



Dakota County

General Government and Policy Committee of the Whole

Agenda

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

10:00 AM

**Conference Room 3A, Administration
Center, Hastings**

(or following Regional Railroad Authority)

If you wish to speak to an agenda item or an item not on the agenda, please notify the Clerk to the Board via email at CountyAdmin@co.dakota.mn.us

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Note: Any action taken by this Committee of the Whole constitutes a recommendation to the County Board.

2. Audience

Anyone in the audience wishing to address the Committee on an item not on the agenda or an item on the consent agenda may come forward at this time. Comments are limited to five minutes.

3. Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)

3.1 Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)

CONSENT AGENDA

4. County Administration - Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes of Meeting Held on September 9, 2025

REGULAR AGENDA

5. County Board/County Administration

5.1 *Communications and Public Affairs* - Legislative Update

6. County Manager/Deputy/Director's Report

7. Future Agenda Items

8. Adjournment

8.1 Adjournment

For more information, call 651-438-4417

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<https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/Government/BoardMeetings/Pages/default.aspx>
Public Comment can be sent to CountyAdmin@co.dakota.mn.us**



General Government and Policy Committee of the Whole

Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-4910

Agenda #: 3.1

Meeting Date: 9/23/2025

Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)



General Government and Policy Committee of the Whole

Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-4911

Agenda #: 4.1

Meeting Date: 9/23/2025

Approval of Minutes of Meeting Held on September 9, 2025



Dakota County

General Government and Policy Committee of the Whole

Minutes

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

9:30 AM

**Conference Room 3A, Administration
Center, Hastings**

(or following County Board)

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Workman at 9:50 a.m.

Present

Commissioner Mike Slavik
Commissioner Joe Atkins
Commissioner Laurie Halverson
Commissioner William Droste
Commissioner Liz Workman
Commissioner Mary Liz Holberg
Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland

Also in attendance were Heidi Welsch, County Manager; Tom Donely, First Assistant County Attorney; and Jeni Reynolds, Sr. Administrative Coordinator to the Board.

The audio recording of this meeting is available upon request.

2. Audience

Chair Workman noted that all public comments can be sent to
CountyAdmin@co.dakota.mn.us
No comments were received for this agenda.

3. Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)

3.1 Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)

Motion: Mary Hamann-Roland

Second: Mary Liz Holberg

Prior to a motion for approval, Item 7.1 - Approval of 2026 Medical Plans and Premium Rates was recommended to be moved from the regular agenda to consent agenda. The approval of the agenda was unanimously approved as amended.

Ayes: 7

CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Commissioner Hamann-Roland, seconded by Commissioner Slavik, the

consent agenda was approved as amended. The consent agenda approval was approved including Item 7.1- Approval of 2026 Medical Plans and Premium Rates.

4. County Administration - Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes of Meeting Held on August 12, 2025

Motion: Mary Hamann-Roland

Second: Mike Slavik

Ayes: 7

5. Central Operations

5.1 Authorization To Execute Contract With Loffler Companies, Inc. For Managed Print Services

Motion: Mary Hamann-Roland

Second: Mike Slavik

WHEREAS, Dakota County (County) has an ongoing need to print and copy documents; and

WHEREAS, the County has standardized and invested in the existing fleet of multi-function printing and copying devices; and

WHEREAS, a Request for Proposal was issued July, 7, 2025, for Managed Print Services; and

WHEREAS, Loffler Companies, Inc. was the sole responder to the RFP; and

WHEREAS, Loffler Companies, Inc. has provided high-quality customer service to the County for over ten years; and

WHEREAS, Loffler Companies, Inc. has proposed the same price per page rates for both color and black/white through September 2030; and

WHEREAS, Loffler Companies, Inc., was selected based on the evaluation criteria as identified in the RFP; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends executing a contract with Loffler Companies, Inc. for the purpose of Managed Print Services; and

WHEREAS, the total cost of the contract shall not exceed \$840,000 for the period of September 30, 2025, through September 30, 2030.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Deputy County Manager to execute a contract with Loffler Companies, Inc. for Managed Print Services, in an amount not to exceed \$840,000, for the period of September 30, 2025, through September 30, 2030, subject to approval as to form by the County Attorney's Office.

This item was approved and recommended for action by the Board of Commissioners on 9/23/2025.

