



2023 Legislative Recap

Two out of three of Align Minneapolis' legislative priorities were passed within broader Omnibus Bills during the 2023 State legislative session. The work of Align's network during the session included over 100 actions that helped lead to these incredible changes!

Passed: Housing Support Affordability

Housing Support, formerly called GRH, is a program that houses low-income people with disabilities. Reform of the Housing Support program to make it affordable was included in the final Human Services Omnibus Budget Bill (SF 2995)! Beginning in October 2024, people in the Housing Support program receiving unearned income, such as Social Security Disability income or Veterans benefits, will pay only 30% of their income to housing (vs 80-90%), allowing them to keep more of their income for personal and household needs. This legislation was a high priority for our friends at Street Voices of Change, who worked tirelessly over the last two years to support this initiative. Congratulations to Street Voices of Change for your amazing work to uplift the voices of people with lived experience for this important change!

Passed: Building *more* Affordable Housing Units

In Minneapolis, and across Minnesota, there are not enough housing units available. Especially lacking are housing units that are affordable for lower income Minnesotans. Lack of units leads to rising rents, and housing that is unaffordable can lead to homelessness. Investment in Housing Infrastructure was passed in two different pieces of legislation. The historic \$1B Housing Bill (HF 2335) included \$200M in Housing Infrastructure investment in cash. Within the final Bonding Bill (HF 669), \$72M was committed for rehabilitation of public housing. These investments will result in more units of affordable housing being built, and current affordable housing units being protected and made safer. Additionally, changes to the tax code will provide tax relief to non-profit housing developers.

More Work to Do: Statewide Shelter Standards

The State Task Force on Shelter created recommendations for statewide standards and oversight for Homeless shelters. Two Street Voices of Change members served on this Task Force, which worked diligently over 18 months and whose work was informed by the Street Voices Shelter Resident's Bill of Rights in Hennepin County. The recommendations from the Task Force will form the basis for legislation to ensure safe and dignified shelter for those who need it across Minnesota. Unfortunately this did not result in legislation this session but will remain a priority for next session.