



GROW CEDAR VALLEY 2023 LEGISLATIVE POLICY AGENDA

Economic Growth for the Cedar Valley and for Iowa is our priority

Grow Cedar Valley advocates for smart pro-business policies on a continuous basis that support our priority of economic growth for the Cedar Valley and for Iowa. During the 2023 session of the Iowa Legislature, we believe the focus must be on talent attraction, recruitment and retention. The slow growth in Iowa's population has placed overwhelming pressure on our businesses as they struggle to find qualified candidates, with appropriate skills, who are ready to work. As we approach the 2023 session, Grow Cedar Valley encourages the Legislature to focus on attracting talent to ensure future economic growth. We would also call for attention to work in other areas, particularly economic development and infrastructure.

Talent

Grow Cedar Valley supports developing policy strategies to grow Iowa's population and workforce.

- Continue to make Iowa a welcoming environment that is inclusive of a broad diversity of people
- Ensure state workforce and economic development programs can address the most pressing employee needs like child-care, housing subsidies and tax credits, and student debt
- Incentivize and develop opportunities for former and current Iowans to return and stay
- Retain more Iowans from our community colleges, private colleges and universities, and the Regents institutions with potential tools to encourage graduates to become lifelong Iowans
- Strongly support programs and training opportunities that offer direct access to skilled training for employers
- Fund existing programs and consider ways to make new resources available that promote "placemaking," including quality of life projects and arts initiatives
- Attract new Americans by pushing for a uniform immigration system across all states to vet international talent and policies that welcome those new Americans to Iowa.



Complementary GCV priorities for 2023

Grow Cedar Valley will pursue several priorities during the 2023 Legislative Session that are complementary to the goal of seeing growth in the economy of our region and the state in an inclusive and beneficial way with specific support for the following:

- Develop and support incentives with proven return in targeted industries
- Maintain important economic development tools, such as the research activities credits, high quality jobs credits, workforce housing tax credits, and historic preservation credits, as well as brownfields/grayfields tax credits and other DNR programming and incentives that help redevelopment of infill sites
- Ensure the sustainability of tax increment financing (TIF) and abatements for use by our local governments, that encourage expansion of existing businesses and recruitment of diverse new businesses
- Support education at all levels from pre-school through post-high school options
- Provide additional general fund appropriations for the University of Northern Iowa and increased economic development appropriations funding for UNI Business and Community Services
- Increase funding and continued efforts to improve dedicated workforce training and work-based learning programs at Hawkeye Community College and in our K-12 schools to keep up with demand from businesses
- Expand targeted investments and incentives for the Iowa manufacturing sector as outlined in the Iowa Manufacturing 4.0 Plan
- Encourage long-term infrastructure planning and examination of innovative funding mechanisms and delivery methods, such as public-private partnerships and alternative project delivery methods, that protect taxpayers and make the necessary resources available for the significant capital investments required
- Align local infrastructure needs with potential federal infrastructure initiatives so the Cedar Valley is optimally positioned to capitalize on any such opportunities
- Support efforts to eliminate scam calls and messages and provide resources to check the legitimacy of a contact

Approved by the Grow Cedar Valley Board of Directors on November 15, 2022