



Legislative Update

October 7, 2025

Agenda



1. 2026 policy priorities
2. RZ Plus update
3. Review legislative timeline
4. Informational items

Looking back:

2025 Policy Priorities

- Modernize Human Services Programs and Technology
- Sustainable Crisis Mental Health Services Funding
- MnCHOICES Reassessment Process Improvement
- Housing Support Operations Management Allocation
- Increased SCORE Funding for State Waste Mandates

Looking ahead:

Suggested 2026 policy priorities

- Human Services Modernization
- Human Services Cost Shifts (new)
- Housing Support Operations Management Allocation
- Crisis Mental Health Services

Policy Priorities – Human Services Modernization



The issue: The current human services programs, processes and technology are complex, burdensome and, in many cases, functionally inept. Recent federal changes added requirements that will stretch human services IT infrastructure to the brink.

Legislative asks:

- Solve immediate issues created by new federal requirements, reduce errors and fight fraud.
- Get on track to replace outdated, disparate systems with a modern system with centralized core functions.

Policy Priorities – Human Services Cost Shifts



The issue: Beginning in 2026, the federal government will shift the cost it pays to help administer SNAP. In Minnesota, that cost will shift directly to counties. In 2027, the federal government will also shift a portion of benefits. This will also go to counties if nothing changes.

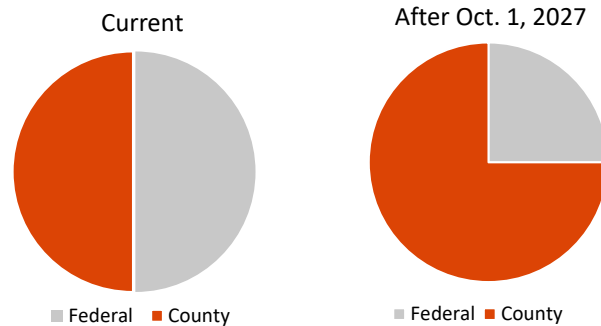
Legislative ask:

- Minnesota is one of only 3 states where the state does not participate in the cost of administering SNAP. The State of Minnesota should absorb the SNAP federal cost shifts.

SNAP Cost Shifts

The federal financial participation change from 50% to 25% in SNAP administration will increase Dakota County's cost by **\$1.4 million**.

Beginning Oct. 1, 2027, the benefit cost shift to Dakota County is estimated to be **\$4.5 million**.



The issue: Dakota County supports 1,198 individuals on Housing Support at 727 properties through 214 vendor contracts. County staff establish housing agreements, provide technical assistance and monitor quality assurance for vendors. Housing Support providers are allowed to capture a percentage of revenue for their administrative costs, but counties are not.

Legislative ask:

- Allow provider agencies, including counties, to set aside a portion of Housing Support funds to pay for their administrative work.

The issue: Dakota County has developed a continuum of mental health services based on national best practices, but these cannot be sustained without state support.

Legislative ask:

- The Legislature should create a long-term funding plan to ensure sustainability of the mental health system in Minnesota.
- While a long-term funding is being developed, the Legislature should provide a direct appropriation to Dakota County to support and expand its existing, critical services.

Additional questions and board discussion.

RZ Plus update



- RZ Plus is not a Scott County priority for 2026. It was the county's top priority in 2025.
- Project bids will be opened Oct. 16. (MMB capital project submission deadline is Oct. 17.)
- Request to award bid tentatively set for Nov. 6.
- Ongoing efforts to manage project costs:
 - Several alternates included in bid documents
 - \$879,000 in City of Lakeville driven costs/fees
 - Minimized project footprint
 - Reviewing current solid waste budgets to address "tails"

Legislative timeline



2026 timeline

- Oct. 17: MMB deadline for capital projects for consideration in governor's proposal
- Oct. 21: Finalize 2026 policy priorities (if needed)
- Nov. 4: Review final platform and priorities in GGP
- Nov. 18: Approve final platform and priorities on County Board 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

Informational items



Upcoming visits

Wednesday, Oct. 22 – MMB and governor's office staff at Spring Lake Park Reserve

- Met Council received a request to tour a recent project funded with state bonding and regional park bonds.
- Visit will focus on Bison Prairie, Mississippi River Greenway and Fischer Trailhead improvements. All received state/regional park bonding funds.

Wednesday, Nov. 5 – House Capital Investment Committee tour stop

- Bonding committee to visit the I-35/County Road 50 intersection.
- More details to come.

Informational items



Other?