

# NORTHSIDE POLICY ACTION COALITION (NORTHSIDE-PAC) 2011 POLICY AGENDA

*Every challenge presents a possibility!*

## **Education Reform**

- Closing the academic achievement gap between children growing up in low-income communities and their more affluent peers requires creating multiple strategies.
  - **Alternative Certification**  
To establish an alternative teacher preparation program as is done in most states that allows alternate route teachers, known as “residents,” to complete the requirements for the standard license while teaching and create a resident teacher license on which the resident teaches until completing the alternate route program.

## **Jobs and Economic Development**

- Create Jobs and economic development opportunities for people of color, low-income residents and those coming out of jail or prison.
- Help individuals and families affected by the foreclosure crisis to get back on their feet.
- Support Green initiatives and the creation of jobs and training opportunities in the Green Color Economy.
- Foster an environment for minority owned and small businesses to be birthed and sustained
  - LRT Transportation Routes in North Minneapolis including the Bottineau Transitway that will have direct benefits, opportunities and impact on people that live in and travel through north Minneapolis and on minority and women owned businesses located in north and along the transitway.

## **Northside - PAC Supports:**

- Gov. Mark Dayton signing of an Executive Order to force state agencies to adhere to MN Statue 16C.16 Federal rule to foster inclusion of small business procurement.
- Increased state and federal funding for the City of Minneapolis summer youth employment program and adult job training and employment programs. (Past appropriations have provided approximately 1000 young people with jobs.)

## **Health and Wellness**

- Expand Medicaid and Medicaid enrolment
- Extend or fully restore General Assistance Medical Care (GAMC)
  - Support health care coverage for all that includes a comprehensive benefit set that emphasizes primary and preventive care and includes physical health, mental health, substance abuse, dental services, medications and quality interpreter and translation services.
  - Sufficient funding for and improved access to General Assistance Medical Care, Minnesota Care, Medical Assistance, and urban family planning programs.

## **Northside - PAC Supports:**

Gov. Mark Dayton signing an Executive Order to trigger the “Medical Assistance Opt-In” for Minnesota. This Executive Order will pave the way for up to 95,000 low-income Minnesotans to gain secure, affordable health care coverage in 2011. It will also bring \$1.2 billion in federal funds to Minnesota to support local hospitals and other providers. Signed 1-5-2011

## **Re-Entry and Racial Justice**

- Push for and support fair, equitable and responsible policies and laws that assist individuals who have broken the law and have been incarcerated and or punished for the crimes they have committed to make amends, become a positive contributor to their family and community and be fully restored to society.
  - Racial Impact Statements- Legislators should examine the potential racial impact of proposed sentencing legislation prior to enactment.
  - Expand Ban the Box to include private employers/ Minnesota Hiring Advantage Minnesota is now the first state to require all public employers to wait until someone has been selected for a job interview before inquiring about criminal records (“Ban the Box” bill)
  - Legislation supporting the re-entry of ex-offenders into their communities, such as voting rights, public/private training and employment programs, and access to affordable housing.

## **Northside – PAC Supports:**

The Minnesota Second Chance Coalition advocates for fair and responsible laws, policies, and practices that allow those who have committed crimes to redeem themselves, fully support themselves and their families, and contribute to their communities to their full potential.

- Restore right to vote for felons living in the community
- Expand the types of criminal records that are eligible for sealing
- Ensure that everyone, regardless of means or background, is treated equally and fairly through every part of the criminal justice system.
- Maximize the ability of ex-offenders to access employment, housing and education, and to become fully contributing members of their communities.
- Ensure that juvenile offenders are not limited in their ability to become successful adults.
- Limit the potentially adverse impact of the criminal justice system on children and families.

## **Work with the City of Minneapolis:**

- Legislation supporting significant gun control measures including the mandatory reporting of any lost or stolen firearm, strengthening laws regulating the transfer of firearms, the prohibition of possessing replica guns in public, and measures to stop the flow of handguns to youth.
- Allow law enforcement to withhold data when access to the data would reveal the identity of a victim of or witness to a crime and the agency reasonably determines that revealing the identity of the victim or witness would threaten the personal safety or property of victims or witnesses in that case.