



CAPI seeks to center the voices of immigrant, refugee, and U.S. born communities of color to advocate and advance policies that reflect the needs of the community served and undoes harmful practices that hold inequities in place. We commit to be responsive to community needs, promote equity-centered and anti-racist policies, develop leaders, and co-create solutions with and for immigrant, refugee and Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) communities.

CAPI's Civic Engagement and Public Policy Team strive to engage, encourage, and empower Minnesota's immigrants and refugees to get involved in problem-solving and decision-making on issues that matter to them. The Civic Engagement Team collaborates with stakeholders, partners, and internal staff on the public policy committee to increase voter participation and promote immigrant and refugee input into publicly financed initiatives to ensure their voices are heard.

PRIORITIES

BASIC NEEDS - HOUSING

- **Minnesota ERASE:** The Minnesota End Rental Arrears and Stop Evictions (ERASE) Campaign is an ongoing effort led by the Minnesota Housing Partnership (MHP), African Career Education Resource (ACER), and the Housing Justice Center (HJC) in conjunction with CAPI and a number of organizations across the state focused on advocating for an end to evictions, rental debt, general housing instability, and homelessness.
- **Blue Line Initiative:** CAPI is actively involved in the planning of the Blue Line Extension, which will service many immigrant and refugee residents in the Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center, Crystal, Robbinsdale, and North Minneapolis communities. CAPI conducts outreach and is a member of the Blue Line Coalition, which provides formal feedback and policy recommendation to public officials. This year's focus is to aid in mitigating environmental impact studies.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT - BENEFITS CLIFF

- **Benefits Cliff:** The benefits cliff occurs when benefits from public programs (such as medical assistance, SNAP, childcare assistance, etc.) decrease or end completely as household income increases. Because program eligibility and benefit amounts are based on income, as families earn more money, public work support benefits phase out or end abruptly. Often the increased amount of income a family may receive by accepting a new job, getting a raise, or increasing hours worked does not make up for the loss or decrease of benefits.

CIVIC & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - IMMIGRATION

- **Driver's License for All:** The Driver's License for All campaign consists of over 30 organizations across the state of Minnesota that are committed to passing a state law that allows all Minnesotans, regardless of immigration status, to attain a driver's license. The bill passed the House in January 2023. CAPI continues to be a part of the movement to pass Senate.

2023 CAPI POLICY COMMITTEES

- Blue Line Initiative
- Brooklyn Center Housing Projects Advisory Council
- Brooklyn Heritage Day
- Minnesota Employment Services Consortium
- Governor's Development Board
- Minnesota ERASE
- Red Road Village/American Indian Movement
- IMAP: Ignite Minnesotan Asian Power
- Driver's License for All
- AMAJ: Asian Minnesota Alliance for Justice