





The Voices for Healthy Kids Summit 2025
Saint Paul, Minnesota








Tuesday, September 9, 2025

- 7:00-8:45 Registration in the Great River Court outside the Great River Ballroom
- 7:00  **Activity: Join Optional Running or Walking Groups**
Location: Reception Desk | Walking Host: Shannon Melluzzo | Running Host: Ben Schmauss
Also, hotel gym open 24 hours and bikes, provided by the city, are available for rent outside the hotel
- 8:00  **Breakfast and**  **Networking at Great River Court**
Start your morning with breakfast and a chance to meet someone new!
- 8:55  **Welcome and Event Kickoff** Location: Great River Ballroom
Lori Fresina, Executive Director and Vice-President, Voices for Healthy Kids
Join us as we acknowledgment the history and people of the place where we are meeting and set the stage for the event.
- 9:30  **What's in Your Basket?**
Ben Schmauss, National Senior Advocacy Consultant, Voices for Healthy Kids
In Hmong culture, a kawm (basket) is used to carry things that are important – food, herbs, tools, or even memories. Today, we'll use the basket as a metaphor for what each of us carry with us into this space.
- 9:50  **Carrying History: 50 Years of the Hmong Experience in the United States**
Lee Pao Xiong, Founding Director, Center for Hmong Studies at Concordia University
This session will shed light on the often-overlooked history of the Hmong community in the United States. Marking the 50th anniversary of Hmong resettlement, we will explore the journeys, struggles, and contributions of the Hmong people – honoring their resilience while deepening our collective understanding of this vital yet underrepresented story in U.S. history.
- 10:50  **Movement Break**  **Technology Check-In**  **Snack Available**
- 11:10  **Centering Community in Policy Making**
Nicole Donoso, Policy & Democracy Organizer, Voices for Racial Justice
Juan Luis Rivera Reyes, Coalition Organizer for Equity in Place, The Alliance
Transforming policymaking spaces and securing a future centered on solidarity and care will invite different actions from all of us. Created by Minnesota's own Voices for Racial Justice, the Centering Community in Policymaking (CCP) framework has five areas of reflection: Community Leadership, Root Causes, Collaboration, Navigating Conflict and Confirming Impact. Within each of these areas, there are questions to guide deeper reflection and analysis for your policy effort. Community Leadership is intentionally at the center and encourages users to return to these questions at every point in the process, from identifying the issue to negotiating the trade-offs.

- 1:00  **Lunch Buffet and**  **Networking** Location: Great River Court
Head to the buffet in the Great River Court and enjoy lunch while connecting with others.
- 1:55  **Finding Commonalities and Solutions with Decision-Makers**
Allyson Frazier, National Senior Director, Voices for Healthy Kids
Laura Coleman, Media Relations Manager, Voices for Healthy Kids
Lori Poag, Associate Marketing Communications Manager, Voices for Healthy Kids
Terra Hall, Senior Marketing Communications Manager, Voices for Healthy Kids
Finding common ground and win-win solutions in policy negotiation is an art that blends close listening, two-way conversations and meaningful relationships of trust built over time. This training and related tools empower advocates and drives meaningful policy change. Access tools and learn skills to move through conversations and policy negotiations to more deeply understand decision-makers' needs and values to advance productive conversations – while creating an atmosphere of safety that honors all participants' values, feelings and needs.
- 4:00  **Leave for Dinner at HmongTown Marketplace** Location: Meet at hotel reception desk
Everyone will be joining a group to head to the HmongTown Marketplace – located at **217 Como Ave, St. Paul, MN 55103** – to explore, shop, and enjoy dinner together.
On the back of your lanyard, you'll find the name of the Voices staff member who will organize transportation to and from the marketplace and who will cover the cost of dinner – making it easy for you to enjoy the marketplace to the fullest!

