

Governor's Council on Economic Expansion: Meeting 6 Agenda

Date: 10/18/2021
Time: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Location: Virtual

Objective

Understand the impact of the pandemic's effect in underrepresented communities, confirm guiding principles, and identify themes for recommendations.

Schedule

2:00 PM	Meeting convenes
2:00 PM – 2:10 PM	Welcome and update on guiding principles
2:10 PM – 3:00 PM	Panel: Economic insight and viewpoints from groups and communities identified by the Council <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Melanie Benjamin, Chief Executive, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe• Brenda Hilbrich, Executive Vice President, SEIU Healthcare Minnesota• Marcus Pope, Vice President, Youthprise
3:00 PM – 3:15 PM	Introduction to mapping of priorities and themes
3:15 PM – 3:50 PM	Small group discussions
3:50 PM – 4:00 PM	Closing and call for further input
4:00 PM	Meeting adjourns

Supporting Materials

- Governor's Council on Economic Expansion Guiding Principles - Draft
- Mapping of Themes and Priorities - Draft
- Decision-Making Process for Recommendations
- Governor's Council on Economic Expansion Meeting Schedule
- Speaker Biographies

Governor's Council on Economic Expansion Guiding Principles

The Governor's Council on Economic Expansion is established to catalyze progress toward an equitable, inclusive, sustainable, and resilient economy.

The purpose of the Council is to reimagine Minnesota's economic future and recommend policies and strategies for the public, private, and nonprofit sectors that will support shared economic prosperity.

The Council provides an opportunity to center workers in our rebuilding of the economy and further attack poverty, which are priorities of our Administration.

By November 15, 2021, the council will recommend to the Governor and Lieutenant Governor:

- Immediate actions that can be taken by the public, private, and nonprofit sectors.
- Policy changes and investments for potential enactment during the 2022 legislative session, including recommendations on ways that Minnesota might leverage remaining American Rescue Plan dollars to advance equitable economic growth.

What are our guiding principles?

Draft for discussion

- Using one-time dollars effectively.
- Driving equitable outcomes for those who face systematic barriers.
- Amplifying and scaling programs that are successful, in particular, those that are community-developed.
- Investing in innovation that enhances impact.
- Accelerating systemic long-term changes.
- Addressing multiple needs.

Governor's Council on Economic Expansion: Mapping of Themes and Priorities

Draft Updated: 10/15/2021

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to track what Council members have shared as insights, values, and possible solutions; and to organize the information under draft themes/priorities.

Ask of the Council from Executive Order (due November 15, 2021)

- Immediate actions that can be taken by the public, private, and nonprofit sectors.
- Policy changes and investments for potential enactment during the 2022 legislative session, including recommendations on ways that Minnesota might leverage remaining American Rescue Plan dollars to advance equitable economic growth.

General questions the Council is considering

- How can short-term dollars impact these?
- Will the impact be long-term and sustainable?
- Does this drive equitable outcomes?
- Does this get at systemic challenges holding the state back?
- Are there partners ready to jump on this solution or topic?
- What is the scale/scope of this problem?
- Would there be impactful change if the entire funding need was not met? (ex. Build more affordable housing units, but not every single housing unit that would be needed to house everyone in MN)
- Does this solution address multiple topics and issues?

