



# 2025 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

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 talent, including increasing funding for aviation workforce development.

Our region has rich origins in aviation innovation that continue today with regional higher education institutions powering the Aviation Campus at the Eastern Iowa Airport (CID). We must support continued funding for these initiatives and lower financial barriers to the aviation profession. Combining the right workforce with shovel-ready property at CID will provide significant opportunity for high-quality aviation business development and employment.

We must also 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.

Additionally, 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 strategies that increase our state’s population, we must have policies that promote employment expansion, income growth, and wealth development for all residents.

Policy Solutions	Federal Policy	State Policy
<b>Invest in much-needed talent development programs such as aviation workforce development initiatives, community college job training programs, and local apprenticeship programs to prepare our region for the future. *</b>	X	X
Increase funding for the Pell Grant so more students have access to post-secondary degrees and training to study high-demand careers, and expand eligibility so students can study additional professions, including the trades.	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 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
Ensure predictable, timely processes for financial aid so post-secondary degrees and training are accessible to more students studying high-demand careers.	X	

*\*Featured Priority*

To learn more, see our comprehensive 2025 state and federal public policy agenda for the region at [www.cedarrapids.org](http://www.cedarrapids.org) or [www.greateriowacity.com](http://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.*