

2023 FEDERAL POLICY AGENDA

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TOP 10 FEATURED PRIORITIES

1. DES MOINES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TERMINAL PROJECT

Expansion of the Des Moines International Airport is critical to the state's economic growth and necessary for a safe and smooth traveling experience for business and commercial passengers. The Partnership supports federal funding to help close the final funding gap through creative solutions and direct appropriations to ensure completion of the vital project.

2. ICON WATER TRAILS

The Partnership supports additional federal funding for Iowa Confluence (ICON) Water Trails, a regionally connected system of natural resources and corridors. A public-private partnership, this regional placemaking project supports efforts to address water quality and flood mitigation and will serve as a talent attraction and retention tool for DSM.

3. REGIONAL PLACEMAKING

Investments in large-scale, transformational projects that attract and retain a strong workforce are vital to the future growth of communities. The Partnership works to support all regional placemaking projects, including the Downtown DSM: Future Forward Vision Plan and Action Plan, often through federal grants for public funding.

4. CHILD CARE

Access to safe and affordable child care is necessary for the support of a successful workforce, and it requires creative solutions and funding at all levels of government and the private sector. The Partnership supports additional investment and policies that increase child care options for families and promote stabilization in the child care workforce.

5. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION REAUTHORIZATION

The Partnership supports federal efforts to drive inclusive small business growth and provides ongoing support for small business in DSM. Instrumental to business during the global pandemic, reauthorization of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is an opportunity to expand federal support while decreasing regulatory burdens on Iowa's small businesses.

6. IMMIGRATION REFORM

As talent remains the top priority for Partnership Investors and Members, the need for immigration reform is more urgent than ever. The Partnership supports a modernized immigration system and policies that further the goals of a diverse and inclusive population.

7. FAFSA SIMPLIFICATION ACT

The Partnership supports legislative changes to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Simplification Act, including the reintroduction of the number of family members in college and an exclusion of the net worth for small business owners and family farms from the Student Aid Index (SAI) formula.

8. REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

As funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act continues to be awarded to states and local governments, The Partnership supports the region's ability to capture funding for key transportation and infrastructure projects, such as the Future 435 project, broadband infrastructure deployment and regional water projects.

9. ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE GRANTS

Arts, culture and heritage elevate and enrich a vibrant DSM and contribute to the economic growth of the region and state. The Partnership supports federal programs and competitive grants offered to further leverage private investment in order to enhance the creative sector.

10. FARM BILL REAUTHORIZATION

As the 2023 Farm Bill reauthorization effort continues to take shape, The Partnership recognizes the importance of programs that support the agricultural economy in Iowa and those that address water quality and conservation. As part of the reauthorization, The Partnership supports the Federal Crop Insurance Program, conservation programs, investment in research and development to support the agriculture ecosystem, funding and program support for rural development and a focus on international trade.

These priorities are listed in no particular order.

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ECONOMIC GROWTH

Economic development is a cornerstone of The Partnership, and as a membership organization representing the business community in DSM, The Partnership is focused on recruitment and retention of business and talent throughout Iowa. Therefore, The Partnership supports:

- A strong federal business climate with policies that ensure fiscal predictability, stability and efficiency.
- A tax structure that balances incentives and limitations that continue to encourage economic growth, investment, innovation and fiscal responsibility.
- The SBA's efforts to provide technical and financial assistance and access to capital for small businesses along with funding for the Office of Small Business Development Center network, SCORE Business Mentoring, Manufacturing Extension Program, Minority Business Development Agency, Small Business Investment Company Program, the State Small Business Credit Initiative and the State Trade and Export Promotion (STEP) grant program.
- Streamlining the government procurement process and increasing business opportunities for the private sector in the federal market.
- Adequate funding alongside accountability measures for research and development programs, such as the National Institute of Standards and Technology, National Institute of Health and the National Science Foundation.
- Programs and policies that promote public-private partnerships and remove barriers to access to capital to expand entrepreneurial activity, such as Opportunity Zones and Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI).

