

2024 PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

The Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance and Greater Iowa City, Inc. annually recommend and support positions on key policy issues affecting our region and state's economic growth. These positions and recommendations are made with significant input from our combined 2,000 members, investors, partners, and community stakeholders.

GOAL: Invest in Talent Development & Regain Educational Leader Status

By creating desirable and robust communities, Iowa can establish itself as a great place to live and work. Available housing stock, modern and accessible airports, robust broadband connections, community placemaking projects, and recreational opportunities are vital to Iowa's talent attraction and retention strategy and create great "quality of place."

Housing shortages exist throughout the state in both rural and urban areas. We must grow the stock of attainable housing for working households across the region. To retain and attract more workers, Iowa can take additional steps to address the shortage through increasing existing tax credits and additional incentives for developers, communities and employers to invest in new and existing housing for all Iowans.

Policy Solutions	Federal Policy	State Policy
Promote and expand employer sponsored innovative educational experiences like "earn and learn," work-study and apprenticeship programs as a low-cost option for workforce training. *	X	X
Support the coordination of state and federal rules for funding requests, research grants and program flexibility for higher education institutions to continue offering Iowans quality education that meets the state's workforce needs.	X	X
Support funding Future Ready Iowa initiatives, including the Employer Innovation Fund and Last-Dollar Scholarship program to serve as many students as possible, without diverting funding from other local and state efforts to build our talent pipeline.		X
Support policies that modernize and improve the education funding formula in a way that serves all school districts and students and allows school boards to effectively manage their financial resources.		X
Protect the Iowa Tuition Grant so more programs and options are available to all residents to enroll at Iowa's private institutions.		X
Support expanding funding for financial aid and educational savings programs so post-secondary degrees and training are accessible for more students studying high-demand careers.	X	
Reskill workers for jobs of tomorrow by creating a streamlined return-to-work program and expanding Pell Grants to cover more program areas.	X	X

**Featured Priority*

To learn more, see our comprehensive 2024 state and federal public policy agenda for the ICR region at www.cedarapids.org or www.greateriowacity.com.

The Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance and Greater Iowa City strongly encourage elected officials, candidates, and citizens to be civil in discussions and debates on policy issues and political opinions. We are committed to leading by example.