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).



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.



increase in state highway miles that will be in poor condition by 2026, mostly in rural Minnesota.

*MN Department of Transportation

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.

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.



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.



increase in hospitalizations due to opioid use since 2008.



increase in hospitalizations due to meth use since 2008.

*Center of Rural Policy and Development

