

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Partnership supports continued funding for and flexible use of the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) main economic revitalization offering. Additionally, The Partnership supports continued funding of Economic Development Administration (EDA) programs and efforts to make the EDA more strategic with a greater focus on regionalism and innovation.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

The Partnership supports sustained federally-funded fundamental research and the development and deployment of advanced technologies.

America's continued economic strength and global leadership greatly depend on the nation's ability to generate and harness the latest in scientific and technological developments and to apply these developments to real world applications.

Investments should be made in areas that are critical to the nation's ability to innovate, compete and grow the economy, particularly scientific research, which generates the innovations and discoveries that produce new products and new industries.

The Partnership encourages the federal government and agencies such as the National Institute of Standards and Technology to promote research and development. Among the country's highest priorities should be scientific research, which generates the innovations and discoveries that can boost the economy.

Federally-funded university research is a powerful economic engine, creating important basic and applied discoveries that American industry uses to develop products and processes that keep the nation healthy, safe and prosperous. This research is especially critical in this time of heightened external threats. American superiority in cybersecurity and military technology depends on the scientific advances by university faculty funded through federal research grants. The Partnership supports expanding research grants to universities through the National Institute of Health, the National Science Foundation and other federal basic and applied research providers to help ensure a strong and healthy nation.

The Partnership supports continued adequate funding to support research and development efforts in the region, including the corporate level, but specifically at Iowa State University. Stable and sustained growth in scientific research funding is essential

to efforts that address many of the fundamental issues society faces, such as energy, national security and the continuing search for new vaccines and cures for disease.

The Partnership specifically supports the following:

- Funding to carry out the grant program authorized in Section 71111 of the 2014 Farm Bill, as a step towards reaching the program's authorized level of \$25 million. The 2014 Farm Bill authorized a new competitive research grants mechanism as part of Section 1433 to give higher priority to animal science research. Under the Farm Bill language, the first \$5 million in appropriations goes to the continuing 1433 formula-based program. For appropriations over \$5 million, 85 percent of the funds go to the new competitive grants program and 15 percent go to the formula program.
- The multidisciplinary cross-agency effort in the Administration's Budget request for U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Energy Innovation Hubs. The Partnership and Iowa State University support full funding of the Critical Materials Hub at \$25 million.
- Continued investment of DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE). This is critical as energy costs and demand continues to increase globally. Specifically within EERE, The Partnership supports the Administration's request for increased funding in the Advanced Manufacturing and Vehicle Technologies Programs.
- Additional funding for the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN), which enables the Veterinary Diagnostic Lab at Iowa State University to test for economically devastating diseases and serves as the most vital early warning system for emerging and foreign animal diseases in the United States
- Continued funding for the Department of Commerce NIST Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), a public-private partnership dedicated to serving small and medium-sized manufacturers. Iowa State University's Center for Industrial Research and Service (CIRAS) manages the MEP award in Iowa, which had a 17:1 return on investment in 2016.
- Continuing support for the World Food Prize initiative to develop a sustainable system of food production to feed the next generation.

NEW MARKETS TAX CREDIT

The Partnership supports legislation extending, or making permanent, the New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) program to spur new investment and economic development in disadvantaged communities.

BROWNFIELDS FUNDING

The Partnership supports continued HUD and Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Brownfields funding. Brownfield sites provide a valuable source of real estate, many times in distressed urban communities, that can be redeveloped and put to a better use that is beneficial to both the local community and the business sector. Federal investments in the Brownfields program have yielded 10 times the economic return, making the program a proven economic stimulus tool.

DICO SITE REDEVELOPMENT

The Partnership supports a reuse for the U.S. Environmental Protection Administration (EPA) Superfund site at the intersection of Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway and Fleur Drive, directly south of the Central Business District and known locally as the Dico Site. This dilapidated and underutilized site, largely vacant for 25 years, is being proposed for civic and recreational programming that will provide broad public benefit and serve as a source of public pride. It will also be compatible with recommendations supported by EPA in its 2007 report on the Dico Site and serve as a demonstration site for the State of Iowa.

The vision for the reuse of the Dico Site will complement and enhance a significant private and public sector investment on 250 acres adjacent to the Dico Site slated for a mixed-use urban village, and offer broad benefit to the citizenry served. It would also allow the full realization of successful reuse of a Superfund site, while continuing to protect human health and the environment.

Recent cost estimates to prepare the site for redevelopment were significantly beyond any reasonable economic feasibility, placing both the reuse of the Dico Site and the adjoining private mixed-use investment in jeopardy. Continued facilitation of a solution with EPA and the site owner is a priority for The Partnership.

FEDERAL HISTORIC TAX CREDIT

The Partnership supports the preservation of historic structures, which stimulate Downtown housing, business expansion and neighborhood revitalization. Accordingly, The Partnership supports the continued level of investment through the Federal Historic Tax Incentives program and the following suggested amendments:

- Raising the credit from 20 percent to 30 percent for projects with Qualified Rehabilitation Expenditures of less than \$5 million.
- Providing an additional two percent credit to both the 10 and 20 percent credit levels if the building increases its energy efficiency by 30 percent or more in an effort to promote energy-efficiency and cost-savings.
- Removing a provision in the Internal Revenue Code that inhibits the ability of nonprofit organizations from undertaking the most difficult projects in communities in greatest need.
- Eliminating the federal taxation of the proceeds of state credits transferred through partnerships and sold as state tax certificates.
- Redefining "old" buildings by removing the arbitrary date of 1936, which will allow a large number of structures that are currently ineligible to be eligible.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Partnership supports the continuing efforts of the EPA, HUD, and U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Partnership for Sustainable Communities to support the implementation of The Tomorrow Plan. The Tomorrow Plan, funded by HUD's Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant, is a regional plan focused on the sustainable development of Greater Des Moines. Its development involved local leaders and the public at large in identifying visions and aspirations for the region, exploring potential scenarios for its future and implementing those scenarios for sustainable future development.

The Preferred Sustainability Status designation bestowed upon the Des Moines region as a recipient of the grant funds has been extremely important as the region seeks federal grants to help implement aspects of The Tomorrow Plan. The Partnership supports the extension of the Preferred Sustainability Status designation for the Des Moines region.

MUNICIPAL AND PRIVATE ACTIVITY BOND FINANCING

The Partnership supports maintaining the ability of state and local governments to utilize tax-exempt bonds. State and local governments access the tax-exempt bond market to fund critical infrastructure, and elimination or limitations on the exclusion of interest

thereon from federal tax will increase costs and could result in decreased investment in needed areas.

APE COGNITION AND CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

The Partnership supports the Ape Cognition and Conservation Initiative (ACCI) request to National Institutes of Health (NIH) that it be certified to allow chimpanzees to be retired at this facility.

As NIH continues to minimize the use of chimpanzees as a model for the study of some human diseases, it will continue to permit behavioral, cognitive and genetic studies that are noninvasive and that fit comfortably with the parameters of the Institute of Medicine report. The staff at the ACCI has worked extensively with chimpanzees and bonobos since 1972, and specializes in great apes. The board of ACCI is composed of specialists in primate behavior and genetics from around the world. Currently, there is only one Federal Sanctuary that houses 200 chimpanzees, while listing its eventual capacity at close to 300 individuals. More than 400 chimpanzees will potentially need new enclosures as biomedical facilities scale back research programs under the new federal mandate to retire many of the NIH-owned chimpanzees.