

Benchmarks and Progress Indicators by Strategy

The following benchmarks relate to the six recommendations strategies articulated in the Recommendations section of this report. It is important to develop and maintain a system for monitoring our progress towards these goals, whether it is someone at the Humphrey Institute, or a non-profit organization similar to the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits' "Minnesota Budget Project," which can accurately measure the progress for lack of progress, and inform the public and the legislature of its findings.

Please see the third benchmark under Strategy VI, below, on a proposed timeline to establish a system to monitor our progress.

I. Restore work as a means out of poverty.

- Ensure that all jobseekers will be able to secure stable employment at a living wage, or be assisted through a wage subsidy program by 2014.
- Reduce poverty rate among families with earned income by half by 2014 and eliminate it by 2020.
- Significantly reduce the number of jobs in Minnesota paying less than a living wage, so that no working family lives in poverty, while recognizing that not all jobs are held by workers who are supporting families with their income. *See definition of ending poverty.

II. Refocus public assistance to streamline services and support everyone's capacity and potential.

- Reduce by half the number of children living in deep poverty (below 50 percent of the poverty threshold) by 2012.
- Reduce the poverty rate among the elderly by half by 2014 and eliminate by 2020.

Poverty rate among those age 75+ in Minnesota⁴

2008	2009	2010	2011
10.5%	10.9%	10.7%	10.3%

- Reduce the poverty rate among people with disabilities by half by 2014 and eliminate by 2020.

Poverty rate among those with one or more disabilities in Minnesota⁵

2008	2009	2010	2011
19.2%	20.4%	21.1%	22.0%

⁴ <http://www.mncompass.org/economy/key-measures.php?km=poverty#1-6770-g>

⁵ <http://www.mncompass.org/demographics/key-measures.php?km=disability#1-7963-g>

- Reduce the poverty rate among the adults without children by half by 2014 and eliminate by 2020.

Poverty rate among single adults without children in Minnesota⁶

2008	2009	2010	2011
25.6%	25.4%	27.5%	27.8%

- Ensure that all public assistance programs always reward, not penalize, increased earnings.

III. Help Minnesotans build and maintain financial assets.

- Close the gap on net worth (including home ownership) between white households and American Indian and households in communities of color.
- Close the gap on net worth (including home ownership) between disabled Minnesotans and nondisabled Minnesotans.
- Reduce the number of households using usurious or predatory financial products by half by 2014 and to a negligible amount by 2020.

IV. Revitalize our communities through infrastructure and person-to-person support.

- End long-term homelessness by 2010.
- Reduce to less than 30 days the time anyone in Minnesota must spend in housing shelters by 2020.
- Reduce the number of households that spend more than 50% of their income on housing by half by 2014.

Number of Households in Minnesota spending 50 percent or more of their income on housing⁷

2008	2009	2010
266,267	276,555	282,429

- Ensure that all regions within the state will have transit services that allow people to fully participate in their community by 2014.

⁶ <http://www.mncompass.org/demographics/key-measures.php?km=disability#1-7963-g>

⁷ <http://www.mncompass.org/housing/key-measures.php?km=costburdenedhouseholds#1-4658-d>

V. Modernize our system of education to build the best workforce in the nation.

- Increase high school graduation rates for students of color and American Indian students to be equal to the rates for white students by 2014.

4-year, on time High School graduation rate by race and ethnicity⁸

	2008	2011
Minnesota		
American Indian	43.5%	42.4%
Asian	66.4%	72.5%
Black	42.6%	49.1%
White (non-Hispanic)	81.5%	83.5%
Hispanic	41.1%	50.5%

VI. Develop an ongoing structure to monitor Minnesota's efforts to end poverty.

First, the Commission would like to see the Minnesota legislature immediately seek out funding to support a permanent commission on poverty. Then, by end of session in June 2009, the following goals should be met:

- Form a permanent commission to end poverty within the Legislative Coordinating Commission.
- Call for the private and faith community sectors to form a parallel commission to advise the legislature and/or any permanent legislative commission on poverty.
- Develop, implement and maintain a system for monitoring our progress on the benchmarks using an objective, third-party organization.
- Adopt the NAS methodology as the Minnesota measurement of the official poverty level. By 2010, require that a poverty impact statement be submitted for all proposed legislation

⁸ <http://www.mncompass.org/education/key-measures.php?km=highschoolgraduation#1-6085-g>

Commission to End Poverty in Minnesota by 2020

January 2009

http://www.lcc.leg.mn/inactive/lcep/LCEP_Final_Report_SinglePgs.pdf

Benchmarks for reaching the Commission's Goals

As part of our deliberation process, we set up a working group to develop some specific benchmarks for meeting our goals. This group developed two sets of benchmarks—overarching benchmarks and benchmarks tied to the six recommendations strategies articulated in this report.

Overarching benchmarks

To reach the overall goal of ending poverty by 2020, rapid poverty reduction must occur where Minnesota's poverty rates are disproportionately high—among racial minority groups and among children. Overarching benchmarks identified by the Commission's Benchmark working group include:

- Reduce poverty rates among racial minority groups to the national average by 2012.

Poverty rate by race and ethnicity¹

	2008	2011
Minnesota		
American Indian	37.3%	40.7%
Asian	16.9%	16.9%
Black	30.1%	37.1%
White (non-Hispanic)	7.4%	8.7%
Hispanic	20.3%	24.9%
US		
American Indian	24.2%	29.5%
Asian	10.5%	12.8%
Black	24.1%	28.1%
White (non-Hispanic)	9.3%	11.0%
Hispanic	21.3%	25.8%

- Reduce poverty rates by half among all children by 2014.

Poverty rate among children (0-17) in Minnesota²

2008	2009	2010	2011
11.4%	14.1%	15.2%	15.4%

- Eliminate poverty by 2020.

Poverty rate in Minnesota³

2008	2009	2010	2011
9.6%	11.0%	11.6%	11.9%

¹ <http://www.mncompass.org/economy/key-measures.php?km=poverty#1-7158-g>, http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_08_1YR_S0201&prodType=table, http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_11_1YR_S0201&prodType=table

² <http://www.mncompass.org/economy/key-measures.php?km=poverty#1-6770-g>

³ <http://www.mncompass.org/economy/key-measures.php?km=poverty#1-6764-g>