



**Board of Commissioners**

Fran Miron, District 1  
Stan Karwoski, District 2  
Bethany Cox, District 3  
Chair, Karla Bigham, District 4  
Michelle Clasen, District 5

**BOARD AGENDA**  
**February 10, 2026 - 9:00 AM**

*All listed times are approximate. Board Workshops will start immediately following the conclusion of the Board meeting.*

1. 9:00 **Roll Call**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

2. 9:00 **Comments from the Public**

*Visitors may share their comments or concerns on any issue that is a responsibility or function of Washington County Government, whether or not the issue is listed on this agenda. Persons who wish to address the Board must fill out a comment card before the meeting begins and give it to the County Board Clerk or the County Administrator. The County Board Chair will ask you to come to the podium, state your name and city of residence, and present your comments. Your comments must be addressed exclusively to the Board Chair and the full Board of Commissioners. Comments addressed to individual Board members will not be allowed. You are encouraged to limit your presentation to no more than five minutes. The Board Chair reserves the right to limit an individual's presentation if it exceeds the allowable time limit, becomes redundant, repetitive, overly argumentative, or if it is not relevant to an issue that is part of Washington County's responsibilities.*

3. 9:10 **Approval of the Agenda**

4. 9:10 **Consent Calendar - Roll Call Vote**

*Consent Calendar items are generally defined as items of routine business, not requiring discussion, and approved in one vote. Commissioners may elect to pull a Consent Calendar item(s) for discussion and/or separate action.*

A. Approval of the January 27, 2026, County Board meeting minutes.

B. Approve Amendment No. 3 with HM Cragg Co for the updated Uninterruptable Power Supply (UPS) and Battery Emergency Maintenance Rates for 2026, which went into effect on January 1, 2026.

C. Adopt a resolution to approve an application for an Exempt Permit of Minnesota Lawful Gambling received from Disabled Veterans Rest Camp Inc. to conduct a raffle on May 25, 2026, at 11300 180th Street North, in May Township.

D. Adopt a resolution in support of the City of Cottage Grove's application to the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program for the County Road (CR) 19A – 100th Street Realignment Project.

E. Adopt a resolution in support of Chisago County's application to the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program for the US Highway 8 Reconstruction Project.

F. Adopt a resolution to approve a donation to the Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$1,000 from Washington County resident Cynthia Young.

5. 9:10 **General Administration - Kevin Corbid, County Administrator**



6. 9:20 **Commissioner Reports - Comments - Questions**

*This period of time shall be used by the Commissioners to report to the full Board on committee activities, make comments on matters of interest and information, or raise questions to the staff. This action is not intended to result in substantive board action during this time. Any action necessary because of discussion will be scheduled for a future board meeting.*

7. 9:35 **Board Correspondence**

8. 9:40 **Executive (Closed) Session - Human Resources**

- A. Executive (closed) session for the purposes of discussing labor relations strategy, per Minnesota Statute 13D.03.

9. 10:25 **Adjourn**

10. 10:30 **Board Workshop with Community Services**

- A. Fraud: Understanding the Headlines and the Impact

11. 11:30 **Break**

12. 11:45 **Board Workshop with Administration**

- A. Federal Legislative Workshop

13. 12:30 **Personnel Committee**

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD  
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA  
JANUARY 27, 2026**

**WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS CONVENES**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. in the Washington County Government Center, County Board Room.

Present: Commissioner Fran Miron, District 1  
Commissioner Stan Karwoski, District 2  
Commissioner Bethany Cox, District 3  
Commissioner Karla Bigham, District 4  
Commissioner Michelle Clasen, District 5

Also Present: Kevin Corbid, County Administrator  
John Ristad, Assistant County Attorney Division Chief  
Stephanie Kammerud, Administrative Assistant

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Chair Bigham asked for comments from the public; none were heard.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Commissioner Miron moved to approve the County Board meeting agenda for January 27, 2026. Commissioner Karwoski seconded the motion, and it was adopted 5-0.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Commissioner Cox moved, seconded by Commissioner Miron, to adopt the Consent Calendar as follows:

1. Approval of the January 6, 2026, and January 13, 2026, County Board meeting minutes.
2. Approval of **Resolution No. 2026-008** as follows:

**2026 DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO MAKE ELECTRONIC  
FUNDS TRANSFERS TO THE DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING  
AND FINANCE DEPARTMENT OR THEIR DESIGNEE**

**WHEREAS**, an electronic funds transfer is defined in Minnesota Statutes 471.38 as a process of value exchange via mechanical means without the use of checks, drafts, or similar negotiable instruments; and

**WHEREAS**, a local government is authorized to make electronic funds transfers if it meets the eligibility requirements in state law; and

**WHEREAS**, one of the requirements is for the governing body to annually delegate the authority to make electronic funds transfers to a designated business administrator or chief financial officer or the officer's designee; and

**WHEREAS**, the county desires to utilize electronic funds transfers as authorized by statute.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of County Commissioners of Washington County delegates the authority to make electronic funds transfers to its Accounting and Finance Director, or their designee, as allowed under Minnesota Statutes 471.38.

3. Approval of **Resolution No. 2026-009** as follows:

**RESOLUTION TO SET ASIDE A PORTION OF THE  
ANNUAL DISTRIBUTION OF NET REVENUE  
FROM FORFEITED LAND SALES**

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota Statute Chapter 282 gives the county board the authority to manage tax forfeited property that is located within Washington County; and

**WHEREAS**, the county auditor is to distribute the net revenue in the county's tax forfeited sale fund to the local taxing districts after payment of county administrative expenses, according to one of two prescribed apportionment plans; and

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota Statutes Section 282.08, Subd. 4 (ii), allows the county board to set aside up to 20 percent of net proceeds for the acquisition and maintenance of county parks or recreational areas.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the County Board of Commissioners directs the Washington County Department of Property Records and Taxpayer Services to set aside, as authorized pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 282.08, Subd. 4(ii), 20 percent of the net proceeds remaining in the tax forfeited sale fund to be used for acquisition and maintenance of county parks and recreational areas.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this 20 percent set aside shall be expended under the supervision of the county board.

4. Approval of **Resolution No. 2026-010** as follows:

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SALE OF TAX FORFEITED  
LAND AT PUBLIC AUCTION**

**WHEREAS**, each year, property forfeits for the non-payment of property taxes, and the Property Records and Taxpayer Services Department, on behalf of the county board, works with the local municipalities and others to develop a plan to move the property into public ownership if there is a public use or purpose for the property, or to sell the property and return it to the tax rolls; and

**WHEREAS**, the parcel listed on the #2025-1 Public in-person Sale List as parcel **08.031.21.41.0013** in the City of Hugo has been identified to be offered for sale to the public through a public auction, and the attached terms for the sale have been developed; and

**WHEREAS**, the property identified is either a residential property with four or fewer units or is not improved with a structure. The sale of the property will first be offered for a period of 30 days to individuals who certify that they intend to own and occupy the property as a residence or to use the property for non-commercial personal use; and

**WHEREAS**, during this initial 30-day offering period, any prospective purchaser must sign a certification form affirming their intended qualifying use of the property; and

**WHEREAS**, any such parcels that remain unsold after the 30-day period shall be reoffered without the intended use certification requirement; and

**WHEREAS**, the department will publish a notice and advertise the public auction for at least 30 days as required by law and will notify all adjoining owners of the lands to be auctioned.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the procedures described above are hereby adopted and shall govern the offering and sale of the identified parcel.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the terms of the sale be set forth in the attached document titled as Terms for the Sale; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the basic sale price of parcel 08.031.21.41.0013 as listed on the #2025-1 Public in person Sale List filed with Property Records and Taxpayer Services department, is hereby approved, and the authorization for public sale is granted, pursuant to Minnesota Statute 282.01; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the sale be held March 6, 2026, at 1:00 p.m., in Conference Room LL13; Washington County Government Center, Stillwater Minnesota. If the property remains unsold, a second public sale shall be held on April 6, 2026, at 1:00 p.m., in Conference Room LL13, Washington County Government Center, Stillwater Minnesota, and the sale be for not less than the minimum sale price.

5. Approve grant agreement with the Washington Conservation District to enhance 15.5 acres of prairie at Pine Point Regional Park.
6. Approve Purchase Order No. 28482 with Tenvoorde Ford in the amount of \$300,716.08 for fleet vehicles.

The motion was adopted 5-0 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Cox, Clasen, and Bigham. Nays, none.

## **SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

### **Introduction of Therapy Dog**

Washington County Sheriff's Office Commander Kyle Schenck, Detective Julia Weegman, and Tom Sweeney from Soldier's 6, introduced Penny, the new therapy dog in the Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office Coordinated Response Team acquired Penny through a generous donation from Soldier's 6 and Franks' Field & Family Goldens. Penny is being trained to interact with people of all ages in the community to provide comfort and emotional support in situations that can be stressful, overwhelming, or traumatic.

## **OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATION**

### **Recognition of James Honsvall**

The County Board recognized and thanked Mr. James Honsvall for his service on the Washington County Audit Advisory Committee. Mr. Honsvall has served as a citizen member of the Audit Advisory Committee for the past 15 years.

## **GENERAL ADMINISTRATION**

### **2025 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Donations**

County Administrator Kevin Corbid presented a resolution to accept the 2025 4<sup>th</sup> quarter donations in the amount of \$6,440.38.

Commissioner Clasen moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2026-011** as follows:

**2025 FOURTH QUARTER DONATIONS, GIFTS, AND BEQUESTS**

**WHEREAS**, Washington County gratefully accepts donations, gifts, and bequests from public and private sources to enhance the programs and services it provides; and

**WHEREAS**, any gift, donation, or bequest becomes the property of Washington County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Washington County Board of Commissioners is authorized to approve donations, gifts, and bequests on a quarterly basis.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve donations and gifts of \$6,440.38 for the fourth quarter of 2025.

Commissioner Karwoski seconded the motion, and it was adopted 5-0 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Cox, Clasen, and Bigham. Nays, none.

**Letter to Federal Delegation**

Deputy County Administrator Jan Lucke presented two options of draft letters to be sent to the Congressional delegation regarding ICE operations in Washington County. After review and discussion, it was decided that staff will combine discussion points of both letters and rewrite into one letter, and be sent on behalf of the County Board.

County Administrator Kevin Corbid reported that the county has continued to provide additional guidance to county employees related to the immigration enforcement activities that may occur on county property or in county buildings.

**Water Pipe Break**

County Administrator Corbid reported that on Saturday, a water pipe froze and broke in the fire suppression system on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Government Center. The Stillwater Fire Department and staff from the Sheriff’s Office and the Public Works Department responded and were able to shut off the water. The water impacted a number of areas in the Government Center and the County Courthouse. The water was extracted from the building by Sunday morning, and staff led the cleanup of the county spaces, including removing damaged ceiling tiles. The county was able to open for normal business hours on Monday morning.

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Commissioners reported on meetings and other events they attended. Please see archived livestreaming of the board meeting for full commissioner reports on the county’s website [washingtoncountymn.gov](http://washingtoncountymn.gov) under “County Board of Commissioners.”

## **BOARD CORRESPONDENCE**

Board correspondence was received and placed on file.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the County Board, Chair Bigham adjourned the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

## **BOARD WORKSHOP WITH PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT**

The board met in workshop session to discuss Board of Water and Soil Resources funding. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Cox, Bigham, and Clasen. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jan Lucke, Jennifer Wagenius, outside agencies, and county staff.

## **BOARD WORKSHOP WITH ADMINISTRATION**

The board met in workshop session for a review of Washington County's 2026 Mandates & Core Functions. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Cox, Bigham, and Clasen. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jan Lucke, Jennifer Wagenius, and county staff.