Ayes: 7

5.2 Authorization To Execute Contract With Baker Tilly Advisory Group, LP For Inflation Reduction Act Eligibility And Tax Credit Advisory Services

Motion: Mary Hamann-Roland

Second: Mike Slavik

WHEREAS, Dakota County, Minnesota (the "County") owns and operates the Lake Byllesby Dam, a hydroelectric facility that is undergoing a major modernization project with an estimated cost of \$50 million; and

WHEREAS, the federal Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (IRA) provides for significant clean energy tax credits, including the clean electricity Production Tax Credit (PTC) and the Investment Tax Credit (ITC); and

WHEREAS, the requirements for claiming these federal tax credits are complex and require specialized knowledge of tax law, particularly as it relates to energy projects, prevailing wage, apprenticeship, the 80/20 rule, and domestic content mandates; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best financial interest of the County to engage a qualified professional services firm to navigate these complexities and ensure the County can secure all eligible tax credits and benefits from the IRA; and

WHEREAS, a Request for Proposals was issued July 18, 2025, for Inflation Reduction Act Eligibility and Tax Credit Advisory Services; and

WHEREAS, Baker Tilly Advisory Group, LP has been selected as a highly qualified firm with extensive experience in providing tax advisory services for clean energy projects and public sector clients; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends executing a contract with Baker Tilly Advisory Group, LP for the purpose of providing Inflation Reduction Act Eligibility and Tax Credit Advisory Services; and

WHEREAS, the total cost of the contract shall not exceed \$130,000 for the period of October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025, with an option to renew for an additional five years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Deputy County Manager to execute a contract with Baker Tilly Advisory Group, LP for Inflation Reduction Act Eligibility and Tax Credit Advisory Services, in an amount not to exceed \$130,000, for the period of October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2030, with an option to renew for an additional five years, subject to approval as to form by the County Attorney's Office.

This item was approved and recommended for action by the Board of Commissioners on 9/23/2025.

Ayes: 7

6. County Board/County Administration

6.1 Approval Of Contract Renewal For 2026 Dental Plan

Motion: Mary Hamann-Roland

Second: Mike Slavik

WHEREAS, the County's fully funded Dental Plan has been administered by HealthPartners since January 1, 2022; and

WHEREAS, proposed premium rates for 2026 have considered utilization and claims experience of the Counties two dental plans; and

WHEREAS, renewal results in a composite rate increase of 9 percent across both Comprehensive and Preventive Dental plans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Employee Relations Director to approve renewal with HealthPartners to continue to provide Dakota County's 2026 dental plan and related rates, subject to approval by the County Attorney's office as to form.

This item was approved and recommended for action by the Board of Commissioners on 9/23/2025.

Ayes: 7

REGULAR AGENDA

7. County Board/County Administration

7.1 Approval Of 2026 Medical Plans and Premium Rates

Motion: Mary Hamann-Roland

Second: Mike Slavik

This item was moved to the consent agenda. There was no presentation or discussion on this item.

WHEREAS, due to 2026 IRS limit changes in minimum deductibles for High Deductible Health Plans, the Dakota Health Savings Account (HSA) plan will have an increase in deductible \$1700 for single and \$3400 for family; and

WHEREAS this change will increase the County annual HSA contribution to \$850 for single and \$1700 for family enrollment; and

WHEREAS, proposed premium rates for 2026 have been identified considering utilization and claims experience of the three Plans, medical trend, Affordable Care Act fees, and administrative expenses; and

WHEREAS, self-funded medical plan expenses projected for 2026 result in an aggregate rate increase of 8.92 percent.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the aggregate rate increase overall of 8.92 percent to the self funded medical plan. Dakota Advantage Plan will increase by 11 percent, the Dakota Select Plan by 8.5 percent, and the Dakota Health Savings Account Plan will hold at 2025 rates.

This item was approved and recommended for action by the Board of Commissioners on 9/23/2025.

Ayes: 7

7.2 Overview Of Minnesota Paid Family And Medical Leave

Human Resources Director Andy Benish and DeLoitte representative Dan Plante briefed this item and responded to questions. This item was on the agenda for informational purposes.

7.3 Legislative Update

Communications and Public Affairs Director Mary Beth Schubert briefed this item and responded to questions. This item was on the agenda for informational purposes.

Information only; no action requested.

8. Central Operations

8.1 Update On Cyber Security And Preventive Security Measures Taken By Information Technology

Senior Security Analyst David Senn briefed this item and responded to questions. This item was on the agenda for informational purposes.

Information only; no action requested.

