

2024 Key Federal Priorities

Consistent Regulatory Climate:

Federal agency regulatory overreach and uncertainty is impacting all sectors, including healthcare, housing, broadband, energy, banking, and transportation. Businesses cannot effectively plan when federal agencies are free to unilaterally change the basic rules at any time or create unreasonable standards out of balance with technological innovation and market demands. The Supreme Court’s Chevron decision is viewed as an important course correction that will help create a more predictable and stable regulatory environment.

Pro-Growth Tax Policies:

We support making permanent the strongest pro-growth provisions of the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, such as the 100% bonus depreciation of capital assets, and repealing or mitigating harmful new taxes included in the Inflation Reduction Act.

R&D Innovation Investments:

We support the continued funding for the Established Program to stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) in the FY25 appropriations. EPSCoR is vital for innovation in Kentucky, particularly the University of Kentucky, as it stimulates competitive research and encourages collaboration among researchers and institutions across the state.

Housing Access & Affordability:

We support continued investment in programs to support affordable housing such as the HUD’s 202 senior and project based rental assistance programs, and the Neighborhood Homes Investment Act to help revitalize distressed urban, suburban, and rural neighborhoods with federal income tax credits, and policies to help mobilize private investment to build and rehabilitate homes for lower- and middle-income homeowners through tax incentives. We support opportunities to emphasize/support this unique partnership with the banks and utilization of CRA credit to help with affordable housing developments like Lexington’s Transformational Housing Affordability Partnership.

Skilled Workforce Through Immigration

Reform:

We support Congress acting on reforms to secure the border and ensure Kentucky employers have full access to a global talent pool. Specific recommendations include reforming the guest worker visa program, renewing the Returning Worker Exemption, raising the limit for H2B visas, increasing the allotment of employer-based green cards, and providing legal certainty for DACA recipients and long-term beneficiaries of the Temporary Protected Status program.

Access to Childcare to Support Workforce Participation:

We support examining federal policies related to childcare and support reforms that increase access to affordable, quality childcare options for working families, and prioritize a robust reauthorization of the Child Care Development Block Grant and improve federal tax incentive programs such as the Employer-Provided Child Care Credit.

Transportation Investments & Regulations:

We support increasing federal funding for critical regional infrastructure projects that improve connectivity for local communities, such as the BUILD GRANT program. We also support policies that ensure timelines are maintained for the completion of environmental impact studies and the inclusion of funding for necessitated utility infrastructure costs required by public improvement projects. We also support action to change in U.S. DOT weight limits from 80,000 lbs. to upwards of 120,000 lbs. to support the growing electric vehicle/advanced manufacturing sector.

Airports & Aviation:

We support federal and state funding to ensure on-going and stable development of Blue Grass Airport and the three general aviation airports vital to the regional economy. We support passage of annual FAA Airport Improvement Program funding bills. We support the relocation of the current FAA Air Traffic Control Tower at Blue Grass Airport (LEX).

Wireless & Broadband Investments:

We urge NTIA to continue to work quickly to make BEAD funding available to the states, provide them with flexible frameworks, and refrain from adopting requirements that are more burdensome or restrictive than the underlying federal legislation, to ensure broad participation and maximize fiber deployments to as many unserved and underserved locations as possible.

Business Site Development:

We seek federal support for product development grants or other federal resources that may accelerate the development of more shovel-ready land and buildings for job creation opportunities, such as a regional business park in Scott County in partnership with local governments in Scott, Madison and Fayette counties.

Bluegrass Army Depot:

We urge the Kentucky federal delegation to remain aware of the need to work with the Department of Defense in efforts to strategically plan for the sustained economic development of Blue Grass Army Depot.

Higher Education Act Reauthorization:

We support reforms to the Higher Education Act to improve student access to educational opportunities and create an education system that has the flexibility to be innovative and responsive to employers. We support maintaining the federal student loan programs that Kentucky college students rely on, help with education and training for workers dislocated, simplifying and enhancing financial aid programs, and ensuring accurate measurements of student success and reducing regulatory burdens.