Attest:

Kevin Corbid  
County Administrator

Karla Bigham  
County Board Chair



# Request for Board Action

BOARD MEETING DATE:  
February 10, 2026

## Commissioner's Report

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:  
4.B

### Department Information

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Information Technology	REQUESTOR: Danielle Menard, Financial Analyst II	REQUESTOR PHONE: 651-430-6038
PRESENTER(S):	MEDIA CONTACT: Adam Larson 651-430-6421	

### Agenda Item Details

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF YOUR REQUEST: Approve Amendment No. 3 with HM Cragg Co for the updated Uninterruptable Power Supply (UPS) and Battery Emergency Maintenance Rates for 2026, which went into effect on January 1, 2026.		
AGENDA YOU ARE REQUESTING TIME ON: Consent	ARE YOU SEEKING APPROVAL OF A CONTRACT? Yes	ESTIMATED DURATION: 0 minutes
IS THIS MANDATED? No	EXPLANATION OF MANDATE:	
BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION: The IT Department is requesting Board approval of Amendment No. 3 to Contact No. 15199, which was initially executed under the authority of the Public Works Department, then transferred to the IT Department due to an operational realignment in 2023.  The contract exceeds the Board approval threshold of \$175,000 and therefore requires formal Board action. The contract was written as not to exceed \$99,000 per term and automatically renews for up to four (4) additional one-year terms, totaling \$495,000 for the duration of the five-year contract. Although the term amount has allocated \$99,000, according to the 2026 Scope of Work attached to Amendment 3 as Exhibit D, services are expected to be \$70,163. The actual amounts charged for the original contract and all previous amendments are as follows:  Term 1: Contract 15199 - \$55,443 Term 2: Amendment 1 to Contract 15199 - \$62,392 Term 3: Amendment 2 to Contract 15199 - \$65,512  Approval is also requested to authorize the contract rates to be applied retroactively to January 1, 2026, which reflects the intended effective date of services and aligns with budget assumptions and operational needs.  The contract has been in active use since the contract was finalized on November 7, 2022, and services have been rendered in good faith under the terms negotiated. No changes to the scope of work or total contract amount are proposed beyond the previously negotiated terms.  The Uninterruptable Power Supply (UPS) serves as the County's backup battery systems, ensuring a reliable source of short-term power for all mission-critical systems and data centers. These systems are essential for maintaining operational continuity and safeguarding vital data. The contract is for annual preventive maintenance to inspect for corrosion, assess battery and circuit board health, and perform other UPS-related tasks.		

Therefore, the IT Department is requesting approval for Amendment No. 3 to Contract No. 15199 with HM Cragg Co for the Uninterruptable Power Supply (UPS) and Battery Emergency Maintenance.

PREVIOUS ACTION ON REQUEST/OTHER PARTIES INVOLVED?

### Budget Impact

YEAR:	UNBUDGETED AMOUNT: \$
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FUNDING DESCRIPTION:  
County Technology Fund

### Approvals

Adam Larson, Director	02/02/2026
John Ristad, County Attorney Civil Division Chief	02/04/2026
Jan Lucke, Deputy County Administrator	02/05/2026



# Request for Board Action

BOARD MEETING DATE:  
February 10, 2026

## Commissioner's Report

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:  
4.C

### Department Information

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Property Records and Taxpayer Services	REQUESTOR: Kimberly McCutcheon, Sr. Taxpayer Services Technician	REQUESTOR PHONE: 651-430- 6180
PRESENTER(S):	MEDIA CONTACT: Amy Stenftenagel 651-430-6182	

### Agenda Item Details

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF YOUR REQUEST: Adopt a resolution to approve an application for an Exempt Permit of Minnesota Lawful Gambling received from Disabled Veterans Rest Camp Inc. to conduct a raffle on May 25, 2026, at 11300 180th Street North, in May Township.		
AGENDA YOU ARE REQUESTING TIME ON: Consent	ARE YOU SEEKING APPROVAL OF A CONTRACT? No	ESTIMATED DURATION: 0 minutes
IS THIS MANDATED? Yes	EXPLANATION OF MANDATE: MN Statute 349.166 subdivision 2. Exemptions. (a) Lawful gambling, with the exception of linked bingo games, may be conducted by an organization without a license and without complying with sections 349.168, subdivisions 1 and 2; 349.17, subdivision 4; 349.18, subdivision 1; and 349.19 if:  (1) the organization conducts lawful gambling on five or fewer days in a calendar year; (2) the organization does not award more than \$50,000 in prizes for lawful gambling in a calendar year; (3) the organization submits a board-prescribed application and pays a fee of \$100 to the board for each gambling occasion, and receives an exempt permit number from the board. If the application is postmarked or received less than 30 days before the gambling occasion, the fee is \$150 for that application. The application must include the date and location of the occasion, the types of lawful gambling to be conducted, and the prizes to be awarded; (4) the organization notifies the local government unit 30 days before the lawful gambling occasion, or 60 days for an occasion held in a city of the first class  MN Statute 349.213 subdivision 1. Local regulation. (b) A statutory or home rule city or county may require a permit for the conduct of gambling exempt from licensing under section 349.166. The fee for a permit issued under section 349.166 may not exceed \$100.	
BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION: The County Auditor received an application from Disabled Veterans Rest Camp Inc. for an Exempt		

Permit of Minnesota Lawful Gambling. The application would allow them to conduct a raffle on May 25, 2026, at 11300 180th Street North, located in May Township.

The application meets the requirements for an exempt gambling permit and the fee has been provided. The Department recommends approval. If approved by the Washington County Board, the application will be sent to the State Gambling Board for consideration.

PREVIOUS ACTION ON REQUEST/OTHER PARTIES INVOLVED?

### Budget Impact

YEAR:	UNBUDGETED AMOUNT: \$
FUNDING DESCRIPTION:	

### Approvals

Amy Stenftenagel, Director	02/01/2026
John Ristad, County Attorney Civil Division Chief	02/04/2026
Jennifer Wagenius, Deputy County Administrator	02/04/2026

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Property Records and Taxpayer  
Services

DATE February 10, 2026

DEPARTMENT \_\_\_\_\_

MOTION  
BY COMMISSIONER \_\_\_\_\_

SECONDED BY  
COMMISSIONER \_\_\_\_\_

**LAWFUL GAMBLING EXEMPTION RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, Disabled Veterans Rest Camp Inc. has made an application to the Minnesota Gambling Control Board for an exemption from certain requirements as allowed under Minnesota Statute 349.166, Subd.2, in order to conduct a raffle at 11300 180<sup>th</sup> Street North, which is located in May Township. The event will take place on May 25, 2026; and

**WHEREAS**, May Township has been notified that the organization is applying for an exempted gambling activity within the township limits; and

**WHEREAS**, the Gambling Control Board requires acknowledgement by the County for a gambling permit located in a township.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Washington County Board of Commissioners does not oppose issuance of exemption consistent with the application and further acknowledges the exempt permit may be granted with no waiting period.

**ATTEST:**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**YES                      NO**

<b>MIRON</b>	_____	_____
<b>KARWOSKI</b>	_____	_____
<b>COX</b>	_____	_____
<b>BIGHAM</b>	_____	_____
<b>CLASEN</b>	_____	_____

**COUNTY BOARD CHAIR**



# Request for Board Action

BOARD MEETING DATE:  
February 10, 2026

## Commissioner's Report

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:  
4.D

### Department Information

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Public Works	REQUESTOR: Rana Campbell-Beams, Administrative Assistant	REQUESTOR PHONE: 651-430-4355
PRESENTER(S):	MEDIA CONTACT: Ryan Hoefs 651-430-4336	

### Agenda Item Details

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF YOUR REQUEST: Adopt a resolution in support of the City of Cottage Grove's application to the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program for the County Road (CR) 19A – 100th Street Realignment Project.		
AGENDA YOU ARE REQUESTING TIME ON: Consent	ARE YOU SEEKING APPROVAL OF A CONTRACT? No	ESTIMATED DURATION: 0 minutes
IS THIS MANDATED? No	EXPLANATION OF MANDATE:	
BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION: Washington County and the City of Cottage Grove completed a study for a southwest arterial alignment through the City of Cottage Grove in 2020. From this study, a phase 1 project from US 61 to Jamaica Avenue (County Road/CR 19A – 100th Street Realignment Project) was identified as a priority. This project is identified in the County Capital Improvement Plan as RB-2685.  To date, the project has received \$13.667 million dollars in State and Federal grants. The City of Cottage Grove is planning to submit an application to the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program for this project to further supplement anticipated construction costs.  The US Department of Transportation has allocated \$1.5 billion dollars to fund its BUILD grant program, which provides funding for surface transportation projects of regional significance. It aims to improve safety, economic competitiveness, quality of life, and environmental sustainability by supporting roads, transit, bridges, and multi-modal infrastructure.  The City has requested a Resolution of Support from the Washington County Board for the project and their pursuit of the BUILD grant funds. Washington County is not submitting a BUILD grant for this year's solicitation, therefore our support of this project will not be seen as competing against our own submission.		
PREVIOUS ACTION ON REQUEST/OTHER PARTIES INVOLVED? 11/25/2025 – County Board adopted Resolution of Support for Local Road Improvement Program grant 02/18/2025 – County Board approve Memorandum of Understanding with Cottage Grove 12/17/2024 – County Board adopted the 2025-2029 Capital Improvement Plan that identifies this project 12/12/2023 – County Board adopted the 2024 – 2028 Capital Improvement Plan that identifies this project 12/13/2022 – County Board adopted the 2023 – 2027 Capital Improvement Plan that identifies this project 01/18/2022 – County Board approved contract amendment with Kimley-Horn and Associates		

12/14/2021 – County Board adopted the 2022 – 2026 Capital Improvement Plan that identifies this project  
 12/15/2020 – County Board adopted the 2021 – 2025 Capital Improvement Plan that identifies this project  
 03/26/2019 – County Board approved Contract 12418 with Kimley-Horn and Associates  
 12/17/2019 – County Board adopted the 2020 – 2024 Capital Improvement Plan that identifies this project  
 12/11/2018 – County Board adopted the 2019 – 2024 Capital Improvement Plan that identifies this project

### Budget Impact

YEAR:	UNBUDGETED AMOUNT: \$
FUNDING DESCRIPTION:	

### Approvals

Wayne Sandberg, Director	02/03/2026
John Ristad, County Attorney Civil Division Chief	02/03/2026
Jennifer Wagenius, Deputy County Administrator	02/03/2026

DATE February 10, 2026

DEPARTMENT Public Works Department

MOTION  
BY COMMISSIONER \_\_\_\_\_

SECONDED BY  
COMMISSIONER \_\_\_\_\_

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**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE CITY OF COTTAGE GROVE’S APPLICATION TO  
THE BETTER UTILIZING INVESTMENTS TO LEVERAGE DEVELOPMENT (BUILD)  
PROGRAM FOR THE COUNTY ROAD (CR) 19A – 100<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
REALIGNMENT PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) announced its latest discretionary funding opportunity through the FY 2026 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Program, allocating \$1.5 billion to fund projects that improve safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, mobility, community connectivity, and economic competitiveness consistent with DOT's strategic goals; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Cottage Grove is experiencing incredible growth and modernization; and

**WHEREAS**, with such rapid growth, it has been a challenge to replace aging infrastructure, address increasing traffic congestion, and improve safety all while encouraging continued population growth and job growth; and

**WHEREAS**, a 2019 study led by Washington County (the “Study”), in partnership with the city, documented a lack of roadways specifically serving an area of growing industrial and residential development near Jamaica Avenue and U.S. Highway 61, a pivotal intersection for the community and region; and

**WHEREAS**, the Study recommended the solution to congestion and safety concerns is the construction of a new arterial roadway that would also require the realignment of the existing 100<sup>th</sup> Street and County Road 19A, the intersection reconstruction of County Road 19A and U.S. Highway 61, and the construction of a highway bridge to provide a grade-separated crossing over the CPKC rail line (hereinafter referred to as the “Southwest Arterial Project”); and

**WHEREAS**, the Southwest Arterial Project will serve as the main transportation route to U.S. Highway 61 from this growing area of the community by providing a much-needed direct access point to the City’s Industrial Park; and

**WHEREAS**, there has already been unprecedented growth in the City’s Industrial Park from industry-leading producers and employers such as 3M, Renewal by Anderson, Airgas, and NorthPoint Development, which has resulted in over 3.5 million square feet of industrial development and is expected to result in thousands of new jobs; and

**WHEREAS**, there are significant funding constraints put on the City of Cottage Grove and Washington County to design and implement the Southwest Arterial Project; and

**WHEREAS**, \$13,600,000 in competitive funding has already been awarded to the project through the Metropolitan Council’s PROTECT Program, MnDOT’s Minnesota Highway Freight Program, and a Community Project Funding (federal earmark) allocation with support from Congresswoman Angie Craig; and

**WHEREAS**, the Washington County Board of Commissioners has recently approved allocating funds to the Southwest Arterial Project from the County Transportation Sales Tax, which will be able to support the project budget as proposed.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Washington County supports the City of Cottage Grove’s pursuit of BUILD funds for the construction of the Southwest Arterial Project; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the County Board authorizes county staff to provide the necessary support throughout project delivery to ensure that program requirements are honored, including the County’s share of the local match and any unforeseen contingencies, to meet the full funding needs and obligations within six months of award, as federal coordination capacity allows, ensuring full expenditure of funds by September 30, 2035.

