

2027 PDI LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



Professional Developers of Iowa is the state association of economic development professionals united to strengthen communities and drive long-term growth for Iowa. PDI's more than 300 members come from disciplines including community, county and regional economic developers, utilities, legal and financial firms, universities, community colleges, engineering and construction firms, and rail transportation companies. PDI's 2027 legislative priorities represent the collective interests of economic development leaders across Iowa's 99 counties.

Protect Iowa's economic development process, including appropriate confidentiality, for projects large and small by recognizing due diligence, local decision-making, and public transparency throughout each stage of development.

INVESTING IN IOWA'S FUTURE

PDI believes Iowa's economic success depends on empowering businesses, communities, and regions to collaborate and thrive. We support the Iowa Economic Development Authority, along with tax credits and financial tools that strengthen target industries, support entrepreneurship, and drive economic development. PDI encourages the Legislature to fully fund and expand these programs as needed and to develop innovative tools that support emerging industries and attract investment.

PDI supports continued modernization of Iowa's tax system through predictable, competitive, and user-friendly policies that encourage economic growth while providing sustainable funding for the essential services Iowans rely upon.

PDI remains a strong advocate for community-driven decision-making. We support preserving LOST, protecting TIF, and advancing policies that provide cities and counties with the tools they need to grow. PDI also supports predictable regulatory frameworks that allow communities to evaluate development opportunities at the local level while encouraging regional collaboration that strengthens Iowa's economy and quality of life.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Investing in Iowa's infrastructure is essential to leveraging our unique assets and competing in a global economy. PDI supports establishing an Iowa Infrastructure Bank that would use state resources to provide low-interest, revolving financing for local and county infrastructure projects. We encourage innovative and sustainable funding strategies that ensure Iowa can meet evolving transportation, utility, and economic development needs.

PDI supports increased and protected long-term investment in Iowa's roads, bridges, water systems, levees, and flood mitigation infrastructure. We also support continued investments in water quality, outdoor recreation, and natural resources that enhance quality of life and strengthen Iowa's attractiveness to residents, visitors, and employers.

To support future growth and economic competitiveness, PDI advocates for strategic investments in the energy, water, transportation, broadband, and utility capacity needed to accommodate projects of all sizes, strengthen community resilience, and position Iowa for long-term success.

WORKFORCE RETENTION & ATTRACTION

PDI supports sustainable solutions that help businesses attract, train, and retain the workforce needed for Iowa's continued growth. We advocate for strong investment in Iowa's community colleges as the cornerstone of workforce development, providing affordable education, industry-recognized credentials, customized employer training, and pathways to high-demand careers.

PDI supports protecting and strengthening community college workforce training programs, expanding apprenticeship and work-based learning opportunities, and ensuring local and regional workforce needs remain a priority in state policy decisions. We also support policies that address barriers to employment, including childcare, housing, and student debt.

To support long-term economic competitiveness, PDI encourages efforts to attract and retain talent, grow Iowa's population, and strengthen legal workforce pathways that help employers meet current and future workforce demands.

HOUSING & QUALITY OF LIFE

PDI advocates for strategic investments that expand housing opportunities, improve affordability, and strengthen communities across Iowa. While progress has been made, housing demand continues to outpace supply in many areas, creating challenges for families, workers, and employers. PDI encourages strengthening the Workforce Housing Tax Credit program through increased funding and initiatives that promote both owner-occupied and workforce housing. We also advocate for policies that encourage housing development in rural and urban communities, support reinvestment in Iowa's aging housing stock, and provide local governments with flexible tools to address local housing needs, including preserving recent TIF reforms that support residential development.

Recognizing that workforce attraction and retention depend on more than housing alone, PDI encourages efforts to improve quality of life, expand childcare access and affordability, and invest in quality-of-place initiatives, including permanent funding for Destination Iowa, to attract talent, retain residents, and strengthen communities across Iowa.



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