



LEADMN
COLLEGE STUDENTS
CONNECTING FOR CHANGE

LeadMN is the student association representing 105,000 students across 26 Minnesota State two-year community and technical colleges. We serve a student population unique among higher education institutions in the state that includes first generation students, returning and adult students, international and immigrant students, and student parents.

Through paid leadership positions and internships, LeadMN supports students in building professional skills, fostering civic engagement, and driving community impact. Students gain real-world experience in nonprofit governance, public policy, and organizing that help them make a difference on their campus and in their communities.

LeadMN distributes over \$200,000 in scholarships each year and offers accessible statewide events, workshops, and tailored support, investing in students' personal, academic, and professional growth, empowering them to become the leaders of tomorrow.

**Learn more about our
student-led mission,
events, programs, and
opportunities.**

leadmn.org





2025 State Legislative Priorities

Support the Full Minnesota State Budget Request

Focus: Access & Affordability

- State appropriations cover a significant portion of colleges' general fund operating budgets, which **keep tuition affordable and academic programs intact**.
- **Workforce Focused Supports** continue the work of enhancing state-of-the-art equipment and learning environments for high-cost, high-need workforce programs.
- Financial barriers to higher education stretch beyond tuition costs. The cost of required materials and tools put an additional burden on students, **providing free open educational resources are vital** to providing accessible, affordable and attainable higher education.
- **Emergency Grant Assistance** helps students regain financial stability and support college attainment. 30% of respondents from MN two-year colleges were both food and housing insecure, 20% could not pay the full amount of their utilities costs.

Focus: Basic Needs

- Nearly 40% of Minnesota's undergraduate students experience basic needs insecurity. **Investment in basic needs, student supports**, and free open educational resources are vital to providing accessible, affordable and attainable higher education.
- **Mental health** is becoming a growing crisis among college students impacting academic and co-curricular success. Services like Mantra Health offer support to students at no cost.

Hunger Free Campus

Focus: Improvements to Hunger Free Campus Grant Access

- Of the 26 Minnesota State colleges, less than half (11) have a Hunger Free Designation while **over 40% of Minnesota State students experience food insecurity**
- Students who experience hunger and food insecurity are significantly less likely to graduate than their peers. We support improvements to the Hunger Free Campus Grants program that **remove barriers of access for our campuses** so that the full resources of the grants are utilized to get food into the hands of students who need it.



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