9. Public Services and Revenue

9.1 Authorization To Discontinue Participation In Same-Day Issuance Pilot At Lakeville License Center

Motion: Mary Liz Holberg

Second: Mary Hamann-Roland

Service and License Centers Director Kasha McLay briefed this item and responded to questions.

WHEREAS, in the 2021 First Special Session, the Legislature directed in Chapter 5, Article 4, section 141 that the Commissioner of Public Safety conduct

a same-day driver's license pilot project for participating driver's license agents in the cities of Lakeville and Moorhead; and

WHEREAS, Lakeville License Center has been participating in a same-day issuance pilot project since October 1, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the pilot allows customers to obtain a standard driver's license, identification card or permit same day; and

WHEREAS, customers and businesses have reported dissatisfaction with the same-day issued card; and

WHEREAS, in the 2024 Report submitted to the Legislature, the Department of Public Safety Driver and Vehicle Services is not recommending expansion of the pilot; and

WHEREAS, due to the inconsistent security features between the same-day issued credentials and centrally issued credentials, the diminished document verification and no address verification, the absence of a plan to improve the consistency between both types of cards and recommendation from the Department of Public Safety Driver and Vehicle Services to not expand the pilot, staff recommend the pilot be discontinued at the Lakeville License Center.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Service and License Center Director to work with the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety to discontinue participation in the same-day issuance pilot at Lakeville License Center.

This item was approved and recommended for action by the Board of Commissioners on 9/23/2025.

Ayes: 7

9.2 Update On Voting Equipment Procurement

Elections Director Michelle Blue briefed this item and responded to questions. This item was on the agenda for informational purposes.

Information only; no action requested.

10. County Manager/Deputy/Director's Report

County Manager Heidi Welsch referenced written deputy director's reports and gave a brief update on the upcoming budget workshop that will be held on September 16, 2025 at 8:30 a.m. Dakota County Staff, Scott and Olmsted County staff have been meeting to collaborate on ways to improve public assistance programs. A future update to the committee will be presented.

11. Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items were discussed.

12. Adjournment

12.1 Adjournment

Motion: Mike Slavik

Second: Mary Hamann-Roland

On a motion by Commissioner Slavik, seconded by Commissioner Hamann-Roland, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Ayes: 7

Respectfully submitted,
Jeni Reynolds
Sr. Administrative Coordinator to the Board



General Government and Policy Committee of the Whole

Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-4868

Agenda #: 5.1

Meeting Date: 9/23/2025

DEPARTMENT: Communications and Public Affairs

FILE TYPE: Regular Information

TITLE

Legislative Update

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

Discuss 2026 capital priorities and other legislative topics.

SUMMARY

Staff will present potential 2026 capital priorities and hold discussion of other legislative topics of interest to Dakota County.

RECOMMENDATION

Information only; no action requested.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACTS

- | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None | <input type="checkbox"/> Current budget | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment Requested | <input type="checkbox"/> New FTE(s) requested | |

RESOLUTION

Information only; no action requested.

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION

None.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment: Presentation Slides

Attachment: 2026 State Bonding Staff Recommendation Table

Attachment: 2025 Legislative Priorities - Capital and Policy

Attachment: 2026 Proposed Capital Projects Map

BOARD GOALS

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A Great Place to Live | <input type="checkbox"/> A Healthy Environment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A Successful Place for Business and Jobs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellence in Public Service |

CONTACT

Department Head/Author: Mary Beth Schubert



Legislative Update

Sept. 23, 2025

1

Legislative update agenda



1. Discussion of 2026 capital priorities
2. Review legislative timeline
3. Discussion and other informational items

2

Discussion of capital priorities



2025 capital priorities:

- County Road 50 and Interstate 35 Bridge Improvements
- The Recycling Zone Plus
- Thompson County Park Inclusive Recreation Enhancements
- County Building Energy Efficiency Improvements

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Potential 2026 capital priorities



Projects	Total project cost	External funds secured	Remainder	Proposed request
1. County Road 50 safety and pedestrian improvements at I-35	\$62.5 million	\$40.8 million	\$21.7 million	\$10.8 million (50%)
2. Transportation improvements related to detour for 35/50 construction	\$3.5 million	--	\$3.5 million	\$2.8 million (80%)
3. Recycling Zone Plus construction	\$24 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$8 million - State (CAP) • \$4.16 million – Scott County commitment 	\$16 million	\$2 million
4. Lebanon Hills and Lake Byllesby campground buildings and beach house replacement	\$24.6 million	\$1.6 million - Regional Park Funding	\$22 million	\$22 million
5. County Road 46 expansion from TH 3 to TH 52 and interchange	\$45 million	\$10 million	\$35 million	\$17.5 million (50% of \$35 million)
6. TH 3/County Road 42 grade separation	\$60 million	--	\$60 million	\$38 million (50% for TH 3 costs and GHG)