**ATTEST:**

		<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR</b>	<b>MIRON</b>	_____	_____
	<b>KARWOSKI</b>	_____	_____
	<b>COX</b>	_____	_____
	<b>BIGHAM</b>	_____	_____
<b>COUNTY BOARD CHAIR</b>	<b>CLASEN</b>	_____	_____



# Request for Board Action

BOARD MEETING DATE:  
February 10, 2026

## Commissioner's Report

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:  
4.E

### Department Information

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Public Works	REQUESTOR: Rana Campbell-Beams, Administrative Assistant	REQUESTOR PHONE: 651-430-4355
PRESENTER(S):	MEDIA CONTACT: Wayne Sandberg 651-430-4339	

### Agenda Item Details

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF YOUR REQUEST: Adopt a resolution in support of Chisago County's application to the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program for the US Highway 8 Reconstruction Project.		
AGENDA YOU ARE REQUESTING TIME ON: Consent	ARE YOU SEEKING APPROVAL OF A CONTRACT? No	ESTIMATED DURATION: 0 minutes
IS THIS MANDATED? No	EXPLANATION OF MANDATE:	
BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION: The US Department of Transportation has allocated \$1.5 billion dollars to fund its BUILD grant program, which provides funding for surface transportation projects of regional significance. It aims to improve safety, economic competitiveness, quality of life, and environmental sustainability by supporting roads, transit, bridges, and multi-modal infrastructure.  Chisago County is working with MnDOT and other partners on the plans for the US Highway 8 Reconstruction project. Chisago County is submitting a BUILD grant for the project. This critical project reconstructs and expands eight miles of US 8 between Interstate 35 and Karmel Avenue in the cities of Wyoming, Chisago City, and Forest Lake, Minnesota, as well as constructs 7.4 miles of the Swedish Immigrant Regional Trail.  The corridor is part of the National Highway System and is vital to the local and regional economy. It connects the region to the Twin Cities metropolitan area, as well as to Wisconsin. The Project will enhance system performance, improve corridor safety for motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians, and support local/regional economic and community development efforts. This project will greatly benefit the regional transportation system while meeting the priority objectives of USDOT's BUILD program by emphasizing highway safety and improving local and regional economic competitiveness in a rural area.  The Chisago County has requested a Resolution of Support from the Washington County Board for the project and their pursuit of the BUILD grant funds. Washington County has no cost share on this project. Washington County is not submitting a BUILD grant for this year's solicitation, therefore our support of this project will not be seen as competing against our own submission.		
PREVIOUS ACTION ON REQUEST/OTHER PARTIES INVOLVED? None		

### Budget Impact

YEAR:

UNBUDGETED AMOUNT:

\$

FUNDING DESCRIPTION:

## Approvals

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Wayne Sandberg, Director	02/03/2026
John Ristad, County Attorney Civil Division Chief	02/03/2026
Jennifer Wagenius, Deputy County Administrator	02/03/2026

DATE February 10, 2026

DEPARTMENT Public Works Department

MOTION  
BY COMMISSIONER \_\_\_\_\_

SECONDED BY  
COMMISSIONER \_\_\_\_\_

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CHISAGO COUNTY’S APPLICATION TO THE BETTER UTILIZING INVESTMENTS TO LEVERAGE DEVELOPMENT (BUILD) PROGRAM FOR THE U.S. HIGHWAY 8 RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) announced its latest discretionary funding opportunity through the FY 2026 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Program, allocating \$1.5 billion to fund projects that improve safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, mobility, community connectivity, and economic competitiveness consistent with DOT's strategic goals; and

**WHEREAS**, U.S. Highway 8 (US 8) is part of the National Highway System and is vital to the local and regional economy, connecting the region to the Twin Cities metropolitan area as well as to Wisconsin; and

**WHEREAS**, the US 8 Reconstruction Project will reconstruct and expand eight miles of US 8 between Interstate 35 and Karmel Avenue in the cities of Wyoming, Chisago City, and Forest Lake, Minnesota, as well as construct 7.4 miles of the Swedish Immigrant Regional Trail; and

**WHEREAS**, the Highway 8 Corridor Study has identified critical capacity, access, and safety issues along the eight-mile segment of US 8, where currently more than 22,000 vehicles per day utilize the two-lane highway, causing safety and congestion issues and restricting the movement of freight vehicles within the corridor; and

**WHEREAS**, the corridor currently lacks bicycle and pedestrian facilities, making it difficult and unsafe for families to travel outside of a motor vehicle; and

**WHEREAS**, the US 8 Reconstruction Project will enhance system performance, improve corridor safety for motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians, and support local and regional economic and community development efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, the US 8 Reconstruction Project will greatly benefit the regional transportation system while meeting the priority objectives of USDOT’s BUILD program by emphasizing highway safety and improving local and regional economic competitiveness in a rural area; and

**WHEREAS**, the US 8 corridor serves Washington County residents and businesses who travel between Washington County and Chisago County, and improvements to this corridor will benefit the regional transportation network; and

**WHEREAS**, while part of the US 8 Reconstruction Project is within county limits, the county has no cost share of this grant or the project.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Washington County supports Chisago County’s pursuit of BUILD funds for the construction of the US 8 Reconstruction Project.

**ATTEST:**

		<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR</b>	<b>MIRON</b>	_____	_____
	<b>KARWOSKI</b>	_____	_____
	<b>COX</b>	_____	_____
	<b>BIGHAM</b>	_____	_____
<b>COUNTY BOARD CHAIR</b>	<b>CLASEN</b>	_____	_____

# HIGHWAY 8

LET'S GET MOVING

## PROJECT BACKGROUND

Highway 8 is an important interregional corridor that serves a variety of transportation needs. It is vital to sustaining local commerce and energizing future economic growth and vitality.

In recent years, Highway 8 has become increasingly strained due to high levels of daily commuters, large trucks hauling freight, and spikes in weekend recreational traffic.

A proliferation of secondary roads and private driveways provide direct access to and from Highway 8 which contribute to safety and mobility issues.

## WHY IS THIS PROJECT NEEDED?



**30% increase** in future traffic

Traffic volumes on this two-lane highway **already exceeds 22,000 vehicles per day** and are expected to increase 30-40% by the year 2040.



**No current bicycle or pedestrian facilities**

This project provides an opportunity for an off-road pedestrian and bicycle trail that could connect to other regional trails.



**1,084**

crashes reported along TH 8 from 2012-2021

**7**

fatalities from 2012-2021

**12**

serious injuries from 2012-2021



Over **225** access/conflict points over the **22 mile corridor**

including county highways, city streets and commercial, residential and agricultural driveways.



Residential and commercial development along the TH 8 corridor is continuing to occur and expected to increase.



*"The project will address system performance, improve the safety of the corridor for motorists and pedestrians, and supports local and regional economic and community development."*

**- US Representative Pete Stauber, MN District 8**



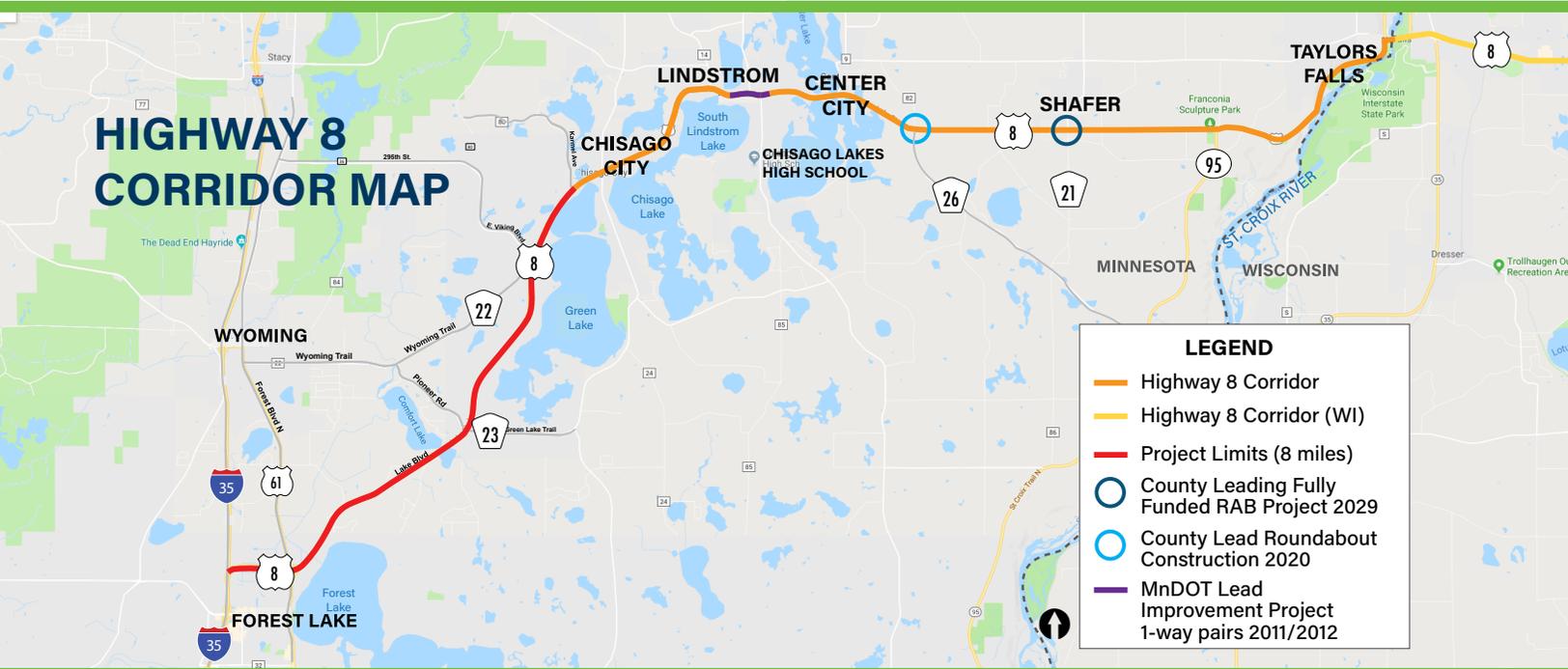
*"On a daily basis I see drivers taking risks, such as illegally passing on the shoulder, which often results in a serious crash."*

**- Sheriff Brandon Thyen, Chisago County Sheriff's Office**

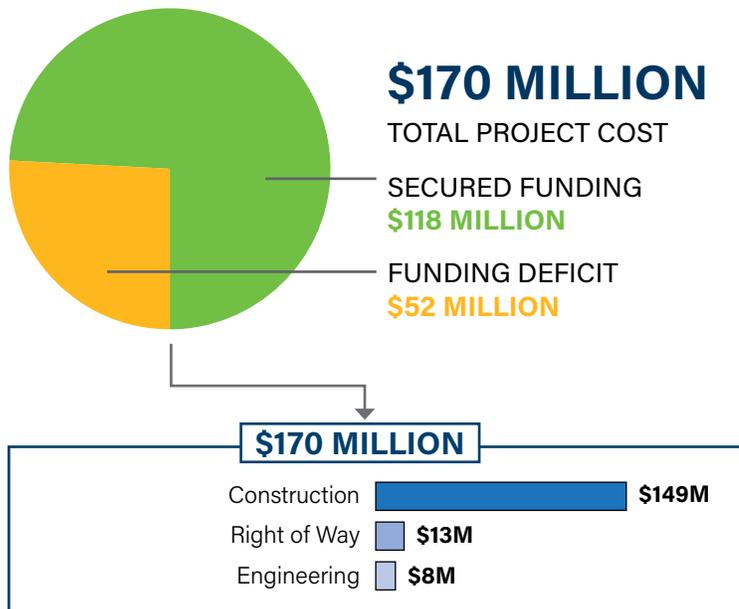
# THE SOLUTION

The solution will likely involve converting Highway 8 to a 4-lane divided roadway with a raised median/barrier or ditch separating directional traffic. Proper access management will play a critical part in improving safety and mobility.

