2025 Legislative Priorities



Proof Alliance is Leading the Following Legislative Priority:

Priority: Expansion of Legislative Appropriation for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD)

<u>Purpose:</u> HF XXXX/SF XXXX advocates for an increase of \$1M to expand programming to more individuals and communities across Minnesota.

- Increase family support services and resource navigation to underserved regions of the state
- Increase participation and geographical reach of FASD support programs
- Expand training and professional development for teachers, social service providers and caregivers

<u>Context:</u> FASD is a permanent brain-based disability caused by prenatal alcohol exposure that requires life-long assistance. In addition to its impact on individuals and families, FASD has social and economic implications for every major system in the country – justice, education, health, human services, housing and employment. People affected by an FASD can reach their full potential with appropriate diagnosis, community support and specialized services.

Minnesota is a Trusted Leader in Stewarding FASD Prevention and Support

For over 25 years, Proof Alliance has been a trusted source in Minnesota, helping our state lead the nation in FASD awareness, advocacy, research, policy and support. Through longstanding legislation as designated in Minnesota Statute 145.9266, the State of Minnesota currently appropriates \$3,222,000 in FASD funding annually to programs that change lives and enhance communities by:

- Increasing prenatal screening by health care providers
- Reducing the incidence of prenatal alcohol exposure
- Reducing health care costs for families
- Increasing high school graduation and employment
- Reducing the risk of arrest and incarceration
- Improving social-emotional skills, mental health and quality of life

EXPANSION OF LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATION



Current funding for these programs falls short. An estimated 1 in 20 children in the U.S. has an FASD. HF XXXX/SF XXXX proposes an increase annually to expand culturally responsive support, professional training, resource navigation and specialized support across Minnesota. This funding will extend community-driven programs to more individuals and communities across Greater Minnesota, including those facing health disparities.

For more information, visit: proofalliance.org or call 651-917-2370



Proof Alliance Supports the Following Collaborative Priorities:

- Simplifying the MnCHOICES assessment process for home and community-based services (HCBS) by shifting from annual to once-every-three-year assessments will ease the burden on families and conserve county resources.
- Eliminating premiums for participants in the Medical Assistance for Employed Persons with Disabilities (MA-EPD) program to reduce costs for individuals and families.
- Requiring group home providers to coordinate with county agencies and waiver case managers to ensure safe transitions and discharge planning for residents facing involuntary service termination.

How did Proof Alliance Identify its 2025 Legislative Priorities?

- Participation in disability coalition-led initiatives
- Discourse with constituents



Every \$1 invested in our progams results in a \$56 social return on investment.

Scan to learn more.

Become an Advocate:

- SAVE THE DATE
- March 25, 2025 Disability Advocacy Day at the Minnesota State Capitol
- April 3, 2025 Proof Alliance's FASD Advocacy Day at the Minnesota State Capitol
 Register here