

Ending Poverty in Minnesota

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What Are We Doing?

- Commissions goal is to end poverty by 2020.
- 20 Member Commission has been in existence since 2007.
- Must create a report for presentation to the Minnesota Legislature by December 2008.

Why Should Anyone Care?

- Over one million Minnesotans are at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.
- Poverty costs the state billions of dollars annually in lost productivity, crime, health and human services costs, etc.
- Minnesota's chief lure to business has been an educated and highly productive workforce.

What has the Commission done?

- Listened.
- Determined what poverty looks like.
- Documented key Issues.
- Documented “Best Practices.”
- Investigated alternatives.
- Outlined tentative recommendations.
- Sought comment.

Achieving Economic Self-Sufficiency

- Expand Educational opportunity
 - Early childhood
 - Increase high school graduation rates
 - Make post-secondary education more accessible.

Achieving Economic Self-Sufficiency

- Make work pay
 - Increase minimum wage
 - Increase Working Family Credit
 - Examine tax policies
 - Encourage employers to provide opportunities for workers to improve their skills.

Achieving Economic Self-Sufficiency

- Temporary Support/Supplemental Income.
 - Eliminate distinctions between unemployed and those receiving other assistance.
 - Eliminate “cliffs” in public assistance
 - More flexible income supports.

Building Financial and Developmental Assets

- Supporting affordable housing
 - Encourage the Federal Government to invest in affordable housing programs
 - Remove unnecessary zoning restrictions
 - Require “Comprehensive Housing Plans”
 - Attention the emergency shelter needs
 - Examine the mortgage interest deduction.

Building Financial and Developmental Assets

- **Increase consumer financial literacy.**
 - Incorporate financial literacy training into the elementary and middle school curriculums.
 - Require financial literacy training as a prerequisite for certain public assistance programs.
 - Ban or further regulate certain high cost services such as “Pay-Day Loans” or Refund Anticipation Loans.

Building Financial and Developmental Assets

- Require additional disclosures for certain financial transactions
- Encourage business to develop competing non-traditional banking products.
- Investigate altering or eliminating certain “asset drawdown” requirements.
- Promote Individual Development Accounts. (IDA's)

Building Financial and Developmental Assets

- Consider the establishment of a “Baby Bond” program.

Building Financial and Developmental Assets

- Government should support those programs that nurture “developmental assets.”
- Foster one-on-one relationships between youth and caring adults.
- Support community building programs.

Building Financial and Developmental Assets

- Work to reduce teen pregnancy and support teen parents.
 - Education
 - School based clinics
 - Support programs that allow young mothers to stay in school.
 - Child rearing classes
 - Promote the rights and responsibilities of noncustodial parents.

Building Financial and Developmental Assets

- Meeting individual and community transportation needs.
 - Keep transit fares affordable
 - Eliminate transportation service gaps
 - Align transportation with economic development.
 - Support programs that sell and repair cars for low-income families at minimal cost.

Remove Barriers and Obstacles to Rising out of Poverty

- Continue to work to end racism.
 - Disparities Impact Statement
- Confront the Health Needs of the Poor.
 - Guarantee all Minnesotans access to health care including mental health treatment and chemical dependency treatment.

Remove Barriers and Obstacles to Rising out of Poverty

- Improving mental health and chemical dependency treatment
- Providing affordable and quality childcare
- Designated advocate
- Marriage, family and caregiver counseling
- Review compensation for caregiving

Remove Barriers and Obstacles to Rising out of Poverty

- Improving public awareness about the causes and solutions for poverty
- Engaging all sectors in ending poverty
- Improving rehab and re-entry programs for those coming out of corrections
 - Parole resources
 - Recommendations of the Collateral Sanctions workgroup
 - Providing support to employers

Remove Barriers and Obstacles to Rising out of Poverty

- Ensuring welfare policies support families and incent moving off of public assistance
 - Integrated comprehensive eligibility standards and application process
 - Strengthening supports and programs that address employment barriers

Thank you!

- Feedback welcomed
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