

# RESULTS FOR BUSINESS



# GOOD LIFE GAME CHANGERS

## OUR TIME IS NOW

Dear NE Chamber Members:

Even with all the personal suffering and hardship the pandemic has created, Nebraska has been uniquely resilient through this period. We are on the fast track to economic recovery.

Only four key challenges – **workforce, innovation, community building and tax burden** – stand between us and decades of unprecedented growth and enriched quality of life. This year's legislative session brought historic opportunities to solve these challenges and deliver on Blueprint Nebraska promises to revitalize the Good Life and attract **young families and talent**.

A quick glance at our annual **Results for Business** shows just how your NE Chamber has been on the leading edge – a force of change – through it all. With your help and support, we were able to help deliver **\$700 million in targeted economic recovery, workforce, infrastructure, and community development priorities** to help businesses compete and succeed in new market realities. This is in addition to more than **\$900 million in direct tax relief for businesses and families**.

From listening sessions, tax town halls, and sector work sessions across the state to phone calls, emails and meetings with senators, the needs of Nebraska businesses and communities were heard in a big way.

While we relish our successes in 2021 and 2022, we know we have more work to do, and we can't wait to get started.

Here's to the true Good Life Game Changers of Nebraska – **our members**. Thank you for the privilege of serving you year after year.



Bryan Slone  
President



### NE CHAMBER GOOD LIFE GAME CHANGER PRIORITIES 2022 – 2023

We face a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to deliver unmatched economic security and quality of life for Nebraskans through 2050 if we:

- Compete and win in the race to attract new families and talent;
- Promote community vitality and quality of life;
- Accelerate innovation in high-growth sectors to expand global competitiveness;
- Remove barriers to economic growth; and
- Expand opportunity for all Nebraskans.



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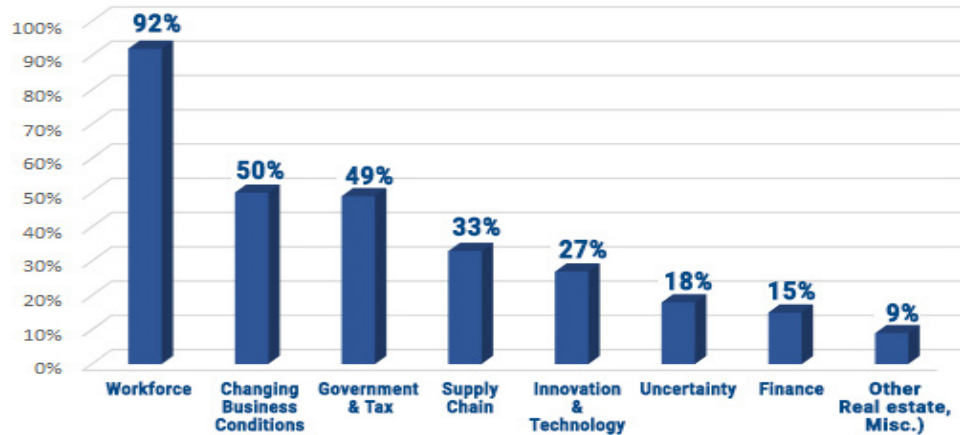
## LISTEN. ENGAGE. RESPOND.

In 2021, the NE Chamber hosted 10 listening sessions and a survey, garnering more than 300 responses from community business leaders across Nebraska.

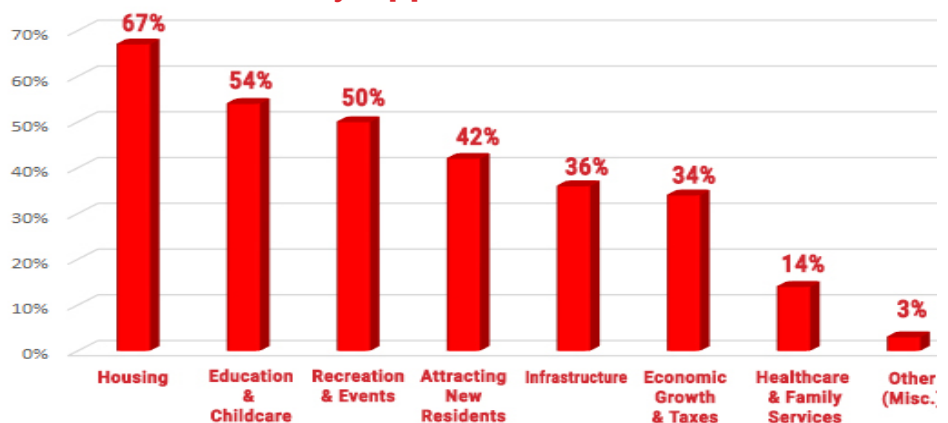
Workforce dominates the needs of community business leaders, although they continue to be challenged by changing business conditions, taxes, regulation, supply chain bottlenecks and tech upgrades.

Housing, childcare, community recreation and infrastructure, along with attracting new residents, were identified as top opportunities for community growth.

### Barriers to Business Growth



### Community Opportunities for Growth



# RESULTS FOR BUSINESS

2021 and 2022 brought game-changing opportunities to build Nebraska's talent pipeline, attract 18- to 34-year-olds seeking excellent quality of life, bolster infrastructure to support population and economic growth, and enhance opportunities for all Nebraskans – all in line with the priorities of NE Chamber members.