BUSINESS AND REGULATORY POLICY

The Partnership supports a strong federal business climate with policies that ensure fiscal predictability, stability and efficiency. Specifically, The Partnership supports:

- Reforming the rulemaking process by streamlining and accelerating the regulatory permitting process, allowing regulations to provide for regional flexibility and ensuring regulations are applied consistently and are based on science and the inclusion of economic and employment impacts.
- Initiatives aimed at reducing unnecessary regulatory burdens on the nation's industries, promoting economic growth and job creation and minimizing the impacts of government actions on small businesses.
- The preservation and protection of state-based regulatory standards in the private insurance market.
- Pension reform, including the preservation of existing tax incentives and contribution limits and increases in the limit for catch-up contributions.
- Retirement security policies that do not limit retirement savings assets, support the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) and legislation that encourages greater adoption of automatic enrollment.
- Legislation that removes barriers and promotes useful decumulation strategies pertaining to annuities, long-term care insurance and other products without overly burdening plan sponsors.
- The enactment of a credible long-term deficit reduction and balanced budget plan.
- Meaningful reform of the Social Security system that addresses long-term solvency.
- Maintaining the ability of state and local governments to utilize tax-exempt bonds, re-instituting the ability of state and local governments to advance the refunding of outstanding tax-exempt bonds and oppose elimination or limitations on the exclusion of interest thereon from federal tax.

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND HOMELAND SECURITY

The Partnership is dedicated to building DSM's global presence, balanced with the critical need for security, understanding that government cannot carry this burden without active involvement of the private sector. Therefore, The Partnership supports the following policy priorities:

- Pro-growth international trade and investment policies and principles, including the pursuit of additional rules-based, market-access-oriented agreements, modernizing U.S. export controls, renewing the Miscellaneous Tariff Bill, streamlining the section 301 exclusions process and removing harmful tariff on agricultural and manufacturing inputs.
- Accountability for the goals and measures set forth in the U.S.-China Phase I Deal.
- Streamlining the travel visa process and wait time for prospective visitors with positive commercial intent and expanding the Visa Waiver program.
- Efforts of the Safeguard Iowa Partnership, the U.S. Chamber National Security Task Force, Emergency Preparedness Department and others to continue to develop public-private partnerships to enhance homeland security and emergency preparedness efforts.
- Promoting and defending robust Intellectual Property (IP) rules globally, while strengthening enforcement efforts in the U.S. and abroad by strengthening IP protection and enforcement, improving the patent and trademark systems, protecting companies from frivolous litigation by "patent trolls," expanding the efforts of the U.S. Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator, advancing trade agreements with modern-day IP provisions, fighting IP theft online and ensuring IP compliance by America's trading partners.
- The mission and goals of the Iowa National Guard through the preservation and enhancement of key infrastructure in DSM.

ENERGY

The Partnership supports comprehensive policies and balanced regulatory practices that ensure energy remains safe, affordable and reliable, while promoting Iowa's renewable energy sources and avoiding directives or cross subsidies. Specifically, this includes:

- Policies and programs aimed at reducing carbon emissions, ensuring those efforts are done in a common-sense manner, promote innovative technologies and efficiencies, recognize the problem is international in scope, are not designed to favor some regions of the country at the expense of others and do not cause undue harm to the U.S. economy.
- Policies that further energy development in the state with regional or interstate impact through the modernization and expansion of energy infrastructure.

AGRICULTURE

A strong ag industry is essential for economic vitality in Iowa. Therefore, The Partnership supports:

- Programs and incentives to promote and assist in research, development and commercialization of bio fuels, biotechnology and bio-based materials, including implementation of the current Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS) as intended by Congress, continuation of the biodiesel blenders tax credit, market development, infrastructure and full funding for loan guarantee and grant programs.
- Funding, programs and policies that support the robust agriculture industry including continued support for the crop insurance program.
- Sustained levels of research and development funding for Iowa State University, the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) lab in Ames, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and specifically the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Agricultural Genome to Phenome Initiative.

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- Expanding conservation programs that address environmental challenges including soil erosion, flooding, water quality and wildlife habitat, such as the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).
- Continuation and expansion of the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) and the Precision Conservation Management Program.
- Continuation and expansion of the Source Water Protection program, which authorizes Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the State Technical Committees to work with community water systems to identify state and local source water protection priorities.
- Incentivizing the use of farmland management practices that reduce runoff at the origin.
- Increasing investment and utilization of the USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Employment & Training program.
- Increasing investments for USDA's Foreign Market Development and Market Access Program.

