



**MID-MINNESOTA LEGAL AID
LEGAL SERVICES ADVOCACY PROJECT**

Vision Statement for a Minnesota Asset Building Coalition

Why Assets Matter

Assets provide the means to weather the inevitable financial setbacks we all endure, while offering hope and opportunity for a better future. They allow families to strive toward the goal all Minnesotans share: to achieve financial stability and prosperity.

Why Asset Building Strategies Are Important

Nearly one in four Minnesota families are unable to meet basic needs for three months if a bump in the road – like a job loss or a health crisis -- causes a sudden and unexpected reduction in income. These families are “asset poor.” Moreover, hundreds of thousands more not only have insufficient assets, but also have insufficient means to just get by week to week.

Our Vision for the Minnesota Asset Building Coalition (MABC)

The MABC is a broad-based coalition that unites financial asset-building practitioners and advocates across the cultural and geographical breadth of our state to inform and engage policymakers to make the most effective investments in asset building for our shared future. Asset building programs and policies (1) help Minnesotans learn to become financially literate; (2) provide opportunities to earn a sufficient amount to support a family through family supporting employment and tax credits; (3) foster saving and investment to acquire assets like a home, a college fund or retirement account; and (4) protect acquired assets from predatory financial practices. Policies providing the opportunity for more Minnesota families to build assets and climb the economic ladder lead to a stronger and more balanced state economy.

Contact: Dave Snyder, Coordinator, Minnesota Asset Building Coalition Project, at 612-867-7118 or dsnyder@mnlsap.org

**Minnesota Asset Building Coalition
Leadership Committee members**

Eunice Adjei, African Women's Alliance, St Cloud
Amy Bacigalupo, Farm Beginnings Program Director, Land Stewardship Project
Jay Badheart Bull, President/CEO, Native American Community Development Initiative
Mayuli Bales, Executive Director, Casa Guadalupe
Jeff Bauer, Director of Public Policy & Civic Engagement, The Family Partnership
Linda White & Karen Carey-Bonner, Camphor Fiscally Fit Center
Sunny Chanthanouvong, Executive Director, Lao Assistance Center of Minnesota
Chris Conry, Economy Program Manager, Take Action Minnesota
Yolanda Cotterall, Greater MN Rural Program Officer, Latino Economic Development Center
Rebecca Covington, Executive Director, MN Consortium of Citizens with Disabilities
Darielle Dannen, Public Policy Director, Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers
Ron Elwood, Supervising Attorney, Legal Services Advocacy Project
Tracy Fischman, Executive Director, AccountAbility Minnesota
Peggy Flanagan, Executive Director, Children's Defense Fund of MN
Jay Haapala, Associate State Director, Policy Outreach, MN AARP
Pam Johnson, Director of Member Strategies, Minnesota Community Action Partnership
Lorrie Janatopoulos, Planning Director, Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency
Abdullah Kiatamba, Executive Director, African Immigrant Services
Liz Kuoppala, Executive Director, Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless
Jenny Larson, Community Development Director, Three Rivers CAP
Ruby Lee, Executive Director, Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES)
Nan Madden, Minnesota Budget Project Director, MN Council of Non-Profits
David McGee, Executive Director, Build Wealth Minnesota
Tuleah Palmer, Executive Director, Northwest Indian Opportunities Industrialization Center
Vic Rosenthal, Executive Director, Jewish Community Action
Anna Ross, Executive Director, Bii Gii Wiin Community Development Loan Fund
Brian Rusche, Executive Director, Joint Religious Legislative Coalition
Susie Schatz, Director of Advocacy & Volunteer Services, Lutheran Social Service of MN
Gaylene Spolarich, Head Start- Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe & Board member, MHSA
Chris Stewart, Executive Director, African American Leadership Forum
Terri Thao, Program Officer, Nexus Community Partners
Bao Vang, Executive Director, Hmong American Partnership
Jake Vela, Executive Director, The Welcome Center, Austin