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Potential 2026 capital priorities



Projects	Total project cost	External funds secured	Remainder	Proposed request
7. Thompson County Park lodge renovation, including accessibility and development of a visitor center	\$25 million	\$2 million for design (State SFY24)	\$25 million	\$25 million
8. I-494 / Argenta Trail interchange	\$64 million	--	\$64 million	\$31 million (State costs include \$10 million for GHG)
9. TH 55/52 and County Road 42 Improvements	\$68 million	--	\$68 million	\$21.5 million (50% of county costs County costs are 50% of CR 42 (\$25 million) and 50% of 52 interchange \$18 million)
10. TH 13 / Nicollet Ave. grade separation	\$46.5 million	\$27 million	\$19.5 million	\$19.5 million
11. TH 50 from TH 52 to TH 61	\$20 million	--	\$20 million	\$16 million (80%)

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Discussion of 2026 capital priorities



Additional questions and board discussion

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Legislative timeline



2026 timeline

- Oct. 7: Policy priorities discussion
- Oct. 17: MMB deadline for capital projects for consideration in governor's proposal
- Oct. 21: Finalize 2026 policy priorities
- Nov. 4: Review final platform in GGP
- Nov. 18: Final platform on CB consent agenda
- November–January: Develop one-pagers/supporting documents for priorities
- Early February: Pre-session event with legislative delegation at CDA
- Feb. 17: 2026 legislative session begins

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Discussion and informational items



- Other topics?

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Attachment: 2026 State Bonding Staff Recommendation Table

Project	Total Project Cost	External Funds Already Obtained	Remainder	Proposed Funding Requested	Tails	Staff Proposed Priority	Notes (CIP Priority, etc.)
County Rd 50 safety and pedestrian improvements at I-35	\$62.5M	\$40.8M	\$21.7M	\$10.8M(50%)	•Standard highway maintenance and eventual replacement	1	•Prior Year CB #1 Priority •CIP Priority 1. "Fix What's Broken" •2026 ROW/2028 Construction in Draft CIP
Transportation Improvements related to detour for 35/50	\$3.5M	\$ -	\$3.5M	\$2.8M (80%)	•\$26,000 standard maintenance on each signal annually	2	•Linked to Prior Year CB #1 Priority •CIP Priority 1: "Fix What's Broken" •Includes 7 temp and 1 permanent signals at 46/Orchard •These costs will be wrapped up into the 35/50 project and not a separate project.
Recycling Zone Plus	\$24M	•\$8M State CAP •\$4.16M Commitment from Scott County	\$16M (\$11.84M Dakota/\$4.16M Scott County)	\$2M	•\$835K annual operations (Staff, disposal, etc.)	3	•Prior Year CB #2 Priority •CIP Priority 2. "Finish What We Started" •2026 construction (previously planned in in '19, '22, and '24 CIPs) •Potential For Municipal Bonding with debt service by ELF
Lebanon Hills and Lake Bytlesby campground buildings and beach house replacement	\$24.6M	\$1.6M Regional Park Funding	\$22M	\$22M	•Comparable maintenance costs to existing	4	•CIP Priority 1. "Fix What's Broken" •2027 Project (Draft CIP) •\$1M in Park Fund also allocated in 2025
CR 46 expansion from TH 3 to TH 52 and interchange	\$45M	\$10M	\$35M	\$17.5M (50% of \$35M)	•Standard highway maintenance and eventual replacement on CR 46	5	•CIP Priority 1: "Fix What's Broken" •2029 Project (Draft CIP)-Federal Funds Sunset Date 2029
TH 3/CR 42 grade separation	\$60M	\$ -	\$60M	\$38M (50% for TH 3 costs and GHG)	•Standard highway maintenance and eventual replacement on CR 42	6	•CIP Priority 1: "Fix What's Broken" •Not yet programmed for construction •Interchange \$45M •Includes +30% (\$15M) for GHG mitigation due to TH 3 grade separation. •State costs (= \$45/2 + \$15 ~\$38M)
Thompson County Park Lodge renovation, including accessibility improvements and development of a visitor center	\$25M	\$2M for design (State SFY24)	\$25M	\$25M	•\$236K annually (2 new staff and materials) •\$200K initial Capital Equipment for Rentals	7	•CIP Priority 2: "Finish What We Started" and 3: "Meet demand" •2027 Project (Draft CIP) •Possible Joint Request with West St. Paul •Potential Rental Revenue to recoup material costs over time •First request for State Dollars for this part of the project
I-494/Argenta Trail Interchange	\$64M	\$ -	\$64M	\$31 M (State costs includes \$10M for GHG)	•Standard highway maintenance and eventual replacement on Argenta Trail	8	•CIP Priority 3: "Meet Demand" •Not yet programmed for construction •Interchange (\$31M) + County (\$15M)/City(\$8M) roads = \$54M •GHG = \$31M *.33 = \$10M •State cost = \$31M*2/3 = \$21M + \$10M (GHG) = \$31M
TH 55/52/CR 42 Improvements	\$68M	\$ -	\$68M	\$21.5 M = 50% of County costs = 50% of \$25 M (CR 42) + 50% of \$18M (52 interchange)	•Standard highway maintenance and eventual replacement on CR 42	9	•CIP Priority 3: "Meet Demand" •Not yet programmed for construction •Not in proposed SUT eligible project list •CR 42 expansion - \$25M (County) •52 interchange improvements \$18M (County and State) •TH 55/52 improvements \$25M (State)
TH 13/Nicollet grade separation	\$46.5M	\$27M	\$19.5M	\$19.5M	•None	10	•Trunk Highway Project •CIP Priority 1: "Fix What's Broken" •Not yet programmed for construction •Need could be less if grants are awarded
TH 50 - TH 52 to TH 61	\$20M	\$ -	\$20M	\$16M (80%)	•None	11	•Trunk Highway Project •CIP Priority 1: "Fix What's Broken" •Not yet programmed for construction •Overlay planned in 2026. Recon 10+ years out

