



2022 Economic Development Legislative Priorities

Product Development and Site Readiness

- Vigorously address North Carolina's disadvantage vis-à-vis competing states in its inventory of industry-ready sites, mega-sites and buildings. NCEDA seeks \$100 million in Recurring/NR funding for a product development grant and revolving-loan program to help communities finance land acquisition, site readiness and speculative building needs in Tier I and Tier 2 counties and rural Census tracts in Tier 3 counties.
- Boost support for existing efforts to improve existing industrial and business properties through a \$20 million recurring appropriation for the NC Department of Commerce's Building Re-use Grant programs.
- Encourage the state's distressed communities to invest in ready-to-go industrial sites by aligning IDF-Utility Account eligibility guidelines with those of the Building Re-use grant program to include opportunities in rural Census tracts of Tier 3 counties.

Workforce Innovation

- Correct North Carolina's workforce development disadvantage by approving NCCCS's request for salary alignment with neighboring states: building on the current 5% employee compensation increase with an additional 8% over the coming three years.
- Address deficiencies in North Carolina's labor market by studying possible amendments to the Unemployment Insurance (UI) program that offer employers the flexibility to temporarily reduce work hours (i.e., "short-term compensation") in lieu of complete worker separation, as well as other measures to maximize the state's workforce assets.

Enhancing Our Competitive Posture

- Improve the impact of the One North Carolina program by increasing the employment ceiling for Tier 3 counties covered under G.S. 143B-437.08 to 140,000.
- Embrace opportunities to maximize the effectiveness of the One North Carolina program as a project-closing tool by studying the program's administrative guidelines, funding levels and other limitations.

Federal Advocacy

- Support the re-shoring of the semiconductor industry with Congressional passage of US Innovation and Competition Act (USICA), which provides \$52 billion in funding for the CHIPS for America Act.