Catholic Charities Legislative Agenda 2020

Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis serves those most in need. We are a leader at solving poverty, creating opportunity, and advocating for justice in the community.

Catholic Charities Legislative Priorities:

- Advance racial equity and social justice by enhancing access to housing, health care, child care, economic opportunity and stability.
- Increase funding for Emergency Services Program to $15 million per year to meet the existing emergency shelter needs.
- Increase Housing Support base rate by $100/month to support those most in need.
- Support transition to the new housing stabilization benefit.
- Remove barriers for people experiencing housing instability to participate in voting.

Catholic Charities Supports:

Ensure Well-Being of Children, Adults and Families
- Fund efforts to prevent domestic violence.
- Support reforms to Minnesota’s child protection system including passing the African American Family Preservation Act.
- Support efforts to prevent and end youth homelessness.
- Fund services with a focus on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and trauma-informed practices.
- Fund efforts to address hunger and food insecurity.
- Fund increases to school-linked mental health.

Strengthen and Advance Housing Stability
- Increase funding for the Homeless Youth Act.
- Provide ongoing, dedicated revenue for flexible emergency shelter funding and housing needs.
- Expand HIB eligible uses to include emergency shelter and 50% and under AMI housing.
- Pass an equitable capital investment bill.

Disrupt the Cycle of Poverty
- Increase funding for the Childcare Assistance Program (CCAP) and allow for CCAP funding to be eligible throughout the adoption process.
- Remove discriminatory practices in accessing housing and enhance tenants’ rights.
- Reform housing support to ensure people receiving benefits can maintain more of their income.

Health, Economic and Community Vitality
- Drive innovations for aging in place.
- Increase mental health crisis services and response within shelter settings.
- Fund medical respite programs.
- Ensure all Minnesotans have access to health care with a comprehensive benefit set.
- Support optimal nonprofit service delivery, including tax exemptions and deductions for charitable giving.