health challenges for many Minnesotans. The Governor and Lieutenant Governor’s budget establishes a grant program to fund community-based organizations and local health departments to develop and implement community-identified solutions for mental well-being and healing for communities most impacted by COVID-19. The program provides communication and outreach to communities, supporting skill development and promoting mental well-being.

### **Helping Minnesotans Keep their Health Care Coverage**

Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan’s budget aims to ensure a smooth transition for public health care enrollees when the Department of Human Services resumes Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare renewals and normal eligibility operations this year. Minnesota maintained Medicaid coverage for most enrollees during the COVID-19 pandemic and now seeks to ensure that eligible Minnesotans keep their coverage through an unprecedented and complex pandemic unwinding process. Investments include policy updates, administrative support, and funding for navigator organizations to help enrollees with renewal paperwork.



## HEALTH EQUITY

*Addressing and eliminating health disparities for people of color, Native people, and people with disabilities is essential to ensuring every Minnesotan has the services and care they need to survive and thrive.*

### **Establishing Offices of African American and American Indian Health**

The Governor and Lieutenant Governor’s proposal establishes an Office of African American Health to address the root causes of health inequities disproportionately impacting Minnesota’s African American communities.

The office will engage across sectors to provide policy and program recommendations to improve African American health outcomes, issue grants to address fundamental issues that affect health outcomes, and develop immersion experiences for secondary education and community college students to improve workforce diversity.

The Governor and Lieutenant Governor’s proposal also provides funding for the Office of American Indian Health to partner with American Indian communities and the 11 tribal nations that share Minnesota’s geography to address long-standing health disparities. The office will provide policy and program recommendations to improve American Indian health outcomes, issue grants to address fundamental issues that affect health outcomes, and increase technical assistance and workforce development that recognizes the sovereignty of tribal nations.

### **Advancing Health Equity**

Sharing information in a form and context relevant to specific communities is a critical need in public health. The Governor and Lieutenant Governor’s budget establishes a cultural communications program that focuses on tailoring messaging for audiences most impacted by health disparities including non-English and Limited English Proficient (LEP) populations, people of color, LGBTQ+ people, and people with disabilities. This program will standardize processes and coordinate translation services for the agency to ensure that public health messages reach and resonate with more people in Minnesota.

The Governor and Lieutenant Governor’s budget also creates a grant program to improve the infrastructure of community-based organizations led by and serving Minnesotans most impacted by health inequities. Under this proposal, MDH will provide technical assistance and capacity building grant opportunities to community-based organizations, including faith-based organizations.

### **Improving the Health and Well-Being of Minnesotans with Disabilities**

The Governor and Lieutenant Governor’s proposal will improve the health of Minnesotans with disabilities and support a comprehensive, cross-agency, interdisciplinary approach to alleviate disability-related health disparities. This proposal improves data collection, creates a disability health surveillance system, establishes a disability health improvement plan, and distributes community health improvement grants to address gaps and disparities.



## **HOUSING STABILITY**

*Housing is the foundation for health, safety, and growth. The One Minnesota Budget addresses the full spectrum of housing needs, from neighbors experiencing homelessness to renters to homeowners.*

### **Ending Veteran Homelessness in Minnesota**

Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan’s budget will fund Minnesota’s goal of being the fourth state in the country to declare an end to veteran homelessness statewide. Teams from the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs respond quickly to identify gaps in the statewide homeless veteran response system, develop strategic solutions to ensure rapid housing outcomes for veterans experiencing a housing crisis, and connect at-

risk veterans experiencing homelessness with life-stabilizing Social Security Disability benefits and other critical services.

To stop veteran homelessness before it begins, the budget will increase the Direct Veteran Assistance funding to provide important prevention resources to veterans who are at risk of homelessness. The One Minnesota Budget will also fund rental units that will remain affordable to veterans with barriers to finding stable housing, increase the number of rental units available to veterans, and connect veterans with services they need to remain stably housed.

### **Preserving Affordable Housing**

Rents and home values increase as older apartments and single-family homes are purchased and upscaled. Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan propose investing \$100 million in community stabilization to leverage private and philanthropic funds to acquire, rehabilitate, and preserve existing rental and homeownership housing so that it remains affordable for current and future households.

### **Helping More Minnesotans Become Homeowners**

Homeownership is the primary driver for building wealth for low- and moderate-income households. Many households are ready to become homeowners and can afford a mortgage, but they lack sufficient funds for a down payment. The Governor and Lieutenant Governor's budget includes \$128 million over the next two years for down payment assistance and closing cost loans to help homeowners bridge that gap. The budget also includes a new First-Generation Homebuyer Program as well as resources to serve households not currently being reached by other housing programs.