## Legislation



**\$700M**

Targeted Investment in Business Priorities



**\$900M**

Direct Tax Relief

### WORKFORCE



**\$75M**  
Community Colleges  
(Capital projects; workforce development; high school dual-credit)

**\$40M**  
Apprenticeships; Customized Workforce Training; Child Care

### INFRASTRUCTURE



**\$110M**  
Supply Chain Infrastructure

**\$100M**  
Arts, Entertainment, Sports Capital Projects

### HOUSING



**\$129.5M**  
Housing  
(Rural & Urban)

### COMMUNITIES



**\$107.5M**  
Healthcare Recovery; Infrastructure

### RECOVERY



**\$110M**  
Hardest-hit Nebraskans  
(North & South Omaha; qualified census tracts)

### INNOVATION



**\$55M**  
Agricultural Innovation Research Center; iHubs

## Good Life Game Changer Proposal Partners

Leaders from across the state joined forces on a proposal to quickly ramp up workforce initiatives, talent attraction, innovation and economic infrastructure using American Rescue Plan Act funds – complimenting the Blueprint Nebraska statewide strategic plan.





The NE Chamber is a steadfast advocate for free enterprise, a competitive business climate and economic growth.

Our shared vision invigorates our work and resolve. We build actionable strategies and partnerships that deliver results.

## Programs

### POLICY COUNCILS



**135**

Members Directly Engaged

### LEADERSHIP



**320**

Total Leadership Nebraska Alumni

**123**

Total Leaders in the Nebraska Business Hall of Fame

**\$226,000**

Total College Scholarships for Rising Business Leaders

### NE CHAMBER FOUNDATION



Statewide Workforce & Economic Dashboard Launched



Federal Grant Application to Address Manufacturing Workforce Needs

### NE MANUFACTURING ALLIANCE



**600+**

Receiving Regular Communications

**38**

Engaged in Workforce and Industry 4.0 Working Groups

**48**

Manufacturing Month Activities Targeted to Young Talent

### POLITICAL ACTION



**\$90K**

Support for Business-minded Legislative Candidates 2020-2021

**33**

Business-minded Legislative Candidates Supported

**15/17**

Races Won by Business-minded Legislative Candidates

# 2022 GOOD LIFE GAME CHANGER RESULTS



## NE CHAMBER PRIORITIES

<p><b>Develop Workforce</b></p> <p>Expose thousands of students to Nebraska careers.</p> <p><b>Results: \$26M</b> internships; expand &amp; codify <b>H3 career scholarships</b></p>	<p>Deliver regional customized workforce solutions.</p> <p><b>Results: \$36M</b> internships, apprenticeships, customized training; <b>\$47.5</b> incentive pay for direct-care providers to Medicaid patients</p>	<p>Unify state branding and post-secondary recruitment.</p> <p><b>In progress: \$10M</b> starting fund; priority in 2023</p>	<p>Work for comprehensive federal immigration reform.</p> <p><b>In progress:</b> Priority in national &amp; regional partnerships</p>
<p><b>Enhance Communities</b></p> <p>Develop large industrial and transportation hubs.</p> <p><b>Results: \$110M</b> rail and industrial park development</p>	<p>Boost community recreation and amenities.</p> <p><b>Results: \$100M</b> arts, humanities &amp; sports facilities; <b>\$60M</b> rural health complex; <b>\$110M</b> recovery grants for underserved communities</p>	<p>Spur construction of thousands of new homes.</p> <p><b>Results: \$129.5M</b> in rural/urban workforce housing</p>	<p>Create proliferation of affordable childcare options.</p> <p><b>Results: \$4M</b> childcare expansion</p>
<p><b>Modernize Government</b></p> <p>Modernize our tax system.</p> <p><b>Results: \$900M</b> in tax relief; tax parity among businesses</p>	<p>Bolster Nebraska's R&amp;D tax credit regime.</p> <p><b>In Progress:</b> Priority in 2023</p>	<p>Permanently fund tracking of education and career outcomes.</p> <p><b>In Progress:</b> Recruiting <b>business-education liaison</b></p>	<p>Incent regional planning and economies of scale.</p> <p><b>Results:</b> Planning is now an eligible expenditure for the <b>\$110M</b> infrastructure funding</p>
<p><b>Grow the Economy</b></p> <p>Scale successful workforce programs.</p> <p><b>Results: \$36M</b> internships, apprenticeships, customized training; <b>\$75M</b> community colleges</p>	<p>Accelerate tech transformation of key sectors.</p> <p><b>Results: \$25M</b> Agricultural Research Service National Center; <b>\$30M</b> innovation hubs in underserved communities; Expedite rural broadband</p>	<p>Facilitate sector-wide partnerships to stay competitive.</p> <p><b>Results: NE Manufacturing Alliance</b> work groups kicked off</p>	<p>Rejuvenate natural tourism.</p> <p><b>Results: \$200M</b> water &amp; outdoor recreation enhancements</p>

