

Letter to the Minnesota Congressional Delegation

The Minnesota Council of Nonprofits and the organizations listed below wish to express our support for the inclusion of temporary federal fiscal relief to states in any second economic stimulus package that may be considered by Congress. We support both general fiscal aid to states to reduce cuts to a range of state services and a temporary increase in the federal Medicaid matching rate to mitigate possible additional state cuts that would leave more Minnesotans without health insurance.

The economic slowdown is having a sharp impact across our state. The numbers of Minnesotans visiting local food shelves to feed their families is increasing. Many Minnesotans are having difficulty finding affordable housing. People with disabilities worry about whether state budget cuts will mean the loss of essential social services.

Minnesota is one of 43 states and the District of Columbia that are facing projected budget shortfalls in the current year or next year. Our state is facing a \$426 million shortfall in the current biennium and a projected shortfall of \$4.8 billion (and another \$650 million for inflation) in the next biennium. Against this backdrop, the federal government must step forward to help states mitigate possible cuts in essential services.

Unlike the federal government that can run budget deficits, nearly all of the states, including Minnesota, are constitutionally required to balance their budgets. As the economy has weakened, Minnesota has experienced significant declines in revenue, revenue that is urgently needed to fund vital public services.

In 2003, Congress responded to an economic slowdown by providing fiscal aid to the states. This aid was provided through a temporary increase in the federal Medicaid matching rate and through general aid to the states. Minnesota received \$342 million in state aid that was used in part to avoid cuts in health care coverage for low-income Minnesotans.

Federal aid to states would be an important tool for states facing budget shortfalls, and would help states address those deficits in a way that has the least harmful impact on the economy. The National Governors' Association and the National Conference of State Legislatures also support the inclusion of state fiscal relief as a key component of an economic stimulus package. As Governor Pawlenty noted in a letter earlier this year to federal leaders from the National Governors' Association, cutting state spending as the economy weakens "will make the current downturn both longer and more severe."

We urge you to work with your colleagues in Congress to support fiscal aid to the states as part of any further economic stimulus package.

Sincerely,

Steve Francisco  
Federal Policy Director  
Minnesota Council of Nonprofits

On behalf of the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits and the following organizations:

- League of Women Voters Minnesota
- Legal Rights Center, Minneapolis
- Little Sisters of the Poor, St. Paul
- Mary T. Inc, Coon Rapids
- Meecker County Emergency Food Shelf, Litchfield
- Metro Meals on Wheels, Minneapolis
- Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers, Minneapolis
- Mid-Minnesota Legal Assistance
- Midwest Health Center for Women, Minneapolis
- Midwest Minnesota CDC, Detroit Lakes
- Minneapolis Jewish Federation
- Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans
- Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless
- Minnesota Commission Serving Deaf & Hard of Hearing People
- Minnesota Council of Child Caring Agencies
- Minnesota Council of Health Plans
- Minnesota Federal Housing Action Coalition
- Minnesota Housing Partnership
- Minnesota Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy, Prevention and Parenting
- Minnesota Social Service Association
- Minnesota Tenants Alliance
- Minnesota Workforce Council Association
- Missing Children Minnesota
- Mounds View 621 Meals on Wheels, Shoreview
- National Alliance on Mental Illness of Minnesota
- New Directions Ministries, Minneapolis
- Northeast Dinner Bells Meals on Wheels, Minneapolis
- Minneapolis
- Northwest Community Action, Badger
- Northwestern Mental Health Center, Crookston
- Northwoods Interfaith (NICB), Bemidji
- Open Arms of Minnesota, Minneapolis
- Parents United for Public Schools, St. Paul
- PATH Inc.
- Phyllis Wheatley Community Center, Minneapolis
- Pillager Family Council
- Project for Pride in Living, Minneapolis
- Prevent Child Abuse Minnesota
- RESOURCE, Inc., Minneapolis
- Rivers of Hope, Monticello
- Roseau County Committee on Aging, Roseau
- Saint Anne of Winona
- Saint Paul Area Council of Churches
- Shalom Community Alliance, St. Louis Park
- Simpson Housing Services, Inc., Minneapolis
- Southeast Minneapolis Meals on Wheels
- St. Louis Park Emergency Program
- JOBS NOW Coalition, St. Paul
- Jewish Family Service, St. Paul
- Jewish Family & Children's Service, Minneapolis
- Minnesota and the Dakotas
- Jewish Community Relations Council of
- Jewish Community Center of St. Paul
- Jewish Community Action, St. Paul
- Jason P. Wallace Foundation
- Immunization Action Coalition, St. Paul
- HSI, Washington County
- Hot Meals for Shut-Ins, Inc., Fridley
- Horizon Homes, Inc., Mankato
- Hope House of St. Croix Valley, Stillwater
- Paul
- Home of the Good Shepherd/Rose Center, Saint
- HOME Line, Minneapolis
- Hmong American Partnership, St. Paul
- Helping Hands Outreach to Elders, Holdingford
- Hearland Community Action Agency, Willmar
- Healthy Life Coaching, Maple Lake
- Maplewood
- Healing Arts Resources, Therapy & Training,
- Hastings Family Service
- Program
- Granite Falls Living at Home/Block Nurse
- Wing
- Goodhue County Habitat for Humanity, Red
- Fraser, Richfield
- Moorhead
- FM Coalition for Homeless Persons, Inc.,
- Family & Children's Service, Minneapolis
- Wanamingo
- Faith in Action-Central Goodhue County,
- Elim Transitional Housing, Inc., Minneapolis
- ElderCare Rights Alliance, Bloomington
- Elder Circle, Grand Rapids
- East Side Neighborhood Services, Minneapolis
- Duluth Adult Learning Center
- Dakota Woodlands, Eagan
- Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans
- Committee Against Domestic Abuse, Mankato
- Churches United in Ministry, Duluth
- Child Care WORKS, Minneapolis
- Center of Human Environment, Mahanomen
- Catholic Charities Office for Social Justice
- Brain Injury Association of Minnesota
- Assistive Technology of Minnesota, Maple Plain
- ArtiCulture, Minneapolis
- Arc Greater Twin Cities, St. Paul
- Anrias, Inc., Edina
- Anna Marie's Alliance, St. Cloud
- Amicus, Inc, Minneapolis
- Affirmative Options Coalition, St. Paul

Stone Soup Thrift Shop, St. Paul Park  
 Store to Door, St. Paul  
 The Arc of Minnesota  
 Therapeutic Services Agency, Inc., Pine City  
 Tiny Tots and Little Tykes Preschool & Child  
 Care Center, West St. Paul  
 Touchstone Mental Health, Minneapolis  
 Tri-County Action Program, Inc., Waite Park  
 United Jewish Fund & Council, St. Paul  
 West 7<sup>th</sup> Community Center, St. Paul  
 White Bear Area Senior Program, White Bear  
 Lake  
 Women's Foundation of Minnesota

To sign on to this letter, please fill out the information below and reply by email to [steve@mncn.org](mailto:steve@mncn.org) or fax to 651-642-1517. We will also send a copy of this letter to Governor Pawlenty and the Minnesota Legislature.

For further information or questions, please contact Steve Francisco at [steve@mncn.org](mailto:steve@mncn.org) or call 651-757-3088.

Organization Name (as you want it to appear on the letter):

Organization address:  
 Organization city/state/zip:  
 Contact person name:  
 Contact person title:  
 Contact person phone:  
 Contact person email:

