

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

A strong education system that aligns with the needs of the business community is critical to meeting our region’s workforce needs. Iowa must support innovative education initiatives and programs that develop workplace skills. Additionally, we must continue expanding employer involvement in developing workforce programs that align with PK-12, community colleges, universities, and private institutions to build a talent pipeline and attract the best and brightest to Iowa.

To regain our status as the best education system in the nation we need to promote high-quality teachers, create personalized learning by tracking student progress, invest in continuing education training programs and in early childhood education options and reward improved outcomes.

Access to quality education systems from early childhood and K-12 to postsecondary education and on-the-job training is vital to Iowa’s economic growth. As we continue to become a more diverse state, we must develop policies that promote employment expansion, income growth and wealth development for all residents.

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 for 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.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.

