



2018 Public Policy Agenda

MEDC is a statewide, not-for-profit association of over 350 economic development professionals and community leaders from rural, suburban and metropolitan areas from all parts of the State of Missouri. Created in 1979 to provide a unified voice for economic development, MEDC offers its members programs in professional education, advocacy and marketing.

MEDC Mission Statement - To serve as an authoritative voice in Missouri on economic development and related issues through an effective program of professional development, public policy, marketing and communications.

High Priority Items

Missouri Works: We support the reauthorization of Missouri Works – Missouri’s most effective economic development incentive program.

Appropriations: We support the full funding for the following programs, which we believe to be critical economic tools in the state of Missouri:

- **Skilled Workforce Missouri:** We support the reauthorization of and increased funding for Skilled Workforce Missouri, also known as Customized Training or Missouri Works Training.
- **Missouri Partnership:** We support the Missouri Partnership as a critical aspect of Missouri’s marketing and business attraction efforts and endorse the continued full funding by the Missouri Legislature.
- **Missouri Technology Corporation:** We support the Missouri Technology Corporation as an entity of significance for expanding Missouri’s entrepreneurial ecosystem and endorse increasing funding to prior levels.

Workforce Delivery & Sustainability: MEDC supports a restructuring of the state’s workforce training incentives to meet the variety of training needs of growing businesses. These funds are an investment in Missouri’s workers providing new skills to match company needs, often saving jobs and providing higher wages. MEDC also supports an enhanced delivery model within the Department of Economic Development for workforce training programs.

Broadband Expansion: The State of Missouri needs a renewed commitment, strategy and investment in deploying broadband capabilities to the entire state. Today’s businesses expect broadband as a core component of basic infrastructure and many areas in Missouri, especially rural areas, do not have adequate access.

Right to Work: MEDC supports the enactment of the Right-to-Work law as approved by the Missouri General Assembly and signed by the Governor.

General Items

1. We support efforts to resolve the transportation infrastructure crisis in Missouri.
2. We support the creation of a deal-closing fund to help our state win the most competitive projects.
3. We support the full implementation and acceptance of the National Career Readiness Certificate as an assessment for citizens seeking employment, for employers seeking qualified talent, and that it would be regularly administered in Missouri high schools.
4. We support legislation that creates a business-friendly environment.

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