

Draft 2026 Federal Legislative Platform

Vision, Mission, and Goals

Vision

A vibrant community where all are valued and thrive.

Mission

A county of excellence working with you to enhance our quality of life.

Goals

Strengthen individual, family and community health, safety and well-being.

Cultivate economic prosperity and invest in neighborhoods with concentrated financial poverty.

Enhance access to opportunity and mobility for all residents and businesses.

Model fiscal accountability, transparency and strategic investments.



WELL-BEING



PROSPERITY



OPPORTUNITY



ACCOUNTABILITY

Legislative Themes in 2026

- No new unfunded mandates on counties.
- Protect counties from further cuts and cost shifts.
- Counties must be at the table for any service delivery change.
- Reduce reliance on property tax.

Legislative Top Priorities

Health and Human Services

- Support legislation that would delay the implementation of federal changes to SNAP and Medicaid.
- Support efforts to change rule and/or statute to allow streamlining of MnCHOICES reassessments.
- Support legislation allowing Medicaid/Medicare funding to pay for all billable medical services for incarcerated individuals.

Workforce

- Support re-authorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and sustained or increased funding for critical program areas such as WIOA Youth, ensuring continued access to employment and training programs, job supports, and high-wage employment opportunities.

Emergency Management

- Support increased, sustained and accessible funding for emergency management grants that are vital to Ramsey County's work.

Affordable Housing

- Support legislation reauthorizing and fully funding the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) to allow increased federal support for county community development initiatives, affordable housing and economic revitalization efforts.
- Support legislation to reauthorize the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), to allow program flexibility for improved housing creation and preservation, and to authorize increased federal funding assistance to support affordable housing development.
- Support increased funding for Tenant-Based Rental Assistance such as Housing Choice Vouchers and other tenant-based vouchers, which provide critical assistance to low-income renters.

Homelessness Assistance

- Support increased, sustained and accessible funding for the Continuum of Care and Emergency Solutions Grants homelessness assistance programs, as well as legislation that would simplify the administration of these programs.

Ramsey County Support of Other Positions

In addition to the recommendations contained in this platform, the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners generally supports the legislative recommendations of the organizations in which it holds membership, including, but not limited to: The National Association of Counties (NACo) and its associated professional organizations, not including any recommendations that are inconsistent with Ramsey County's values and strategic goals.