

2026 Instructions for Lawmaker Visits

Lawmaker Visits - Please note the new location for your **House of Representatives visits will be in the Centennial Office Building (658 Cedar St, St Paul)**. All Senate visits will be in the MN Senate Building (95 University Ave W, St Paul).

You will **NEED** to meet outside of your lawmaker visits **30 minutes early** to meet other advocates who will be joining you. **Identify a facilitator who will start the visit, lead the meeting, and identify advocates to speak first while prioritizing people with lived experience. The Facilitator will follow these steps:**

Step #1: Open the meeting with *"We are here for Homeless Day on the Hill. My name is ____, and before we start, we are asking that we focus on ending homelessness and not political parties because shelter saves lives and housing ends homelessness. Thank you for meeting with us."*

Step #2: Have everyone quickly introduce themselves, but please do not spend the entire time on introductions. If you are in a large group (over 10), there is a chance that not everyone will be able to introduce themselves, so please prioritize people with lived experience to speak first. **Identify a few people to share WHY they're advocating to end homelessness to speak first & prioritize people with lived experience.** Extra time can be used for anyone else who wants to speak, or allow the lawmaker to speak.

Step #3: Leave behind the following documents: **MCH Legislative Agenda** while closing the meeting. Finally, ask for support by saying, *"Thanks for all your hard work. Where we live impacts everything - can we count on you to support legislation to end homelessness?"*

Sample Guide to Share WHY you are advocating to end homelessness - Please keep comments to 1-2 minutes because there are a lot of advocates (GREAT problem to have!), and you will likely only have 15 minutes.

1) 15 seconds to introduce yourself with power. Who is in your community? Who are you representing when you talk?

Example: *Hello Rep/Sen [their name]. My name is Ranee Rock. I am a Policy Fellow with MN Coalition for the Homeless and a tribal member of the White Earth Nation, having lived through several injustices. As a housing advocate and a lived-experience leader, I share my experiences to amplify the voices of those navigating unjust systems and experiencing housing instability. I intend to ensure this community will be seen and respected, and therefore given the opportunity to experience the feeling of long-term housing stability.*

2) 45-75 seconds on why you support priorities to end homelessness - Small groups can spend more time, large groups may have less time, so others can speak. Here are some questions to ask yourself to help:

- Why do you care about ending homelessness and creating more affordable housing?
- Why would this solution make a difference for your community?
- Do you have a personal experience to explain why it is needed?
- Do you have a friend, family member, or someone you work with who has permitted you to share part of their story?
- Do you work/volunteer to fight homelessness or create more affordable housing?
- How is this a smart decision for legislators to make?

Example: *I support priorities to end homelessness because housing is a basic human right. The combination of support services and direct financial assistance makes FHPAP a great program. The flexibility of the program allows any household experiencing housing instability to obtain or maintain housing stability. Having the appropriate prevention methods in place and offering the correct support services will begin to reduce disparities and move towards housing justice. **{If you have more personal/regional reasons WHY this is important, please expand}***

Quick tips and notes for Homeless Day on the Hill

Thank you for joining us for Homeless Day on the Hill! This is an unusual year at the MN State Capitol because of the construction. **Please note the new location for your House of Representatives visits will be in the Centennial Office Building (658 Cedar St, St Paul, MN 55155).** All Senate visits will be in the MN Senate Building (95 University Ave W, St Paul, MN 55103).

Here are a few tips that are unique to 2026:

- **It's going to feel disorganized and a little bit messy.** Please have grace, as it is outside of our control
- Per usual, lawmaker meetings are only 15 minutes long. Please be mindful of this timeframe when going through your priorities and introductions.
- The process for your Representative visits is different this year. Here are the steps:
 - Meetings with Representatives will be in the Centennial Building in either the Cafeteria or in their offices. Check our website to be sure where your visits are located:
www.mnhomelesscoalition.org/doth
 - Review the maps document in your folder to learn how to get to the Centennial Building.
 - **Cafeteria:** If your meeting is in the Cafeteria, Google the lawmaker so you know what they look like and find them in the cafeteria (they will NOT find you)
 - **Representative's Office:** If your meeting is in the Representative's office, check into the Security Station (by the elevators) to get a pass and to be escorted by a staff member to your meeting. **This will take extra time, so please arrive at least 30 minutes early**
- You can either walk outside to get from place to place (refer to the map in your folder), or you can use the tunnels (plan for 20-25 minutes of walking). **The tunnels have limited signage for directions and prove to be more complicated; the tunnels also have steep inclines, so it may be difficult if you have mobility challenges**
 - If taking the tunnels from the Senate Building, follow signs to the Capitol Building; once you arrive in the Capitol Building, follow signs to the Judicial Center until you see signs for the Centennial Office; follow the signs to the Centennial Office Building
- **New for 2026 - Security at the Capitol Building**
 - Weapons screening will take place at four locations in the Capitol, including bag searches and metal detectors.
 - The primary public entrance will be the main south entrance underneath the Capitol steps.
 - Additional entrances are the underground tunnels leading to the Capitol from:
 - The Minnesota Senate Building
 - Parking Lot C adjacent to the State Office Building
 - The Minnesota Judicial Center.
 - All entrances and screening areas are ADA accessible.
- Keep your belongings with you or a trusted person for the full day. We cannot replace stolen or lost items.

Important addresses

Please review the maps and directions documents online to help navigate how to get to these addresses.

- **Centennial Office Building:** (658 Cedar St, St Paul, MN 55155)
 - Representatives' meetings can take place here; find your location: www.mnhomelesscoalition.org/doth
 - There is a cafe in the Centennial Building open from 8:00 AM – 1:30 PM
- **MN Senate Building:** (95 University Ave W, St Paul, MN 55103)
 - All Senate visits will be in the MN Senate Building
- **MN State Capitol:** (Minnesota State Capitol, 75 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard, St Paul, MN 55155)
 - The Rathskeller (Capitol) Cafe is in the basement of the Capitol building and is open from 8:00 AM – 1:30 PM
- We are still working to secure a place to rest between meetings. When/if we secure one, we will send out that location.