

## 2023/2024 Public Policy Agenda

*Complimenting the Chamber's Strategic Plan, the Moore County Chamber Public Policy Agenda supports legislative action that promotes the voice of business by fostering a growing economy for our County, region and State. This Agenda highlights four key areas of legislative initiatives.*

### Economic Development

*A favorable business climate enables the County to attract and provide opportunity for all. To support our recruitment and retention efforts, we support:*

- Expanding site development readiness throughout the County.
- Supporting policies and projects that create local jobs and increase the formation, retention, and relocation of businesses in the County.
  - Creating policies that ensure the County is a leader in emerging industry clusters including advanced manufacturing, life sciences, and golf clusters.
- Promoting continued competitiveness, equity, efficiency, simplicity, and certainty in tax policies.
  - Encouraging local government public policy choices that support jobs, existing business, and prospective investment.

### Healthcare

*It is vital to our business community to have access to high quality specialty health care that is affordable. Support of our health care sector's interests and initiatives will ensure that Moore County is an attractive location for our current business community and for businesses looking to relocate. We support:*

- Extending health insurance coverage through Medicaid expansion. North Carolina remains one of only 11 states that have yet to extend health insurance coverage. Covering the uninsured means better premium value for all North Carolinians by slowing the growth in health care costs for everyone, increases access to care, improves outcomes and ensures measures are in place to reduce the health disparities.
- Implementing the Healthcare Access and Stabilization Program (HASP). The COVID-19 pandemic and its effects have put North Carolina's hospital and healthcare system in financial distress. These federal resources would lift Medicaid payment rates closer to the cost of providing care, at no cost to the state.
- Reforming the current Certificate of Need Reform law while ensuring to safeguard the most vulnerable health care institutions and communities. Counties with a population of less than 150k should be protected or exempt from changes regarding ambulatory surgical centers.
  - Protecting patients' rights for telehealth coverage and expansion of broadband access to bring healthcare to every community.
  - Creating access to Association Health Care Plans
- Encouraging public-private activation to achieve goals identified in our local community health needs assessment.

## Education and Talent Supply

*The County's continued competitiveness depends on our ability to maintain and expand a diverse and highly skilled workforce. Our workforce must combine technical, soft skills and the flexibility necessary to support job growth. To produce this skilled and flexible workforce, we support:*

- Expanding pre-K and childcare funding structures, policy reforms, and innovations that address the growing workforce demands from the business community.
  - Developing increased access to early childhood education.
- Improving programs that increase early literacy for all children, ensuring a strong talent pipeline for future economic growth.
  - Creating competitive compensation for education professionals.
- Developing strategies that align our community college and schools with existing and future industry needs.
  - Advocating for the connection between educational attainment and digital access so more students can access education, training and services online.
- Supporting efforts that define, standardize and incentivize workforce value non-degree credentials to align with in-demand jobs and the removal of barriers for the private sector to increase student engagement.
  - Promoting and advocating for high-impact programs such as pre-apprenticeships, apprenticeships, job shadowing, career and technical education programming that connect students with postsecondary and career opportunities to enhance the talent pipeline.
- Advocating for building a diverse talent supply that is inclusive of all groups of people, including formerly incarcerated, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, etc
- Supporting policies in our education systems that prepare all our children for a globally competitive world of work.
  - Policies to ensure Community colleges are economically impactful institutions that are critical partners to the needs of employers.

## Transportation and Infrastructure

*As the population in our County continues to increase, investment in transportation and infrastructure is a necessity to both ensure our ability to compete in a global economy and maintain a high quality of life. Therefore, we support:*

- Identifying and addressing critical water & wastewater infrastructure needs.
- Modernizing the energy grid and keep energy prices as affordable as possible
- Investing in affordable and accessible broadband, high-speed fiber and digital information infrastructure.
- Prioritizing initiatives that create a modernized transportation funding structure and strategic investments for congestion relief and mobility options.
- Construction of diverse housing that accommodates the projected community growth rates.