About us
Mission: to advance equity and justice for all women through advocacy and collaboration.
Vision: a day when women and girls have the confidence, freedom and power to reach their full potential.

Minnesota Women’s Consortium was founded in 1980 as a member-based collective working to close gender-based disparities. Comprised of member groups and individual subscribers, we inform, educate and collaborate to influence lasting change through systems and policy change. Our activities fall into three program areas (see right).

Background
In the summer of 2019, MWC underwent a strategic re-evaluation process to prioritize activities to align with our capacity and that add the most value to our mission. With financial support from Bush Foundation and the Women’s Foundation of MN, the Consortium hired an external consultant to facilitate the process. She reviewed historical and current programs and capacity; gathered feedback from internal and external stakeholders; and held three planning and evaluation sessions with the staff and Board of Directors. The outcome was a more focused and realistic program outlook that can strengthen the Consortium’s competencies and impact in advancing equity and justice for all women. The visual below outlines these priorities over a 3-5 year period and consists of activities from the program areas above.

Guiding principles
• We will move at the speed of relationships to ensure communities are included in our programming and policies.
• We will enter spaces respectfully and learn from leaders closest to the issues and solutions.
• We will continually evaluate our capacity to ensure our impact and resources are realistic and viable.

Details of these activities are on the back.
1) Short-term priorities: Community Building
   a) Membership: strengthen and grow our membership base to be representative of women in Minnesota.
   b) Information sharing: as the largest and oldest collective of groups working to close gender-based disparities, gather and disseminate knowledge and information on news, updates and opportunities to advance change that improves the lives of women.
      i) Our bi-weekly E-Consortium Notes shares information from our member organizations and community partners.
      ii) Our annual Capitol Bulletin highlights the policy impact of our mission-based work.
      iii) Our annual report recognizes the valuable investments of friends and family in the Consortium.
      iv) Forums provide a space to hear from community experts and advocate leaders on issues impacting women and their communities.
   c) Networks and leadership: co-create spaces to connect and elevate community leaders to advocate for systems-level change.
      i) Women of Color and Indigenous Women: a growing network of community leaders to connect, collaborate and make collective impact.
      ii) NextGenFems: supporting and elevating younger women to advocate and lead change.
      iii) Our State, Our Stories: strengthening the leadership of greater MN women for statewide impact.
   d) Fiscal sponsorship: serve as fiscal agent for emerging and growing groups led by, operated by and benefiting women.

2) Mid-term priorities: Policy Advocacy
   a) Bill tracking: track and share select bills during legislative session that impacts women’s lives.
   b) Legislative Updates: develop mid-session and post-session reports.
   c) Girls Rock! The Capitol: introduce girls to legislative advocacy, civic engagement and political leadership.
   d) Briefs and Education: create policy briefs and information sessions on topics and bills.

3) Long-term priorities: Research and Education
   a) Research and evaluation: Gather and/or develop research that can inform policies and practices impacting women. Evaluate policies for impact and modification.
   b) Legislative leadership: champion bills and legislative actions that improve women’s lives.
   c) Trainings: provide trainings to equip advocates to influence policies and practices impacting women.