### **Making Rents More Affordable**

Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan's One Minnesota Budget will make rents more affordable for Minnesotans with lower incomes and disabilities. The budget provides rental assistance to families with low incomes, many of whom have experienced long-term homelessness, as well as operating subsidies to property owners. The rental assistance ensures that renters in the program pay no more than 30% of their income towards rent.

### **Increasing Housing in Greater Minnesota**

Market dynamics make it difficult to create new housing units in Greater Minnesota. The Governor and Lieutenant Governor's budget includes a \$40 million investment in the Greater Minnesota Workforce Housing program to provide grants to local units of government to build new rental housing in smaller communities. Building new rental housing provides homes local workers can afford and enables area businesses to expand their workforce.

### **Preventing Youth and Family Homelessness**

Housing stability for children and families leads to better school attendance, increased school success, and higher household income. Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan recommend investing in the Family Homelessness Prevention program to prevent homelessness before it begins. The program minimizes episodes of first-time homelessness and prevents people from becoming homeless again with grants to counties, tribal nations, regions, nonprofits, and other local organizations to provide direct assistance and services.

The Governor and Lieutenant Governor also recommend investments in the Homework Starts with Home program to help more children and youth have stable housing so they can succeed in school. Homework Starts with Home grants to local governments and nonprofit organizations provide rental assistance and homelessness prevention resources for families of students experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

The Governor and Lieutenant Governor also propose investing in a study and report from the Minnesota Department of Health to outline the state’s progress in reducing preventable deaths among people experiencing homelessness.

### **Supporting Stable Housing and Successful Reentry**

More than 95% of those who go to prison eventually get out and return to communities across Minnesota. Stable housing is a critical part of successful reentry, including helping these individuals reintegrate into their communities and preventing repeat offenses. The Governor and Lieutenant Governor’s One Minnesota Budget will provide the opportunity for partnerships and investment in proven practices that support individuals’ ability to establish stable housing and reintegrate to life outside the prison walls.

### **Increasing Emergency Shelter and Housing**

Investments in emergency shelter and housing programs will better support adults, youth, and families experiencing homelessness and help ensure that Minnesota’s network of emergency housing and shelter providers has the necessary resources to serve this vulnerable population. Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan recommend more funding for the Emergency Services Program, the Transitional Housing Program, the Homeless Youth Act, and Safe Harbor Shelter and Housing, as well as one-time funding to acquire, build, or renovate emergency shelters. In total, this proposal invests \$148 million over the next four years.

### **Providing Safe Housing for Victims of Violence**

Domestic and sexual violence shelters unequivocally save lives. Traditional housing programs often do not have the training and knowledge to understand the specific needs and programming for survivors or how to reduce dynamics that may lead a survivor back to the abusive relationship. The Domestic Violence Housing First Program and Domestic and Sexual Violence Transitional Housing funding will better meet the unique housing needs of survivors creating more opportunities for safe, stable, and longer-term housing.



## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

*Everyone in Minnesota deserves to be safe and protected. The One Minnesota Budget empowers local governments to address their unique public safety needs, while also creating and supporting collaborative, statewide initiatives to combat crime and gun violence.*

### **Keeping Communities Safe**

The Governor and Lieutenant Governor recommend spending \$300 million in public safety aid to cities, counties, and tribal governments across the state. Aid will be distributed based on population and will help offset local property taxes.

## **Reducing Gun Violence**

Gun violence impacts every community in Minnesota. Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan propose universal background checks on all firearm sales, extreme risk protection orders to help remove firearms from those who pose an immediate threat to themselves or others, raising the minimum age for purchasing military-style firearms to 21 years old, banning high-capacity magazines, and promoting safe storage of firearms.

## **Investigating Uses of Force**

The Force Investigations Unit performs independent investigations when peace officers are involved in use of force incidents, when criminal sexual conduct allegations are leveled against peace officers, when criminal sexual conduct investigations involve Minnesota National Guard members as suspect or victim survivor, or when conflict of interest cases involving peace officers arise. The case level for these investigations has increased from an initial 27 cases in 2020 to 68 cases in 2021. The Governor and Lieutenant Governor recommend ongoing funding for this unit to increase transparency and accountability.

## **Supporting Victims of Crime**

Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan recommend filling a gap in federal funding for the Office of Justice Programs to help victims of crime find emergency housing, support groups, financial assistance, and counseling. Bridging this funding gap will ensure groups serving victims across Minnesota can maintain current services and staffing levels.

