



Governor Walz's Supplemental Budget

Emergency Response and Preparedness

Minnesotans know the importance of being prepared for emergencies—having plans in place and resources stocked and ready. Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan are committed to ensuring that the State of Minnesota is prepared for whatever comes our way. That's why their number one priority in their 2020 supplemental budget proposal is to maintain our state's savings account. From there, their proposal addresses emergency response and critical preparedness needs across the state.



REPLENISH THE BUDGET RESERVE

The Governor and Lt. Governor recommend replenishing the state budget reserve account. At the end of the 2019 legislative session, a law was passed to reduce the budget reserve balance by \$491.369 million on the first day of the next fiscal year to ensure a positive projected budgetary balance. The use of the budget reserve is no longer necessary to maintain a projected budgetary balance in the next fiscal year. The Governor and Lt. Governor recommend replenishing that amount to keep the state's savings account strong.



PROTECT MINNESOTANS FROM COVID-19

Minnesota has a strong public health sector. To keep Minnesotans safe during a potential outbreak of COVID-19, the Governor and Lt. Governor's budget includes funding to prepare and respond to the illness. This funding has already been signed into law and will cover staffing expertise, laboratory supplies and personal protective equipment, resources to local public health, and related response costs. The Governor and Lt. Governor are monitoring the situation and will request additional funds as needs arise.



PREPARE FOR NATURAL DISASTERS

The Governor and Lt. Governor recommend replenishing the Disaster Assistance Contingency Account, which speeds up the recovery process for communities burdened with damages to public property and infrastructure like roads, utilities, and public buildings. The account has been depleted and there are no funds remaining to address future natural disasters. This recommendation is anticipated to provide sufficient funding to respond to natural disasters that occur during the next 12-18 months.



RESPOND TO MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS

Minnesotans across the state are hit hard by mental health crises. And our state's farmers, veterans, and students can be the most impacted. The Governor and Lt. Governor's supplemental budget provides funding to enhance farm and rural mental health support programming, provide mental health resources to veterans to support independent living, and enable school districts to hire additional licensed mental health and support professionals.



KEEP COMMUNITIES SAFE

Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan are committed to keeping communities across Minnesota safe. The Governor and Lt. Governor recommend several investments in community safety, including investments in staffing and technology to help Minnesotans report crime and threats to our schools, places of worship and throughout our communities. The proposal includes funding for grants to community groups who have been successful at reducing violent crimes in their own communities.

Additionally, the Governor and Lt. Governor recommend purchasing and installing security scanners to monitor the location of staff and offenders in state correctional facilities, purchasing and maintaining body cameras for use by correctional officers, and expanding employee support initiatives to ensure their mental and physical health needs are met.



INVEST IN SOLVING CRIMES

The Governor and Lt. Governor recommend creating a centralized storage, tracking, and testing system at the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) for all sexual assault examination kits in Minnesota. This funding will improve access to information for victims, address the current backlog of kits that have not been submitted to BCA for testing, and better coordinate all future testing. Included in the proposal are additional resources for the state crime lab to help local investigators solve crimes through additional investments in DNA and ballistics testing.



IMPROVE TRANSIT SAFETY

The Governor and Lt. Governor recommend new funding for additional safety measures for Metro Transit so that all Minnesotans can ride safely. This recommendation would create an administrative citations program to improve fare compliance, add police officers and support staff to enhance officer presence and improve response times, and allow personnel to monitor live video on light rail to more promptly identify and respond to incidents.



PREVENT FARM ACCIDENTS

Too many Minnesota families have lost loved ones to preventable farming accidents. The Governor and Lt. Governor recommend grant funding for farm safety to retrofit tractor roll-over protection systems and create a grain bin safety reimbursement program to protect farmers from the real dangers they face every day. Additionally, this recommendation will fund a farm safety outreach campaign.



MAKE MINNESOTA REAL ID READY

All Minnesotans must be REAL ID ready by October 1, 2020 in order to board commercial flights and access federal buildings. The Governor and Lt. Governor recommend funding for temporary staff in the Driver and Vehicle Services (DVS) unit to reduce the current and expected future backlog of driver license applications. DVS has a growing driver license backlog, and without additional staffing, applicants will not receive their REAL ID by the October deadline.



COMBAT YOUTH VAPING EPIDEMIC

As a father of two teenagers, Governor Walz is deeply concerned about the youth vaping epidemic in Minnesota. The Governor and Lt. Governor recommended funding for tobacco and vaping prevention will allow the Department of Health to launch a counter-marketing and education campaign and provide community and youth engagement grants. A tobacco counter-marketing campaign changes youth attitudes, perceptions, and behaviors to prevent initiation and promote cessation of tobacco and tobacco-related products. Community grants will be given to youth organizations and tribal nations to prevent and reduce youth tobacco, nicotine, and e-cigarette use. The proposal is estimated to reach 657,000 Minnesota youth between the ages of 10-18 years old.



PROVIDE EMERGENCY SHELTER

The Governor and Lt. Governor recommend additional funds for the Emergency Services Program (ESP). ESP provides grants to local agencies to address homelessness. These grants will fund street outreach, day shelter, motel vouchers, and emergency shelter for Minnesotans experiencing homelessness. This proposal would provide additional emergency shelter to approximately 1,500 Minnesotans and outreach services to an additional 375.

Additionally, to support the goal of ending Veterans homelessness in Minnesota, the Governor and Lt. Governor recommend providing 150 rental housing vouchers annually for Veterans - who are not eligible for federal VA services - experiencing homelessness and their families. In addition to housing vouchers, Veterans in need would also be provided with mental health and other wraparound services to support independent living.



ADDRESS CHILD CARE SHORTAGE

The Governor and Lt. Governor recommend increasing Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) rates to help families afford the cost of childcare. CCAP serves approximately 15,000 families and 30,000 children each month. The Governor and Lt. Governor's recommendation would increase maximum rates to the 30th percentile every three years with each new market survey. Up to 80% of families and their providers would see an increase in their CCAP rates as a result of this recommendation. Additionally, this recommendation updates CCAP requirements for unlicensed childcare providers. If this recommendation is not funded, Minnesota will continue to be out of compliance with Child Care Development Block Grant requirements and could face a penalty of up to 5 percent of the federal funding.

Additionally, the Governor and Lt. Governor recommend funding for the Childcare Economic Development Grant program. The program awards funding to communities to increase the supply of childcare providers and support regional economic development. It is estimated that with this additional investment, over \$10 million in local matching funds will be leveraged with 4,000-6,000 more children throughout the state receiving childcare.