



## 2021 FEDERAL POLICY FOCUS

With the help of our combined 2,000 members, partners and community stakeholders, the Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance and Iowa City Area Business Partnership work together to develop comprehensive state and federal public policy agendas for the ICR region. Since the global pandemic, and the recent major natural disaster, we remain focused on economic growth policies that best support our communities now and into what has become a less predictable future.

Many of the issues in our public policy agendas cross over among workforce development, business development and community development. It's clear the need to grow, retain and attract a skilled workforce remains the number one challenge facing our region's business community. To that end, our policy agendas incorporate themes of closing the skills gap, accessibility and welcoming communities to grow our workforce, bridging rural and urban interests, and promote business-friendly regulations and tax structures to support the short-term and long-term needs of our business ecosystem, battered by the multiple hardships of 2020. It is also imperative to support policy solutions to close opportunity gaps and bring equity to our education, employment, and entrepreneurial systems.



**Barbra Solberg,**  
Public Policy Strategist,  
Cedar Rapids Metro  
Economic Alliance  
bsolberg@  
cedarrapids.org



**Jennifer Banta,**  
Vice President,  
Iowa City Area  
Business Partnership  
jennifer@  
iowacityarea.com

**CEDAR RAPIDS METRO ECONOMIC ALLIANCE SOCIAL MEDIA**  
Twitter: @EconomicAllianc  
Facebook.com/  
CedarRapidsMetroEconomicAlliance  
Instagram: @EconomicAlliance  
Linkedin.com/company/cedar-rapids-metro-economic-alliance

**IOWA CITY AREA BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP SOCIAL MEDIA**  
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Facebook.com/icareachamber  
Instagram: @ICareachamber  
Linkedin.com/company/iowa-city-area-chamber-of-commerc

*The Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance and Iowa City Area Business Partnership strongly support First Amendment rights for all people. We encourage elected officials, candidates, and citizens to be civil in discussions and debates on policy issues and political opinions, and we are committed to leading by example.*

PROUD TO BE IN



While all the policy positions included in our public policy agendas are important to the growth of our region, together in 2021 we will focus on:

- Investments in workforce training including additional dollars and expansion of availability in Pell Grants, funding that will spur innovation within our Universities, and funding for financial aid so post-secondary degrees and certifications become attainable for more students.
- Policies that support state and local efforts to ensure child care providers remain open and help families cover the increasing cost of child care to allow parents to remain in the workforce.
- Policies that support long-term business recovery from the pandemic including regional aviation, on-going consistency and maintaining the funding commitment for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), long-term support of a vaccination distribution plan and a national strategy for the next natural disaster or health crisis.
- Policies that are inclusive and welcoming to allow for a pathway to citizenship and expand opportunities for additional students and workers from around the world to meet the demands of our local business community.
- Policies that drive down the cost of health care and lessen the burden on small business owners as well as efforts to increase transparency, access to unbiased information, and accountability for brokers.
- Policies that support a pro-growth tax and regulatory structure to encourage capital investment, global competitiveness, promote and grow local economies and provide equal treatment across industries and individuals.
- Implementation of a long-term sustainable funding solution and next generation infrastructure research to meet the nation's changing infrastructure needs, especially widespread high-speed broadband, education technology and autonomous vehicle technology.

For more details on our comprehensive 2021 public policy agenda, visit [www.cedarrapids.org](http://www.cedarrapids.org) or [www.iowacityarea.com](http://www.iowacityarea.com).