## **Reducing Violent Crime**

The Violent Crime Reduction Strategy is a new statewide initiative to address violent crime across Minnesota. This initiative helps address current challenges with police staffing in many agencies by dedicating full-time Bureau of Criminal Apprehension agents, analysts, forensic scientists, and other personnel to help communities combat violent crime through an information and precision-driven approach to target only those who are committing violent acts.

## **Funding Minnesota's Fire Service**

The Fire Safety Account is a critical funding source for vital organizations within the fire service including the State Fire Marshal's Office, the Minnesota Board of Firefighter Training and Education, and the Statewide Response Teams. The One Minnesota Budget will increase funding to ensure fire agencies across the state will have sustainable resources to support their critical work.

## **Training Firefighters**

Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan propose \$1 million each year to support firefighter training and education. This will provide initial and ongoing training to the more than 20,000 firefighters across each of Minnesota's 772 fire departments. This proposal will reduce the costs that local departments need to spend on training and education, which will help free up local budgets to support other critical fire service work.

## **Responding to and Recovering from Disasters**

The Disaster Assistance Contingency Account reimburses local governments and state agencies for eligible costs of responding to and recovering from disasters. The Governor and Lieutenant Governor's budget includes \$40 million to help communities recover when disaster strikes.



## Increasing Transparency in Law Enforcement

A key component of building and maintaining trust between Minnesota communities and law enforcement agencies is a complete documentation of their interactions. Not all Minnesota law enforcement agencies can afford body cameras, which is why Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan propose \$4.5 million up front and \$1.5 million ongoing annually for grants to help local agencies access this key technology.

## Supporting Meaningful Community Engagement

Community engagement must be authentic and include action. It must also be strategic, responsive, empathetic, and — most of all — lasting. Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan propose investments into the Department of Public Safety to work with stakeholders on public safety goals while identifying and addressing gaps in community connections.

## Creating an Office of Missing and Murdered African American Women

Black women make up 7% of Minnesota’s population but represent 40% of domestic violence victims and are three times more likely to be murdered than white women. Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan’s budget establishes the Office of Missing and Murdered African American Women to promote the safety and success of Black women and girls through training, advocating for systems change, and ending violence against and trafficking Black women and girls.

## Gathering and Reporting Hate and Discrimination Data

Hate and discrimination have no home in Minnesota. The One Minnesota Budget includes added capacity for the Department of Human Rights to improve the state’s ability to better collect and analyze hate and discrimination data. Better data will improve understanding where and how these incidents are occurring so policymakers and community leaders can take data-informed actions to help reduce hate and discrimination in Minnesota.



## CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

*Minnesotans should have a fair and equitable justice system to provide accountability when harm has been done and help people and communities heal.*

## Providing Meaningful Rehabilitation for Incarcerated Individuals

Over 95% of people who are incarcerated will eventually go back to their communities — meaningful rehabilitation reduces their risk of reoffending upon release. Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan propose the Minnesota Rehabilitation and Reinvestment Act to create incentives for people in the custody of the Department of Corrections to participate in and make progress toward individualized treatment plans to help them return successfully to their communities.

## **Modernizing Public Safety Data Infrastructure**

Minnesota needs to broaden the way agencies share public safety information to address the needs of those most at risk and make communities safer. Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan propose modernizing the way the state collects public safety data and linking critical partners such as law enforcement, the Judicial Branch, and community supervision providers. This investment will make Minnesota a leader in evidence-based solutions and information sharing to improve public safety.

## **Reducing Inequities in Community Supervision**

Effective community supervision is critical to public safety to support individuals reintegrating after incarceration and prevent recidivism and re-incarceration. Current state funding levels only account for just over a quarter of actual costs to counties providing supervision, contributing to high cost burdens for county governments and disparities in the quality of supervision across the state. Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan propose strengthening community supervision systems across the state to support counties providing supervision as well as individuals reintegrating and successfully contributing to their communities.

## **Strengthening Security with Body-Worn Cameras**

The Governor and Lieutenant Governor recommend equipping all state corrections officers and intensive supervision agents in the community with body-worn cameras. Body-worn cameras provide the accountability and transparency necessary to help keep corrections workers and supervision agents safe, as well as the incarcerated population and those on intensive supervised release. This proposal aligns with the state's focus on data-driven and transparent public safety responses.

## **Transforming Education for Productive and Safer Communities**

There is a chronic shortage of education opportunities inside Minnesota's prisons, which leads to reduced employability and post-release success for individuals who are incarcerated. The One Minnesota Budget includes opportunities for robust, transformative educational programming for every willing participant committed to the custody of the Department of Corrections.