



# MINNESOTA

## Policy & Systems Change Initiatives 2020



The American Heart Association is working to create a healthier Minnesota.

### CONTROLLING YOUTH ACCESS TO NICOTINE

A statewide Tobacco 21 law would prevent nearly 30,000 Minnesota teenagers from ever using tobacco.

- Working on local and county T-21 policies to raise the tobacco purchase age to 21, including vaping and e-cigarettes.
- Advocating for flavor restrictions and bans at the local and state level, and adding local licensing restrictions, caps and zoning limits on tobacco retail licenses.



50+ Minnesota communities have already passed Tobacco 21. Nationally AHA just invested \$20 Million in vaping research.

### SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH & HEALTH EQUITY

- Joining partner organizations to increase census reporting with a goal of reaching 5% over projected reporting to ensure low-income, diverse communities are represented as they're historically under-reported.



Federal funding for many social determinants of health areas like affordable housing, education, job training, etc. is allocated based on census data.

### HEALTHY EATING & NUTRITION

- Asking local youth sports organizations to adopt formal policies that eliminate sugary drinks, including sports drinks, from events and practices with the "Water, the original sports drink" pledge.
- Advocating for a statewide law that would require restaurants to list water and milk as the default beverage options for kids' meals.
- Working with Mpls. & St. Paul Public Schools to update policy to require water refilling stations be added for all new builds and remodels in the districts.
- Helping small companies and local governments - including parks and rec, and county corrections - pass Healthy Food Procurement policies to ensure vending and food purchasing follows our National Food & Beverage guidelines.



At this rate, 40% of children will develop Type 2 diabetes.

### ACTIVE & SAFE TRANSPORTATION

- Working with coalition partners in Ramsey County to ensure that bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure improvements are prioritized by the projects most in need - with focus on priority populations and neighborhoods too often overlooked - to improve the safety, access and health of all residents.
- Advocating for the state to renew its investment in the Minnesota's Safe Routes to School program, which invests in infrastructure improvements and programs that encourage walking and biking to school safely.



In 2016, Minn. granted over \$8 million to 128 local projects, but nearly \$15 million in requests went unfunded.