

# Federal Issue Highlights 2022

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## Local Decision-Making Authority

Locally elected mayors and councilmembers are in the best position to determine what health, safety, and welfare regulations will have the greatest benefit for their constituents. City officials rose to every challenge that the COVID-19 pandemic presented and responded by addressing their individual community's pressure points. **We urge Congress** to work to strengthen the federal, state, and municipal relationship to assist cities with COVID-19 recovery and beyond and preserve the critical principle of local control that allows cities to respond to locally identified needs.

## Affordable Housing

Affordable housing is the smartest investment we can make in Minnesota's future and will help bolster local economic recovery. Even with innovation at the local level, cities across Minnesota are experiencing challenges in attracting affordable housing development and preserving existing housing stock. These challenges have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which slowed housing production and disrupted supply chains. **We urge Congress** to support essential affordable housing investments in the Build Back Better Act, which will help construct and rehabilitate more than 1 million affordable homes; to support federal programs that help state and local governments increase housing; and ensure that federal funding supports the full housing spectrum and is flexible enough to meet diverse, locally identified housing needs.

## Wireless Siting

Minnesota cities help provide next-generation wireless services by offering access to city assets and public rights of way for wireless equipment. Wireless companies pay city expenses for processing applications and reasonable rent for use of city assets. While cities are eager to support access to new technologies, they must retain authority to protect the needs of residents. In 2018, the FCC adopted rules that broadly preempted cities from reasonably regulating the deployment of small cell wireless facilities placed in the public right-of-way and on city-owned assets. **We urge Congress** to nullify the 2018 FCC small cell rule and oppose any legislation that further erodes local authority over the siting of wireless equipment.

## Infrastructure Funding

Minnesota cities applaud Congress' passage of the historic Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), which will provide transformational funding to address transportation, water, wastewater, and broadband infrastructure. **We urge Congress** to build on the success of the IIJA and pave the way to provide sustained federal infrastructure funding as well as encourage federal agencies to provide clear guidance that allows cities of all sizes to have equitable access to federal funds.

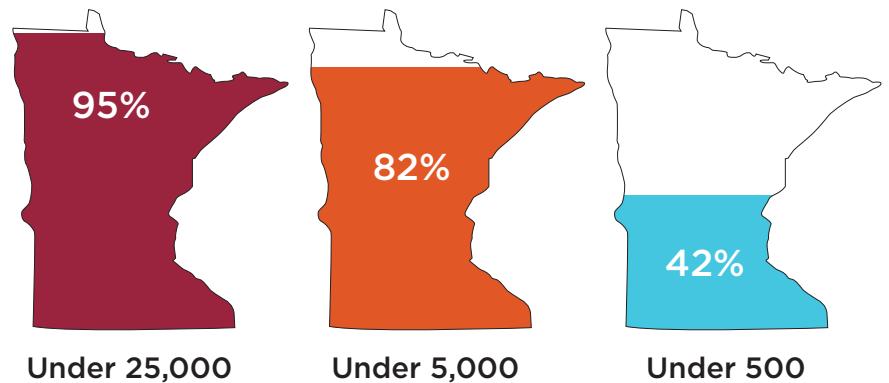
## Workforce Development

While demand grows for workforce expansion to support local and national economic recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. remains behind most other developed countries in workforce development investment. The need for workforce development resources and tools is important now more than ever. For state and local economies to emerge stronger, we need to meet the skill and employment needs of today's workers and employers. **We urge Congress** to increase federal workforce development funding and to commit to a substantial increase in workforce training funding to meet shifting business demands across all sectors.

# The Nonpartisan Voice of All Minnesota Cities

The League of Minnesota Cities advocates on behalf of Minnesota cities, connecting the work of local governance to the legislative processes in St. Paul and Washington, D.C.

## MINNESOTA'S 854 CITIES BY POPULATION



**The League of Minnesota Cities serves as the single most important advisor, advocate, and partner for all Minnesota cities.**

In addition to advocacy at the Capitol, the League serves its members through:

- Education and training
- Insurance and risk management (LMC Insurance Trust)
- Guidance and analysis on member issues
- Problem-solving and mediation services
- Research and information resources



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