

**Working towards final recommendations
For the Legislative Commission to End Poverty in MN**

Mission:

To improve the opportunities for a better life for Minnesotans by eliminating poverty by 2020.

To end poverty means that every Minnesotan can meet their basic needs and that a major health problem, the loss of a job, the break up of a family, a natural disaster, or any other temporary crisis will not consign anyone to permanent impoverishment.

Progress will be measured using an income standard that includes cash-like benefits, such as food stamps, housing vouchers, and the earned income tax credit (EITC).

Goals: To identify policies that would successfully end poverty by:

- Helping people achieve economic self sufficiency and meet their family's economic needs by improving their capacity to earn income.
- Helping people and communities accumulate and advance financial and developmental assets.
- Removing barriers and obstacles to rising out of poverty and accessing temporary help while in poverty.

What are the values we seek in any policies that would be pursued?

- Work is the primary and most desirable means to income.
- Work should be rewarded.
- A strong economy and an equitable society offer opportunity for advancement.
- Personal responsibility is a key element in achieving economic prosperity.
- Our state and our communities are strongest and healthiest when we have an economic infrastructure in which everyone can actively participate, including those whose disabilities, age, and struggling circumstances which often result in their being marginalized.

What criteria should the commission consider in evaluating policy proposals?

- Evidence of impact: Is there evaluation evidence (experimental or non-experimental) to show that this policy has a positive impact? If there is evidence of impact, is there evidence of the potential magnitude of the impact?
- Cost effectiveness: If there is evidence of impact, is there also evidence of cost-effectiveness of the recommendation?
- Timeframe: How likely is it that the recommendation would contribute to reducing poverty within the 2020 timeframe?
- Impact on racial disparities: Is there evidence that the policy would have impact on poverty rates in communities of color?
- Geographic impact: Is there evidence or analysis to indicate that the policy would have impact on regions where poverty is most significant?

The final recommendations of the commission should include:

- Recommendations for legislative action.
- Acknowledgement of the political and funding challenges of implementing the proposal.
- Realistic roles and recommendations to the federal government, local governments, the private sector, and faith communities for policies that need their action.
- Identification of an entity to oversee progress on the recommendations and Minnesota's progress.
- Measurable benchmarks for the years 2012 and 2016 to indicate whether Minnesota is moving toward its goal of ending poverty by 2020.
- Means by which the state can increase engagement with non-governmental entities in pursuing an end to poverty in Minnesota.