Dakota County 2025 Capital Priorities – At a glance



VI-2025

COUNTY ROAD 50 AND INTERSTATE 35 BRIDGE IMPROVEMENTS

STATE REQUEST

\$51.6 million for I-35

\$40.8 million – I-35 bridges, County Road 50 interchange

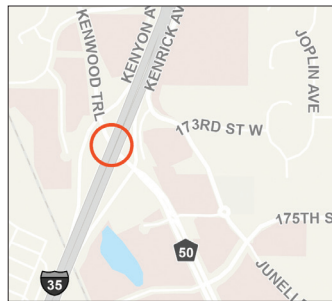
\$10.8 million – County Road 50 improvements

COUNTY MATCH

\$10.9 million for County Road 50 interchange

County Road 50 at Interstate 35 in Lakeville is insufficient for the increasing traffic volume, and pedestrian safety is impaired along the county road. Additionally, the interstate in this corridor needs improvements to accommodate a growing population, improve safety and extend E-ZPass managed lanes from Burnsville to Lakeville.

State bonding in 2025 would help reconstruct the two interstate bridges at County Road 50 and two railroad bridges south of the interchange. The new bridges will be built to carry three lanes in each direction when future interstate improvements are made. New freeway ramps will be built connecting County Road 50 to the interstate. Funding would also provide a fourth lane on County Road 50 under the I-35 bridges and other improvements near the interchange, including pedestrian and bicycle connections along the road under I-35.



THOMPSON COUNTY PARK INCLUSIVE RECREATION ENHANCEMENTS

\$4 million

Dakota County invested \$3 million at Thompson County Park in recent years, completing a first phase of improvements identified in a new park master plan.

In 2023, the Legislature provided \$2 million for design of further park enhancements, including to improve community access and extend an ADA-accessible trail system. An additional \$4 million in state funding would allow for construction of those enhancements.



THE RECYCLING ZONE PLUS

\$8 million (Capital Assistance Program)

Dakota and Scott counties have a combined 603,000 residents — more than 10 percent of the state population. Each county operates residential household hazardous waste and recycling facilities, but they cannot handle expected population growth. Also, there are large areas of Dakota and Scott counties that are underserved for this type of waste disposal and recycling.

Dakota and Scott counties have partnered on plans for the Recycling Zone Plus, a new facility in Lakeville to properly manage household hazardous waste and recyclables from both counties and other metro area residents. The Legislature provided design and land acquisition funding through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Capital Assistance Program (CAP), but additional funding is needed for construction.

