



2020 Legislative Session Summary

Updated: October 2020

Minnesota's 2020 Legislative Session and monthly Special Sessions were predominately focused on managing the public health emergency and civil unrest that emerged after George Floyd was killed while in the police custody in May 2020. Civil unrest emerged across the country, and world, as people came out to protest systemic racism and violence against Black and Brown people by police and calling for reforms.

The year began with a budget surplus of \$1.5 billion, which changed to a budget shortfall of \$1.8 billion as a result of the pandemic. A projected budget shortfall of \$4.7 billion is expected in the next biennial budget.

Below is a summary of legislative and administrative decisions impacting the Prenatal to Three Coalition Legislative priorities.

1. **Emergency Child Care Grants**

Governor Walz and Lt. Gov. Flanagan asked child care providers to stay open during the pandemic to ensure essential workers has access to child care. Since the pandemic arrived, the 2020 Legislature passed \$30 million in state funding for emergency child care grants to family and center care providers who were open and serving essential workers. An additional \$10 million in federal CARES Act CCDBG funds was designated to emergency grants to child care providers in May 2020.

During special sessions two additional requests were made by the Governor and Governor's Children's Cabinet, and approved by the Legislative Advisory Committee, to provide emergency grants to child care providers who were operating during the pandemic. These additional resources, \$46 million in July 2020 and \$53 million in September 2020, were designed to cover the public health costs of operating during the pandemic.

A total \$139 million was dedicated to child care providers for emergency grants. These resources have resulted in 90% of licensed child care providers remaining open during the public health emergency.

2. **Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)** During Special Session the Legislature passed a provider rate increases, up to 25th percentile of most recent survey (2018) for the Child Care Assistance Program, which was a \$65 million increase in funding. This legislation brings MN into minimum federal compliance and supports providers serving low income children and

families. This is a significant shift for Minnesota's 2019 Legislature session where there was discussion about eliminating the program.

3. Minnesota Department of Human Services has secured \$1 million in CARES funding to support **Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN) Care providers** to help offset additional costs of providing care during the pandemic and keeping essential workers working. Funding will also provide training to support care providers through the public health emergency. This is first public investment in FFN providers since 2009.
4. Minnesota's House of Representatives passed one of the strongest **Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML)** insurance program bills in the country during the 2019 Legislative Session. Early childhood advocates joined Minnesotan for Paid Family and Medical Leave Association and other advocates to support this effort and communicate the benefits of PFML on infants, toddlers and young families.
5. Minnesota's House of Representatives passed a **resolution recognizing racism as a public health crisis and created a House Select Committee dedicated to examining the House's legislative efforts through an intersectional race equity lens**. This committee will examine intersections with disabilities, immigration, gender, documentation status and LGBTQ+ communities. Further, the resolution states the House will pursue other practices to actively participate in dismantling racism. These other practices include reviewing House policies and practices, including human resources and vendor selection practices as well as hiring, promotions and leadership appointments.
6. The Legislature passed a **police reform bill** in July that includes 1) funding for mental health training, 2) expands the POST Board membership to include more community representation, 3) requires the board to pass a comprehensive use of force model policy to be implemented by every law enforcement agency, and 4) requires the creation of a centralized database of officer misconduct complaints.