TRANSPORTATION

The Partnership supports investment in a complete, multimodal transportation system that efficiently moves goods and people, creates jobs and spurs economic growth. To that end, The Partnership supports:

- Closing the funding gap for the Des Moines International Airport's Terminal Project along with a fully staffed U.S. Customs and Border Protection Office.
- Reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and expanded investment in existing federal funding programs.
- Continued federal support for Complete Streets, including increased flexibility to allow multimodal transportation accommodations on streets, roadways and the public right of way.
- Design standards like the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) Urban Street Design Guide, which focuses on street design for all users, ages and abilities.
- A comprehensive approach to transportation infrastructure that prioritizes maintenance of existing facilities, manages capacity, expands alternative transportation modes, reduces congestion, reduces GHG emissions and improves the efficient, safe and sustainable movement of goods and people.
- Public transportation through regulatory flexibility and federal infrastructure funding, specifically for the funding of a new DART Operations and Maintenance Facility and HIRTA facility.
- Extending high-speed passenger service connecting Chicago, the Quad Cities, Iowa City, DSM, Council Bluffs and Omaha, studying the extension of high-speed passenger rail service from Minneapolis-St. Paul to DSM to Kansas City and continuing enhanced federal investment in high-speed passenger rail funding.
- Enactment of an infrastructure investment tax credit for, and opposing the re-regulation of, the freight rail industry.
- Continued funding for multipurpose trails and other transportation and recreation programs, such as the Federal Recreational Trails Program, the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Set Aside program and continued funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program.
- Increased transportation funding to Iowa and increased flexibility in the use of funds by local communities.

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- Continued improvements to the existing Highway Trust Fund to ensure adequate funding for the ongoing needs of transportation infrastructure, as well as a consistent transportation reauthorization to support critical transportation infrastructure that includes protections against unfunded mandates that add expenditures at the state and local level, makes funding available for all modes of transportation including public transportation and critical infrastructure maintenance, and maintains federal infrastructure programs such as the Better Utilizing Infrastructure to Leverage Development (BUILD), the newly announced Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) and the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) discretionary grant programs.
- Policies and programs that ease the introduction and widespread adoption of emerging transportation technologies, including electric vehicle charging infrastructure, transportation network companies and vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-infrastructure Smart City technology necessary for autonomous vehicles.
- A national approach to automated transportation with national standards for communications with and between vehicles and infrastructure to ensure infrastructure readiness, a uniform national policy on legal and liability issues, insurance, privacy and national guidance and standards that support safety data collection.

Regional priority transportation projects and regional trail projects as determined in partnership with the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), as outlined in the chart below.

2023 MPO/Greater Des Moines Partnership Priority Transportation Projects

ID	Sponsor	Project	Description	Total Cost
1	City of Altoona	8th St. SW Reconstruction – Phase 2	U.S. 65 to Venbury Drive	\$10,250,000
2	City of Altoona	New East Polk County Interchange		
3	City of Bondurant	Plan and Land Acquisition for Grant St. South Realignment and Central District Stormwater Improvements	Engineering and design for the proposed Grant St. South Realignment and Central District Stormwater Improvements Phase 1 construction project, as well as acquisition of the associated land	\$8,000,560
4	City of Bondurant	10th St. S.W. Bridge Replacement and NE 64 St. Upgrade	Extension of 10th St. S.W. to the east and Garfield St. S.W. to the south, including replacing the bridge that was formerly on 15th St. S.W. and widening NE 64th St. from Highway 65 to NE 76th Ave.	\$17,975,000
5	City of Clive and City of Urbandale	Hickman Rd Interchange at 1-35/80	Widen I-35/80 and construct auxiliary lanes from Douglas Ave. to University Ave. and reconfigure U.S. 6/Hickman Rd Interchange. A project to reconstruct the interchange is slated for 2024-2028.	\$76,700,000
6	DART	New Operations and Maintenance Facility	DART's proposed new facility includes a maintenance building, bus storage and office building, and would alleviate flooding concerns, allow for expanded use of electric vehicles and improve overall safety and operational efficiency. DART received a \$17.275 million buses and bus facility grant from the FTA in 2019 for Phase I of the project and has completed environmental review. This current grant request is for Phase II, which DART hopes to complete simultaneously for cost efficiency	\$111,000,000

