



## 2020 STATE POLICY FOCUS

The Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance and Iowa City Area Chamber of Commerce join forces to promote pro-growth policies for our region. We collaborate with our over 2,000 combined member businesses and other partners to develop the policy priorities vital to our region's success.

ICR Iowa has world class educational institutions, nationally ranked hospitals, varied entertainment opportunities and a state-of-the-art airport. Our region is known nationally as a great place to live and work. To grow this reputation and remain the best, we need to continue to compete on a global level providing our businesses and industries with the opportunity to thrive in an ever-changing world.

Workforce challenges remain a top concern for our member businesses, and for our region to continue to grow, we need a strong talent pipeline of skilled and dynamic workers. We promote private and public partnership and collaboration to build Iowa's talent pipeline and bring our schools back to world-class competitiveness.

We support economic development Incentives that help our businesses grow and community development initiatives that enhance the livability of our communities and draw new people to our region. We will continue to advocate to protect incentives and other tax policies that lead to more economic growth and job creation and support placemaking initiatives that create desirable and robust communities.



**Barbra Solberg,**  
Public Policy Strategist,  
Cedar Rapids Metro  
Economic Alliance  
[bsolberg@cedarrapids.org](mailto:bsolberg@cedarrapids.org)



**Jennifer Banta,**  
Vice President,  
Iowa City Area  
Chamber of Commerce  
[jennifer@iowacityarea.com](mailto:jennifer@iowacityarea.com)


**CEDAR RAPIDS METRO ECONOMIC ALLIANCE SOCIAL MEDIA**  
Twitter: [@EconomicAlliance](https://twitter.com/EconomicAlliance)  
Facebook.com/  
[CedarRapidsMetroEconomicAlliance](https://www.facebook.com/CedarRapidsMetroEconomicAlliance)  
Instagram: [@EconomicAlliance](https://www.instagram.com/EconomicAlliance)  
[linkedin.com/company/cedar-rapids-metro-economic-alliance](https://www.linkedin.com/company/cedar-rapids-metro-economic-alliance)

**IOWA CITY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SOCIAL MEDIA**  
Twitter: [@ICareachamber](https://twitter.com/ICareachamber)  
Facebook.com/[icareachamber](https://www.facebook.com/icareachamber)  
Instagram: [@ICareachamber](https://www.instagram.com/ICareachamber)  
[linkedin.com/company/iowa-city-area-chamber-of-commerce](https://www.linkedin.com/company/iowa-city-area-chamber-of-commerce)

*The Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance and Iowa City Area Chamber of Commerce are non-partisan organizations that do not endorse or donate to political candidates. We support First Amendment rights for all people and 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.*

PROUD TO BE IN





While all the policy positions included in our 2020 state public policy agenda are important to the growth of our region, together we will focus on the following priorities:

- Support the full funding requests for PK-12 public schools and Grant Wood AEA. It is imperative that this year's Supplemental State Aid (SSA) increase should reflect our state's economic growth and compensate for necessary past funding shortages.
- Support funding Future Ready Iowa initiatives, including the Employer Innovation Fund and Last Dollar Scholar program, without diverting funding from other local and state efforts to build our talent pipeline.
- Support policies that allow more employees to enter the workforce and remove barriers like the availability of child care and "cliff effect" for parents, and policies that help prepare offenders for successful reentry to Iowa communities and employment.
- Protect key economic development incentives that demonstrate a positive return on investment particularly those that work to further innovation, workforce and development.
- Support simplification and fairness in additional tax reform, including providing businesses additional classification options that work to incorporate social responsibility into their money-making practice.
- Support pro-growth business regulations for the hemp industry, as well as clarity on state regulations on hemp-derived products, as permitted to the extent of the federal law.
- Secure sustainable and permanent funding sources to assist communities with placemaking projects that spur economic growth and workforce attraction and protect Iowa's natural resources.
- Secure full funding of the Iowa Flood Center to predict and prevent future disasters.

For more details on our comprehensive 2020 public policy agenda, visit [www.cedarrapids.org](http://www.cedarrapids.org) or [www.iowacityarea.com](http://www.iowacityarea.com).