

Advocates for Policy Change

The Governor-appointed Young Women's Cabinet is active in every legislative session, advocating for policies that value women, girls, and gender-expansive people. Since 2016, the Cabinet has engaged in leadership development, been trained as policy advocates, and directed \$3+ million in grants to nonprofits and individuals to advance equity and justice.

Our policy agenda is backed by research and listening to remove barriers and support community-based solutions. We advocate for statewide policies that advance safety, economic justice, and holistic well-being to build power with communities for gender and racial justice.



Statewide Cabinet Policy Agenda

Education & Community

Support implementation of passed bills:

- **HF 1502** - Create an ethnic studies requirement
- **HF 4373** - Prohibit book bans in libraries
- **HF 2925** - Add gender-neutral bathrooms in Minnesota schools

Support this action:

- Protect laws that aid educators and protect students in Minnesota

Health

Support these bills:

- **HF 5199 / SF 4976** - Includes pre- and post-birth mental health through the Black Maternal Health Caucus
- **HF 3743 / SF 3701** - Community support services including mental health grants
- **SF 473** - Pass an inclusive Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)

Support this action:

- Expanding access to contraceptives

Safety & Violence

Support this bill:

- **HF 3398 / SF 3447** (2024 bill numbers) - Increase victim support services funding by \$20 million including domestic violence and sexual assault services

Support these actions:

- The Survivors Justice Act: Allows the court to resentence a domestic violence survivor who suffered abuse that contributed to [their] conviction.
- Flexible Family Funds: Support family members of missing Indigenous relatives with funds to lead their own community searches.
- Feather Alert Systems: Create a community phone notification system to provide alerts of missing Indigenous persons.
- Divestment from Israel

Community Organizations

Education Minnesota • ISAI AH • EDAllies • Ethnic Studies Coalition • The Snowbird Fund (Montana) (MMIW) • Minneapolis Anti-War Committee • Minnesota State Board of Investments • Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Office • MNCASA • Violence Free Minnesota

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The Young Women's Initiative Greater Mankato Cabinet 2025 agenda outlines key priorities for advancing well-being and opportunity for all Minnesotans. The challenges highlighted disproportionately impact women, especially women of color.

This agenda reflects the unique experiences and needs of young women and gender-expansive people in Greater Minnesota and rural communities, particularly the Greater Mankato area. While individuals and communities experience disproportionate effects, we believe all Minnesotans benefit from the priorities outlined in this agenda.



Mankato Cabinet Policy Agenda

Care & Well-being

- Improve access to affordable and reliable childcare services in rural communities to support working families and strengthen local economies.
- Ensure comprehensive access to contraceptive care by expanding insurance coverage for both over-the-counter and prescription contraceptive options throughout Minnesota.
- Expand testing practices for medications and treatments for their effects on women, addressing the historical bias of research focusing predominantly on men.

Culture & Self-Identity

- Promote programming that increases understanding and acceptance of cultural differences, especially for young people, through collaboration with the Greater Mankato Diversity Council.
- Advocate for increased funding for marginalized communities access to extracurricular programs in the Greater Mankato area.

Access to Information

- Raise awareness for protections against book bans in local county libraries.
- Facilitate financial literacy opportunities for high school and college students at local institutions, especially marginalized communities.
- Advocate for a statewide survey to assess scope of intimate partner violence.