# PROJECT TIMELINE



# WE ARE ASKING FOR YOUR SUPPORT



# CONTACT

**Joe K. Triplett, PE, County Engineer**

651-213-8700 | [joe.triplett@chisagocountymn.gov](mailto:joe.triplett@chisagocountymn.gov)  
 313 N. Main Street, Rm 400,  
 Center City, MN 55012

[www.chisagocounty.us/1115/Trunk-Highway-8](http://www.chisagocounty.us/1115/Trunk-Highway-8)

## Trunk Highway 8 Coalition members:

- Chisago County
- Washington County
- City of Chisago
- City of Wyoming
- City of Forest Lake
- City of Lindstrom
- City of Center City
- City of Shafer
- City of Taylors Falls
- Chisago Lake Township
- Franconia Township
- Shafer Township
- Mndot Metro District
- TH 8 Taskforce
- Chisago County Sheriff's Department
- Lakes Area Police Department
- Wyoming Police Department
- Forest Lake Police Department
- Lakes Area EMS
- Chisago County HRA/EDA
- Wyoming Chamber of Commerce
- Chisago Lakes Chamber of Commerce
- Chisago Lakes School District
- Forest Lake School District
- Comfort Lake/Forest Lake Watershed District
- Chisago County Lake Improvement District



# Request for Board Action

BOARD MEETING DATE:  
February 10, 2026

## Commissioner's Report

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:  
4.F

### Department Information

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Sheriff's Office	REQUESTOR: Jennifer Flores, Sr. Procurement Specialist	REQUESTOR PHONE:
PRESENTER(S):	MEDIA CONTACT: Sheriff Dan Starry	

### Agenda Item Details

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF YOUR REQUEST: Adopt a resolution to approve a donation to the Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$1,000 from Washington County resident Cynthia Young.		
AGENDA YOU ARE REQUESTING TIME ON: Consent	ARE YOU SEEKING APPROVAL OF A CONTRACT? No	ESTIMATED DURATION: 0 minutes
IS THIS MANDATED? No	EXPLANATION OF MANDATE:	
BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION: The Washington County Sheriff's Office responds frequently to medical emergencies in the community. Deputies, along with Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel, provide on-scene support and lifesaving measures.  Cynthia Young, a county resident, has expressed her appreciation for the professionalism and compassion shown by deputies and has offered a donation to the Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$1,000. The donation will be used to support employee wellness programs and community engagement events. The Sheriff's Office would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Ms. Young for this generous donation.		
PREVIOUS ACTION ON REQUEST/OTHER PARTIES INVOLVED?		

### Budget Impact

YEAR:	UNBUDGETED AMOUNT: \$
FUNDING DESCRIPTION: Monetary donation	

### Approvals

Dan Starry, County Sheriff	01/30/2026
John Ristad, County Attorney Civil Division Chief	02/04/2026
Kevin Corbid, County Administrator	02/04/2026

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

DATE February 10, 2026  
MOTION  
BY COMMISSIONER \_\_\_\_\_

DEPARTMENT Sheriff's Office  
SECONDED BY  
COMMISSIONER \_\_\_\_\_

**DONATION FROM WASHINGTON COUNTY RESIDENT CYNTHIA YOUNG**

**WHEREAS**, Washington County gratefully accepts donations, gifts, and bequests from public and private sources to enhance the programs and services it provides; and

**WHEREAS**, any gift, donation, or bequest becomes the property of Washington County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Washington County Board is authorized to approve donations, gifts, and bequests.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve a donation to the Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$1,000.00 from Washington County resident Cynthia Young to support employee wellness programs and community engagement events.

ATTEST:

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

COUNTY BOARD CHAIR

YES NO

MIRON	_____	_____
KARWOSKI	_____	_____
COX	_____	_____
BIGHAM	_____	_____
CLASEN	_____	_____



# Request for Board Action

BOARD MEETING DATE:  
February 10, 2026

## Commissioner's Report

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:  
8.A

### Department Information

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Human Resources	REQUESTOR: Stephanie Kammerud, Administrative Assistant	REQUESTOR PHONE: 651-430-6014
PRESENTER(S): Angie Nalezny	MEDIA CONTACT: Angie Nalezny 651-430-6075	

### Agenda Item Details

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF YOUR REQUEST: Executive (closed) session for the purposes of discussing labor relations strategy, per Minnesota Statute 13D.03.		
AGENDA YOU ARE REQUESTING TIME ON: Executive session	ARE YOU SEEKING APPROVAL OF A CONTRACT? No	ESTIMATED DURATION: 45 minutes
IS THIS MANDATED? No	EXPLANATION OF MANDATE:	
BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION: Pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.03, the Office of Administration and the Human Resources Department are requesting an executive (closed) session with the County Board for an update on labor negotiations.		
PREVIOUS ACTION ON REQUEST/OTHER PARTIES INVOLVED?		

### Budget Impact

YEAR:	UNBUDGETED AMOUNT: \$
FUNDING DESCRIPTION:	

### Approvals

Angie Nalezny, Human Resources Director	02/02/2026
John Ristad, County Attorney Civil Division Chief	02/02/2026
Kevin Corbid, County Administrator	02/04/2026



# Request for Board Action

BOARD MEETING DATE:  
February 10, 2026

## Commissioner's Report

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:  
10.A

### Department Information

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Community Services	REQUESTOR: Stephanie Kammerud, Administrative Assistant	REQUESTOR PHONE: 651-430-6014
PRESENTER(S): Jennifer Castillo	MEDIA CONTACT: Ryan Selock 651-430-8289	

### Agenda Item Details

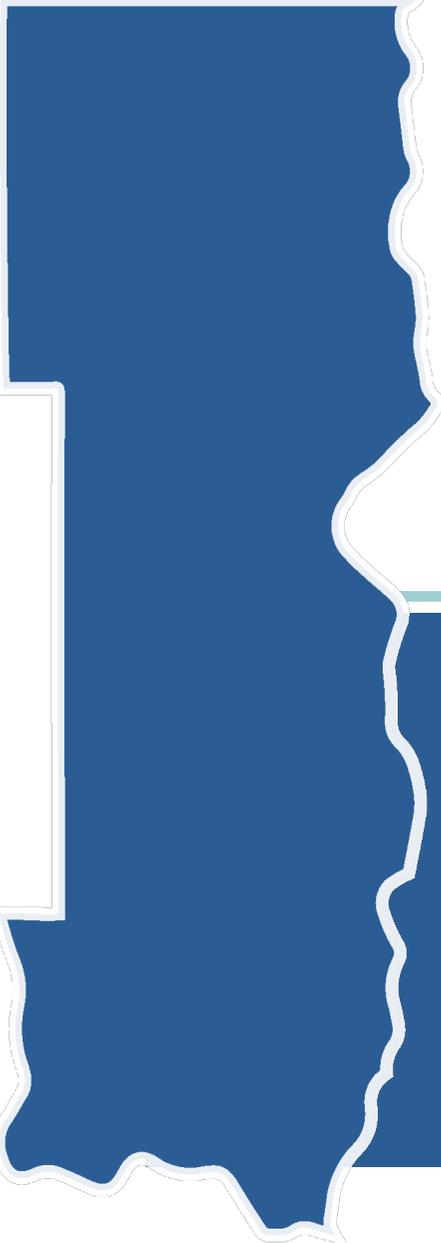
BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF YOUR REQUEST: Fraud: Understanding the Headlines and the Impact		
AGENDA YOU ARE REQUESTING TIME ON: Workshop	ARE YOU SEEKING APPROVAL OF A CONTRACT? No	ESTIMATED DURATION: 60 minutes
IS THIS MANDATED? No	EXPLANATION OF MANDATE:	
BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION: Director Castillo will provide an overview of recent headlines on fraud, waste, and abuse, along with key recent events and federal actions. The presentation will outline the safeguards Washington County has in place to prevent fraud and highlight the impacts on the people we serve, providers, and staff.		
PREVIOUS ACTION ON REQUEST/OTHER PARTIES INVOLVED?		

### Budget Impact

YEAR:	UNBUDGETED AMOUNT: \$
FUNDING DESCRIPTION:	

### Approvals

Jennifer Castillo, Director                      02/03/2026  
Kevin Corbid, County Administrator        02/04/2026



# Fraud: Understanding the headlines and their impact

February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026

# Key Terms

- **FRAUD:** **Intentional deception** to get a benefit or payment that someone is not entitled to (or to avoid an obligation)
- **ABUSE:** **Improper use or misuse** of a program, position, or authority that leads to unnecessary cost or improper benefit
- **WASTE:** **Careless, inefficient, or unnecessary use of resources** that drives extra cost, often **without intent to deceive**
- **ERROR:** **mistakes** and/or **non-compliance** in how programs are administered. Errors are typically categorized as **client errors, agency administrative errors** or **fraud**
- **PROGRAM INTEGRITY:** the **set of strategies, controls, and activities** used to ensure public programs are **administered correctly**, so the **right people** get the **right services/benefits**, with the **right payments**, while preventing/detecting/correcting **fraud, waste, and abuse** and recovering funds when appropriate

# Overview of the County-State Model



## FEDERAL AGENCIES

- Provides program oversight
- Funds large portions of human service programs to states
- Creates and defines regulations, policies and guidance to states



## MINNESOTA

- Interprets federal guidance and applies additional rules/programming
- Provides a layer of oversight
- Distributes funding to counties



## COUNTY

- Completes the day-to-day operations of human service programs
- Complies with both state and federal regulations and performance standards
- Provides critical supports to eligible people within Washington County

# Washington County Program Integrity Safeguards

- Department-wide trainings for fraud, waste, and abuse
- Fraud Investigation Team
- Regular internal and external audits
- Channels for reporting fraudulent activity
  - Office of the Inspector General
- Case reviews and consultations
- Verification checks for applicants
- Stringent competitive procurement and contract policies



# A Timeline of Contributing Factors

2004

- Statewide launch of consumer directed supports. Increased flexibility and personal choice

2011

- Provider enrollment for substance use disorder contracts shifted to the state.