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7	City of Des Moines and City of Pleasant Hill	SE Connector	Completion of the final 2.2 miles of the SE Connector provides a continuous Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway corridor from I-235 in Des Moines to U.S. Highway 65 in Pleasant Hill. The roadway project provides two vehicular travel lanes, curbs and gutters, street lighting and a 12-foot-wide-multi-use trail with green space on the south side. The project includes grading for possible future expansion should traffic demand or development necessitate. The construction also includes a 1,515 ft.-long, seven span bridge over Fourmile Creek, the floodway and a railroad spur.	\$55,000,000
8	City of Des and Polk County	NE 23rd Ave./Easton Blvd. Reconstruction	Reconstruction of NE 23rd Ave./Easton Blvd. between Fourmile Creek and East of NE 56th St. on N.E. Oak Hill Dr. The project will improve traffic safety by reducing delays with a continuous center turn lane, turn lanes and signals at two unsignaled intersections.	\$11,000,000
9	Des Moines Airport	New Terminal	The development of a new 14-gate terminal at the existing airport	\$500,000,000
10	HIRTA	Winterset Bus Storage Building	An indoor bus storage building to be located in Winterset with space for nine buses, plus an office, training space, maintenance bay, bus wash and EV charging.	\$4,500,000
11	HIRTA	Knoxville Bus Storage Building	An indoor bus storage building to be located in Winterset with space for nine buses, plus an office, training space, maintenance bay, bus wash and EV charging.	\$4,500,000
12	Iowa Department of Transportation, City of Urbandale and City of Clive	I-35/80 Interchange with U.S. 6/Hickman Rd.	Widen I-35/80 and construct auxiliary lanes from Douglas Ave. to University Ave. and reconfigure U.S. 6/Hickman Rd Interchange	\$76,600,000
13	City of Johnston, Polk County and Iowa DOT	Highway 141 improvements	Improvements to Highway 141, specifically a new interchange at a relocated N.W. Towner Dr. and an interchange modification at Highway 415	\$44,501,000
14	City of Polk City and Polk County Conservation	Trail Connection – Neal Smith to High Trestle	Connecting the Neal Smith Trail to the High Trestle Trail in Polk City	\$5,192,500
15	City of Waukee	University Ave. Area Transportation Improvements	Fund construction and reconstruction of portions of University Ave., Warrior Ln., 3rd St., 6th St. and 10th St. in Waukee to fill the existing gap in the transportation network and bring roads up to modern urban standards. Also included is 6.3 miles of trail construction along the roads and within the nearby greenway, six pedestrian underpasses beneath the roadway and adjacent water quality improvements	\$40,000,000
16	City of Windsor Heights	73rd St. Reconstruction	Reconstruction of 73rd St. from Hickman Rd. to I-235 with improved connection to West Des Moines via 8th	\$20,000,000
17	Various	Future 435	Re-designate U.S. 65/Iowa 5 as an interstate	\$3,000,000

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INFRASTRUCTURE

The Partnership supports investments in the types of infrastructure that support business, people and communities. To that end, The Partnership supports:

- Policies that spur private sector investment in broadband infrastructure, foster public-private partnerships, recognize the competitive nature of today's telecommunications market and avoid over-regulation.
- Streamlined federal financing and refined mapping of broadband gaps that qualify for funding in underserved communities.
- Efforts to address cybersecurity threats and attacks through a uniform minimum standard to the notification of consumers after a breach occurs, legislation to create a Systemically Important Critical Infrastructure model with clear benefits and expectations for the nation's most critical infrastructure, and the creation of the Cyber Threat Information Collaboration Environment to provide needed structure and tools to facilitate better information flows between the federal government and the private sector.
- The modernization of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.
- Continued funding for U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs and policies that support the ongoing need for affordable housing options, including but not limited to the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program, National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF), HOME Investment Partnership Program, Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) and administration fees necessary to administer the Des Moines Municipal Housing Agency.
- Funding for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields program.
- Expanding the flexibility of the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program to assist low-income families in emergency housing situations and policies that expedite HUD disaster resources following a natural or human-caused disaster.
- Funding for and flexible use of the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG).
- Tax credits and other provisions that, when leveraged with additional resources, can be used to reduce the cost of construction and rehabilitation of housing and require a period of guaranteed affordability for low-income owners and tenants.
- Increased funding for the programs administered by the local Public Housing Authority and simplification of federal regulations, allowing the Public Housing Authority to create more local policies to support the needs of the community and the expansion of partnership programs with local service providers.
- Tax incentives for commercial, industrial and residential green building and redevelopment programs that promote and encourage energy efficiency and other environmentally friendly practices.

