



## IOWA'S CHILD CARE INITIATIVES TAKE SHAPE

### Iowa's Child Care Task Force

In March, Gov. Reynolds created the Iowa Child Care Task Force, a group to develop a comprehensive strategy to address child care shortage and barrier to work in Iowa. This task force recently provided Reynolds with a report which included recommendations to fighting Iowa's child care crisis. To see the recommendations, view the [Final Report](#).



### Reynolds' Responds with Key Initiatives and Grants

On November 3rd, Reynolds' responded to the policy recommendations by the Iowa Child Care Task Force by announcing key initiatives and grants to address the child care shortage and aid the continuing economic recovery. The actions taken are as follows:

- Implementation of a childcare management system
- Creation of a "Best Place for Working Parents" designation
- Additional \$10 million in funding for the Child Care Challenge Grant Program
- \$100,000 for integrated model of child care and preschool learning opportunities
- \$200 million for funding stabilization grants for financial loss due to the pandemic

To learn more about Iowa's Child Care Task Force, Gov. Reynolds' child care action plan, child care initiatives in the Build Back Better plan, local solutions for Johnson County parents, and what you can do, click the link below.

LEARN MORE

# BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE BILL FINALIZED



Last Friday, November 5th, Congress approved the \$1.2 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill. Officially the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, this bill adds \$550 billion of new funds to an existing infrastructure package. These funds will be distributed among transportation, broadband, and other basic infrastructure uses.

## How will these new funds be spent in Iowa?

Iowa is expected to receive just over \$5 billion in spending. Rep. Cindy Axne has provided the public with how the new funds are expected to be spent. The funding is as follows:

- \$3.4 billion for highway repairs
- \$432 million to replace and repair bridges
- \$638 million for water infrastructure improvements
- \$305 million for public transportation
- \$120 million for airport infrastructure
- \$100 million for expanded broadband internet coverage

To learn more more about the infrastructure bill and what it means for Iowans, click below.

[SEE MORE DETAILS](#)

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## OSHA VACCINE MANDATES

The Biden Administration recently announced new COVID-19 standards for Americans everywhere. Included in these new standards are mandatory vaccines for companies with 100 or more employees. An appeals court has temporarily halted the vaccine mandate for all companies in the U.S. leaving many businesses in limbo.



### Here is a quick timeline of what we know so far:

- September 9th: Biden announces his "Path out of the Pandemic" COVID-19 action plan
- November 4th: Biden Administration announces the implementation of his action plan. Businesses with over 100 employees must mandate COVID-19 vaccines among workers or require weekly testing. Employers will face up to \$14,000 in fines per employee if regulation is not followed. Companies can choose to either test weekly or mandate full vaccination.
- November 5th: Governor Kim Reynolds joined multiple other states in the

8th Circuit to file a lawsuit challenging the Biden Administration's vaccine mandate rule.

- **November 6th:** The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals temporarily halts the vaccine requirement among companies with 100 or more employees. This halt applies to companies in all states.
- **December 5th:** Employers must choose whether they will implement weekly testing for their employees or require full vaccination. Employers must also start complying with the new rules by this date.
- **January 4th:** Employers need to ensure vaccinated employees or test weekly.

The Department of Labor supersedes any state-level prohibitions of the mandate. Although there is currently a temporary halt, employment attorneys say that companies should move forward with complying with the mandate.

LATEST OSHA VACCINE INFO

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## ICR LEGISLATIVE LAUNCH

Join us as we kick off another Legislative Session with cocktails and great conversation on December 13th!

A short program begins at 5:30 p.m. This event is for members of the Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance, Iowa City Area Business Partnership, and invited guests.



REGISTER HERE

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## HEALTH INSURANCE MARKETPLACE NOW OPEN FOR 2022

Health Insurance Marketplace is now open for 2022 coverage. The 2022 Open Enrollment Period runs from Monday, November 1, 2021, through Saturday, January 15, 2022. Marketplace provides quality, affordable health insurance for many small business owners across the nation.

LEARN MORE

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The Business Partnership advocates for economic growth policies on the local, state and federal levels. We collaborate with the business community and other stakeholders and partners to develop our yearly policy agendas, to create a consistent voice for the region.

We are a non-partisan organization that does 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.

If you have particular projects or issues that you would like addressed, contact **Jennifer Banta**, Vice President, Advocacy & Community Development.



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