MINNESOTA COUNCIL OF NONPROFITS

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

www.minnesotanonprofits.org

ABOUT MCN

Our Mission

MCN works to inform, promote, connect, and strengthen individual nonprofits and the nonprofit sector.

Our Vision

Nonprofit organizations accomplish their missions for a healthy, cooperative, and just society.

"Thank you for igniting hope and resiliency, naming, honoring, and recognizing the moment we're in nationally."

- 2025 MCN event attendee.

WHAT WE DO

MCN is the leading source of professional development, research, advocacy, and networking for Minnesota's nonprofit sector.

As one of the largest statewide associations of nonprofits in the country, the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits (MCN) joins nonprofits across interest areas to advance issues important to the sector.

With our main headquarters located in St. Paul, MCN also maintains regional offices to provide locally-based opportunities to build the sector's capacity and strengthen its effectiveness.

Through its regional presence in Greater Minnesota, MCN amplifies its mission by offering educational training, hosting peer-learning opportunities, and connecting nonprofits to the resources offered through MCN's statewide network.



DEAR FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS

For the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits (MCN), 2025 was a year focused on both its ongoing commitment to providing trusted nonprofit services and strengthening the sector through innovation brought by ongoing challenges and threats.

2025 brought increased federal attacks on the nonprofit sector, including: a freeze to federal grants, attacks on nonprofit advocacy and first amendment rights, threats to revoke nonprofits' tax-exempt status, the passage of HR 1, and a federal government shutdown. MCN met these unprecedented challenges with speed, clarity, and effectiveness – serving as a source of community support by speaking truth to power, tracking federal actions, and compiling trusted resources.

2,543
Nonprofit Members

323
Associate Members

52
Individual Members

A major innovation highlight for MCN in 2025 was launching the Nonprofit Legal Services Initiative. To respond to the emergent legal needs of nonprofits and reduce the high-cost barrier of legal support, MCN and LegalCORPS partnered to offer free legal services to all Minnesota nonprofits.

MCN continued its trusted work to build up individual nonprofits and the sector through in-depth research, educational trainings and conferences, public policy advocacy, and a strong member network.

- MCN's nation-leading member network included 2,543 nonprofit member organizations, 323 associate members, and 52 individual members in 2025. MCN's robust member benefits provided vital support, organizational stability, and staff development.
- With a divided government and a delayed start to the legislative session, much of MCN's public policy work was spent defending the sector against proposals that would have negatively impacted nonprofits. MCN also conducts nonpartisan research and analysis on tax, budget, and economic issues through the Minnesota Budget Project.
- MCN mobilized nonprofits through advocacy, tracked policy news to ensure an aware and educated sector, and engaged in advocacy directly with policymakers.
- MCN published three research reports presenting the latest data on sector challenges, opportunities, and statewide impact to help nonprofits with important context setting and to provide key partners with important data on critical sector needs.
- MCN hosted four in-person conferences and 75 trainings, giving nonprofit employees the opportunity to build community and learn from each other, with the largest gathering of the year, MCN's Annual Conference, bringing together over 1,300 people.

Thank you to everyone who came along on this journey with MCN in 2025, whether as a member, a participant, or as someone with a heart for nonprofit work. We couldn't do it without you!

Public Policy

With a divided government and a delayed start to the legislative session, much of MCN's time during the 2025 session was spent defending the nonprofit sector against proposals that would have negatively impacted nonprofits.

MCN successfully helped prevent the passage of several harmful bills while also advocating for improved language around administrative costs, requiring the state to develop and provide a lobbying guide, and continuing protections for nonprofit staff privacy.



MCN President Nonoko Sato (right) speaking at press conference against federal funding freeze.

Minnesota Budget Project

MCN's Minnesota Budget Project educated nonprofits, the media, and policymakers about drastic federal threats to public services and the revenues that fund them, and the ways that immigrants were particularly singled out for exclusion and harsh treatment. Through analysis and presentations, the Minnesota Budget Project examined federal tax and budget plans moving through Congress and described the harm these policies would cause.

Nonprofits were also provided opportunities to add their voices to the debate, such as a letter to Minnesota's Congressional delegation signed by nearly 190 organizations. The letter expressed strong concerns about proposed cuts to health care, food support, and other services, and restricting immigrants' access to basic needs services, and that the cuts to the safety net would pay for tax cuts that primarily benefit the wealthy and fund mass detention and deportation. The Minnesota Budget Project also supported advocates in raising the alarm about the incredible potential harm to affordable health care through Medicaid, food support through SNAP, and income-boosting tax credits.

BenefitsMN

BenefitsMN, an association health plan launched by MCN in 2020, provided affordable, high-quality health plan options to a growing number of nonprofit organizations in communities throughout Minnesota in 2025.

With approximately half of participating organizations offering health benefits to their employees for the first time, BenefitsMN serves as a vital tool for nonprofits looking to nurture and support their most valuable assets, people.

161

organizations were enrolled in BenefitsMN Health Plan.

2,907

people were covered, including employees and their dependents.



MCN's 2025 Annual Conference welcomed 1,300 nonprofit professionals.

