

Legislative Priorities

Child Care

Region Nine supports legislative initiatives to increase child care options in the nine county region. This may include funding to help offset the cost of new or upgraded child care facilities, regulatory changes that remove barriers to entry for providers, training for providers, and other policies and programs that will increase the supply of both center-based and home-based childcare options.

Transportation

Region Nine must continue to advocate for immediate and long-term transportation funding. The solution should be comprehensive (multi-modal), balanced (regionally and between modes), sustainable (on-going funding), and dedicated (constitutionally for roads and statutorily for transit), and equitable for townships.

Local Government Aid

Region Nine supports restoring the Local Government Aid program to at least the 2003 certified level of \$586.8 million and annual increases in its appropriation thereafter. Local Government Aid helps Greater Minnesota businesses receive needed city services while restraining local property taxes.

Opioids & Substance Abuse Prevention

Region Nine supports policies and new funding that address opioid and substance abuse through public health prevention.

Bonding and Infrastructure

Region Nine supports a substantial bonding bill that includes appropriations for municipal water and wastewater infrastructure, local roads and bridges, the Local Road Wetland Replacement Fund, flood hazard mitigation, and dam repair and removal projects. At least 50 percent of all capital investment funding should be directed at Greater Minnesota.

Broadband Expansion

Region Nine supports funding for the Office of Broadband Development, additional investments in the Border-to-Border Broadband Grant Program of at least \$50 million, and incentives for private sector service providers to respond to local or regional needs.

Regional Crisis Centers and Supportive Housing

Region Nine supports bonding proposals that strengthen the mental health continuum of care through regional crisis centers to provide stabilization services, and the creation for additional supportive housing options.

