



## COVID-19 Recovery - State Policy Focus

The Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance and the Iowa City Area Business Partnership's advocacy strategies remain focused on pro-growth policies as we pivot to a post-pandemic reality. With our members' recovery needs in mind, and as the Iowa legislature reconvenes to bring the session to a close, the need to grow, retain and attract business and workers remains a challenge. **We support targeted policies that ease the way for employers to rebound, add and keep their employees and grow their businesses.**

We respectfully ask the Governor and state lawmakers to address the following:

- ✓ Pro-growth business regulations and policies that encourage job creation, including:
  - Legal protection for businesses who act in good faith to control the spread of COVID-19 to employees and customers
  - Clarity for the hemp industry, as an emerging industry for Iowa's economic recovery.
  - Supplement Iowa's Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund to ensure its solvency so businesses will not have to compensate for it this year, nor see increased rates next year.
  - Economic development incentives that address post-pandemic unemployment realities through innovation and job growth.
- ✓ Policies that make child care centers and workers essential components of our economy's successful reopening.
- ✓ Fund the Regents' Universities and community colleges as they face dire budget shortfalls due to COVID-19 and are economic lifelines for our communities.
- ✓ Fund Future Ready Iowa initiatives, PK-12 public schools and community colleges to better align and upskill workers to the new post-pandemic employment needs.
- ✓ Alleviate the impact on local government's loss of revenue due to COVID-19 to safeguard businesses and property owners from making up for revenue shortfalls.
- ✓ Fund high-speed broadband for all students and workers to have reliable access to school and work from home, as well as the ability to access health resources.
- ✓ Fund community placemaking projects that spur economic growth, retain and attract workers.

Download our full state agenda at [www.cedarrapids.org](http://www.cedarrapids.org) or [www.iowacityarea.com](http://www.iowacityarea.com)

