

Legislative Proposal 2026

Ensuring safe and equitable congregate care facilities
House File 4144 | Senate File 4279

The challenge

The northwest Twin Cities metro is home to many congregate care settings. These facilities play an essential role in supporting Minnesotans—including people with disabilities and older adults—to live with dignity, stability, and connection in the community while fulfilling the State’s commitment to providing person-centered care.

The cities of Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Crystal, Champlin, Golden Valley, Maple Grove, New Hope, and Robbinsdale collectively host more than half of Hennepin County’s congregate care homes. In Anoka County, the cities of Coon Rapids and Fridley also experience a high concentration of these facilities. This is not a reflection of the residents of these homes. It is the result of state licensing patterns, provider location decisions, and housing availability.

This concentration creates three documented systemic challenges:



Uneven Access to High-Quality Support

- Some municipalities have hundreds of facilities; others have few or none.
- Residents are less likely to be integrated into the community and are inadvertently institutionalized as their neighbors are also residents of congregate care facilities.



Emergency Services Strain

- Cities with high concentrations of congregate care facilities experience a disproportionate share of emergency calls which affects response times, availability of units, and overall system resilience.



Housing Market Impacts

- When providers purchase entry-level homes quickly and/or with cash, first-time home buyers are unable to compete in already tight market conditions.
- Ensuring a balanced use of housing stock helps maintain stable, diverse neighborhoods for everyone.

The proposal

Minnesota Adult abuse reporting center (MAARC) reform

- Improve the intake and response process to strengthen coordination between state and local officials to better protect vulnerable residents

Facility distancing requirements

- Establish reasonable spacing standards to prevent clustering and promote community integrations

Municipal notification on license issuance

- Provide cities with basic information when a new license is issued or transferred within their jurisdiction to promote collaboration

Oversight and inspections partnership

- Create a more coordinated oversight system that allows collaboration between state licensing agencies and local officials for inspections of congregate care facilities

A joint advocacy effort of:

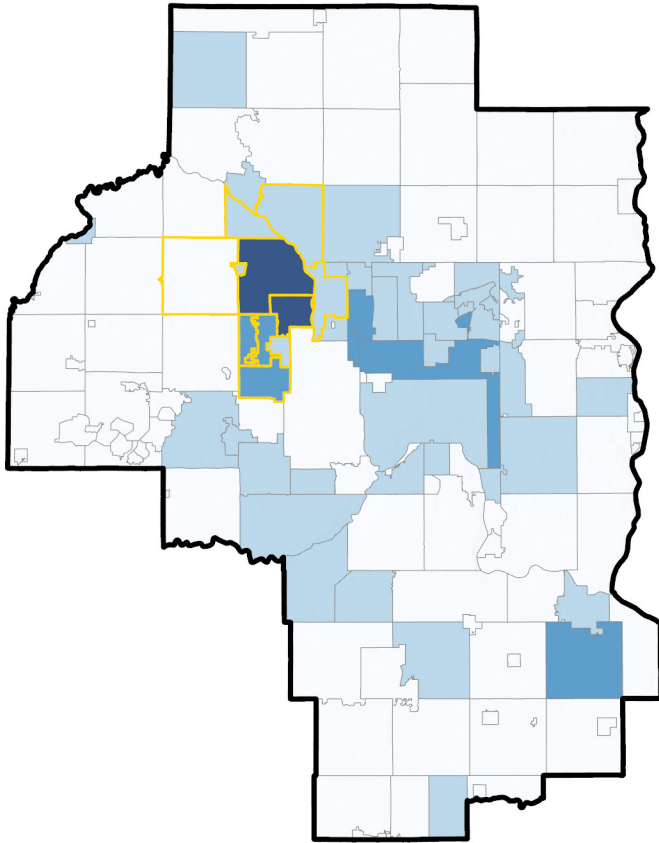


By the numbers

Our cities are home to a disproportionate number of congregate care facilities compared to cities across the metropolitan area. Our public safety staff respond to all emergencies no matter where they occur to render aid to those in need. Congregate care facilities have shown to receive a disproportionate amount of emergency services in all of our communities.

Congregate Care Facility Counts per 1,000 Households (2025)

5 or less 5 to < 10 10 to < 15 15 or more



Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, and Washington Counties.

Congregate Care Emergency Response (2025)

City	Congregate Care Calls for Service	% of citywide calls for service (Police, Fire)	Congregate care % of housing units
Brooklyn Center	3,659	8.82%	1.64%
Brooklyn Park	3,281	6.37%	1.00%
Champlin	530	5.28%	0.48%
Coon Rapids	706	1.52%	0.35%
Crystal	879	3.20%	0.70%
Fridley	603	1.58%	0.42%
Golden Valley	295	1.21%	0.41%
Maple Grove	363	0.78%	0.14%
New Hope	515	2.16%	0.57%
Robbinsdale	270	1.07%	0.35%

Emergency calls to assisted living, community residential setting, and residential services facility license types.

Why it matters

Every person who calls the northwest metro home deserves a safe, healthy environment. As congregate care facilities continue their person-centered mission, it is imperative that the State partners in meaningful ways with cities to promote healthy outcomes for all.

Ensuring that congregate care facilities are more evenly distributed across the region increases resident safety and stability, timely emergency response for all, and inclusive communities where residents thrive.

