

WILDER FOUNDATION

2024 Legislative Session in Review



Wilder is a collective force for social good that works to see all people thrive.

We champion stability and wellness through direct services, advocacy, and research.

We understand that society has created advantages for certain groups and not others; we find ways to see and change how we make decisions that impact marginalized or disadvantaged groups in unintended ways.

Wilder welcomes the complexity that comes from the many differences that exist among groups in one place: race, ethnicity, class, sexual orientation, ability, gender, nationality, etc. We believe diversity adds value and makes us stronger.

Informed by these values and principles, along with guidance from our client and staff communities, this legislative agenda reflects Wilder's commitment to Lead, Support, Monitor, and Engage with efforts that promote the social welfare of our community members.

Philosophers could spend entire careers debating the meaning of the 2024 session, and perhaps they should. How could something be both chaotic and slow, successful yet disappointing, long and too short? Somehow, all these things are true and I will leave making sense of it to the stoics and relativists.

-Adrián R. Magaña, Wilder's Director of Public Policy

2024 Legislative Session Review

Thank you to our entire Wilder community for engaging with Wilder's Public Policy team this past legislative session. Together we have been able to connect community expertise to the Capitol and build a more equitable city, county, and state. None of the successes highlighted below would have been possible without the incredible engagement we have had with service recipients and providers.

Last session can best be described as a mixed bag- several bills that benefit our community were passed, yet many significant agenda items require continued work in the upcoming 94th legislature. Please note that any item that did not pass will be automatically added to our 2025 legislative agenda.

Bills passed in 2024

Housing & Homelessness:

- **The Minnesota Homeless Study:**
 - o \$100,000 in one-time funding to support the MN Homeless Study. Wilder will seek a larger ongoing investment for the MN Homeless Study in 2025.
- **Pregnant & Parenting Homeless Youth Study:**
 - o Wilder supported The Link is securing \$150,000 in one-time funding for the creation of a study on the prevalence of pregnant and parenting youth homelessness. Wilder Research will conduct the study.

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2024 Legislative Session in Review *(continued)*

• **Property Forfeiture Law:**

o In 2023, the Supreme Court ruled that Minnesota's tax-delinquent property forfeiture law was unconstitutional. In response, the state legislature passed a new process that:

- Requires tax-forfeited properties to be sold at public auction.
- Strengthens requirements for counties to notify owners of forfeiture status and share about property tax relief programs that owners may qualify for.
- Requires a claims process.
- Requires counties to notify previous owners if a forfeited property sells for more than the previous owner owed, allowing the previous owner to file a claim for the excess money.

Safety & Community Wellness:

• **Gun Violence Prevention Bill Package:**

- o Increased penalty for straw purchases from a misdemeanor to a felony.
- o Increase regulation over all weapon transfers, not just on pistols & military style semi-auto assault weapons.
- o Ban on binary triggers- which allow the firing of multiple rounds with a single trigger pull.
- o Click the link for more information: <https://www.house.mn.gov/SessionDaily/Story/18397>

• **Cannabis Advertisement Restrictions:**

- o Restrictions on print, radio, television, and "other" advertisements where 30% or more of the audience is expected to be under 21.
- o Applies to public areas and channels where children are expected to consume advertisement.

Equity:

• **The Minnesota African American Family Preservation Act:**

o Makes modifications to child welfare provisions to promote the stability and security of African American and over-represented children in the child welfare system, and it ends the pattern of disproportionate removal from their families.

• **Social Equity Prioritization for Cannabis Sales Licensing:**

o Low-income area residents, people who have faced (or have family who have faced) Cannabis possession convictions, veterans, and "new" farmers are prioritized for accelerated licensing and early cultivation permits.

Aging Services:

• **Revocation of Assisted Living Exemptions for Customized Living Settings:**

- o The Policy Team successfully defended against this well-intentioned but flawed bill.
- o This bill would have required Assisted Living services to be administered to many individuals who do not require them.
- o This would not only have increased their costs but would have also taken away the independence that many recipients of customized living services enjoy and require.
- o The Policy Team looks forward to working with the sponsors of this bill next year to strike an appropriate middle ground, which will expand services to those who need it without requiring it for those who do not.

Transportation:

• **Ride Share Drivers changes:**

- o Increase wages to drivers (City ordinances may still bump rate even higher, at risk of companies threatening to pull out of market).
- o Minimum payment standards for ride-share drivers
- o Ride share drivers gain rights to appeal deactivation

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Areas of Continued Work:

- **Minnesota Basic Income Infrastructure Grants:**

- o Wilder's Public Policy Director has supported the MN Basic Income Coalition with legislation establishing a Basic Income grant process in Minnesota since 2022.
- o The bill captured momentum in the House this year but did not pass. Wilder will continue supporting the MN Basic Income Coalition in 2025.

- **Continuous Eligibility for Adults:**

- o 12-month continuous eligibility for adults is a demonstrable way to improve healthcare outcomes for our community. Medicaid "churn" happens when people are repeatedly dropped from Medical Assistance (MA) due to problems with redetermination or small eligibility changes, only to re-enroll months later. It is a chronic problem that causes costly disruptions to care for Minnesotans as well as the providers and state agencies that serve them.

- o The Policy Team with community were able to pass 12-Continuous Eligibility for Minnesotans under 19 in 2023, but failed to pass the adult version of the bill. Wilder will be working with our partners next session to advocate for this common-sense solution.

Other Policies planned for 2025 agenda:

The Policy Team have already engaged some providers and service recipients and have identified the following areas as potential 2025 Public Policy Agenda items. If any of them sound relevant to your team, please contact Policy Director Adrián Magaña. The areas that have been identified include:

- Closing mental health insurance loopholes.
- Achieving mental health parity.
- Strengthening renters' rights.
- Funding and restructured grants for full-service community schools.
- Improved Customized Living rates and allowances.
- Flexible funding for housing assistance.

If you have thoughts on the items above or believe something is missing, please contact:

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