

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: Remove Barriers to Expand our Workforce

Iowa’s workforce challenges are exacerbated by a low unemployment rate and low population growth. We have an opportunity to address core workforce issues, including mental health issues within the workplace, in addition to issues related to the opportunity gap and barriers to employment. We must adjust policies to meet future demands.

Iowa must look for sustainable solutions to close opportunity gaps that hinder our economic growth and the vitality of our communities, including solutions addressing the child care shortage. We support initiatives that make child care more affordable, accessible and encourage more people to enter the profession.

Additionally, by encouraging investments in underserved communities, we can expand opportunities in education, employment, and entrepreneurship for all Iowans and strengthen our communities and our businesses.

Policy Solutions	Federal Policy	State Policy
Support policies that address access to high-quality, affordable child care and early childhood education, including increased wages and benefits to grow our child care workforce, and expanded Child Care Assistance benefits to support working families. *	X	X
Expand funding for ESL programs to advance employment opportunities for immigrants and programs that encourage employers to gain broader language and communication skills.	X	X
Support policies that help prepare offenders for successful reentry to Iowa communities and employment, including the expansion of high school equivalency diploma pathways and apprenticeships. It is also imperative to support correctional facility employee training.		X
Support increased funding and access for mental health services for businesses, schools, and communities.	X	X
Support policies that improve access to talent, capital, and opportunities for early and growth-stage companies and expand access to capital to allow minority business owners to start and grow businesses.	X	X
Address the nation’s aviation workforce shortage by re-examining the 1,500-hour minimum flight time rule and lowering financial barriers to the profession.	X	
Support funding for law enforcement crisis intervention training and staffing for community mental health coordinators to alleviate additional pressures on law enforcement.	X	X

**Featured Priority*

To learn more, see our comprehensive 2025 state and federal public policy agenda for the 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.