

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: Enhance Community Attraction & Livability Efforts

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
Support funding increases and policy changes that meet the demand for affordable and available housing stock as well as limiting regulations that raise the cost of housing. *	X	X
Support public-private partnerships that leverage investments in community placemaking and infrastructure projects, including funding for Destination Iowa, Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE), Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), Revitalize Iowa’s Sound Economy (RISE), National Endowment for the Arts and Iowa Arts Council.	X	X
Support the development of a future-proof broadband network and other necessary infrastructure using a collaborative state and federal funding strategy and support the needs of individuals and industry including education technology, autonomous vehicle technology, and cyber security.	X	X
Support funding sources and flexible policies to address needed water infrastructure improvements, including funding of the Iowa Flood Center, programs and projects that improve flood mitigation efforts, water quality, flood protection and forecasting, and implement the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund as originally intended.	X	X
Support infrastructure commitments and the fair allocation of federal monies to develop local infrastructure projects in rural and urban areas including airport improvement, roads, and bridges.	X	X
Support ongoing and future investment for passenger rail service from Chicago to Iowa City-Des Moines-Omaha.	X	X

*Featured Priority

To learn more, see our comprehensive 2024 state and federal public policy agenda for the ICR region at www.cedarrapids.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.