COUNTY BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS

\$8.4 million (Renewable Development Account)

\$4.4 million – Solar installations

\$4 million – Building system updates

Dakota County is committed to reducing energy use in county-owned facilities and remaining a state leader in energy conservation.

The county's energy efficiency proposal includes installing a total of 700 kilowatts of solar canopies at seven county locations. It also includes energy-efficient HVAC system updates at four facilities, including the Dakota 911 dispatch center.

The county is requesting \$8.4 million from the Minnesota Renewable Development.

Contact

Georg Fischer

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Heidi Welsch

County Manager
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Dakota County 2025 Policy Priorities – At a glance



VI-2025

MODERNIZE HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS AND TECHNOLOGY

Minnesota's human services programs and technology are complex and outdated. Recent state modernization efforts have not kept up with evolving technology.

The state can change that by providing counties that deliver these services with modernized systems that give clients more control over their services and focus on efficiency and the use of data to improve services. The Legislature should also fund projects and technology that simplify program rules.

Counties will support efforts to rapidly develop solutions that meet these goals.

Dakota County recommends the following legislative actions:

- Support modernization projects that improve client and staff use, while increasing equity and access to services for all Minnesotans.
- Provide implementation funds to cover county costs associated with these investments.
- Establish an innovation fund for counties to co-develop solutions.

SUSTAINABLE CRISIS MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FUNDING

Communities across Minnesota face urgent and unprecedented mental health challenges. Dakota County has responded by developing effective crisis services. The county has expanded services to handle crisis calls transferred from Dakota 911, embed social workers in 10 public safety agencies and provide more timely crisis response. It also built the Crisis and Recovery Center in West St. Paul.

Most of the county's expanded services rely on one-time aid, including American Rescue Plan funds. To ensure proven crisis services can continue, the Legislature should create a long-term funding plan. In the meantime, Dakota County recommends increasing funding for crisis services grants, creating an equitable formula for state crisis grant funds and providing \$3.4 million in one-time funding to support existing services.

MNCHOICES REASSESSMENT PROCESS IMPROVEMENT

MnCHOICES assessment and support planning are important for seniors and individuals with disabilities who need home and community-based services. It ensures eligibility, informed choice and identifies cost-effective care options. However, counties, which administer this state program, need a more efficient reassessment process to better serve existing clients and erase a backlog of first-time applications.

An annual MnCHOICES reassessment takes a total of 7-8 hours. That is excessive if the individual's situation has not changed. This lengthy process can be traumatizing to the individual and their family. It also contributes to overall program delays.

Dakota County recommends the Legislature create a shorter and more efficient MnCHOICES reassessment process if an individual's condition is stable and unchanged. The county also recommends the state change the annual comprehensive reassessment requirement to once every two or three years, or sooner if there is a significant change in an individual's condition.

HOUSING SUPPORT OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT ALLOCATION

Minnesota law requires counties and tribes to oversee Housing Support benefits, but they do not receive dedicated funding to carry out this state program.

Housing Support pays for room and board and some supportive services for seniors and adults with disabilities who have low incomes. Dakota County supports 1,198 people on Housing Support. The county maintains 214 Housing Support agreements with vendors for 727 properties.

Housing Support agreements allow providers to collect a 5-percent administrative fee on all housing payments. There is no similar administrative fee available to counties and tribes, yet the state requires them to perform numerous Housing Support functions.

The state should provide a management allocation to counties and tribes for administering Housing Support. Without it, this is an unfunded mandate.

Contact

Marti Fischbach

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Heidi Welsch

County Manager
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Continued

*Continuation***INCREASED SCORE FUNDING FOR
STATE WASTE MANDATES**

Metro counties face a growing number of state waste management requirements without a proportionate increase in Select Committee on Recycling and the Environment (SCORE) funding.

In 2024, 27 percent of the Solid Waste Management Tax revenue was still being redirected to the state's General Fund instead of to counties to carry out state-required waste management plans. State funding has not kept pace with the investment needed to achieve state waste objectives. Without this state support, counties must use their own funding.

While the Minnesota Legislature in 2023 redirected an additional 3 percent of the solid waste management tax to SCORE, 77 percent of Dakota County's waste management plan funding is still from other sources.

Increased SCORE funding to metro counties will reduce the reliance on local funding sources to meet state-required waste management objectives.

Contact**Georg Fischer**

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General Government and Policy Committee of the Whole

Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-4912

Agenda #: 8.1

Meeting Date: 9/23/2025

Adjournment