2014

- Provider enrollment for waiver services shifted to the state.
- State assumes authority for how disability services are evaluated

2020

- Pandemic response
- Influx of funding from the federal government through the American Rescue Plan Act

2025

- Compliance concerns
- Media spotlight surrounding human service programs

# Human Service Programs in the News



## FEED OUR FUTURE

- Pandemic-era relief program
  - No county involvement or responsibility
  - **Counties had no role in this program and no role in fraud prevention or investigation**
- 



## MEDICAL ASSISTANCE-FUNDED PROGRAMS

- Services under Minnesota's approved Medicaid-Medical Assistance (MA) plan
  - County role in MA eligibility determination: Case management and service authorization for Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)
  - Providers enroll with the State; State payments and oversight
  - **Counties have a limited role in identifying and reporting suspicious activities.**
- 



## CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

- Existing program with fraud concerns raised in social media
  - County role in eligibility determination, service authorization, and billing
  - State enrolls and licenses the corporate providers
  - **County has shared role with state in program integrity**
-

# Recent Headlines

## The Minnesota Star Tribune

**Audit finds widespread problems in DHS oversight of behavioral health grants**

**Disability services providers accuse state of leaving clients vulnerable amid fraud crackdown**

**Trump administration says it's withholding social safety net money from 5 states over fraud concerns**

## TwinCities<sup>.com</sup> PIONEER PRESS

**Crackdown on social service providers leaves some without housing assistance**

## MPR news

**Jury convicts five of seven defendants in the Feeding Our Future trial**

# Update on Federal & State Actions on Funding

Federal Funding	DHS/DCYF Programs	Federal and State Actions
<p><b>Housing and Urban Development</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing Stabilization Services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Summer 2025:</b> DHS requested federal approval to end the Housing Stabilization Services.</li> <li>• <b>October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025:</b> Last day of Housing Stabilization Services</li> </ul>
<p><b>US Department of Agriculture Awards</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SNAP</li> <li>• SNAP Administration</li> <li>• SNAP Ed</li> <li>• SNAP Outreach</li> <li>• SNAP Employment &amp; Training</li> <li>• Summer EBT</li> <li>• Summer EBT Administration &amp; IT</li> <li>• Grants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>December 16:</b> State of Minnesota received notice of the SNAP Pilot which would require recertification interviews of all current cases in Washington County.</li> <li>• <b>January 8:</b> Minnesota received a letter USDA will suspend payments on all active and future USDA awards.</li> <li>• <b>January 12:</b> Minnesota sought a court order in response to the SNAP Pilot to prevent interruption in SNAP benefit payments.</li> <li>• <b>January 14:</b> Courts granted a preliminary injunction against USDA withholding SNAP admin funds in response to a January 14 letter from USDA.</li> <li>• <b>Current State:</b> USDA is likely appealing the injunction which could take up to a year to complete the legal process. In the meantime, MN is operating programs as usual, monitoring for impacts, and preparing for any potential future funding interruptions.</li> </ul>

# Update on Federal & State Actions on Funding

Federal Funding	DHS/DCYF Programs	Federal and State Actions
<p><b>Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MFIP Child Care Assistance (CCAP)</li> <li>• Basic Sliding Feed Child Care Assistance (BSF)</li> <li>• Child Care Development Grants</li> <li>• Program Administration &amp; Oversight</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>January 6:</b> Federal government announced it would freeze approximately \$10 billion for CCDF, SSBG and TANF to five states due to fraud concerns.</li> <li>• <b>January 8:</b> Minnesota joined four other states in filing an injunction against funding freezes of approximately \$10 billion in funding for families in five states, including Minnesota.</li> <li>• <b>January 9:</b> The courts granted a two-week temporary restraining order preventing ACF from freezing funding or requiring atypical justifications.</li> <li>• <b>January 15:</b> Notified of a federal audit for Child Care Assistance. Waiting for rescheduling by federal staff.</li> <li>• <b>January 23:</b> The court extended the temporary restraining order through Feb. 6, preventing ACF from freezing.</li> <li>• <b>Current State:</b> Minnesota is operating programs as usual, processing federal draws, monitoring for impacts, and preparing for any potential future funding interruptions.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vulnerable Child &amp; Adult (VCAA) county allocation grants</li> <li>• Program Administration &amp; Oversight</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP)</li> <li>• MFIP Consolidated Fund Grants</li> <li>• MDH Programs</li> <li>• Program Administration &amp; Oversight</li> </ul>	

# Update on Federal & State Actions on Funding

Federal Funding	DHS/DCYF Programs	Federal and State Actions
<p><b>Medicaid</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medical Assistance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025:</b> Center for Medicaid Services (CMS) notified MN of program integrity concerns and directed MN to submit a Corrective Action Plan(CAP) by end of 2025. MN complied.</li> <li>• <b>Early January 2026:</b> CMS judged the submitted CAP to be deficient.</li> <li>• <b>January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026:</b> CMS published a notice finding MN to be out of compliance. CMS is threatening to withhold \$2 billion in Medicaid funds.</li> <li>• <b>Current State:</b> MN is working to resubmit a revised CAP. No funding has been withheld to date. DHS launches MN Revalidate 2026 which will revalidate all providers in the 13 high risk programs.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Behavioral Health</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult Mental Health Initiative</li> <li>• Behavioral Health Administration</li> <li>• Children’s Mental Health</li> <li>• Alcohol, drug and other addictions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>March 24, 2025:</b> DHS received communications that \$27.5 million in funding for mental health and substance use disorder services was terminated.</li> <li>• <b>January 2026:</b> SAMHSA attempted to terminate over \$2 billion nationally in mental health funding. Decision was reversed within a day</li> <li>• <b>January 2026:</b> Office of Legislative Auditor released a scathing audit of the State’s behavioral health grants, totaling more than \$425 million.</li> <li>• <b>Current State:</b> Minnesota is operating programs as usual, but preparing for potential future impacts.</li> </ul>

# State Response

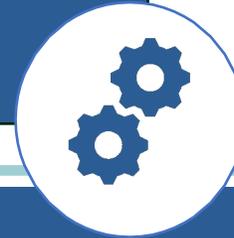
## POLICY

- Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>, Governor Walz signs Executive Order to strengthen state agency's ability to fight fraud
- Ended Housing Stabilization Services
- Moratoriums on childcare licensing and new HCBS enrolled providers
- Significant changes to 13 high risk services: pre-payment review, new provider enrollment freeze, established a billing clearinghouse with an external agency



## OPERATIONS

- Appointed a Program Integrity Director at DHS
- Enhanced SNAP error reporting and a SNAP error reduction plan
- Onsite compliance checks for childcare providers
- Strategically managing funds to prepare for federal funding pauses or cuts
- Moving forward with system modernization efforts



## LEGAL

- Coordinating legal actions for counties
- Sued the USDA in response to the SNAP Pilot Project. Judge approved the temporary restraining order related to this pilot.
- Filed suit against multiple funding freezes including withholding Medicaid, SSBG/TANF which halted the freezes until February 6<sup>th</sup>.



# Washington County's Recent Response



- Established a centralized intake unit for Social Service
- Modified service delivery models
- Strengthened coordination with state partners (DCYF and DHS)
- Implemented weekly Metro County Director debriefs and consultation
- Developed a standby Incident Command System (ICS) structure (SNAP Pilot)
- Hired a SNAP Program Manager
- Leveraging Power BI and enhanced data analysis
- Exercising increased fiscal caution

# Issues in Context



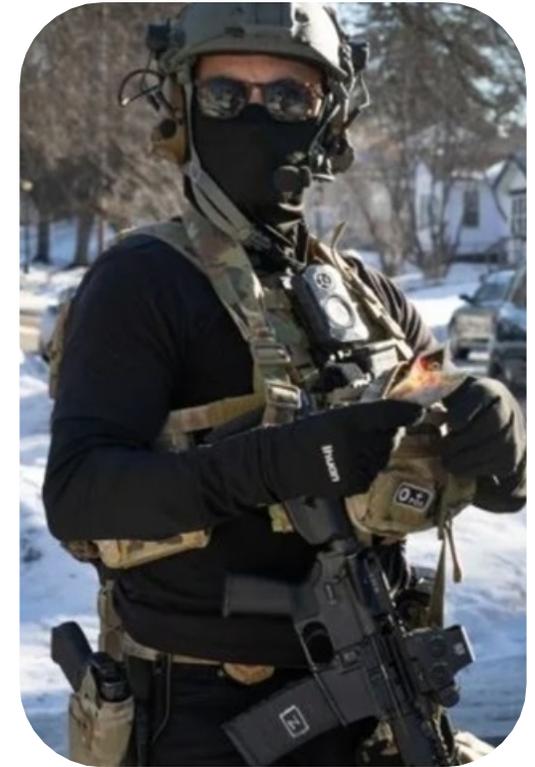
Massive federal program changes in HR1



Dismal fiscal outlook for MN's budget



Highly politicized landscape



Continued presence of federal immigration agents

# Major impacts



## PEOPLE WE SERVE

- Disruptions in Access to Essential Services
- Increased fear and avoidance of services
- Increased strain and stigma on already fragile households
- Erosion of trust in human services system



## PROVIDERS

- All providers of being lumped together as "fraudsters"
- Damaged provider–client relationships
- Increased administrative burden and compliance pressure
- Staff burnout and workforce instability
- Operational disruptions and financial strain



## CSD WORKFORCE

- Increased workload and role strain
- Moral distress and emotional toll
- Erosion of trust and safety in day-to-day work
- Uncertainty in funding streams and program continuity
- Hesitation to invest or innovate
- Managing operational shifts for staff safety concerns

# Questions/Discussion



# Request for Board Action

BOARD MEETING DATE:  
February 10, 2026

## Commissioner's Report

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:  
12.A

### Department Information

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Administration	REQUESTOR: Stephanie Kammerud, Administrative Assistant	REQUESTOR PHONE: 651-430-6014
PRESENTER(S):	MEDIA CONTACT:	

### Agenda Item Details

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF YOUR REQUEST: Federal Legislative Workshop		
AGENDA YOU ARE REQUESTING TIME ON: Workshop	ARE YOU SEEKING APPROVAL OF A CONTRACT? No	ESTIMATED DURATION: minutes
IS THIS MANDATED? No	EXPLANATION OF MANDATE:	
BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION: This workshop is focused on planning the approach to a meeting with each congressman that represents Washington County in conjunction with the National Association of Counties (NACo) Legislative Conference February 21 - 25, 2026. Discussion items include talking points and handouts, including congressionally directed spending requests.		
PREVIOUS ACTION ON REQUEST/OTHER PARTIES INVOLVED?		

### Budget Impact

YEAR:	UNBUDGETED AMOUNT: \$
FUNDING DESCRIPTION:	

### Approvals

Jan Lucke, Deputy County Administrator 02/03/2026

A large, dark purple, irregularly shaped graphic element on the left side of the slide, resembling a torn piece of paper or a stylized letter 'L'.

# Congressionally Directed Spending Projects (FY2027)

February 10, 2026

# Agenda

- Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) Background
- Considerations for Requests
- Past submissions and awards
- Review proposed projects for Fiscal Year 2027 CDS requests
- Discussion

# Background

- Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) also referred to as 'Community Project Funding' or 'Earmarks'
- Reauthorized for Fiscal Year FY2022
- Typically awarded to near-term 'shovel ready' projects (FY27-FY29)
- Limited to non-profits and local, state and tribal governments
- Only certain Federal accounts are open for earmark requests
  - Example: Historic Courthouse is not eligible because it is not federally listed as a historic site



# Considerations for a Request

## Identify “shovel ready” project

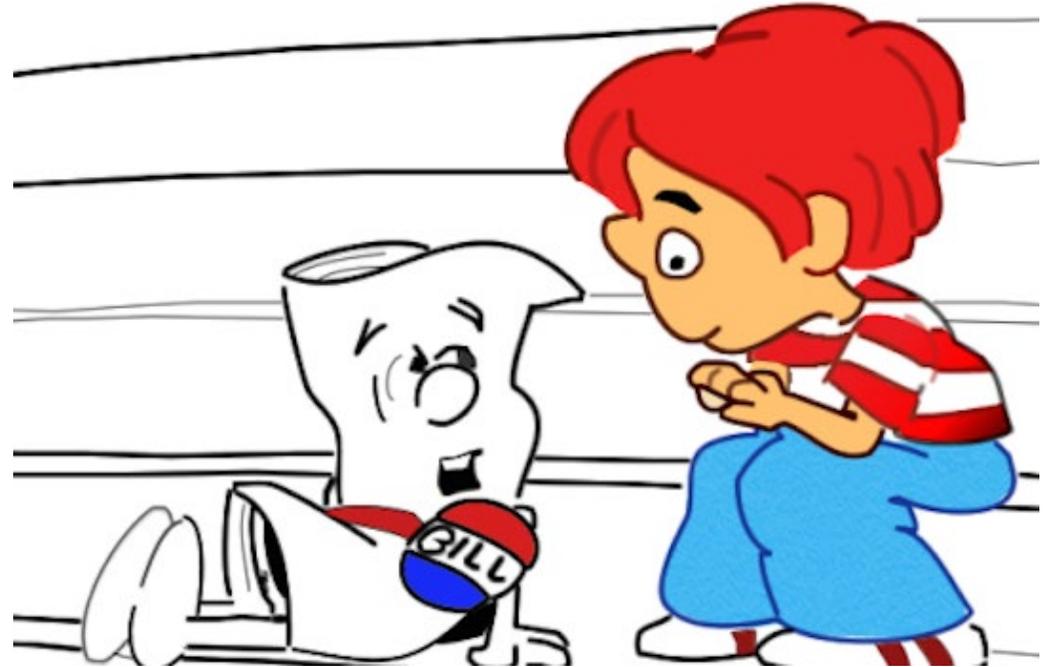
- FY27/FY28/FY29 projects in the Capital Improvement Plan, Technology Plan, Capital Equipment and Fleet Plan

