THE COLLECTIVE VOICE

ADVOCATE EDUCATE COMMUNICATE

The annual Collective Voice process is a regional business advocacy effort led by the Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance. The coalition behind the Collective Voice Legislative Agenda includes more than 200 representatives from 28 communities across 8 counties. We advocate for policies that strengthen the regional economy, keep Iowa competitive, and help businesses thrive. In 2026, we will focus on these priority areas:

TALENT DEVELOPMENT

Champion investment and expanded access to proven education, work-based learning, training, and talent development programs such as the Last-Dollar Scholarship, community college job training, public and private higher education industry partnerships, including emerging opportunities in aviation and aerospace, and local apprenticeships that connect Iowans to high-demand careers and strengthen the region's talent pipeline.

WORKFORCE POPULATION GROWTH

Champion policies that grow Iowa's workforce, and end the outmigration of working age Iowans, including simplifying and expanding employment and education-based visas. Ensure application process and fees remain affordable for employers and workers, and create clear, legal pathways to citizenship.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Champion balanced tax policies that reduce the disproportionate burden on businesses while maintaining local governments' ability to provide essential services, infrastructure, and amenities that drive talent retention and attraction.

GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS

Champion efforts to expand export markets, attract international investment, and strengthen supply chain resilience so Iowa's small businesses, manufacturers, and farmers can thrive in a global economy.

HOUSING AVAILABILITY

Champion increased funding and targeted reforms to expand affordable and workforce housing, revitalize existing neighborhoods, and streamline programs such as Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and disaster recovery funding to lower costs, improve housing stock, and accelerate project delivery.

FIND OUR COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF PRIORITIES AT WWW.CEDARRAPIDS.ORG/PUBLICPOLICY