SUSTAINABILITY

The Partnership believes that investment in soil and water infrastructure is crucial to a healthy community and the foundation for a strong economy. Therefore, The Partnership supports:

- Flood mitigation policies and strategies through collaboration with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other partner organizations, including the continued coordination between the City of Des Moines and USACE and plans such as the Polk County Watershed Flood Protection Operations plan.
- Prioritizing the use of green infrastructure techniques, such as restored wetlands or restored oxbows installed upstream to slow the flow in the upper reaches of the watershed, and working with agency partners and metro communities to secure funding through programs such as the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program.

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- Policies that further a regional approach to addressing water quality and water management.
- Distribution of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding to be administered with flexibility of funds, clear and transparent application and a focus on support for disadvantaged communities.
- New and ongoing funding for research, prevention and mitigation of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and harmful algal blooms (HABs), including the establishment of a research and restoration initiative in the rivers that supply water to the region and reporting of PFAS, as proposed in the 2022 National Defense Authorization Act.
- Policies, practices and funding opportunities for progress toward Iowa's share of the Gulf Hypoxia Task Force Interim Target of 20% reduction in total nitrogen and phosphorus load by 2025 and 45% reduction in total nitrogen and phosphorus load by 2035.
- The establishment of a Restoration Initiative in the Upper Mississippi River Basin through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), dedicated to research and restoration of regional watersheds.
- A “culture of measurement” of water quality, including the establishment of measuring and monitoring tools that assist in quantifying environmental benefits of practices and policies.

EDUCATION

The Partnership believes a strong and aligned education system and proven workforce development programs are critical to the quality of life in DSM and are leading factors in recruiting business to Iowa. Therefore, The Partnership supports:

- Increased federal investment in early childhood education programs coupled with accountability systems that measure results, ensure high program standards and expand the number of children served, including the support of the U.S. Department of Education Preschool Development Grants Program.
- Increased funding and support for work-based learning programs.
- Adequate funding for Title I and Title II programs to recruit, retain and train a high-caliber teaching force, 21st Century After School Programs and special education services.
- College and career planning systems, programs and staffing, along with promotion of methods to encourage K-12 students and families to become wise consumers of all available postsecondary options.
- Policies and programs to make post-secondary education accessible and affordable for all qualified students through significant increases in need-based aid programs, including increasing the maximum annual Pell Grant award.
- Simplification of federal education programs, promotion of innovation, research and the development and expansion of post-secondary training options.
- Multi-state cooperatives for educational institutions, such as the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA) initiative.

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WORKFORCE

Talent recruitment and retention is a top priority for Partnership Investors and Members, impacting every industry and area of the state. To that end, The Partnership supports:

- Efforts to create a modernized federal employment and training system that is driven by the needs of employers based on accurate and timely regional labor market data.
- Increasing the pre-tax contribution limits for Dependent Care Flexible Spending Accounts (DCFSA).
- Increasing workforce funding for digital skills and on-the-job, incumbent worker training to increase worker access to career pathways and to upskill the workforce.
- Increased funding for Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (WIOA).
- Reauthorizing Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in alignment with the Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (WIOA).
- Passing the Community College to Career Fund Act.
- Redirecting the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) to support apprenticeship and other work-based learning.
- Funding Wagner/Peysner Employment Service (ES) activities under Title III of WIOA at current levels.
- The U.S. Department of Treasury's Financial Literacy and Education Commission.
- Continuing the Career Pathways Innovation Fund, Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development, High Growth Job Training, General Education Development and Adult Basic Education initiatives and enacting the Strengthening Employment Clusters to Organize Regional Success Act to promote workforce development efforts.
- Funding the Senior Community Service Employment Program and the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA).
- Continued funding for the Corporation for National and Community Service and programs such as AmeriCorps and SeniorCorps.
- Programs that ensure veterans receive comprehensive counseling and related services regarding all higher educational options, in addition to funding the Centers of Excellence for Veterans Success in the Higher Education Act.