## Identify the House or Senate member(s)

- Does request fit member-specific values or initiatives?
- The area or committee the member has advantage
- Identify which Federal account is open for earmarks, and that the project qualifies for the account

## Submit by Member specified deadline

- Include local letters of support



# Past Submissions (FY25-FY26)



Project	Fiscal Year	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
19A & 100th St Realignment (Southwest Arterial)	2026	\$22.5M	
Sheriff - Public Safety Canine Training Facility/Side Scan Sonar/Remote Operated Vehicle (ROV)	2026	\$1.5M	
Sheriff's Office - Body Worn and Squad Fleet Camera Integration	2026	\$2.5M	\$1.031M
TH 120 (Century Ave) from I-694 to CSAH 12 Project	2026	\$5M	
CSAH 18 and Settlers Ridge Parkway Intersection Improvements	2026	\$2M	\$250k
CSAH 32 Pedestrian Safety Improvement Project	2026	\$9M	\$5M
Sheriff's Office - Body Worn and Squad Fleet Camera Integration	2025	\$2.5M	
CSAH 32 Pedestrian Safety Improvement Project	2025	\$4M	
TH 120 (Century Ave) from I-694 to CSAH 12 Project	2025	\$5M	
CSAH 18 and Settlers Ridge Parkway Intersection Improvements	2025	\$2M	
19A and 100th Street - Intersection Improvements	2025	\$4M	

# Past Submissions (FY22-FY24)



Project	Fiscal Year	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
19A and 100th St Realignment (Southwest Arterial)	2024	\$3M	
Public Safety Support (Airboats & Digital Evidence Management System)	2024	\$1M	\$963k
Hardwood Creek Regional Trail Extension	2024	\$1.5M	
TH 96 / Norell Ave / Stonebridge Trail Roundabout	2024	\$2.25M	\$500k
CSAH 5 (Stonebridge Trail) And Browns Creek State Trail Connection Project	2023	\$1M	
Historic Courthouse	2023	\$1M	
Jail (Fall Protection)	2023	\$3M	
Sheriff (Hybrid Patrol Vehicles and River Patrol Boats)	2023	\$1.6M	\$1.6M
Mobile Command	2023	\$600k	
Newport Trail	2023	\$500k	
Central Greenway Trail	2022	\$1M	\$1M
CR 17/Hwy 36 Interchange	2022	\$15M	
CSAH 5 (Stonebridge Trail) and Brown's Creek State Trail Connection Project	2022	\$1M	
Historic Courthouse	2022	\$1M	
St. Croix Bluffs Boat Launch	2022	\$1M	

# Proposed Projects for FY2027

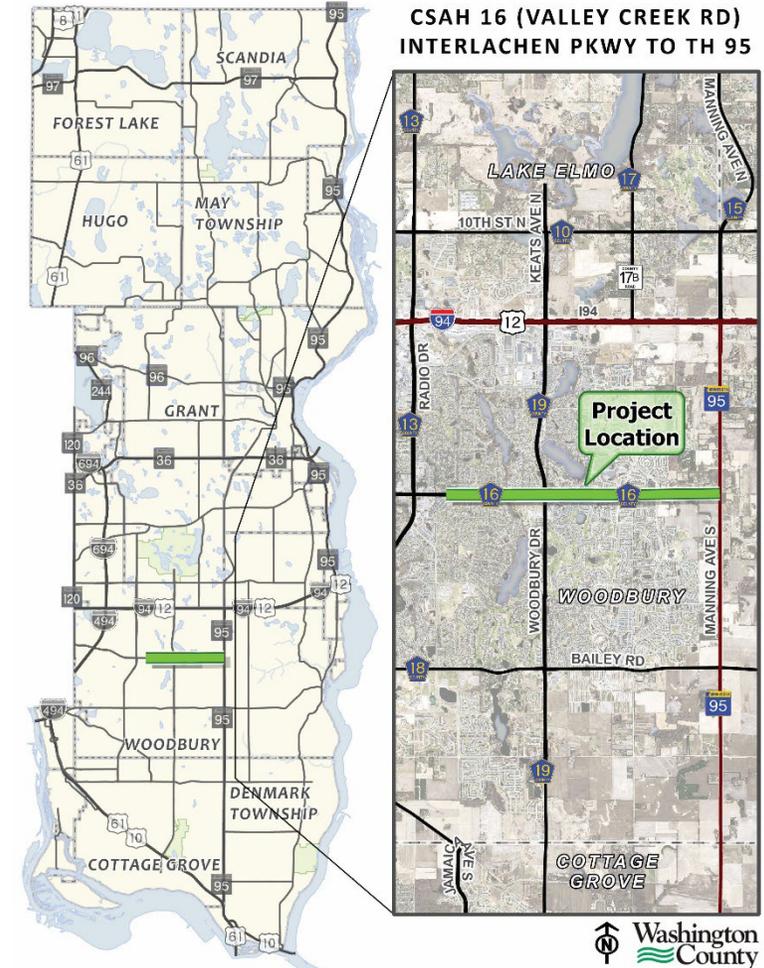
# Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill

# Woodbury - County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 16 (Valley Creek) - \$7 million

- CSAH 16 (Valley Creek Rd) is a critical east–west corridor in Woodbury.
- Serves freight, transit, commuters, pedestrians, and regional travel.
- Key segment transferred to Washington County in 2018.
- Corridor study (complete in early 2026) defining a long-range vision.
- \$7M in federal funding requested for improvements between Interlachen Pkwy and Hwy 95.

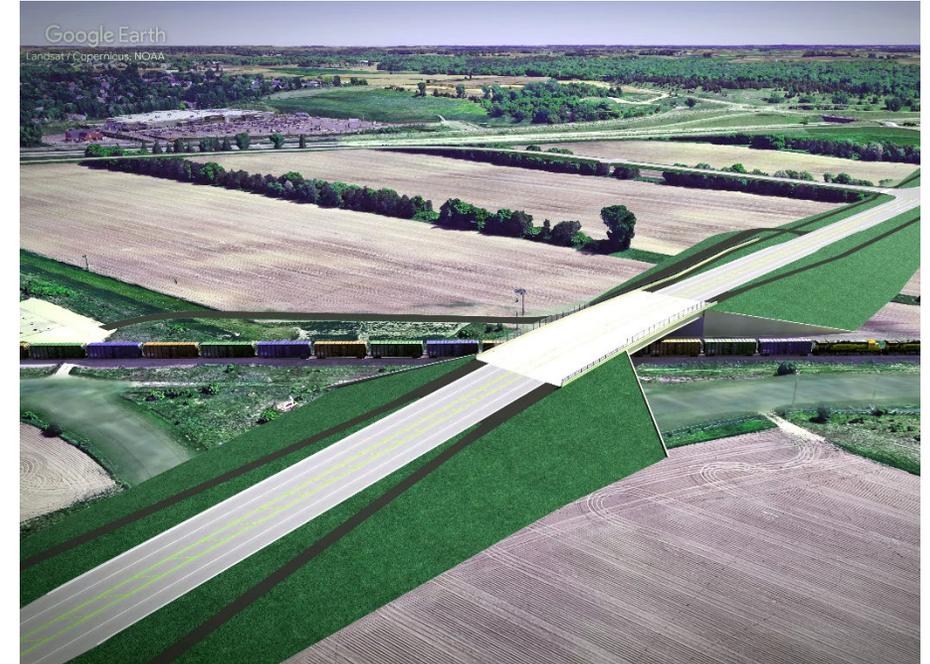
## Proposed Improvements

- Resurface roadway and trail pavement.
- Add turn lanes at key intersections.
- Widen shoulders for safety and multimodal use.
- Upgrade intersections to reduce delay.
- Add trail connections for bikes and pedestrians.



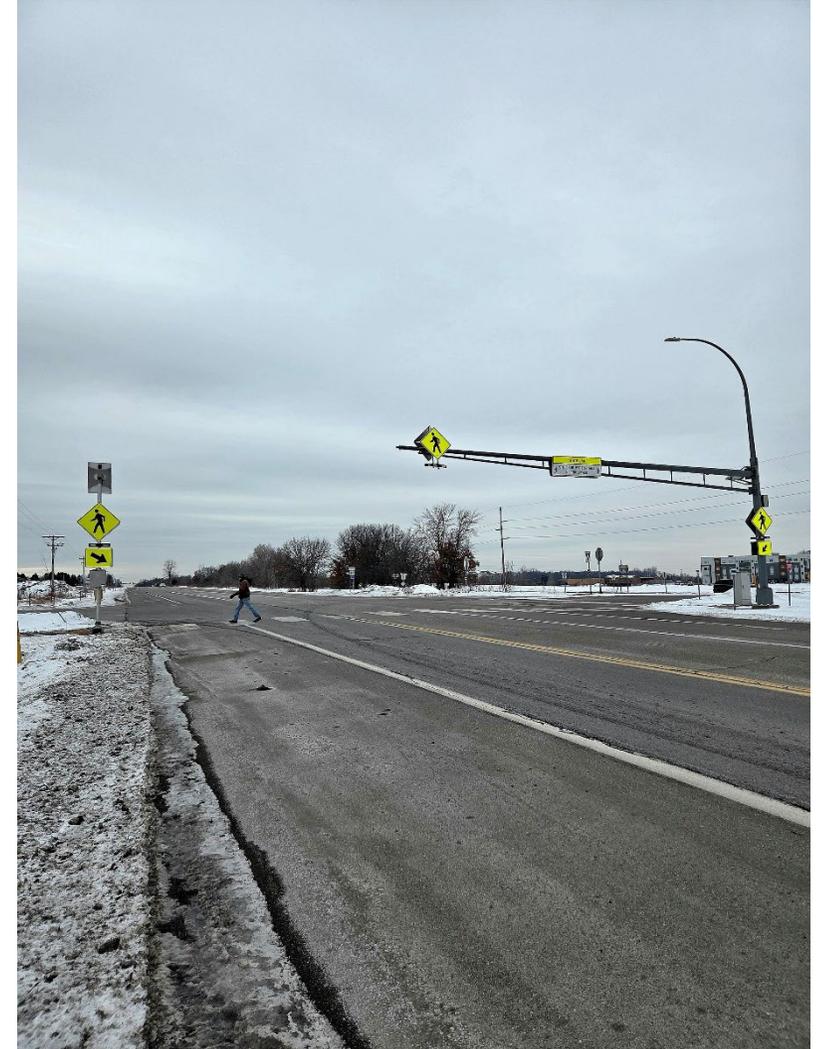
# Cottage Grove – County Road 19A - \$22.5 million

- Constructs a new arterial connecting US Highway 61 to 100th Street South.
- Supports the development of approximately 500 acres.
- Balances regional traffic patterns on US Highway 61.
- Includes new railway grade separation to support increased freight traffic.
- Enhances safety and mobility in the southeast metro.
- Drives economic growth and development in the region.



