

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: Welcome Workers from All Populations

The impact of the worker shortage crosses every industry, every business size, and every skill set category. To meet current and future labor demands, we must ensure skilled, qualified workers choose to live and work in Iowa.

It is time to address immigration policies that create barriers for new people to join, or remain, in Iowa’s workforce. Immigrants comprised 44% of Iowa’s population growth from 2010-2019, according to the most recent U.S. Census. Business leaders recognize a diverse workforce means greater success. Under the current system, it can take years for hardworking, talented individuals to legally obtain the documentation required to work in the United States, leaving countless jobs unfilled. It is vital to our population growth that Iowa is welcoming to people of all backgrounds, experiences, and it is a place where everyone can thrive.

Policy Solutions	Federal Policy	State Policy
Support bipartisan policies that simplify and expand the work and school visa system and provide a permanent path to citizenship for individuals who came to America as children and to individuals granted asylum upon coming to America. *	X	
Support policies that encourage and expand secondary migration and refugee resettlement to live and work in Iowa.	X	X
Modernize employment verification (e-verify) system to check work documentation, including no penalties for companies who act in good faith, and discourage a siloed state-by-state approach.	X	X
Support policies that are inclusive to all populations to live and work in Iowa, allowing businesses to attract a diverse workforce and cities to compete to host national events.		X
Support policies that encourage new workers to move to and remain in Iowa, paying taxes in Iowa, as well as policies that do not penalize Iowa businesses from employing workers that live outside of Iowa.		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.