

To the Working Group on Economic Disparities in Minnesota:

**Please include the
GAAIN bill
in your final recommendations.**

The GAAIN (Give Aid to All in Need) bill - **Senate File 1426/House File 1533** - is essential to addressing extreme poverty in our communities. There is no question that poverty rates are highest in communities of color across the state of Minnesota, therefore there is a larger section of our people who have nothing. When you have nothing, you are shut out of almost everything. Because of historic economic disparities, our families, neighbors and friends don't have the wealth to sustain the very poor without endangering themselves. The GAAIN bill will give the most unfortunate some "breathing space" so people can get housing and jobs.

**Information about
Give Aid to All in Need (GAAIN)**

The GAIN bill (Senate File 1426/House File 1533) expands state-funded General Assistance to cover

- families who have hit the 5-year limit on welfare and also,
- adults with no income who are looking for work.

Background: There are thousands of people in desperate need who, under this state's laws, don't qualify for any cash assistance at all.

People are homeless, cashless and have to scrounge for handouts. This is a burden on the entire low-income community, and, in the state on Minnesota, is especially a burden on Black and brown communities.

Here are just a few of the situations we are dealing with.

- The 5-year limit on MFIP has hit countless families

with children.

- Minnesotans can only get General Assistance (\$203 per month*) if they have no kids and can prove a disability - the rest of needy singles, and families who have the 5-year limit, **get zilch** for cash assistance.
- People's **unemployment has run out**, or people get cut off unemployment early because they took a temp job out of a desperate need for cash, or they were working in a job that doesn't qualify for unemployment insurance.
- Our community members with **criminal records** still face hurdles to jobs and housing.
- Childless adults can only get SNAP (**food stamps**) for **3 months in a 3 year period**.
- The current situation hurts the community in many ways. For example, those of us who have apartments risk losing housing when we take in our homeless, cashless, friends and family.

** Note: MFIP and GA grants haven't had a cost of living increase in 29 years. The Welfare Rights Committee will also be pushing for a bill to double the MFIP and GA grants.*

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- **Please include the GAAIN bill in your final recommendations.**

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- **Please sign on to the GAAIN bill:
House File 1533 Senate File 1426**

ABOUT YOUTHPRISE



Founded in 2010 by the McKnight Foundation, Youthprise is a nonprofit **intermediary** that invests in the future of Minnesota by investing in youth. We work on multiple levels: supporting nonprofit organizations that serve youth; aligning efforts through citywide and statewide initiatives; and providing opportunities directly to young people.

Grounded in a commitment to addressing **key disparities**, Youthprise works to increase young people's opportunities for:

- **Learning and social emotional development,**
- **Economic prosperity, and**
- **Health and safety.**

Accelerating Leadership and Innovation Beyond the Classroom

Youthprise **leverages** its youth development expertise, organizational infrastructure, and financial, political, and relational capital to coordinate and support large-scale, cross sector initiatives and accelerate promising programs. We **broker** partnerships with innovative organizations and creative thinkers who are making lasting, positive changes in the lives of young people.

Youthprise acts as a tipping point for systems change. We take action when:

- 1) There is an innovation with potentially significant impact that needs **incubation or leadership**;
- 2) There is an existing program or initiative the has promise but needs **acceleration**;
- 3) There is a need to create a better way of doing business that is more **efficient**; or
- 4) There is an opportunity to provide **administrative and collaborative support** for small and mid-sized community-based organizations, especially those based in communities of color.

Our work guided by a strength-based **holistic youth development** approach that values the whole child in the context of their family, community and broader society. We are intentional about examining policies, practices and programs through a racial equity lens to address the **disparities** faced by youth of color and other disconnected youth.

A strong partnership between Youthprise and government agencies can help transform our community's perception of "troubled" youth and families, which we believe is essential to improving outcomes for Minnesota youth.

EXAMPLES OF YOUTHPRISE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

Initiative	Focus Area	Funding Partners	Process
Opportunity Reboot	Economic Prosperity	Social Innovation Fund of the Corporation for National and Community Service Youthprise (with funds from The McKnight Foundation)	Competitive RFP 6 – 8 grantees statewide to be selected in April 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants to implement program models that create career pathways for opportunity youth who are disconnected from school or work • Grant amounts are at least \$150,000 and must be matched 1:1 by grantees 			
East African Youth at Work	Economic Prosperity	Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development Youthprise (with funds from The McKnight Foundation)	Collaborative grant with Youthprise as the backbone organization
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addresses employment and economic needs of Minnesota's East African immigrant community. • Youthprise serves as a backbone organization for three culturally specific Somali organizations – Islamic Civic Society, Ka Joog, and New American Academy – to build their capacity to improve employment outcomes among Somali youth ages 14-24. 			
Better Together Hennepin	Health & Safety	Hennepin County Youthprise (with funds from The McKnight Foundation)	Competitive RFP
<p>Hennepin County and Youthprise partnership to support programs to prevent teen pregnancy in one or more of the following four areas: Sex education; Parent programming; Access to family planning services; and or Healthy youth development opportunities.</p>			
Ramsey County Wrap-Around	Health & Safety	Ramsey County Community Corrections Youthprise (with funds from The McKnight Foundation)	Competitive RFP (1 sub-grantee)
<p>Youthprise and Ramsey County Community Corrections partner to deliver innovative youth and family focused strategies that address key success indicators for youth development and public safety, such as education, after school time and positive family support. The selected grantee will develop a High Fidelity Wraparound program based in Ramsey County focused on youth and families in the Juvenile Corrections system.</p>			
Somali Youth Development Fund	Learning & Social Emotional Development	U.S. Department of Justice, Office of U.S. Attorney for Minnesota Mall of America	Competitive RFP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funds support positive youth development activities, community engagement, and capacity building for Somali-led community-based organizations • Funded programs should enable youth engagement, prevention, and intervention activities to help build the resiliency of the Somali Minnesotan community and address structural challenges facing Somali youth 			