

# 2021 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

## Transportation

Region Nine supports a comprehensive, balanced, and dedicated transportation funding legislation:

- Permanently and sustainably dedicating funding by constitutional amendment
- Advocate for immediate and long term funding for roads and bridges

## Bonding & Infrastructure

Region Nine supports 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.

## Workforce & Affordable Housing

Region Nine supports legislation to address the critical workforce and affordable housing shortage:

- Funding for affordable or workforce housing programs at a level that accounts for the cost of prevailing wage regulations in housing construction
- New tax credit proposals should include money for workforce and affordable housing

## 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)

## Substance Abuse Prevention, Mental Health, & Care

Region Nine supports strengthening the mental health continuum of care through regional crisis centers and supportive housing as well as preventative, rather than reactive, substance abuse legislation:

- The creation of a loan forgiveness 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

## 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 \$70 million
- Incentives for private sector service providers to respond to local or regional needs

