

What are MICAH's Legislative priorities? To advocate and work for justice, equity, and mercy in implementing structural and systemic changes, including the use of our tax resources, so that everyone without exception has a decent, safe, accessible, and affordable HOME!

MICAH 2017 DRAFT Legislative Agenda (Bolded items top priorities)

1. **Insure smaller culturally diverse organizations may access funding through, specific targeted set asides in an Equity Bill, changes in appropriation language prioritizing funding organizations and to increase their capacity to access State funding.** All State funding and free trainings must be accessible to all organizations. Capacity building funding must be available for culturally diverse groups to expand their capacity to access State resources for **Rental, Homeownership, and Homeless Programs including: Homeless Outreach, Prevention, Shelter, Youth Services and Transitional Housing.**
2. **Lead Safety Bill- Sen Hoffman and Rep. Clark- authors**
3. **Increase State Resources for Housing: Comparable bill to HR1662, Rep. Ellison bill, Common Sense Housing Investment- Mortgage Interest Deduction changed to Tax credit.**

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

H.R. 1662, the Common Sense Housing Investment Act of 2015, on March 26, 2015. United for Homes achieved a major milestone when Representative Keith Ellison (D-MN) introduced H.R. 1662, (formerly H.R. 1213) the Common Sense Housing Investment Act of 2015, on March 26, 2015. NLIHC, MICAH and its partners urge Members of Congress to sign onto the bill as cosponsors.

The reintroduced bill will largely be the same as the bill from last Congress. The bill would: Lowers the cap on the amount of a mortgage for which interest can be deducted from \$1 million to \$500,000, and allows home equity loans and second homes under the \$500,000 cap. Converts the mortgage interest deduction to a 15% non-refundable mortgage interest tax credit. Phases these changes in over five years. Directs the resulting revenue of approximately \$196 billion over ten years to the National Housing Trust Fund (\$109 billion), the LIHTC (\$14 billion), Section 8 (\$54 billion), and the Public Housing Capital Fund (\$18 billion)

SUPPORT:

4. Homes for All: See draft agenda
5. All Parks Alliance for Change - statewide organization for Minnesota's 180,000 manufactured home park residents.
6. Accessibility: Expungement of Criminal Records and Unlawful Detainers (Second Chance) and - Support Universal designs
7. Livable Incomes
 - a. **Double MFIP (public assistance grants) so families can afford housing. Increase public assistance for adults and unemployment benefits. GAAIN- Give Aid to All in NEED**
 - b. Sick and safe leave, and paid time off (Take Action)
 - c. **Driver Licenses for Workers**
8. Education: Support legislation that creates excellent integrated educational opportunities for children and adults, including job training throughout the State.
9. Civil Rights Enforcement
 - a. **Increase funding to Minnesota Human Rights Department.**
 - b. Fair Housing Testing (MN Housing and Met Council) **Fair Lending Practices (JCA)**
 - c. **Restore the Vote for Felons who have completed their incarceration. (Second Chance, Re-Store the Vote, and Take Action)**
10. Transportation: Funding should ensure affordable housing along the transit line, replacement of demolished housing, protections from tax and rent increases. People and businesses employed to develop should be community people and businesses matching at least the racial demographics of the neighborhood or metro area, whichever is higher.

MICAH Legislative Successes 2017

Thank you, Homes for All supporters, for propelling our coalition to success this year!

Despite a challenging session (and chaotic special session), your advocacy and action helped secure critical funds for our work to ensure that all Minnesotans have a safe, decent, accessible and affordable place to call home:

**\$77M in bonds for housing
\$10M general obligations bonds
\$35M Housing Infrastructure Bonds
\$20M from 2014-2015 authorization
\$12M for Dorothy Day phase two
\$2M in ongoing funding for the CLASS Act (also known as Homework Starts at Home)
\$3.5M in one-time funding increases for housing programs through the Department of Human Services
Protected the Challenge Fund from proposed cuts**

MICAH also worked diligently to protect Equity Funding secured last year

MICAH made tremendous strides forward in our Lead Prevention Work with a great KARE 11 Investigative report and strong bi-partisan support for the bill and are hopeful that portions of the bill will pass next session!