

# Education Minnesota Community and Labor Partnership Guide

## Vision/goals:

Public schools are the foundation of our communities and a cornerstone of our democracy. Educating our children is a community effort. In order to transform public education and help all students achieve their maximum potential, we need everyone on board—parents, community members and community partners/organizations building sustainable relationships. Supporting that education through equity-based, full funding of our public schools should be as well.

Unions and community members must partner around a long-term vision for the structural changes they want to see in their communities and use bargaining as a critical moment in a broader campaign to win that change.

## Why invest in community partnerships as a union?

- This is a moment of incredible, rapid change and challenges.
  - *We must unite to take on these challenges. Union members are recognizing their dual roles as both workers and key leaders in their communities. In a changing and stratified economy, we are expanding collective bargaining to address the challenges we face as workers, families and communities.*
  - *Labor and community organizations are uniting to advance demands that are relevant to both workers and the broader community. This is called Bargaining for the Common Good (BCG). Common good bargaining updates a long history of partnering to advance common goals through and beyond the bargaining process. You can learn more about Bargaining for the Common Good here: <https://www.bargainingforthecommongood.org/resources/>*


## Suggested partners:

Partnerships are built by relationships. Education Minnesota has an established list of community partners throughout the state [here](#).

Do you have relationships with any of these groups? If so, that is a place to start. If not, reach out and begin to build a relationship. It is important to note that relationships are reciprocal and building strong, sustainable relationships isn't easy.

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[www.edmnvotes.org](http://www.edmnvotes.org)

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## Would this organization be a good fit?

### Category/description

#### Organizational credibility, stability

- Is this a reputable organization with no record of financial or legal malfeasance?
- Is there any potential conflict of interest in partnering with this group?

#### Aligns with EdMN goals, statements of principles, priorities

- Does this request match with our statements of principles?
- Does the partnership align with our current priorities?
- Does a partnership with this group support our local in going on the offense, instead of defending what we already have in order to align with our goals and priorities?
- How would we need to shift what we spend time on in order to make time for pursuing our priorities in partnership with the community?
- Employers play a role in creating and exacerbating structural racism in our schools and communities. Does this partnership support creating racial justice demands that are connected to our local context?

#### Capacity building

- Will this relationship add to the local's capacity in a positive way? If so, how?
- Will this partnership add to our ability to engage both members and the community, including parents and students?
- Is this organization willing to show support for and defend our union and/or public education?
- Is there an opportunity for Education Minnesota members to directly participate in this partner organization's activities, operations or events?
- Does this partnership help expand our ability to win on issues that are outside the realm of wages and benefits? Does expanding our bargaining demands in partnership with this group help us to address systemic issues, not only symptoms?

#### Relationship/partnership building

- Will supporting this request build a stronger relationship between the organizations, within the labor movement or within the social justice community?
- Does this organization build or bridge new relationships or expand audiences that are critical to achieving our priorities? Explain.
- How are we as a local able to support community organization demands? What kind of work is necessary to do with our members to engage them in a process of relationship building with other organizations?

#### New or existing partner?

- Does the partner organization currently receive funding/support from any of Education Minnesota's locals? (If yes, please explain)
- Does the partner organization currently receive funding/support from any of our national affiliates (AFT/NEA/AFL-CIO/ALC)? (If yes, please explain)