

# 2018 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

## MAKE CHILD CARE MORE AFFORDABLE

The Child Care Assistance Program helps families afford the high cost of child care so that parents can work or go to school while children are cared for in environments that help them flourish from kindergarten to career. In 2018, CDF-MN supports the work of the Kids Can't Wait coalition to align CCAP with family-friendly federal requirements and national best practices that will reduce barriers to accessing the program; require the use of an updated child care market rate survey when setting assistance amounts so that families can afford the child care that meets their needs and providers can afford to accept them; and enroll more eligible children.



## INVEST IN COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

Children of color and American Indian children face a steeper ladder to success in Minnesota, and by 2035, these populations will make up one-quarter of the state's residents. To ensure the healthy development of children of color and American Indian children, CDF-MN supports the work of the Voices and Choices for Children coalition to seek passage of a Community Solutions Fund that would give communities the flexibility to advance locally generated approaches to improving outcomes for children of color and American Indian children prenatal to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.



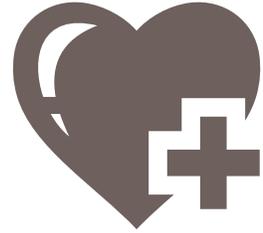
## EXPAND ACCESS TO PAID FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE

Minnesotans should be able to care for themselves and their families without jeopardizing economic security, yet many lack access to paid leave including disproportionate numbers of low-wage, Black, Hispanic, part-time, and younger workers. In 2018, CDF-MN supports the efforts of the Minnesotans for Paid Family Leave coalition to modernize our workplace standards through a state-administered, comprehensive paid family and medical leave insurance program.



## PROTECT HEALTH CARE GAINS

Since the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, the number of uninsured Minnesota children has dropped 50 percent. Uninsured rates for all Minnesotans have reached an all-time low resulting in cost savings from uncompensated care, preventative care, and increased federal funding. In 2018, CDF-MN remains committed at both the state and federal levels to protecting and advancing our state's health care gains for children and families, including by ensuring Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program, and Minnesota Care remain strong and accessible and maintaining MnSure and a robust outreach system.



## CREATE A BUDGET THAT MOVES MINNESOTA FAMILIES FORWARD

In 2018, CDF-MN supports budgets at the state and federal levels designed to meet needs, not revenue limitations, and a progressive tax structure that opens the door to the middle class. We oppose cuts to critical programs and tax credits that serve children and families, including the Minnesota Renter's Credit that helps lower-income Minnesotans make ends meet.



Children's Defense Fund-Minnesota is also proud to support the work of MinneMinds and the Minnesota Asset Building Coalition.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

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