

2025-26

Economic Development Legislative Priorities



NCEDA

Product Development & Site Readiness

- Amend provisions of the **Selectsite Readiness Program** to allow for a broader use of funds, including on-site preparation and installation/upgrading of public infrastructure to increase speed to market of identified sites at varying stages of site readiness.
- Support increased funding for the **Selectsite Readiness Program** and allow a subsequent round(s) of state-wide applications to increase geographic diversity of sites.
- Amend provisions of the **Megasite Readiness Program** to authorize the use of funds to acquire land, install or upgrade public infrastructure, fund on-site preparation, and expedite environmental needs related to timely Megasite development.

Enhancing Competitive Posture

- Support **Western North Carolina recovery and resiliency efforts**.
- Seek state appropriations to fund grants for **investments in infrastructure** to create additional capacity for siting new businesses and existing business expansions. This investment will ensure the state remains competitive in a rapidly evolving economy.

Workforce Innovation

- Support the North Carolina Community College System's goal of reforming **Propel NC**, realigning program funding by prioritizing programs and courses in high-demand, high-wage fields.
- Encourage state funding to enhance accessible, affordable **childcare**, which will enable parents to remain in the workforce, reduce turnover, and boost productivity, thereby addressing labor shortages and promoting a stable talent pipeline.
- Enhance funding to eliminate the skills gap through **mentorships and apprenticeships** that will provide hands-on experience, foster career development, and improve job retention.
- Support state appropriations for **completion assistance grants** that will provide financial support for students, facilitate program and credential completion, and result in a higher educated and more skilled workforce.

NCEDA is the leading voice for North Carolina's economic development community, dedicated to fostering professional growth, facilitating networking, and advocating for the state's economic future.