

December 2024

OUR COMMITMENT TO EQUITY AND JUSTICE REMAINS STRONG

For many of us, the end of the year is a time for warm, bustling gatherings of friends and family, sharing food and traditions. Across cultures it also can be a time for reflection, rituals, and rest. We hope you're able to enjoy some moments of peace and joy in coming days.

Over the past few weeks, the Minnesota Budget Project team has been preparing to defend against significant changes and harmful cuts to many of the critical public services Minnesotans rely on to get through challenges in their daily lives.

Our team is also intentionally grounding that planning in our values of community, trust, learning, and co-creating a joyful and liberated world. Over the summer, our team spent two days reflecting on some of the specific values that express our vision for a state where all Minnesotans can pursue full and free lives.

For more than 25 years, the Minnesota Budget Project has sought bold and innovative policy solutions that center lower-income Minnesotans, and those who are economically marginalized through systemic racist policies and structures. Seeking policy solutions focused on those furthest away from justice better moves us toward a future in which all Minnesotans have what they need to thrive, like safe and secure housing, full pantries, and health care when they need it.

We know that in the months ahead we'll likely face obstacles to our mission, in the form of federal policy changes and funding cuts. By recommitting to our vision of an equitable and just Minnesota, we are energized to do the work ahead, in partnership with many of you.

Continued on next page

Your donation today will help ensure we have the resources to continue advocating for everyday Minnesotans, regardless of who they are or where they call home. With your support, we can continue building toward communities where our neighbors, friends, and families can all thrive.

MINNESOTA WILL BE FIRST IN THE NATION TO OFFER ADVANCE PAYMENTS OF THE CHILD TAX CREDIT

Minnesota Budget Project, along with Governor Tim Walz and other tax advocates, reached out to Minnesotan families with kids that could qualify for the state's new Child Tax Credit (CTC). In its first year, more than **450,000 children** have already benefitted from the more than **half a billion dollars that was sent to families** across Minnesota thanks to the nation-leading CTC.

Next year, we're redoubling our efforts to reach even more families about the income-boosting tax credit. Minnesota will be the **first state to offer advance payments of the CTC**. Advance payments will give eligible families the option to receive a portion of their tax credit on a schedule that better fits their budgets and gets money in their pockets sooner to afford food, diapers, and other basic necessities of raising thriving kids.



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

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POLICY FOCUS ARE FEDERAL THREATS TO MINNESOTANS AND THE NEXT STATE BUDGET

Next year will bring significant threats on the federal level. We and our partners have already begun to identify specific avenues through which federal policymakers may shrink critical public services, like health care and food assistance. We also know that top priorities of the incoming administration are to extend large tax cuts that primarily benefit the nation's wealthiest households and profitable corporations. Those large tax cuts would cut deeply into federal revenues, further threatening critical public services, like education or child care.

The Minnesota Budget Project, in partnership with national and state allies, is well positioned to participate in robust defense against threats to Minnesotans' health and well-being. We hope you'll join in that advocacy in the coming months.

For the state of Minnesota, 2025 is a budget-setting year, and we'll continue our practice of arming partners and advocates with the information they need to influence essential policy and budget decisions, especially given the more challenging state budget landscape.

Minnesota policymakers will have to respond to whatever federal funding cuts and policy changes will flow through to the state in months and years to come, and we'll be advocating that they prioritize Minnesotans' health and economic security as they do. Federal funding cuts to health care or food assistance will result in drastic hardship for Minnesotans. Federal decisions also threaten funding to the state for essential services; the state receives billions of federal dollars for Medicaid alone, for example.

Stay connected to these and other updates, by [subscribing to our Budget News and Tools](#).

WHAT COMMUNITY PARTNERS SAY

"The Minnesota Budget Project has allowed me to stay informed on Minnesota's budget forecast and helped our organization in planning for our advocacy work. Thankful to have them as a partner in achieving a more just and fair society!"

SHARE YOUR CHILD CARE STORY

The cost of child care is out of reach for too many Minnesotans, and child care providers are too often underpaid for their essential work. Your story can help fight for policies that guarantee every Minnesota family has access to affordable child care and to ensure children, their families, and care providers can all thrive.

SHARE YOUR STORY:
mnbudgetproject.org/storycollection

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