# 2022 GOOD LIFE GAME CHANGER RESULTS



## BLUEPRINT NEBRASKA PRIORITIES

<p><b>Develop Workforce</b></p>	<p>Unify and scale innovative workforce programs.</p> <p><b>Results: \$36M</b> internships, apprenticeships, customized training</p>	<p>Revolutionize education &amp; leverage longitudinal data.</p> <p><b>Results:</b> Collaborate on modifications to <b>NSWERS</b> education data tracking</p>	<p>Promote diversity and inclusion.</p> <p><b>In progress:</b> Expanded outreach; Launched <b>Diversity &amp; Inclusion Policy Council</b></p>	<p>Launch a “Choose Nebraska” campaign.</p> <p><b>In progress: \$10M</b> starting fund; priority in 2023</p>
<p><b>Enhance Communities</b></p>	<p>Support targeted quality-of-life investments and redevelopment.</p> <p><b>Results: \$100M</b> arts &amp; sports facilities; <b>\$200M</b> outdoor &amp; water recreation; <b>\$60M</b> rural health complex; <b>\$110M</b> recovery grants for underserved communities</p>	<p>Deliver last-mile broadband in rural areas.</p> <p><b>Results: Expedited</b> development; adjusted funding terms</p>	<p>Develop leading inland logistics and industrial hubs.</p> <p><b>Results: \$110M</b> rail and industrial park development</p>	<p>Scale current housing programs.</p> <p><b>Results: \$129.5M</b> in rural/urban workforce housing</p>
<p><b>Modernize Government</b></p>	<p>Modernize Nebraska’s overall tax structure.</p> <p><b>Results: \$900M</b> in tax relief; tax parity among businesses</p>	<p>Enhance government efficiency.</p> <p><b>Results: Streamlined</b>, created <b>consistency</b>, and <b>modernized</b> Nebraska business incentives, short-time compensation, unemployment and child labor policies</p>	<p>Further optimize Nebraska’s tax incentives programs.</p> <p><b>Results: \$10M</b> boost in Rural Advantage Development Act for livestock producers; ImagiNE Nebraska fix for manufacturers with multiple facilities; tax credits for ethanol retailers</p>	
<p><b>Grow the Economy</b></p>	<p>Diversify, expand and increase productivity in agribusiness.</p> <p><b>Results: \$25M</b> Agricultural Research Service National Center; seek U.S. Dept. of Energy Hydrogen Hub status</p>	<p>Develop our pipeline of innovators and connect them to capital.</p> <p><b>Results:</b> Increased to <b>\$6M</b> per program total awards under the Business Innovation Act for new product development</p>	<p>Create an industry 4.0 automation Center of Excellence.</p> <p><b>In progress:</b> Manufacturing sector <b>working group</b> initiated; priority in 2023</p>	<p>Support fin-tech growth.</p> <p><b>In progress:</b> Priority for 2023</p>

# SOLVE WORKFORCE

## Action Plan

Supercharge successful internship, apprenticeship and workforce training programs with one-time infusions of funding and expanded eligibility, commit to Nebraska's talent attraction campaign, and pursue federal immigration reform.



## Internships

Existing	Game Changer Results (LB1067/Budget Adjustments*/LB1024 -ARPA)
<b>Funding:</b> \$9.4M 2011 - 2021	<b>ARPA Funding:</b> Additional \$26M 2022 - 2024
<b>Maximum Award:</b> 50% of intern wages; 75% of Pell Grant-eligible student intern wages \$5,000 max per internship per company 5 interns per company One-year internships	<b>Maximum Award:</b> \$7,500 per internship per company 100 interns per company Up to two-year internships
<b>Eligibility:</b> - Grades 11, 12, post-secondary - Full-time students only	<b>Eligibility:</b> - Grades 11, 12, post-secondary - Full-time students - Part-time community college students
<b>Acceptable Uses:</b> - Intern compensation	<b>Acceptable Uses:</b> - Intern compensation, housing & transportation - Intern tuition reimbursement - Program development, implementation & assessment - Equipment, training tools, curriculum

## Workforce Training Grants

Existing	Game Changer Results (LB1014 – ARPA)
<b>Funding:</b> \$11M federal and state funds in 2020 - NE Worker Training Program - Registered Apprenticeships through WIOA (Workforce Investment Opportunities Act)	<b>Appropriation:</b> Additional \$10M 2022 - 2024



\*Senator Voting Record on Page 17



## More Workforce Results

### Community College Workforce Programs (LB1014)

\$60 million (\$10 million per college) for capital or programs that support workforce development; \$15 million for to cover tuition costs of dual-credit courses for high school students

### Nebraska Resident Teleworkers (LB1094/LB1150\*)

Resident teleworkers are eligible under ImagiNE Nebraska economic incentives program

### Career Scholarship (LB902)

Formalize in statute scholarships program for high-demand, high-skill careers, increase awards to \$15,000 maximum, and add programs; launch Grand Island partnership with Wayne State College

### Computer Science Graduation Requirements (LB1112)

Add five credits of computer science to high school graduation requirements and incorporate instruction in elementary and middle school

## In Progress

### Federal Immigration Reform

Prioritize the workforce shortage in legal immigration policies

### National Talent Recruitment (Stalled in Committee)

Follow-on investment in state's targeted, national marketing and talent recruitment campaign, "The Good Life is Calling"

### School Readiness (LB702 - Stalled on Floor)

Extend the refundable School Readiness Tax Credit through 2027 for both center and in-home childcare providers enrolled in Nebraska's childcare quality improvement and rating system – Step Up to Quality

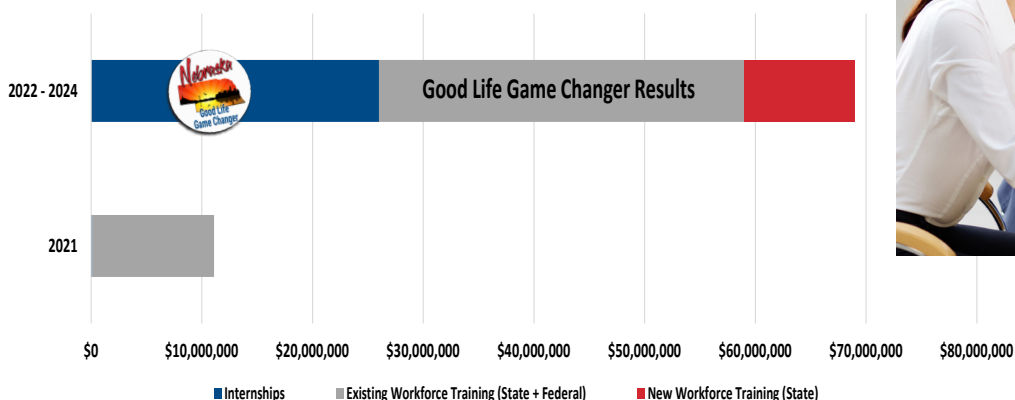
### Unemployment Eligibility (LB298 – Stalled on Floor)

Make work-authorized aliens eligible to receive the unemployment benefits currently being paid by employers



## Nebraska Internships & Workforce Training

Funding in 2021 vs. 2022-2024



# COMPETE IN TAXES

## Action Plan

Cut individual and corporate income taxes and achieve corporate parity, ensuring all types of Nebraska businesses pay the same tax rate. Achieve sustained property tax relief, and modernize key tax incentives to support workforce, community and innovation needs.



