2019 Legislative Priorities

Child Care
Region Nine supports legislation to improve child care access in the region:
• Increased access to flexible capital for child care providers, as well as immediate support from DEED for shovel-ready child care projects.
• Provide uniformity for county regulations by better standardizing and guiding county enforcement.
• Increase child care reimbursement rates (CCAP).

27% of needed child care spaces aren’t able to be filled in Southern Minnesota.
*Center of Rural Policy and Development

Transportation
Region Nine supports comprehensive, balanced, and dedicated transportation funding legislation:
• Raising Minnesota’s gas tax, and dedicating revenue to roads and bridges.
• Permanently and sustainability dedicating funding by constitutional amendment.

115% increase in state highway miles that will be in poor condition by 2026, mostly in rural Minnesota.
*MN Department of Transportation

Broadband Expansion
Region Nine supports legislation to improve broadband access in rural communities:
• Funding for the Office of Broadband Development.
• Additional investments in the Border-to-Border Broadband Grant Program of at least $50 million.
• Incentives for private sector service providers to respond to local or regional needs.

22% of rural households in Minnesota were without 10mbps/download broadband access.
*MN Department of Employment and Economic Development

Substance Abuse Prevention
(Opioids & Meth)
Region Nine supports preventative, rather than reactive, substance abuse legislation:
• The creation of a loan forgiveness program/repayment plan for chemical and mental health professionals.
• The offering of prevention grants to organizations who utilize empirical-based prevention programs.
• Support sustainable funding for prevention coordinators in communities.

688% increase in hospitalizations due to opioid use since 2008.

596% increase in hospitalizations due to meth use since 2008.
*Center of Rural Policy and Development

Local Government Aid
Region Nine supports restoring the Local Government Aid program to at least the 2003 certified level of $586.8 million.

Regional Crisis Centers and Supportive Housing
Region Nine supports legislation strengthening the mental health continuum of care through regional crisis centers and supportive housing.

*Center of Rural Policy and Development

*MN Department of Transportation