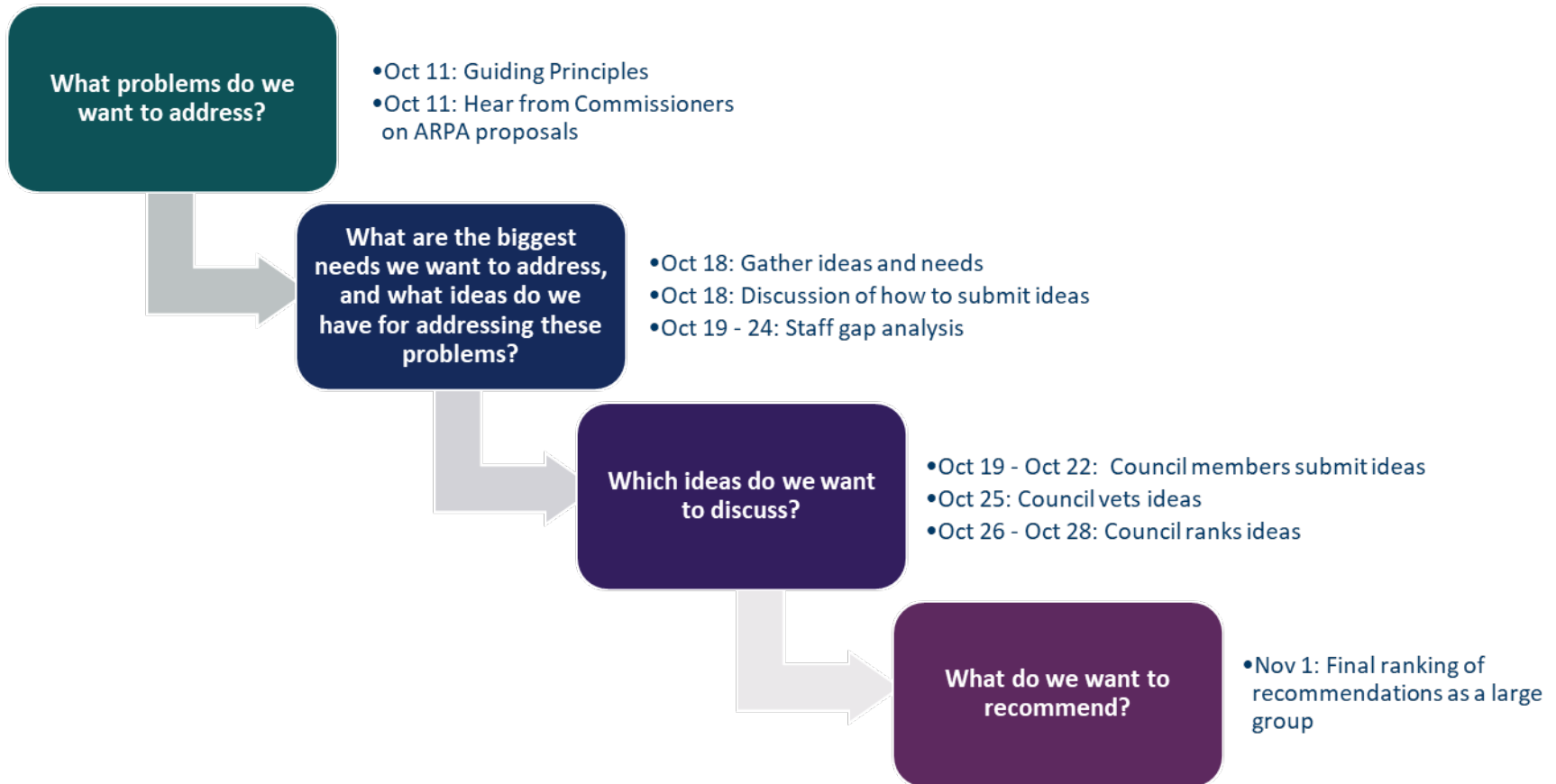
Draft Themes/Priorities	What did we learn?	What are our areas of focus and values?	What are our solutions?
Cultural communities (Culturally-specific delivery) <i>*Overarching concept across all themes</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Culturally diverse communities do not always have access to culturally-relevant resources. Challenges are similar across communities. Some communities are struggling for basic resources. Many people in BIPOC communities are in survival mode. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community is important in all its forms. Recovery vs (re)building our economy - Preparing our communities to be a part of building for the future. Have communities identify and define their own problems. Focus on programs that are already working, in particular community developed programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to current grants/funding/programs could be more equitable
Mental health <i>*Overarching concept across all themes</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The tie between mental health and wellness is important. Individuals and communities need to recover before we can rebuild. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eliminate silos of systems, and be holistic in the approach. Create a sense of community, and support safety. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve access to counselors in schools.
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing is a major issue. Addressing housing needs, in particular housing supply, is complex. Affordable housing needs to be built by workers being paid living wages. The state may need to offer incentives to make developments viable when using living wages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address basic needs (housing). Increase housing availability. Keep culturally-specific housing needs in mind, such as inter-generational housing. Focus on workforce housing and housing that can help advance homeownership. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pay for additional affordable housing units to increase supply. Create incentives for developers to build additional affordable housing units. Decrease barriers to housing construction, such as zoning changes. Subsidize housing down payments.

Draft Themes/Priorities	What did we learn?	What are our areas of focus and values?	What are our solutions?
<p>Workforce (expansion, reskilling, career paths)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considerable disparities exist between "low level" and "high level" positions, especially in the context of race and gender. • There is a mismatch between job openings and the unemployed. • Major staffing challenges exist in the health care sector. • The non-profit business community was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and supporting them can be a way to assist marginalized, culturally-specific businesses. • Reducing barriers to entering the workforce and "moving up" within the workforce are both important. • Supporting health care and long term care workforces has implications for overall community health. • Existing programs continue to lead to inequity (there are disparities in outcomes). In the manufacturing industry women/BIPOC communities are not being trained despite the commitment to equity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organized labor supports eliminating systematic issues. • Address disparities across different industries. • Provide everyone with the opportunity to work. • Create jobs that represent the sustainable future we are trying to achieve, such as building electric transportation, and solar installations. • Avoid developing discriminatory practices. • Reduce barriers for youth to enter the workforce, and facilitate training for career paths. • Tap into other pools of talent. • Amplify and scale programs that have proven success, in particular those that are community-developed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure government service delivery meets communities' needs. • Improve job pathways by encouraging job growth, job training, and repurposing of skills. • Create grants to help people upskill. • Incorporate "job coaches" to support workers. • Support apprenticeships and incentives for training a skilled labor workforce. • Support incarcerated people and raise standards for this job pathway. • Innovate in industries that are already more diverse.