## 2022 Tax Cuts Package (LB873/LB825/LB939)\* \$900 Million – Largest in Nebraska History

### Individual Income Tax Relief

Reduces the top individual income tax rate from 6.84% to 5.84% by 2027.

Existing	Good Life Game Changer Results
Tax year 2023 – Top individual rate 6.64%	\$65.5 million in tax relief
Tax year 2024 – Top individual rate 6.44%	\$130.7 million in tax relief
Tax year 2025 – Top individual rate 6.24%	\$212 million in tax relief
Tax year 2026 – Top individual rate 6.0%	\$299.9 million in tax relief
Tax year 2027 – Top individual rate 5.84%	\$434.3 million in tax relief

### Business (Corporate) Income Tax Relief

Reduces the top corporate income tax rate from 7.5% to 5.84% by 2027.

Tax year 2023 – Top corporate rate 7.25%	\$5 million in tax relief
Tax year 2024 – Top corporate rate 6.5%	\$23.2 million in tax relief
Tax year 2025 – Top corporate rate 6.24%	\$48.3 million in tax relief
Tax year 2026 – Top corporate rate 6.0%	\$69 million in tax relief
Tax year 2027 – Top corporate rate 5.84%	\$84 million in tax relief

### Social Security Income Tax Relief

Phases out income taxes on social security income by 2025 by excluding it from adjusted gross income.

Tax year 2022 – 40% exclusion	\$40.8 million in tax relief
Tax year 2023 – 60% exclusion	\$44.6 million in tax relief
Tax year 2024 – 80% exclusion	\$59.5 million in tax relief
Tax year 2025 – 100% exclusion	\$70 million in tax relief

### Income Tax Credits for Community College Property Taxes Paid

Creates a refundable income tax credit for community college property taxes paid.

Tax year 2022	\$50 million in tax relief
Tax year 2023	\$100 million in tax relief
Tax year 2024	\$125 million in tax relief
Tax year 2025	\$150 million in tax relief
Tax year 2026	\$195 million in tax relief
Tax year 2027 and Beyond	Prior year plus allowable growth rate

### Income Tax Credits for School Property Taxes Paid

Increases the total amount of income tax credits available for school property taxes paid.

Tax year 2022	\$548 million in tax relief
Tax year 2023	\$560.7 million in tax relief
Tax year 2024 and Beyond	Prior year plus allowable growth rate

\*Senator Voting Record on Page 17

## More Tax Results

### Sales Tax (LB984/LB881/LB941)

Doubles reimbursement to businesses for sales tax remittance to \$150/month; exempts net wrap for hay bales and feminine hygiene products

### Agriculture, Ethanol and Manufacturing (LB1261/LB596)

Extends Nebraska Advantage Rural Development Act for livestock development through 2027, increases credits available from \$1 million to \$10 million, and increases refundable tax credits for 10% of investment; ensures manufacturers with locations in both rural and urban areas can participate in ImagiNE Nebraska incentives; creates retailer tax credits for sales of E15 (5 cents/gallon) and E25 (8 cents/gallon)

### Inheritance Tax (LB310)

Increases exemption amounts and reduces inheritance tax rates for certain beneficiaries

## Defeated

### Consumption Tax Proposals (LR264CA\* – Defeated on Floor)

A constitutional amendment for the 2022 ballot that would have repealed income, sales and property taxes and replaced them with a statewide retail consumption tax

### Hospital Property Tax Exemptions (LB784 – Held in Committee)

Limited property tax exemptions in proportion to percentage of gratuitous service with requirements to allow all licensed medical practitioners in the community access, unless good cause is shown

### Financial Institution Franchise Tax (LB1225 – Held in Committee)

Repealed the franchise tax (deposit tax and limitations) and replace with corporate income tax

### Tax Bracket Expansion (LB832 – Held in Committee)

Created two tax brackets above the current top maximum rate of 6.84% at 7.75% and 8.25%

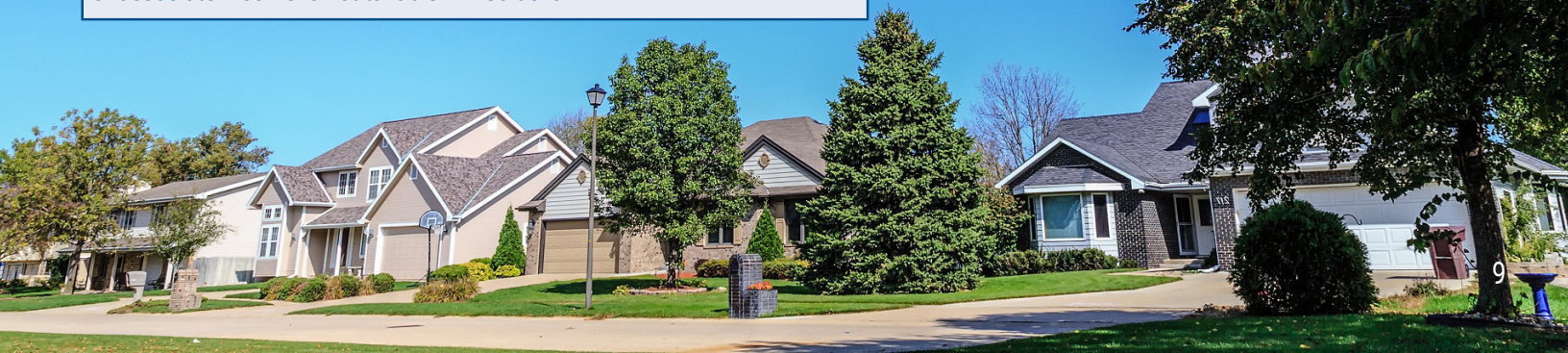
## In Progress

### School Property Tax Spending Limits (LB986\* – Stalled on Floor)

Limited growth in school district property tax totals proportionally with CPI or certain student enrollment indicators, unless allowed by a public vote or majority of school board members

### Income Tax for Personal Services (LB936 – Held in Committee)

Clarified de minimus income tax exemptions when out-of-state employees or associate income is not taxable in Nebraska



# REDEFINE INFRASTRUCTURE

## Action Plan

Amp up private and public physical infrastructure investment. Accelerate industrial and commercial site development plans in more communities, and put Nebraska on the map for mega-site development.



