



Minnesota Rural Counties

Legislative Priorities 2026

Human Services IT Modernization

- MRC urges the Legislature to address the severely outdated technology systems used by Counties to deliver Human Services programs. Counties depend upon these programs to provide critical services to Minnesotans. MRC believes this should be done through a two-prong approach: one-time funding for short-term needs and a long-term plan to modernize the whole system.
- Short-term funding is needed to make immediate improvements and avoid the risk of system crashes in response to new program requirements and other factors.
- MRC asks the State to work in partnership with all Counties to design and implement a new, long-term modernized system that serves clients in every County. This system should integrate core functions so that client information is entered once and can be used across multiple program applications.

Solid Waste

- Minnesota's solid waste management laws mandate that Counties provide proper management of waste generated within their borders. State funding has remained relatively flat despite increased state goals and increasing waste toxicity and volumes polluting our water, land and air.
- MRC strongly supports construction and demolition (C&D) rules that weigh economic and social impacts along with the environmental impacts. MRC supports state funding to address any C&D management and facility transitions required by state law or rule. Rulemaking should use a comprehensive stakeholder process.
- MRC supports funding and policy for comprehensive and innovative solid waste management systems, including SCORE, E-waste/Batteries, Solid Waste Capital Assistance Program, Waste-To-Energy and emerging technologies.

Mental Health

- MRC supports more robust funding for mental health programs, including expanded access to crisis intervention, counseling, and long-term support services. Greater state investment will help ensure that individuals in our communities receive the timely, high-quality care they need, ultimately improving public health, reducing the burden on local emergency services, and fostering stronger, more resilient communities.
- MRC advocates for the passage of a bonding bill and the consideration of requests for psychiatric facilities funding and other resources intended to help Counties address the critical mental health needs of their residents.