GREATER IOWA CITY, INC.

2026 State & Federal Public Policy Agenda

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, access to clean and safe water, unique community amenities 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 increased funding and policy changes to expand affordable housing and rehabilitation solutions, including strengthening programs like Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), Opportunity Zones, sustaining disaster funding, and streamlining regulations to lower costs, improve housing stock, and expedite project delivery. *	✓	✓
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), Revitalize Iowa's Sound Economy (RISE), National Endowment for the Arts and Iowa Arts Council.	✓	✓
Support passage of the Surface Transportation Reauthorization bill to ensure stable funding and streamlined regulations that help states effectively plan and deliver transportation projects in rural and urban areas.	✓	
Support policies and investments that improve Iowa's recreational water quality by strengthening conservation efforts to ensure safe, accessible, and sustainable waterways, and implement the Natural Resources & Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund as originally intended for communities, residents, and visitors.		✓

Support funding for the Iowa Flood Center that improves flood mitigation efforts, flood protection and forecasting.	✓	✓
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.	✓	✓
Support ongoing and future investment for passenger rail service from Chicago to Iowa City-Des Moines-Omaha.	✓	✓

***Featured priority**