## Nebraska Community Site Development Programs

Existing  Site & Building Development Fund (SBDF)	Existing  Rural Projects Act (Transloading Facilities)	Good Life Game Changer Results (LB1024/LB1033/Budget Adjustments*)		
		SBDF	Rural Projects	Qualified Census District Grants
<b>Funding:</b> \$2.967M in 2021	<b>Funding:</b> \$10M in 2021 (until depleted)	<b>Funding:</b> \$60M additional to SBDF	<b>Funding:</b> \$50M Rural Projects	<b>Funding:</b> \$110M (\$90M for Omaha; \$10M each Lincoln & Greater NE)
<b>Average Award:</b> \$500,000 per project Competitive process	<b>Average Award:</b> \$500,000 - \$2M - \$30M max/project	<b>Average Award:</b> More communities served; expedited timeline	<b>Average Award:</b> Additional Rural Projects Act awards	<b>Average Award:</b> To be determined after RFP process
<b>Eligibility:</b> - Local governments - Nonprofit corporations - Match required	<b>Eligibility:</b> - Nonprofit development corp. - Counties <100,000 - Match required	<b>Eligibility:</b> N. Omaha Business Park	<b>Eligibility:</b> Unchanged	<b>Eligibility:</b> Private or public entities in tracts with: - 50%+ households earning <60% area median gross income - 25%+ poverty rate
<b>Acceptable Uses:</b> - Land - Buildings - Infrastructure - Engineering & design - Tech assistance, planning	<b>Acceptable Uses:</b> Site work for new, industrial rail parks: - Site acquisition - Utility extensions - Rail spurs	<b>Acceptable Uses:</b> Unchanged	<b>Acceptable Uses:</b> Unchanged	<b>Acceptable Uses:</b> Communities and neighborhoods hard-hit by COVID-19 - housing - small business - job training - business development

\*Senator Voting Record on Page 17

## More Infrastructure Results

### Broadband Expansion (LB1144/LB761/LB914/LB1021/LB1214/LB1234)

Extends deadlines under Broadband Bridge Act and decreases required match in high-cost areas; establishes \$2 million precision ag infrastructure grant; grants Public Service Commission mapping responsibility; encourages competitive rates for service; and expedites permitting across railroad tracks

### Airport Service (LR283CA)

Constitutional amendment for 2022 ballot, granting local political subdivisions authority to expend revenues for the purpose of expanding air service

## In Progress

### Mega-Site Development (LB1033 – Held in Committee)

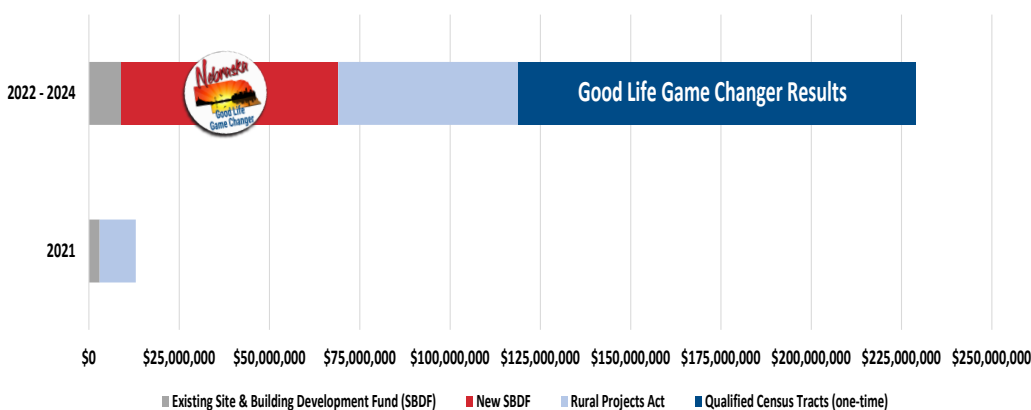
Allocate \$150 million in funds to identify and prepare two mega-sites for transformational projects (Eastern and Western Nebraska)

### ImagiNE Nebraska Revolving Loan Fund (Budget Adjustments)

Fully fund to \$20 million through 2024, allowing more employers to borrow against future tax credits to support infrastructure, job training, talent recruitment, childcare or transportation expenses



**Nebraska Infrastructure Programs**  
State Funding 2021 vs. 2022 - 2024



# EMPOWER COMMUNITIES

## Objective

Deliver one-time, targeted, historic investments in community housing, childcare, healthcare, broadband, recreation and entertainment solutions that attract new residents and families and offer unmatched quality of life.