# Forest Lake - County Road 50/Highway 61 - \$2 million

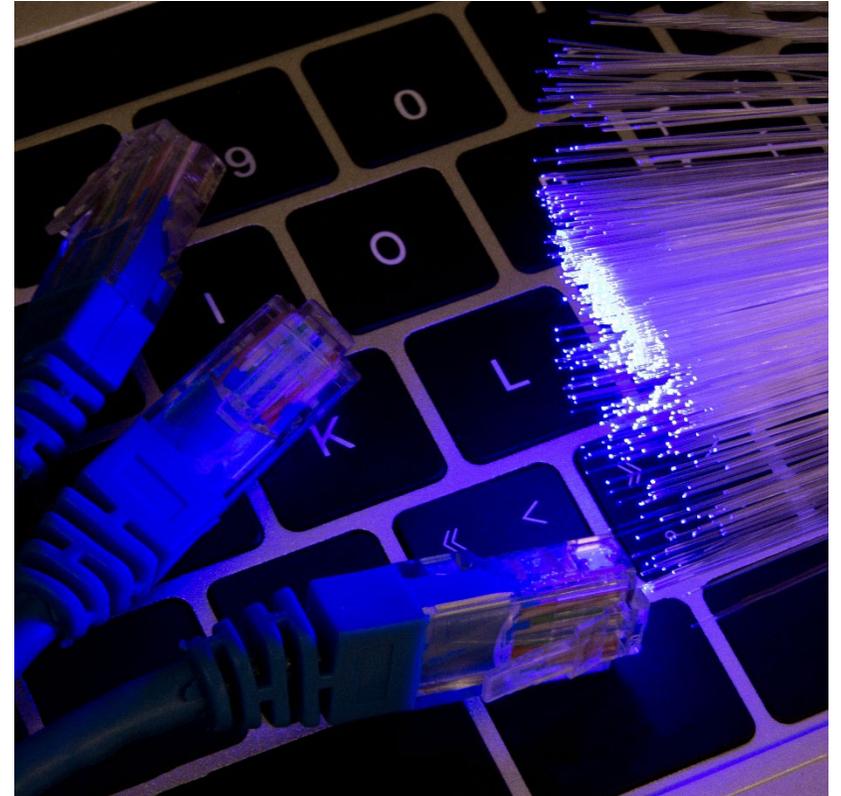
- Key crossing of Highway 61 between County Road 50 and the Hardwood Creek Regional Trail.
- Currently controlled by side-street stop signs and a HAWK pedestrian beacon.
- Existing traffic control is inadequate for current pedestrian and vehicle volumes.
- Safety concerns highlighted by April 2024 incident involving two pedestrians struck while crossing.
- Funding requested to improve:
  - Intersection control and safety.
  - Highway drainage and surface water management.
  - Pedestrian and bicycle facilities.



# Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Bill

# Fiber Optic Line from Washington County Government Center to a New Public Safety Facility in Afton - \$2 million

- Funding request to expand the County's fiber optic network for public safety.
- Fiber provides secure, high-speed, and reliable data transmission for emergency operations.
- Project adds an active fiber circuit to improve system performance and redundancy.
- Project connects the Afton public safety facility (purchased in 2025) to the county fiber network. Potential facility uses include:
  - Patrol operations
  - Secondary Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
  - Backup Emergency Communication Response Center (ECRC) to ensure continuity of services



# Drone as a First Responder Program with Real-Time Information Center - \$2 million

- Deploys drones to 911 calls before responders arrive.
- Provides real-time video to officers and dispatchers.
- Improves situational awareness and decision-making.
- Enables faster, more efficient use of resources.
- Successfully used in west metro Twin Cities communities.
- Expands this proven technology to the east metro.



# Discussion



Minnesota counties work every day to meet the unique needs of their communities. Sudden federal policy shifts such as funding delays, cost shifts, and new eligibility requirements make this work harder and more costly.

Counties are adapting in real time by updating processes, helping residents navigate benefit changes, and absorbing added administrative burdens and costs without additional resources, which contributes to property tax increases.

Despite these challenges, counties remain committed to effective, efficient service delivery. We value our federal partnership and stand ready to work with the delegation to deliver the best outcomes for Minnesotans.

## FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2026

### MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT EXPANSION

AMC supports easing Medicaid's Institutes of Mental Disease (IMD) Exclusion.

Implemented as part of the "deinstitutionalization movement," the federal Medicaid IMD exclusion currently limits Medicaid reimbursement for treatment in mental health facilities with more than 16 beds, creating significant barriers to adding additional capacity to provide adequate care for individuals with serious mental health conditions.

This well-intentioned federal policy, often referred to as the *IMD exclusion*, was created in the 1960s to reduce the reliance on large institutional-based care models, but it no longer works in the modern health care landscape. AMC joins the National Association of Counties (NACo) in support of amending the IMD exclusion to allow up to 15 days of hospital-based care and up to 90 days of community-based mental health and substance abuse care per year in a facility with more than 16 beds. This would allow for expanded and enhanced mental health treatment infrastructure, ensuring that more individuals receive timely and appropriate care in inpatient settings.

For this reason, AMC supports of H.R. 5944, the *Restoring Inpatient Mental Health Access Act of 2025*, introduced by U.S. Rep. Brad Finstad (R-MN-01). This policy change would assist in addressing the workforce and service pressures faced by counties, local hospitals, emergency rooms, and jails, while also providing more specialized care tailored to the needs of individuals in crisis. ●

### JAIL HEALTHCARE

Federal law requires Minnesota counties to provide essential health services to incarcerated individuals, many of whom have significant mental health and substance use needs. Individuals with these conditions are more likely to return to jail if they do not receive appropriate care. Expanding access to federal health benefits for incarcerated individuals would help break this cycle, improve public safety, and reduce recidivism.

The Minnesota Department of Human Services has submitted a Medicaid 1115 waiver to allow a pilot program that would provide Medicaid coverage for inmates in a limited number of county jails during the 90 days prior to release. AMC supports approval of this waiver as an important first step and supports expanding the pilot to all county jails.

More broadly, AMC joins NACo in supporting legislation to restore Medicaid and other federal benefits for individuals during pre-trial incarceration and in the 30 days prior to release from jail or prison. The current Medicaid Inmate Exclusion Policy limits access to needed care and shifts costs to counties, undermining rehabilitation efforts. Allowing coverage during pre-trial custody and prior to release would expand access to mental health and addiction services, reduce recidivism, improve health outcomes, and ensure a safer transition back into the community. ●

AMC supports legislative efforts to restore benefits under the Social Security Act for incarcerated individuals.

# SIMPLIFIED REASSESSMENTS FOR HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES

AMC supports streamlining federal reassessment requirements for individuals receiving home and community-based services, particularly those whose condition does not change year to year.

MnCHOICES is a person-centered assessment to help people with long-term and chronic-care needs make decisions and select support and services options in their homes, group homes, or elderly living facilities. This assessment is comprehensive and conducted by county staff. Current state statute and guidance in Minnesota requires a full MnCHOICES assessment or reassessment each year to verify eligibility.

Minnesota counties recommend that the State of Minnesota develop a shorter, less time intensive process for reassessments to review and determine if a person's condition is stable and unchanged. If no change, and the person agrees, the focus would be on the support plan and reauthorization of services for the next plan year.

Individuals on waiver programs all have case managers. Some individuals have relatively stable conditions with little or no functional change on an annual basis. The State of Minnesota has been reluctant to pursue a shortened reassessment, citing federal law §1915(c) Home and Community-Based (HCBS) Waiver federal requirements that the level of care being received must be re-evaluated no less frequently than annually. They point to the full MnCHOICES reassessment as necessary for confirmation that the individual continues to require the level of care specified in the waiver, including the continuing need for the provision of waiver services.

Counties support amendments to the federal requirements, or confirmation that simplified re-assessment meets the current federal requirements, to renew HCBS services for an individual whose condition does not change. We believe amending this process is in the best interest of both property tax payers and the people receiving services. A pared down reassessment would support informed choices for people using services, help counties better meet statutory timelines, and will ease the workload (and cost) on county workforce/infrastructure. This would allow MnCHOICES assessors to better manage their workload and to be more responsive in other areas such as initial assessments. ●

## SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

AMC supports legislation and rulemaking that ensures reasonable and successful implementation of the SNAP provisions in H.R. 1, including protecting counties from financial penalties due to delays in federal policy guidance or the inability for state technology systems to be modified to the new rules.

Minnesota counties administer the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to approximately 454,000 Minnesotans, assisting low-income households experiencing food insecurity. Minnesota is one of nine states in which counties also fund the non-federal share of local costs for administering this program. H.R.1, the July 2025 federal budget reconciliation package, fundamentally changed policies and funding related to the SNAP program. The state's Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF), along with Minnesota counties, are tasked with implementing new policy and funding changes with the hope of minimizing negative impacts to Minnesotans.

H.R.1 cuts the federal share of administrative reimbursements from 50% to 25%, leaving approximately \$39 million in new costs for the state and/or the counties. It also requires states to partially fund the cost of SNAP benefits if payment error rates are above a 6% threshold. Work requirements are expanded to a greater population of recipients, and it modifies the eligibility requirements for certain populations. These policies take effect on different timelines, and recent federal policy changes have not included the usual 120-day implementation period. Instead, the state and counties have sometimes been given as little as 24 hours to respond. These shortened timelines increase the risk of errors, which in turn raises the likelihood of higher error-rate penalties. ●

## Association of Minnesota Counties FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS 2026

### TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) delivered much needed federal investments in both transportation and broadband. While this funding was pivotal for infrastructure – roads, bridges, transit, broadband, and beyond – there is still much work to do to rebuild America's infrastructure. With IIJA set to expire in October 2026, AMC supports efforts through NACo and our partners at the state and federal level on the next surface transportation reauthorization bill. AMC supports the following priorities: increase access to formula dollars; preserve and improve discretionary grants; reform permitting; support locally led safety work; work with local governments during regulatory processes; and invest in technical assistance and capacity building. ●

### CHILD WELLBEING

AMC supports federal efforts to assist states and counties to make the needed reforms in all areas related to the federal Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA). Working in conjunction with broader state and local family strengthening efforts, the FFPSA is intended to transform child welfare systems into systems that support children and families in community, reducing the need for out of home placement. Counties seeking to prevent or respond to abuse and neglect and to support families in preventing children from entering foster care have been challenged by strains on workforce, program and service availability and the mental health needs of residents. As jurisdictions continue to work towards implementation of FFPSA, AMC supports efforts to increase administrative flexibility, bolster the Title IVE Clearinghouse to increase programming, expand access to culturally relevant and responsive programs, and increase funding and supports (including workforce and mental health supports) aimed at assisting counties making the transition. AMC supports a waiver for Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTPs) to be considered Institutions of Mental Diseases (IMDs), to ensure federally funded health care and treatment are available to eligible children in these placements. ●

# MEDICAID

AMC supports legislation and rulemaking that protects health care access and shields counties from increased administrative burdens and costs related to the Medicaid provisions in H.R. 1.

Minnesota counties determine the eligibility and provide the administration of Medicaid in Minnesota's state-supervised, county-administered model. Minnesota counties fund the non-federal share of the administrative costs at the local level via property tax dollars. Policy changes to the federal Medicaid program through H.R.1 will have significant impacts on Minnesotans who rely on Medicaid, the health care delivery system, and on counties who administer the benefit.

Examples of Medicaid policy changes include: reduction or removal of tax credits, reduction of retroactive Medicaid coverage, requiring adults without children to renew their coverage every six (6) months instead of 12, new work requirements, cost-sharing for some adults, changes in provider taxes, and elimination of a waiver under the Payment Error Rate Measurement (PERM) which may result in a substantial reduction in federal funds in future years.

Minnesota's two technology systems that manage health care programs were built decades ago and are unlikely to be configured to fully automate the new policy requirements, which will require extensive manual processing by county eligibility staff. Without modernized technology, these changes will substantially increase county workloads and costs.

Additionally, proposed changes to Medicaid could significantly affect areas where hospitals and clinics are already at risk of closing. Loss of Medicaid coverage for thousands of residents will reduce access to primary and preventive care and drive more emergency care use. Further, local health departments rely on Medicaid reimbursements to deliver essential services including immunizations, home visiting, WIC-adjacent supports, case management, and other direct clinical services. Any major disruption or reduction in Medicaid enrollment or reimbursement rates would shift costs to counties and health care providers and result in substantial uncompensated care, especially as local governments are often expected to fill critical access gaps when coverage lapses. ●

# WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT (WIOA) REAUTHORIZATION

A strong federal workforce system supports economic growth, addresses workforce shortages, and ensures that all jobseekers have the opportunity to be successful in the labor market. AMC supports the reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) which has been up for reauthorization since 2020. WIOA is designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to access jobs in high-demand fields and match employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy. AMC and the Minnesota Association of Workforce Boards (MAWB) support increasing funding for core WIOA workforce grants to at least \$15 billion annually and providing flexibility for local workforce boards to develop strategies and programs that meet the need of local communities and economies, including removing funding caps and percentage restrictions. Now more than ever, we need strong and widely available workforce development programming to address critical workforce challenges. After nearly two decades of disinvestment, the economy needs significant new investment. ●

AMC supports the reauthorization of the WIOA to assist jobseekers and employers while modifying the program to ensure effectiveness and broad service delivery to meet the needs of a rapidly evolving economy.

