



Actualizing Equity in the 2021 State Legislative Session

Since its inception, the Alliance and its member organizations and partners have recognized the important role of the state legislature and state leadership in how resources are allocated or withheld from our communities, and how policies uphold or remove barriers of structural racism and exclusion. From the eviction moratorium to business relief, 2020 made even more clear the critical role state leaders play in funding and policy decisions that directly impact the health, wealth and sustainability of our communities. For our first Actualizing Equity event of 2021, four member and partner organizations – **HOME Line, Black Women's Wealth Alliance, Move Minnesota and Sierra Club North Star Chapter** – shared the highlights of their legislative agendas.

2021 Legislative Agendas from Alliance members and partners

HOME Line

2021 Minnesota Renters' Agenda

Eviction and Expungement Reforms

More than 13,000 residential evictions are filed in Minnesota by landlords each year – at great expense to families, the communities they call home, and ALL taxpayers. HOME Line calls for a 14-day pre-eviction notice before landlords can file evictions against tenants and reforms to when eviction actions become public record and when they're expunged.

Heat and Repairs:

Too often, renters in Minnesota have little recourse when their landlords don't provide timely and required maintenance or repairs that are included in their lease. HOME Line calls for policy changes to ensure that renter households have fair access to due process and the legal right to safe and healthy living conditions.

Lease Fairness:

HOME Line calls for policy changes to ensure renter households have transparency, privacy and flexibility to make informed decisions for their financial and physical health and safety.

Learn more: homelinemn.org/public-policy

Black Women's Wealth Alliance

Stability Fund for Black Women

In Minnesota, 80% of Black women are the primary breadwinner for their households. With the pandemic and resulting economic crisis, approximately 50% of the Black workforce became unemployed, having catastrophic impact on Black women and their families. BWWA is advocating for a fund that prioritizes and recognizes the culturally specific needs of Black women to create stability, from housing to healthcare to education.

Resources for Existing and Start-Up Black-owned Businesses

A recent survey of Black businesses in Minnesota found that 62% have experienced drops in revenue, 40% are struggling to pay their bills, and 21% are at risk of closing permanently. In addition, the drastic jump in Black unemployment has created a significant increase in Black entrepreneurs and start-up businesses, for whom there are virtually no resources, compared to existing businesses.

Black Agenda

BWWA is engaging in conversations with Black legislators from across the diaspora about the issues and priorities for a Black Agenda at the state Capitol.

Learn more: bwwa-us.com

Move Minnesota

Fix our Fare Enforcement System

Minnesota lawmakers turned transit fare evasion into a crime under state law in 1983, creating the enforcement mandate currently tying the hands of transit agencies statewide. Failure to pay a \$2 fare is currently classified as a misdemeanor and earns riders a fine of \$180 and a permanent criminal record that limits future employment and housing opportunities. That criminal misdemeanor is the equivalent of charging someone with an assault or a \$500 theft. Compared to white adults, black adults have been 26% more likely and native adults 152% more likely to be cited for first-time fare evasion on the Metro Transit system. **Move MN is advocating for:**

- Rightsizing the penalty to a petty misdemeanor and a \$35 fine. A petty misdemeanor is not a crime—it's the approach we have for traffic tickets
- Creating a new Transit Ambassador program to address the underlying reasons for unpaid fares and reduce reliance on law enforcement

Transformative Transit Funding

Given the historic disinvestment in transit and disproportionate impacts that has on communities of color, we need transformative funding solutions to create transportation equity. **Move Minnesota and the Transportation Forward coalition are advocating for:**

- **\$616 million per year** for 10 years from a one cent sales tax in the metro area to build out 21 additional bus rapid transit lines, increase frequency and service, electrify the system, introduce free fares program
- **\$46 million per year** for 10 years from the highway user tax distribution fund for highway BRT in the Twin Cities metro area

[Learn more: movemn.org/our-work](https://movemn.org/our-work)

Sierra Club North Star Chapter

Commit to 100% Clean Energy

Move Minnesota toward a healthy, equitable energy future that increases good jobs, saves customers money, and ensures that climate solutions benefit those most affected by environmental injustice.

Invest in Clean Transportation

Right now, our transportation system subsidizes driving instead of providing choices for travelers. Minnesotans deserve a transportation system that protects our climate while providing clear air, safe streets, and access to opportunity, especially for communities of color, the elderly, low income families, and people with disabilities.

Increase Environmental Justice

Minnesotans of color and poor Minnesotans are disproportionately burdened by polluting industries and facilities located in their neighborhoods. The Frontline Community Protections Act, led by Communities Organizing Latinx Power and Action, would require agencies issuing permits to look beyond the impacts of the single project and review cumulative impacts of existing pollution sources and area demographics.

Improve Public Engagement

The Public Utilities Commission has a poor track record on engagement. Due to concerns raised by Sen. Patricia Torres Ray and others this issue was audited last year by the Office of Legislative Auditor. Now, there is an opportunity to push for legislation to enact needed reforms.

Learn more:

sierraclub.org/minnesota/politics-and-elections

Fresh Energy

Fresh Energy is advocating to accelerate Minnesota's clean electricity transformation while working to transform the state's economy in ways that are ambitious, equitable, and achievable. [Learn more here.](#)

All Parks Alliance for Change

All Parks Alliance for Change is advocating for resident opportunity to purchase manufactured home park communities, rent stabilization in manufactured home parks, and alternative dispute resolution for park and home owners. [Learn more here.](#)

Jewish Community Action

This session Jewish Community Action is advocating for hate crimes tracking reform; Earned Safe and Sick Time; marijuana legalization; tenant protections and criminal justice reform. [Learn more here.](#)