Community Building Results					
Existing Rural Workforce Housing	Existing Middle-Income Workforce Housing (Urban)	Good Life Game Changer Results (LB1024/LB1252/LB1069*/LB1071/Budget Adjustments*)			
		Rural Workforce Housing	Middle-Income Housing (Urban)	Statewide Housing Programs (New)	Shovel-Ready Capital Projects (New)
<b>Funding:</b> \$10M in 2020 (until depleted); 17 million since 2017	<b>Funding:</b> \$10M in 2020 (until depleted)	<b>Funding:</b> \$30M additional (+10M for land development) through 2024	<b>Funding:</b> \$20M additional (+\$40M for land development) through 2024	<b>Funding:</b> \$20.5M – 9% & 4% low-income housing tax credit (LIHTC)  \$8M – Immigrant and Refugee (I&R) Housing through 2024 (+1M for job training and placement)	<b>Funding:</b> \$100M (Split by Congressional District) through 2024
<b>Average Award:</b> \$1M max per entity; \$2M cumulative limit through FY23	<b>Average Award:</b> \$1M max over 2 years; \$2M cumulative limit through FY23	<b>Average Award:</b> \$1M max per entity; Lifetime caps to be determined	<b>Average Award:</b> \$5M max per entity over 2 years. Lifetime caps to be determined	<b>Average Award:</b> LIHTC – dependent on investment I&R – To be determined	<b>Average Award:</b> \$250,000 - \$5M; <\$5M priority No maximum
<b>Eligibility:</b> - Counties of <100K - 1:1 match	<b>Eligibility:</b> Qualified Census Tracts in Douglas, Sarpy, Lancaster - Owner-occupied - Up to 285K appraised value - No other low-income programs used - 1:1 match	<b>Eligibility:</b> Most unchanged - 50% match - Extend from two to six years	<b>Eligibility:</b> Most unchanged - 50% match - Extends from two to four years - 50% of previous grants spent - Qualified census tracts	<b>Eligibility:</b> LIHTC - Developers with LIHTC allocation from NIFA - Satisfy low-income requirements for 15 years  I&R - Nonprofit - Households ≤185% federal poverty guidelines	<b>Eligibility:</b> - Nonprofit with delayed capital projects - Match required
<b>Acceptable Uses:</b> - New housing up to \$285K - New rental housing up to \$215K - Rehabilitation / conversions - Upper story housing	<b>Acceptable Uses:</b> - Owner occupied - New housing - Rehabilitation exceeding 50% of pre-construction for assessed value - Upper story housing	<b>Acceptable Uses:</b> - New housing up to \$325K - New rental housing up to \$250K	<b>Acceptable Uses:</b> - New owner-occupied housing up to \$285K - Rehabilitation - Upper story	<b>Acceptable Uses:</b> LIHTC - Construction or rehab of rental housing I&R - Affordable housing development	<b>Acceptable Uses:</b> Arts, humanities, entertainment & sports complex projects delayed by the pandemic

\*Senator Voting Record on Page 17

## More Community Results

### Childcare Expansion (Budget Adjustments)

\$4 million available for grants to expand or start childcare programs up to five years of age in areas of need

### Small Business Stabilization (LB598)

Offers grants of up to \$12,000 to Nebraska businesses with \$1 million or less gross revenues and suffering 50% revenue losses due to future natural disasters or declared emergencies

### Attracting and Retaining 24-Hour Caregivers (Budget Adjustments\*)

\$47.5 million for incentive payments for direct-care staff at licensed and Medicaid-Certified nursing facilities

### Rural Health Complex (Budget Adjustments)

\$60 million for a joint University of Nebraska at Kearney (UNK) and Medical Center Rural Health Complex housed at UNK

### Water Sports, Recreation and Tourism – STARWARS (LB1023/Budget Adjustments)

\$200 million in one-time funding remove to:

- Build a new marina and amenities at Lake McConaughy, plus road safety improvements
- Replace a Niobrara River boat access facility in Knox County to promote hunting and fishing industry
- Construct an event center and lodge at Niobrara State Park
- Expand marina at Lewis & Clark Lake
- Lower Platte River flood control
- Add a 4,000-acre reservoir between Lincoln and Omaha

### US SPACECOM/Offutt Air Force Base (LB1232/LB1233/Budget Adjustments\*)

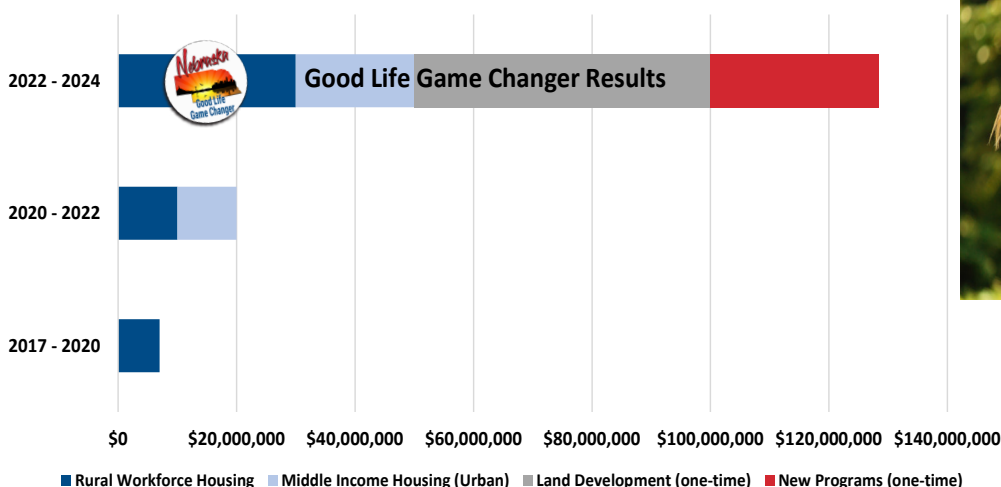
Repurpose \$50 million previously committed to attract US SPACECOM to Nebraska toward support for Offutt Air Force Base profile and base enhancement projects; \$20 million to help build a U.S. Strategic Command Nuclear Command, Control and Communications facility through public/private partnerships

## In Progress

### Revitalize Main Streets (LB701 – Stalled on Floor)

Extended the Nebraska job Creation and Mainstreet Revitalization Act (Nebraska Historic Tax Credits) through 2027 to support both commercial and residential downtown revitalization plans

Nebraska Workforce Housing  
State Funding 2017 - 2024



# PROTECT OUR BUSINESS CLIMATE



## Action Plan

Promote free markets and preserve our competitive business climate. Reduce the cost of regulation and doing business in Nebraska when possible. Defeat proposals that threaten economic competitiveness and job creation.