# ELECTION INFRASTRUCTURE

Counties play a major role in administering Minnesota's elections. From election preparation (printing ballots, purchasing/testing election equipment, processing voter registration applications, training election judges) to administering and issuing absentee mail balloting, running voting sites on and before election day, submitting election results, and running canvassing boards, counties are the frontline of Minnesota's election system -- making sure the election process runs orderly and professionally. Elections serve as the pillar of democracy and thus, counties support ongoing federal support to local governments for purchasing new equipment, supporting the staffing and operations of elections, and investing in infrastructure to respond to increasing cybersecurity threats. Federal funding should be direct to counties and other local governments. ●

# MISSISSIPPI RIVER RESTORATION AND RESILIENCE INITIATIVE

As the headwaters state of the nation's most famous river, Minnesota values its unique position and role as a steward and protector of the Mississippi River natural resources area. As such, AMC supports the Mississippi River Restoration and Resilience Initiative (MRRRI), which will create a new, non-regulatory, geographic grant program to provide federal planning and funding supports to enhance river restoration, resilience projects and program activities in the Mississippi River states. AMC believes the passage of the MRRRI will complement ongoing state and local efforts by providing additional federal resources to ensure this vital resource is available for future generations. ●

# PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES (PILT) / SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS (SRS)

A considerable percentage of land in Minnesota is owned by the federal government, as such, AMC shares the priority of NACo to support restoring the full mandatory funding for the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program, which compensates counties for tax-exempt federal land within their boundaries. AMC and NACo also support extending the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program as a transitional funding mechanism until the federal government fully implements a sustainable long-term forest management program with adequate revenue sharing for forest counties and schools. ●

Association of Minnesota Counties  
**FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE  
ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS 2026**

## PERMITTING REFORM

AMC supports comprehensive reform to the federal permitting process that limits preemption of local authority and requires meaningful consultation and updates with local governments from the inception of critical infrastructure and fuel management projects that require a federal permit. Reforms should eliminate duplicative reviews and develop efficient and consistent permitting processes across agencies and allow flexibility needed to respond to urgent infrastructure needs such as addressing natural disasters. ●

## PFAS REGULATIONS

AMC supports federal regulators working closely with state and local governments and recognizing their status as passive receivers of PFAS contamination rather than producers or users of PFAS. The U.S. Congress, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and other federal agencies have taken several steps to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) compounds. AMC supports federal efforts to study the health and environmental impacts of PFAS. AMC supports liability protection for passive receivers that holds polluters accountable through the “polluter pays” principle as well as consistent federal funding for PFAS mitigation efforts. ●

## PREDICTABLE AND TIMELY RELEASE OF APPROPRIATED FUNDS

Counties work closely with state and federal partners to ensure that programs we administer are as efficient and effective as possible. This year, delays in the release of appropriated funds in various service and program areas have led to real impacts at the local level. Counties have experienced more complex and delayed interactions with both grant and formula funds appropriated by Congress. These issues make financing our day-to-day operations unpredictable and can lead to stops and starts of services that impact service quality for residents. For example, the closure of five Administration for Children and Families’ program offices has resulted in delays for state agency partners in seeking approval for amended state plans and other administrative functions, ultimately having adverse impacts on county systems and counties’ ability to receiving important reimbursements. AMC advocates for the timely and predictable release of appropriated funding needed to administer programs we are mandated to provide. When counties have access to predictable funding, our operations see increased efficiency which ultimately results in better outcomes. ●

## PREEMPTION

AMC firmly believes in the importance of local control and community-driven decision making. State and national efforts to “preempt” local governments from making critical decisions or policy changes for their constituents are contrary to the principles of federalism and directly impact community sustainability. ●

## PRESERVE TAX EXEMPT STATUS OF MUNICIPAL BONDS

Counties strongly support the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds which allow local governments an ability to finance vital infrastructure and capital projects while also limiting additional property tax burden to residents because of favorable interest rates. Across the state, counties and local government partners have been increasingly taking on more active financing of “core” government functions and infrastructure needs. Municipal bonds offer taxpayers a cost-effective way to finance important, and often mandated, infrastructure projects. AMC is grateful for Congress’ work to preserve this important finance and economic development tool during summer of 2025. ●

## PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Responding to disasters and emergencies – whether health-centric or not – is a core responsibility of Minnesota’s local public health departments. In Minnesota, federal Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response (PHEP) funding goes to the state and is passed through to locals. Past proposals to redistribute PHEP funds and a series of funding cuts highlight the vulnerability of federal funding and compromised local public health’s ability to respond to emergency events, such as infectious disease outbreaks or natural disasters. PHEP remains up for reauthorization in 2026 and ongoing funding will be key to responding to emergencies into the future. AMC supports adequate, sustained funding for local public health emergency planning and response to support ongoing training and equipment needs and alignment of grant expectations with funding levels. ●

## RURAL HEALTHCARE

Counties play a critical role in providing healthcare services to citizens across the entire state of Minnesota, including those that live in rural parts of the state. In some rural Minnesota counties, there are very limited options that exist for healthcare plans and a lack of access to care. For example, rural hospitals across the country are closing which is directly impacting access to obstetric care and other key services that protect the health of communities. AMC supports federal efforts to broaden healthcare access and options throughout the entire state of Minnesota. Policy and funding reforms should provide cost containment while enhancing quality care choices and grant the maximum amount of decision-making authority and flexibility as possible to the local level. ●

## SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES

Counties are on the front line in maintaining the safety net for those unable to work and encouraging the achievement of self-sufficiency for those who can. AMC supports increasing federal funding for and alignment among programs that assist those most in need and encourages the maximum amount of efficiency and flexibility possible at the local level. Key federal programs that assist counties in tackling poverty include the Social Services Block Grant, Community Services Block Grant, Community Development Block Grant, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. Recent federal action to freeze or delay some of these programs directly impacts county operations. ●

## TELEMEDICINE FLEXIBILITY

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, local public health and human services agencies started delivering services in new ways, including via telemedicine (both phone and video). This change allowed for increased flexibility, creating opportunities for counties to better meet clients’ needs. For example, during the COVID-19 pandemic, waivers were put in place at the federal level to allow Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) visits to happen via phone or video. Allowing televisits for WIC enabled local public health to reach more clients in need, increase efficiency of staff by allowing them to see more clients and spend less time traveling, and has reduced barriers for clients. AMC supports funding and policy to expand the availability of telemedicine services to provide flexibility, create efficiencies, and ensure client convenience in how services are delivered. ●

# Washington County Addendum to AMC Federal Priorities

## 2026 Community Services State Legislative Priorities

Washington County affirms the following policy statements, which were adopted by the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) in December 2025 to help mitigate local impacts of H.R. 1 “One Big Beautiful Bill”.

### Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

*AMC supports legislation and rulemaking that ensures reasonable and successful implementation of the SNAP provisions in H.R. 1, including protecting counties from financial penalties due to delays in federal policy guidance or the inability for state technology systems to be modified to the new rules.*

Minnesota counties administer the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to approximately 454,000 Minnesotans, assisting low-income households experiencing food insecurity. Minnesota is one of nine states in which counties also fund the non-federal share of local costs for administering this program. H.R.1, the July 2025 federal budget reconciliation package, fundamentally changed policies and funding related to the SNAP program. The state’s Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF), along with Minnesota counties, are tasked with implementing new policy and funding changes with the hope of minimizing negative impacts to Minnesotans.

H.R.1 cuts the federal share of administrative reimbursements from 50% to 25%, leaving approximately \$39 million in new costs for the state and/or the counties. It also requires states to partially fund the cost of SNAP benefits if payment error rates are above a 6% threshold. Work requirements are expanded to a greater population of recipients, and it modifies the eligibility requirements for certain populations. These policies take effect on different timelines, and recent federal policy changes have not included the usual 120-day implementation period. Instead, the state and counties have sometimes been given as little as 24 hours to respond. These shortened timelines increase the risk of errors, which in turn raises the likelihood of higher error-rate penalties.

Impacts to Washington County	
Washington County SNAP Enrollees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10,366 individuals (5,473 cases) in Washington County use SNAP benefits.</li> </ul>
New Cost-Share Requirements For SNAP Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$2,984,655* – The possible new cost-share responsibility for Washington County as a result of new policy changes.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>States with payment error rates above 6% must pay a portion of benefits, up to a 15% cost-share. Currently, states – and therefore counties – pay 0% of SNAP benefits.</li> <li>Minnesota’s Payment Error Rate is currently 11.41%, which would require 15% match.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>* Based on 2025 benefits and Minnesota’s current Payment Error Rate.</p>
Expanded Work Requirements & Additional Administrative Burden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>400 additional cases require a higher level of case management and oversight as they have been added to the time-limited SNAP recipient (TLR) populations.</li> <li>Estimates suggest each TLR case will demand approximately 2 more hours each year than these cases took last year.</li> <li>Staff must update each TLR case every month and provide additional overviews of SNAP policies to these customers.</li> </ul>
Reduced Administrative Reimbursement for SNAP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$2,850,000 – Washington County’s current Annual SNAP Administrative Expenses</li> <li>\$1,425,000 – Current Washington County cost share (50%)</li> <li>\$2,137,500 – Future (Oct. 2026) County cost share (75%), an increase of \$712,500</li> </ul>

# Medicaid

AMC supports legislation and rulemaking that protects health care access and shields counties from increased administrative burdens and costs related to the Medicaid provisions in H.R. 1.

Minnesota counties determine the eligibility and provide the administration of Medicaid in Minnesota’s state-supervised, county administered model. Minnesota counties fund the non-federal share of the administrative costs at the local level via property tax dollars. Policy changes to the federal Medicaid program through H.R.1 will have significant impacts on Minnesotans who rely on Medicaid, the health care delivery system, and on counties who administer the benefit.

Examples of Medicaid policy changes include: reduction or removal of tax credits, reduction of retroactive Medicaid coverage, requiring adults without children to renew their coverage every six (6) months instead of 12, new work requirements, cost-sharing for some adults, changes in provider taxes, and elimination of a waiver under the Payment Error Rate Measurement (PERM) which may result in a substantial reduction in federal funds in future years.

Minnesota’s two technology systems that manage health care programs were built decades ago and are unlikely to be configured to fully automate the new policy requirements, which will require extensive manual processing by county eligibility staff. Without modernized technology, these changes will substantially increase county workloads and costs. Additionally, proposed changes to Medicaid could significantly affect areas where hospitals and clinics are already at risk of closing. Loss of Medicaid coverage for thousands of residents will reduce access to primary and preventive care and drive more emergency care use. Further, local health departments rely on Medicaid reimbursements to deliver essential services including immunizations, home visiting, WIC-adjacent supports, case management, and other direct clinical services. Any major disruption or reduction in Medicaid enrollment or reimbursement rates would shift costs to counties and health care providers and result in substantial uncompensated care, especially as local governments are often expected to fill critical access gaps when coverage lapses.

## Impacts to Washington County

Washington County Medical Assistance (MA) Enrollees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 38,025 individuals (22,155 cases) in Washington County are covered by Medicaid, known as Medical Assistance (MA) in Minnesota.</li> </ul>
More Frequent Renewals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 22% of County MA enrollees, or 6,900 individuals, will require an additional review every year starting 1/1/2027.</li> <li>• With more frequent renewals, there is an anticipated increase in customers who lose coverage even though they meet eligibility requirements.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Eligible customers lose MA if the customer or agency has not completed all actions before their certification period ends.</li> <li>o The eligibility system is unable to reopen closed cases. Re-entry of closed cases leads to gaps in coverage or health plan enrollment.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• This new requirement increases county workload by 1 FTE Eligibility Specialist</li> </ul>
New Work Requirements & Additional Administrative Burden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 22% of Washington County MA enrollees, or 6,900 individuals, will need to verify they meet work requirements to maintain MA enrollment starting 1/1/2027.</li> <li>• This will add unknown administrative burdens on the state, county, and customers as this new requirement is not accounted for in the existing system.</li> </ul>
Limits on Retroactive Coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residents who apply for retroactive coverage have incurred unpaid medical expenses. Limiting the retroactive period will negatively impact individuals and health care systems. MA decreases the cost of uncompensated care that can threaten a clinic or hospital’s sustainability.</li> </ul>