

# Workgroup Recommendation Worksheet

## Group 1 Recommendations

- A. Allow a diminishing percentage of federal income tax deductions count as Minnesota tax deductions as income rises.
- B. Cap or reduce a single deduction that is used by families at high income levels, i.e. the mortgage interest deduction, and reallocate to credits received by families at low income levels, i.e. the Working Family Tax Credit.
- C. Raise the minimum wage.
- D. Index the minimum wage.
- E. Combine work support programs with unemployment and assign a single case manager who identifies their needs and program eligibility.
- F. Revise eligibility criteria to eliminate “cliffs” and create a more effective package of supports for the family based on its needs.
- G. Seek federal waivers to combine supports in ways that remove disincentives to work.
- H. Create “structured” jobs for the hardest to employ to enable them to gain needed skills and work experience. This could be in the form of a “Green WPA.”
- I. Help the lowest income people out of poverty with incentives to work by using their income supports as a wage subsidy rather than a living-in-poverty subsidy.
- J. Provide income supports in the form of “accounts” which can be withdrawn for specified purposes such as childcare, food, housing, transportation.
- K. Expand training programs that lead to jobs with career pathways.
- L. Explore changes to rules that limit or prohibit those who receive disability entitlement benefits from participating in the workforce.
- M. Find ways to ensure that the value of support programs for those who cannot work, such as social security, does not erode over time.
- N. Provide free, quality pre-school to a targeted set of children whose parents are in poverty or unable to work.
- O. Make sure that every parent has the means necessary to provide their child with quality childcare.

P. Build on the targeted scholarship program that is already in place in Minnesota and seems to be having some success.

Q. Commit to two years of post-secondary education for every young adult who graduates from a Minnesota high school.

R. Create a “baby bonds” program that sets aside a tax-free account for post-secondary education with an initial gift from the State at birth.

S. Increase youth access to adults (school counselors, community or church members, etc.) who help foster an interest in higher education from a young age.

T. Expand the Community School model.

U. Expand career-oriented high schools.

V. Ensure that funding targeted for low-income students, i.e. Compensatory Revenue, is used the way it is intended and look at expanding such targeted funding.

W. Create stronger connections between GED programs and MNSCU to better facilitate the transition into higher education and/or training.

X. Expand out-of-school learning opportunities for low-income kids.

Y. Expand the use of interventions that have been proven to improve educational outcomes for low-income students.

## Group 2 Recommendations

- A. Increase number of Housing Choice Vouchers
- B. Fully fund HRA operating costs
- C. Provide tax incentives to spur private investment in affordable housing
- D. Federal subsidies for upkeep and renovation of public housing
- E. State should review zoning laws for unnecessary restrictions on affordable housing
- F. Require municipalities to create comprehensive housing plans
- G. Develop a spectrum of housing and increase funding for emergency shelters.
- H. Require an affordable housing plan whenever business receive tax credits
- I. Review uses of mortgage interest deduction
- J. Consider limiting the mortgage interest deduction.
- K. Examine the feasibility of creating an asset building vehicle for renters that provides the asset building value of the mortgage interest deduction.
- L. Incorporate financial literacy into elementary and secondary curriculums.
- M. Required financial literacy and establishment of bank accounts as condition for public assistance.
- N. Encourage faith, business and non-profits to make financial literacy programs available.
- O. Ban certain financial practices such as pay-day loans.
- P. Give consumers more information on certain financial transactions.
- Q. Encourage the business community to create competing products.
- R. Encourage or require government institutions to do a better job of scrutinizing for predatory practices.
- S. Review asset drawdown requirements.
- T. Expand IDA's in Minnesota.

- U. Support “Baby Bond” as a means of help low-income families accumulate wealth.
- V. Support the development of programs to identify and promote “developmental assets”
- W. Stress the importance of one on one caring relationships.
- X. Commission recognizes the unique role faith community plays
- Y. Encourage the development of training programs that build community support systems.
- Z. Make education the cornerstone of teen pregnancy reduction strategies.
- AA. State should assist in funding more school based clinics
- BB. Impliment strategies to identify teens exhibiting “at risk” behaviors and work to build “developmental assets” in these at-risk youth.
- CC. Provide comprehensive support to teen parents.
- DD. Keep transit fares at affordable levels
- EE. Eliminate service gaps, ect.
- FF. Create state level commission.
- GG. Minnesota should strive to align development strategies, transportation investment, ect.
- HH. Support nonprofit programs that sell or give cars to low-income individuals.
- II. Expand human services transportation. Coordinate to provide transportation alternative for rural residents.
- JJ. Remove barriers to establishment of regular route transit services.
- KK. Investigate innovations in cooperative ownership of automobiles.
- LL. Engage employers and the business community in transportation solutions.

### **Group 3 Recommendations**

- A. Public awareness campaign to educate Minnesotans about poverty.
- B. Develop a “Disparities Impact Statement” to assess impact of legislation on increasing or decreasing disparities.
- C. Faith organizations and others to develop initiatives to educate Minnesota children on compassion and respect for others.
- D. “Designated Advocate” to help individuals navigate access to needed services.
- E. Training initiative to help community members identify mental illness.
- F. Access to marriage and family counseling.
- G. Compensate caregivers regardless of whether they are relatives.
- H. Community centered implementation of program services and policies for ex-offenders.
- I. Development of integrated, comprehensive process for determining eligibility for publicly funded programs.
- J. Support strengthening services and programs which address employment barriers.
- K. Access to high quality childcare.
- L. Access to health care.