

2025 PUBLIC POLICY AND FUNDING PRIORITIES



GCP's mission is to accelerate growth and prosperity across the region. As the CEO leadership group and largest metropolitan chamber of commerce in the nation, Greater Cleveland Partnership (GCP) is proud to serve as a unified voice for businesses across our region.

GCP has a broad and diverse membership base of >12,000 that includes global corporations, large and mid-market companies, and small businesses (through our Council of Smaller Enterprises, COSE). Our agenda reflects the priorities of our members to advance our mission and priorities of our All In Plan for the Cleveland region.

Our CEOs and member companies are key advocates for the region's economic priorities at the federal, state, and regional levels. GCP collaborates closely with public officials at each level to advance initiatives critical to our region's businesses and the broader community.

Dynamic Business

Small Business Growth

- **Advocating for Small Business Reforms:** Champion reforms to longstanding Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) policies to create a fairer framework for small businesses.
- **Streamlining Business Permitting Processes:** To simplify and expedite the path to success for entrepreneurs, GCP will work with state and local policymakers to make business permitting processes more efficient to move at a pace that supports investment.
- **Maintaining Competitive Tax Reforms:** GCP will advocate for sustaining the small business tax reforms at the state level.

Business Expansions

- **Brownfield Funding and Site Development:** GCP will advocate for robust state funding to redevelop brownfield sites, unlocking new opportunities for business expansions.
- **Energy Capacity:** Partnering with the Ohio Business Roundtable, GCP will promote an all-of-the-above energy infrastructure and development approach that speeds new generation capacity and leads in new energy technologies to meet the growing needs of businesses.
- **Ohio Film and Productions Tax Credit:** We support modifications and expansions to the Ohio Film Tax Credit to bolster the state's creative economy.

Innovation and R&D Growth

- **Ohio's Innovation Economy:** GCP will advocate for state support to expand market-driven innovation alliances and new capital sources to speed translation of ideas into scalable businesses. GCP will also advocate for continued federal investments in our research and health institutions.
- **NASA Glenn Advocacy:** GCP will continue to build off recent successes and budget growth to lead federal and state advocacy to secure funding for NASA Glenn Research Center

(2025 agenda is being finalized). Recent examples include investing in Fission Surface Power Systems, a Lunar Integrated Testbed, and Communications.

- **Regional Technology Alliances:** GCP will support federal and state funding for regional technology initiatives that drive competitiveness and create high-value jobs.

Abundant Talent

Post-Secondary Graduate Retention

- **Financial Aid and Degree Completion:** GCP will lead a coalition to expand financial aid programs and wraparound supports that enhance college completion rates. We support innovative strategies to retain graduates, including targeted incentive programs to keep talent in Ohio.
- **Workforce Development:** Supporting Ohio's efforts to align higher education outcomes with workforce needs, GCP will back policies that prioritize alignment including internships.

Business-Led Learning

- **Career Exposure:** GCP will advocate for transitioning oversight of career-connected learning to the Department of Education, ensuring cohesive policy alignment.
- **TechCred Program Expansion:** Continuing investment in the Ohio TechCred program will remain a priority to enable businesses to upskill workers with industry-recognized credentials.

Child Care and Benefits Cliff

- **Affordable Child Care:** GCP supports policies that expand access, create affordability programs, and introduce innovative solutions to ensure Ohioans have flexible childcare options to support their needs.
- **Benefits Cliff:** GCP also advocates for innovative policies to address this barrier to upward mobility that discourages individuals from accepting higher-paying jobs.

Talent Attraction

- **Skilled Workers:** GCP will advocate for state-level incentives and campaigns to draw workers into targeted growth sectors.
- **International Talent:** GCP will advocate for accelerated Ohio licensure, contextualized ESL training, and greater employer awareness of work-visa readiness. In addition, GCP will advocate for federal **agencies** to increase quotas and Ohio allocations of skilled worker and higher education visas and continued support for refugee-serving organizations.

Inclusive Opportunity

MBE Procurement and Development

- **Government Procurement Opportunities:** GCP will support minority business enterprises in securing government contracts and increasing their access to business resources.
- **Community Benefits Agreements:** Partnering with development organizations, GCP will support the implementation of Cleveland's Community Benefits Ordinance and related Memorandum of Understanding to generate community outcomes.

Appealing Community

City Development

- **Waterfront Development:** GCP will advocate for the expansion of the North Coast Waterfront Development Authority, including support for a New Community Authority to fund transformational projects like the North Coast Connector.
- **Riverfront Development:** GCP will advocate for resources to further spur catalytic riverfront developments such as the Bedrock Project and Irishtown Bend.
- **Historic and Low-Income Tax Credits:** Enhancing provisions for historic preservation and affordable housing tax credits will be a cornerstone of our policy efforts.
- **New Markets Tax Credits:** Supporting securing tax credit allocations for Cleveland Development Advisors and regional entities and continuing funding for federal program.
- **Building-to-Residential Conversion:** Supporting policies that enable the adaptive reuse of office space and buildings for residential purposes will continue revitalizing communities and address the quality housing shortage.

Infrastructure Development

- **Permitting Reform:** Simplifying and streamlining the permitting and zoning process for housing, development, energy, and transportation infrastructure.

Recreational Amenities

- **Stadiums:** GCP will advocate for funding streams to support and sustain professional sports facilities in our region.
- **Parks:** GCP will continue to support the efforts of park systems to develop new parks and trails, to connect assets, and to expand offerings.

Air Service

- **CLE Airport:** GCP will support infrastructure investments to transform Cleveland Hopkins International Airport into a world-class facility and support the recruitment of additional airlines.
- **Burke Lakefront Airport:** GCP will provide advocacy assistance to facilitate and support future development options for Burke Lakefront Airport.

Natural Environment

- **Great Lakes Restoration:** Advocating for the renewal of federal funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and supporting the state's H2Ohio initiative.
- **Alternative Energy Projects:** GCP will continue to champion funding and policies that promote low and zero-carbon solutions, ensuring energy choices for companies and environmental sustainability for the region.

Partnerships

Greater Cleveland Partnership's public policy agenda underscores our unwavering commitment to creating a dynamic business environment, fostering abundant talent, ensuring inclusive opportunity, and building an appealing community. Central to our approach is leveraging an extensive network of partnerships to amplify impact and achieve shared goals.

At the State of Ohio, GCP is a partner in the **CEO Leadership Alliance**, a group that includes the Ohio Business Roundtable, Columbus Partnership, and Cincinnati Business Committee. The groups work together on advancing energy, innovation, talent, and housing policy in Ohio. The groups formed **Ohio Excels** to advance education initiatives that improve student readiness, college access and completion rates, and workforce development. In addition, the groups work together through the **Ohio Grants Alliance** to advocate for federal resources for initiatives.

GCP also Chairs the **Ohio Metro Chambers Coalition (OMCC)**, a gathering of nine chambers to advocate for state-level initiatives to expand talent, invest in business growth, and promote housing and infrastructure to drive growth across Ohio's metropolitan regions.

Our leadership in the **Great Lakes Metro Chambers Coalition** enables advocacy for federal policies and funding that bolster competitiveness in regions like ours (e.g., Detroit, Pittsburgh, and Buffalo).

On small business advocacy, we partner closely with the **National Small Business Association (NSBA)** at the federal level and with the **National Federation of Independent Business – Ohio (NFIB)** at the state level to advance our shared priorities.

By integrating the strengths of these partnerships into our advocacy, GCP is poised to advance policies that drive growth and secure a prosperous future for Greater Cleveland. Together, we can achieve goals that ensure our region thrives for generations to come.



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