Programming

MCN connected and strengthened Minnesota's nonprofit community through 75 trainings and events that reached 5,694 attendees in 2025. Participants built new skills, shared knowledge, and expanded their networks across a wide range of topics, including financial management, equity and justice, human resources, mental health in the workplace, board governance, accountability, community-centric fundraising, communications, leadership, and more.

To increase access to professional development opportunities, MCN offered Pay What You Can pricing at eight events, with 664 attendees, representing 20 percent of participants, taking advantage of reduced rates. MCN's Annual Conference sold out, welcoming 1,300 attendees from across the sector. MCN also continued its partnership with St. Olaf College for the fifth consecutive year, delivering a Nonprofit 101 curriculum to the college's Social Impact Scholars and helping prepare the next generation of nonprofit leaders.

"I appreciated the scholarship opportunity. I would not have been able to attend if I would have had to pay full price."

- 2025 MCN event attendee.

8,787
people attended a MCN event.

75
trainings, conferences, networking & free events were offered.

1,300
people attended MCN's largest gathering, the Annual Conference.

664
people participated in conference Pay What You Can Rates.

20%
of event attendees accessed a Pay What You Can Rate.

Research

To provide the sector, policymakers, funders, and the general public with accurate and timely information about the key challenges facing nonprofits, MCN engaged organizations in regular evaluation. MCN published three major research reports, including the 20th edition of the Minnesota Nonprofit Economy Report, the 2025 Current Conditions of the Nonprofit Sector Report, and the 2025 Pulse-Check Report (an addendum to MCN's Current Conditions Report). MCN also completed an internal evaluation, surveying members and non-members to help guide MCN's strategic priorities.



MCN's Vice President Kari Aanestad presenting state grantmaking data at the Minnesota Capitol.

From MCN's *2025 Minnesota Nonprofit Economy Report,*

Nonprofit workers comprised

13.1%

of Minnesota's workforce.

Average annual wage

$73,638

for nonprofit workers.

Female nonprofit employees earned

97.7%

of their male colleagues.

9,197

postings on MCN's Job Board.

1,303

MCN publications accessed, with 728 provided for free.



Small group conversation at MCN's 2025 Nonprofit Fundraising Conference.

"What a gift to be together in community. Excellent balance of acknowledging the moment while still celebrating the good we're doing. A top-notch event and I'm thankful I got to attend.

- 2025 MCN event attendee.

2025 FINANCIALS

	2025	2024
Assets	$7,485,502	$5,636,266
Liabilities	$1,368,031	$1,209,802
Net Assets	$6,117,471	$4,426,464
Income		
Grants	$3,826,753	$1,615,279
Member Dues	$1,230,817	$1,199,607
Events	$1,046,467	$1,024,310
Other	$417,503	$448,406
Total Income	**$6,521,540**	**$4,287,602**
Expenses		
Program	$3,315,799	$2,920,981
Support	$1,514,734	$1,021,587
Total Expenses	**$4,830,533**	**$3,942,568**

MCN STAFF

Kari Aanestad, Vice President
Mark Buenaflor, Operations Manager
Gretchen Dempewolf, Administrative Coordinator
Laura Dunford, Deputy Director of Communications
Carly Eckstrom, Deputy Director, Minnesota Budget Project
Marie Ellis, Public Policy Director
Ellie Fuelling, Communications Coordinator
Courtney Gerber, Program Director
Halla Henderson, Director of Public Policy and Research
Shonni Krengel, Research Manager
Kelly LaCore, Northern MN Regional Representative
Pele Le, Program Manager
Sabrina Leung, Engagement Manager, Minnesota Budget Project
Jessie Luévano, Policy Analyst, Minnesota Budget Project
Nan Madden, Director, Minnesota Budget Project
Luke Matusovic, Director of Finance and Administration
Kat McCaffery, Finance and Database Coordinator
Jackie McNeil, Southern MN Regional Representative
Laura Mortenson, Communications Director, Minnesota Budget Project
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Emily Steinmetz, Central MN Regional Representative
Bailey Sutter, Public Policy Manager
Ricky Valentin Peña, Administrative Coordinator
Warsame Warsame, VISTA Program Manager
John Wurm, Organizational Development and Engagement Director
Jes Wysong, Membership Manager

MCN BOARD

Theresa Gardella (Co-chair), Nexus Community Partners
Su-Fei Wong McKhann (Co-chair)
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Karina Forrest-Perkins, Volunteers of America, Minnesota and Wisconsin
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Amy Gray, Initiative Foundation
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Feather LaRoche, Relentless Feather
Carla Manzoni, Vibrant Majority
Tee McClenty, MN350
Sara Niemi, Head of the Lakes United Way
Pablo Obregon, City of Willmar
Sara Salas Ramirez, Parenting Resource Center
Rebecca Slaby, AmazeWorks,
Sara Sommarstrom, Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans
Jaime Wilkins, Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota

"Thank you for all you do to create thriving community! Kudos to the staff at MCN."

- 2025 MCN event attendee.

THANK YOU, 2025 SUPPORTERS

Event Sponsors

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"The inclusive environment, candid conversations, and wide range of sessions reinforced the power of collaboration and shared learning in the sector. I left feeling energized, equipped, and motivated to bring new ideas back to my team and the communities we serve."

- 2025 MCN event attendee.

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