May 3, 2011


Honorable Health and Human Services Conferenees:

Understanding that you face many difficult decisions, the Citizens League believes that a key direction in policy to support prosperity should be funded this year. The Family Assets for Independence in Minnesota (FAIM) program is Minnesota’s most functional and successful form of conditional cash transfer.

As part of our Pathways to Prosperity Project, the Citizens League has found that conditional cash transfers are a key way to directly support productive decision-making by low-wealth families. We need to develop and expand this approach as part of a key series of actions designed to support prosperity rather than react to poverty.

At $500,000 per biennium, we should not throw away an emerging policy direction that encourages savings, promotes financial literacy and directly supports activities that we know are good for family independence and society as a whole: owning a home, pursuing a degree, or starting a business.

In addition, FAIM has a presence statewide and is an effective approach in all our communities.

The Citizens League recommends that you double the appropriation and take full advantage of the federal match, but we understand that you face many difficult decisions.

We respectfully request that you continue to fund the FAIM program.

Sincerely,

Bob DeBoer
Director of Policy Development

Cc:  Gov. Mark Dayton
     Lt. Gov. Yvonne Prettner Solon
     Commissioner Lucinda Jesson