## Results in Competitiveness

### Unemployment Adjudication (LB567)

Retains streamlined pandemic-era unemployment adjudication practices in which only the most recent job separation is adjudicated; a charging decision for each job separation is still delivered, which employers have a right to appeal

### Employment of Minors & Short-Time Compensation (LB780)

Eliminates the requirement to publicly display the names of minors employed and the ability for schools to approve labor certificates; grants the Labor Commissioner authority to provide a good cause exception for employers who do not meet requirements of the short-time compensation program to participate

### Employer-Mandated COVID-19 Vaccines (LB906\*)

Amendments negotiated ensure employee exemptions from employer-mandated COVID-19 vaccines align with federal language and current standard; neither requires nor restricts an employer's ability to mandate vaccines

## Defeated

### Right to Repair (LB543 – Stalled on Floor)

Required equipment manufacturers to make documentation, parts, tools, and software available to the owner or an independent repairer for electronics-enabled agricultural equipment

### Pipeline Reclamation (LB1186 – Held in Committee)

Classified oil and carbon dioxide as hazardous liquids subject to new local reclamation and state decommissioning requirements, including establishing a trust fund for the reclamation process – all beyond existing permit requirements

### Personal Data (LB1188 – Held in Committee)

The Uniform Personal Data Protection Act would have regulated how businesses collect, control and process sensitive or personal data of individuals beyond federal law

### Unemployment Benefit Expansion (LB931 – Held in Committee)

Paid vacation remitted to an employee upon separation would not count toward compensation that must expire before eligibility for unemployment benefits, creating a potential double-pay scenario

### Fair Employment Practice Act (LB1029 – Held in Committee)

Created a new class of employers (Class II – with less than 15 employees) subject to non-discrimination regulations beyond what is currently required by law for small businesses

### Product Liability (LB694 – Held in Committee)

Extended the statute of limitations from four years to 10 for exposure to certain chemicals, prescription drugs or medical devices

### Workers' Compensation (LB719 – Held in Committee)

Significantly increased many provisions of workers' compensation benefits and costs to employers



# DRIVE INNOVATION

## Objective

Invigorate Nebraska's transformation to tech-enabled commerce by encouraging shot-in-the-arm funding for research and development, high-tech workforce training, automation and security upgrades.



\*Senator Voting Record on Page 17

## Innovation Results

### Hydrogen Hub Industry Work Group (LB1099)

Creates a work group of manufacturing, agriculture, transportation and energy and clean hydrogen representatives to apply to be one of four U.S. Dept. of Energy regional clean hydrogen hubs authorized in the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

### Agricultural Innovation Facility (Budget Adjustments\*)

Creates the Agricultural Research Service National Center for Regenerative and Resilient Precision Agriculture on the University of Nebraska – Lincoln Innovation Campus

### Expand Business Innovation Act (LB598/LB1163)

Increases total program award limits under the Business Innovation Act from \$4 million to \$6 million, to expand early-stage capital support to entrepreneurial firms developing products

### Innovation Hubs (LB450/LB1215/LB1024)

By designating an area as an iHub, the Nebraska Dept. of Economic Development encourages tech, financial, education and nonprofit partners to build entrepreneurship in historically underserved communities; up to \$5 million in Small Business Assistance Grants is targeted to entrepreneurs in these areas

## In Progress

### R&D Tax Credits (LB701 – Stalled on Floor)

Extended the Nebraska Advantage Research & Development Act by one year to encourage private investment in local economies and higher learning institutions

### Business R&D Grants (LB699 – Held in Committee)

Established a robust, one-time 1:1 matching business grant program based on the Nebraska Asset Modernization Initiative with the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority to support technology adoption and traditional R&D, including planning, engineering, and administrative costs

# SUPPORT STRONG LEADERS



The NE Chamber Foundation is committed to supporting Nebraska's No. 1 resource – strong leaders.

## Action Plan

Meet the needs of current business, community and state leaders, and equip Nebraska's next generation of leaders with the experiences, information and research they need to generate big ideas and bold moves.

## Results in Supporting Leaders

### Workforce & Economic Development Dashboard

The dashboard, developed in partnership with eIMPACT offers NE Chamber members and the public quick access to trends and demographics.

### Leadership Nebraska

The network of alumni dedicated to lifelong learning and community leadership now stands at 320 strong, including some elected officials.

### Nebraska Business Hall of Fame

Inducted three more impactful business leaders into the Nebraska Business Hall of Fame, bringing the total to over 130 honorees recognized by the NE Chamber and University of Nebraska – Lincoln College of Business.

### Hall of Fame Scholarships

Six more Nebraska college students were awarded \$2,000 each in scholarships to support their education in business fields, bringing the total to \$226,000 to 113 students.

### Workforce Grant

The NE Chamber Foundation, NE Chamber and NE Manufacturing Alliance applied for the U.S. Economic Development Administration's Good Jobs Challenge, supporting work to build demand-driven, skills-based training to meet future workforce needs.

# GROW NEBRASKA MANUFACTURING



## Action Plan

Bring efficiency and alignment to efforts to promote, equip and educate a tech-enabled workforce; deepen relationships among manufacturers to build local supply-chain depth; usher in research, development and Manufacturing 4.0 transformation; advocate for policies that promote manufacturing growth and competitiveness; and offer education, training and networking to manufacturers.