Wednesday , September 10, 2025

- 7:00  **Activity: Join Optional Running or Walking Groups**
Location: Reception Desk | Walking Host: Shannon Melluzzo | Running Host: Ben Schmauss
Also, hotel gym open 24 hours and bikes, provided by the city, are available for rent outside the hotel
- 8:00  **Breakfast and**  **Networking at Great River Court**
Start your morning with breakfast and a chance to meet someone new!
- 8:55  **Stories of Resilience through Creative Expressions**
Tou Saiko Lee, Public Speaker, Hip Hop Artist, Storyteller and Spoken Word Poet from St. Paul
Tou SaiK's performance of Spoken Word Poetry, Hip Hop songs, and storytelling features rhythmic expressions of cultural roots and a historical resistance. Tou SaiKo Lee will share stories of performing and learning with his grandmother, Youa Chang, from his memoir "My Grandma can Freestyle." Lee's songs advocate for disenfranchised Hmong communities to collectively strive for social equity, remain rooted in tradition, and recognize the power of having a voice through music. The Hmong narrative of surviving oppressive societies strongly connects not only to the music but also to the message of rising from struggle and persevering against adversity, embodying a spirit of resilience.
- 9:40  **From Reflection to Action: Turning Day One Insights into Day Two Impact**
Shelby Pierce, Facilitator, Pierce Porter Facilitation
This interactive workshop invites participants to process key takeaways from Day One – including the cultural experience at the HmongTown Market – and transform them into actionable intentions. Through guided activities, you'll ground your learning, name your hopes, and set a clear focus for the day ahead.

10:30



Movement Break



Technology Check-In

10:45

**Shielding Your Mission: Legal Strategies for Today's Nonprofit Challenges***Allen Mattison, Lawyer, Trister, Ross, Schadler & Gold*

Nonprofits today face a wide range of legal risks and challenges – made even more pressing in the current environment. From heightened public scrutiny to potential investigations, boards are spending more time addressing threats to their mission and tax-exempt status. Together, we'll explore how to distinguish true threats from distractions and discuss practical steps your Board of Directors and senior staff can take to safeguard your organization's mission and activities. Allen will share insights drawn from his experience advising nonprofits across the country.

12:00

**Lunch Buffet and****Networking** Location: Great River Court

Head to the buffet in the Great River Court and enjoy lunch while connecting with others.

1:00-4:00

**Break Out Sessions: Two Learning and Working Sessions.**

Please see the back of your name tag for your group and refer to the schedule below. Groups will travel together to each session. There will be a 20-minute break between sessions at 2:20pm with refreshments in the Great River Court.

Break Out 1: Power in Partnership: Engaging Nontraditional Allies in Policy Change*Brenda Bandy, Executive Director, Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition**Cordell Bostic, Communication & Legislative Policy Coordinator, West Virginia Food & Farm Coalition**Danielle Patterson, National Senior Advocacy Consultant, Voices for Healthy Kids**Katie Bishop-Kendrick, National Senior Advocacy Consultant, Voices for Healthy Kids*

This interactive breakout session will explore how two state-level campaigns—Kansas Paid Family and Medical Leave and West Virginia's SNAP Stretch—strategically engaged nontraditional partners to advance policy change. Participants will learn how to identify, recruit, and mobilize new allies, including business leaders and farmers, to build broader coalitions and increase campaign impact.

Break Out 2: Case Studies from Peers: Building Strong Coalitions Using Innovative Strategies to Make Progress*Carmen Ervin, Impact Program Manager, Georgians for a Healthy Future**Carrie Feit, Senior Attorney, Community Justice Project**Ben Schmauss, National Senior Advocacy Consultant, Voices for Healthy Kids**Petra Morrison, National Senior Advocacy Consultant, Voices for Healthy Kids*

In the face of increasing state-level preemption, advocates in Florida and Georgia have developed powerful, community-driven strategies to protect local democracy and advance equitable health and wellness. This session will offer practical insights into coalition-building, power sharing, rapid-response advocacy, and community mobilization. Attendees will leave with actionable strategies to strengthen their own campaigns and build resilient, cross-sector movements.

Breakout Time	Group A	Group B
1:00-2:20	Breakout 1	Breakout 2
2:20-2:40	Movement Break Technology Check-In Snack Available	
2:40-4:00	Breakout 2	Breakout 1

4:00



Movement Break



Technology Check-In

4:10



Inbox Reminder: A Note to Your Future Self

Shelby Pierce, Facilitator, Pierce Porter Facilitator

Close out your summit experience with intention. In this interactive reflection, you'll connect with peers to share key takeaways and commitments, then write a message to your future self capturing what you most want to remember. Instead of a postcard, you'll schedule your note to arrive by email- landing in your inbox as a timely reminder to put your summit learnings into action.

4:40



Wrap up Lori Fresina, Vice President and Executive Director, Voices for Healthy Kids

5:00

End of Summit



PLEASE COMPLETE THE POST EVENT SURVEY! OUR SURVEYS HELP VOICES FOR HEALTHY KIDS EVALUATE OUR TRAINING AND ENSURE WE MEET THE EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES FOR THE SUMMIT.