



Joint Chambers' and Economic Developers' Workforce and Economic Infrastructure Proposal American Rescue Plan Act Funding

An historic \$110 million workforce proposal boosts the talent pipeline by investing in:

- Expanded career experiences (internships, apprenticeships, etc.) for high school and college students, including startup funding for educational and business program development.
- One-time grants for training, upskilling, apprenticeships and related program development costs.
- One-time grants for talent development plans to enhance local offerings that support retention and training of employees (including childcare, housing, loan assistance, etc.)
- A national talent recruitment campaign for Nebraska.

A game-changing business relief and growth proposal includes initiatives to help communities develop sites into major supply and logistics hubs, as well as support innovation initiatives across several sectors.

- \$195 million to a) improve communities' "shovel-readiness" for large industrial, transportation, transloading and supply-chain relocation and expansion projects seeking sites now, and b) fully fund ImagiNE Nebraska's Revolving Loan Fund to support flexible use of credits toward workforce training, childcare and other talent infrastructure.
- \$120 million to spur research and development and entrepreneurial investment in automation, digitization technology solutions to help fill the void when talent cannot be attracted and drive growth of higher paying jobs.

Targeted investments of \$20 million in diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives include significantly expanding:

- Business acumen training programs.
- Supply and service sourcing platforms to qualify more vendors, suppliers and contractors for work with each other.
- Financial literacy and credit remediation courses.

The chambers and economic developers have joined additional coalitions to avidly support proposals that ramp up communities' ability to attract new families, including much-needed, infusions into:

- Existing housing development grant programs (Rural Workforce, Middle Workforce, Affordable Housing Trust Fund, Low-Income Housing Tax Credits).
- Community Vitality Grants, such as the Civic and Community Center Financing Fund.
- Childcare infrastructure and workforce, such as WAGE\$, T.E.A.C.H., public-private partnerships, and addressing the benefits cliff.
- Large-scale recreational investments, such as those being investigated by the Legislature's STARWARS Committee.
- Statewide electric vehicle charging infrastructure.
- Statewide broadband and high-speed internet access.

As requested by legislators, the proposal offers broad public and economic benefit, with a focus on one-time, shot-in-the-arm initiatives that accelerate quality of life and economic competitiveness while leveraging existing state programs and legislation as much as possible.