## Results for Manufacturing

### Manufacturing Sector Growth

About 12,000 more manufacturing employees in Nebraska today than pre-pandemic, thanks to policies that kept businesses open and growing.

### Executive Vice President, Manufacturing

Mike Johnson, former executive in brewing operations for Anheuser-Busch, has officially launched the NE Manufacturing Alliance with renewed problem-solving structure and new engagement opportunities.

### NE Manufacturing Alliance Expansion

Women in Manufacturing – Nebraska officially joined the NE Manufacturing Alliance to better align statewide manufacturing workforce and growth initiatives. More than 600 manufacturers are receiving regular communications.

### First Technology Forum & Expo

For the first time, 200 Nebraska manufacturers met with technology disruptors and suppliers to help them on their Manufacturing 4.0 journeys, thanks to a new partnership with CED Industrial Solutions Network.

### Manufacturers of the Year

Hughes Brothers, Inc. and BD (Becton, Dickinson and Company) were named 2021 “Manufacturers of the Year” at the annual manufacturing summit in partnership with RSM US, LLP.

### Statewide Manufacturing Month Celebration

A total of 48 activities introducing young, Nebraska talent to career opportunities in NE Manufacturing were helped along by a new “Manufacturer’s toolkit” for streamlined coordination.

### NE Chamber Board Representation

Nebraska Manufacturing Advisory Council Chair Scott Volk joined the NE Chamber Board in early 2021.

### Manufacturing Policy Council

The NE Chamber’s historic policy council will be relaunched for the 2023 legislative session to align with NE Manufacturing Alliance priorities.

Lend your expertise to NE Manufacturing Alliance initiatives. Learn more at [nemanufacturingalliance.com](http://nemanufacturingalliance.com).



# HOW YOUR SENATOR VOTED

Senator	LB825 (Page 8)	LB873 AM2658 (Page 8)	LB873 AM2661 (Page 8)	LB1150 AM 2009 (Page 7)	LB1012 AM2000 (Budget)	LB1013 AM2001 (Budget)	LR264CA (Page 9)	LB986 (Page 9)	LB906 AM1729 (Page 14)	LB1069 (Page 12)
Raymond Aguilar	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Joni Albrecht	Yes	Yes	Yes	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Present
John Arch	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes
Carol Blood	Present	Yes	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Eliot Bostar	Present	Yes	No	Present	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Excused	Excused
Bruce Bostelman	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Present
Tom Brandt	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tom Brewer	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tom Briese	Yes	Yes	Yes	Excused	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Excused
John Cavanaugh	Present	Present	No	Excused	Present	Present	Present	No	Present	Yes
Machaela Cavanaugh	Present	Present	No	Excused	Yes	Present	Yes	No	Present	Yes
Robert Clements	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Jen Day	Excused	Yes	No	Yes	Present	Excused	Excused	No	Yes	Yes
Wendy DeBoer	Present	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Present	Yes
Myron Dorn	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Steve Erdman	Yes	Yes	Yes	Present	Yes	Yes	Present	Yes	Yes	No
Michael Flood	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Excused
Curt Friesen	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Present	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Suzanne Geist	Yes	Excused	Excused	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Excused
Tim Gragert	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Steve Halloran	Yes	Yes	Yes	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Ben Hansen	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Excused	Yes
Matt Hansen	Present	Excused	No	Present	Present	Present	Present	No	Present	Present
Mike Hilgers	Yes	Yes	Yes	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Robert Hilkemann	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Present	Excused
Dan Hughes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Present	Present	Yes	Present	Yes
Megan Hunt	Present	Yes	No	Present	Present	No	Yes	No	Present	Yes
Mike Jacobson	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Present	Excused	Excused	Yes
Mark Kolterman	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Steve Lathrop	Present	Yes	No	Excused	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Present	Present
Brett Lindstrom	Yes	Yes	Yes	Excused	Yes	Yes	Excused	Yes	Yes	Excused
Lou Ann Linehan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Present	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Present
John Lowe, Sr.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
John S. McCollister	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Mike McDonnell	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Terrel McKinney	Present	Yes	No	Yes	Present	No	Present	No	Present	Present
Adam Morfeld	Present	Excused	Excused	Yes	Yes	Yes	Present	No	Excused	Yes
Mike Moser	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dave Murman	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rich Pahls	Excused	Excused	Excused	Excused	Excused	Excused	Excused	Yes	Yes	Excused
Patty Pansing Brooks	Excused	Yes	Excused	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Rita Sanders	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Present	Yes	Yes	Present
Julie Slama	Yes	Yes	Yes	Excused	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
John P. Stinner	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Present	No	Yes	Yes
Tony Vargas	Present	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Present	Yes
Lynne Walz	Excused	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Present	No	Yes	Yes
Justin Wayne	Yes	Yes	Yes	Excused	Present	No	Yes	Yes	Present	Present
Matt Williams	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Anna Wishart	Present	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Present	No	Yes	Present

## Our Mission

A trusted partner to our members, the NE Chamber promotes and protects Nebraska's free enterprise system by ensuring a competitive business climate, economic growth and greater prosperity for all Nebraskans. We deliver market and workforce growth, as well as tax, legislative, and regulatory solutions that address the challenges of owning and growing a modern-day business.

## Our Commitment

NE Chamber members are committed to building public, private and nonprofit partnerships in pursuit of bold initiatives that increase opportunity for all Nebraskans and move the state forward economically.

We recognize our work must transcend politics, geography and the inertia of the status quo. We also realize game-changing progress is not possible without the tough work of building consensus. Such work requires mutual respect and a genuine search for common ground.

We acknowledge discussion and process is necessary for swift action that sustains and expands Nebraska's economic opportunities and competitiveness across the U.S. and internationally.

Unlock the benefits of NE Chamber membership today!



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