IMMIGRATION

The Partnership has consistently supported reforms to the federal immigration process, recognizing the importance to a growing need for talent and the opportunity it provides to support a diverse workforce. Therefore, The Partnership supports:

- A modernized immigration system and policies that support the workforce needs of Iowa, while furthering the goals of a diverse and inclusive population.
- The full and rapid re-staffing of consulates and embassies worldwide.
- Expansion of the H-1B Visa Program for highly skilled workers, without the use of a wage ranking system.
- An increase of the H-2A and H-2B Visa Programs to realistically account for the needs in agriculture and construction industries.
- Expansion of the Employment-Based (EB) Immigrant Visa Program, including recapturing unused visas from past years and ceasing to count spouses against the total allocation.
- Creating a clear path for foreign-born entrepreneurs to create business in the U.S. and to hire U.S. workers.

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- Dual intent for international students and codifying access to practical training benefits for F-Visa, M-Visa and J-Visa holders.
- Creating temporary visa programs for workers to fill essential non-professional roles for which U.S. workers are not available, including seasonal jobs.
- Passage of the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act.
- Funding of the Office of Refugee Resettlement budget at a level that allows local service providers and communities to be prepared to receive new lowans.
- Expanding the “Conrad 30” program along with additional measures to ensure foreign physicians are a viable option.

HEALTH CARE

A strong health care system is integral to a healthy business ecosystem, and therefore, The Partnership supports:

- Efforts to lower drug costs by providing a pathway for generic versions of brand name drugs and biosimilars to safely enter the marketplace and safeguarding the 340B Drug Pricing Program.
- Expansion of programs and funding for mental health services along with efforts to strengthen parity within the Medicaid and Medicare programs.
- The Affordable Care Act (ACA), including its consumer protections, such as prohibitions on preexisting condition exclusions, no annual or lifetime dollar limits on coverage, allowing young adults to stay on parents’ health plans until age 26 and protection of pre-ACA grandfathered and grandmothered plans.
- Premium assistance and insurance rating rules designed to ensure young and healthy people participate in the insurance market.
- Programs that lower premiums, such as high-risk pools or reinsurance.
- Elevating states as the primary regulators of the health insurance market.
- Expanded funding for programs and policies aiming to address health care provider shortages, such as Graduate Medical Education (GME).
- Expansion of programs designed to encourage health care providers to provide care in underserved areas including the National Health Service Corps and Nurse Corps.
- Equity in Medicare payments and the implementation of new reimbursement models, such as the shared savings program and eliminating the inaccuracies and inequities in the Geographic Practice Cost Index (GPCI) geographic adjusters.
- The permanent ability to bill Medicare as a distant site for telehealth services and audio-only visits.
- Extended postpartum coverage for women with Medicaid-covered births.
- Policies and funding that enable health care providers to coordinate care, lower costs and improve quality outcomes for children with complex medical conditions on Medicaid who require specialized care.
- Funding to increase the wages of direct support professionals.
- Efforts to address the opioid epidemic, including funding for the prevention and treatment of substance use disorder (SUD) programs.
- Initiatives that require the Drug Enforcement Administration to use data to track and prevent the diversion of prescription opioids into illegal sales, and to provide education and training for health care providers to learn best practices when prescribing controlled substances.
- An extension and expansion of telehealth services that is also extended to Medicaid and with an additional focus on children.
- Coverage of telehealth hospice services.

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Partnership supports investment in arts, culture, heritage and the creation of place, recognizing the importance to the attraction and retention of a strong workforce. To that end, The Partnership supports:

- Funding for programs to support planning efforts, support for digital arts and creative programs that connect culture and the community through programs such as the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) – State Arts Agency Partnership Grant, the National Park Service – Historic Preservation Fund (HPF), the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), Save America’s Treasures grants and the National Science Foundation (NSF).
- Continued funding for Iowa’s Rural Heritage Revitalization Grant and competitive grants offered to the state and local level through federal funding. Specific grant applications currently submitted include:
 - A \$22,000 grant request to the NEA Grants for Arts Projects program to support the Des Moines Performing Arts 2024 Dance Series performances, which includes additional programming from participating dance companies.
 - A NEA \$25,000 grant request in support of the Des Moines Metro Opera 2024 OPERA Iowa Educational Tour that provides experiences to 25,000 Iowa children and their families through onsite professional musical performances, curriculum-based workshops and comprehensive study guides and classroom materials.