Draft Themes/Priorities	What did we learn?	What are our areas of focus and values?	What are our solutions?
Entrepreneurship and small businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entrepreneurs experienced disparate outcomes from the pandemic. • The largest barrier for entrepreneurs is start-up capital. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep Minnesota businesses in Minnesota. • Entrepreneurship needs to be promoted and supported. • Support entrepreneurs, especially those in historically-marginalized communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase availability of capital for entrepreneurs and small businesses (e.g. provide matching funding). • Provide loans without crippling high interest rates. • Create specific supports for the construction industry for small businesses and entrepreneurs. • Support non-profits to support entrepreneurs.
Child care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older generations are providing unpaid child care and reducing labor force participation. • Access to quality child care is inconsistent because the jobs have low pay, but the cost for parents is high. • Access to pre-K programs is disparately available to people with higher income. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support intra-family care. • Ensure that statewide solutions are not at the expense of local informal infrastructure. • Address basic needs that enable parents to work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make pre-K part of the normal school system.
Health care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health care availability impacts the economic security of a household and workers. • Health coverage is generally unaffordable for small businesses, and it is hard to recruit employees without offering this stability. • There are not enough people working in the health care and long term care industries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable health care is a basic need. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruit or reskill people to fill open health care positions. • Scale health insurance costs for small businesses.

Draft Themes/Priorities	What did we learn?	What are our areas of focus and values?	What are our solutions?
Rural communities and Greater Minnesota	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater Minnesota has unique challenges and opportunities. There are jobs available in Greater Minnesota, but no housing for entry-level employees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural communities have different needs than urban communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand broadband. Create work force housing where there are open jobs.
Youth employment and engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The COVID-19 pandemic created a disruption in career pathways for young people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth/young adult perspective is critical as they are the future (near and long-term) work force. Provide opportunity and access for youth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create customized training and education to help build career ladders. Add high school curriculum similar to that in Europe, which teaches vocational skills. Help fund paid internships. Work with schools to create tailored programs.

Decision-Making Process for Recommendations



Governor's Council on Economic Expansion Meeting Schedule

Meeting Date/Time	Purpose
September 15 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	<p>Objective: Kick-off Council and discuss process, hear Council member introductions and priorities, and learn Minnesota's population forecast.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governor and Lieutenant Governor kick-off • Council member introductions and process orientation • Presentation: Minnesota's population for the next 10 years
September 20 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.	<p>Objective: Understand the impact of the pandemic's effect on the economy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation: Minnesota's economic future • Panel: Pandemic's effects on Minnesota's economy • Small and large group discussions
September 27 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.	<p>Objective: Understand the impact of the pandemic's effect in the BIPOC communities, and identify values, guideline, and restrictions the Council should hold as it continues to work toward recommendations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel: Pandemic's impact on the BIPOC communities • Presentation: Guidelines and restrictions for spending ARP funds • Small and large group discussions
October 4 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.	<p>Objective: Understand how current employers view the challenges and opportunities of Minnesota's economic future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel: Current employers' views of Minnesota's economic future • Presentation: Equity in the economy • Small group discussions
October 11 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.	<p>Objective: Discuss a summary of the priorities and values identified by the Council with the entities named in the Executive Order, identify equitable economic growth opportunities, and determine any additional content or viewpoints needed to be able to move toward making recommendations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel: Meet with representatives from entities named in the Executive Order • Presentation: ARP priorities overview • Small group discussions • Identify guiding principles
October 18 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.	<p>Objective: Understand the impact of the pandemic's effect in underrepresented communities, confirm guiding principles, and identify themes for recommendations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm guiding principles • Panel: Economic insight and viewpoints from groups and communities identified by the Council • Introduction to mapping of priorities and themes • Small group discussions • Review next steps for providing input
October 25 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.	<p>Objective: Discuss emerging recommendations and theme priorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation: Ideas submitted as Council priorities • Small group discussions based on thematic groups of priorities • Large group discussion of refined priorities

Meeting Date/Time	Purpose
November 1 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.	<p>Objective: Refine priorities and recommendations, and consider impacts and unintended consequences of those.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation: Priorities with the most votes • Identify solutions that cross multiple priority areas or sectors to promote shift in the system • Final ranking of recommendations using guiding principles
November 8 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.	<p>Objective: Present recommendations to the Governor and Lieutenant Governor.</p>
November 15 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.	<p>Objective: Discuss phase two meeting structure and subcommittees.</p>

Speaker Biographies – October 18, 2021

Melanie Benjamin | Chief Executive, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin leads the Executive Branch of tribal government, which implements Band laws and programs. As Chief Executive of the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Benjamin is statutorily responsible for conducting external relations on the Band's behalf with all other governments and political subdivisions. Benjamin was first elected Chief Executive in 2000, and was re-elected in 2004, 2008, 2012 and 2016.

Benjamin first gained experience in tribal government in 1989 when she was recruited by the late Arthur Gahbow to serve as his chief of staff in the position of Commissioner of Administration, a role which she held between 1989 and 1997, and which is the top appointed position in Band government. After Art's passing, Benjamin continued in this post throughout 1997 under the late Marge Anderson. Benjamin has also served as Senior Vice President of Administration and Finance at Grand Casino Hinckley, and as Interim Director of the Pine Grove Leadership Academy. Benjamin has been active on many boards and organizations throughout the state and nation. She is a board member of the American Indian Law Resource Center, the Minnesota Board on Aging, Women Empowering Women for Indian Nations, the U.S. Attorney General's Tribal Nations Leadership Council, the National Indian Gaming Association (alternate), and is a past Secretary and Vice Chair for the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.

Benjamin earned a master's degree in education from the University of Minnesota Duluth and a Business Administration degree from Bemidji State University. The daughter of the late Frances Reynolds and George Staples, Benjamin is the mother of Clayton (Candace) Benjamin and the proud grandmother of 11 beautiful grandchildren and a member of the drum society.



Brenda Hilbrich | Executive Vice President, SEIU Healthcare Minnesota

Brenda Hilbrich began her work as an organizer with SEIU Healthcare Minnesota (SEIU HCMN) in 1998. She continued her work in SEIU with the international union and locals in Wisconsin and New York before returning to SEIU HCMN in 2005. She has served as a member of the senior leadership team at SEIU HCMN for the last 16 years as the Director of the Member Action Center and Education, Chief of Staff and was elected as Executive Vice president in 2020. She has used her leadership to lead and push for needed changes to ensure that SEIU HCMN remains a powerful voice for workers in Minnesota. She has organized new members, led negotiations for pattern setting contracts and first contracts, redesigned how we execute member grievances and representation, and developed new and expanded member leader programs to increase member engagement. She also serves SEIU HCMN as a Trustee of the Twin City Hospital Workers' Pension Fund and as a member of the Saint Paul Regional Labor Federation board. She earned a B.A. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and an M.Ed from the University of Minnesota. She lives in Saint Paul with her family.



Marcus Pope | Vice President, Youthprise

Marcus Pope is the current Vice President and Incoming President at Youthprise (2022). Having joined Youthprise in 2011, Marcus has been an integral part of Youthprise's success as he has forged key partnerships with non-profits, government agencies and grantmaking entities to create opportunities for youth throughout Minnesota. Growing up in Saint Paul's Frogtown Neighborhood, Pope benefitted for high quality child and youth development opportunities at the Hallie Q Brown Center and the Science Museum of Minnesota. These experiences and opportunities – along with the crime, community violence and inequity he witnessed throughout childhood - inspired him as an adolescent to pursue a career in youth development. He began his tenure with Youthprise as Director of Strategic Initiatives and Outreach, joining the organization at its inception and serving on the founding leadership team. Pope was promoted to Vice President in 2017.



A respected leader in the Twin Cities' nonprofit community, Marcus has served as a member of several boards and committees. He currently sits on the board of directors for the Minnesota Council on Foundations and the Mardag Foundation, and he was recently selected to join the board of the Andrus Fund within the Surdna Foundation. Additional civic leadership and involvement includes his current service as a Trustee for Wallin Education Partners and the Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library.

In 2020, Marcus received a Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal's 40 Under 40 Award for his leadership and service to the Twin Cities community. He was also selected as part of the 2018 Twin Cities cohort of the coveted Harvard Business School Young American Leaders Program. Marcus holds an interdisciplinary undergraduate degree and a Master's degree from the U of M in Education – Youth Development Leadership, with an emphasis in Program Evaluation. He also holds a Mini-MBA from the University of St. Thomas' Opus College of Business.