



GOVERNOR'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY
ADVISORY BOARD
CONNECTIVITY WORKING GROUP

Broadband Access for All Iowans

- **The Big Ask**
 - Universal broadband access in Iowa
- **Recommendation:** A funding increase of \$80-100 million per year for broadband infrastructure and adoption for the next five years, with grant matching ranging from 50% - 75%. To build this network it may cost an average of \$8,000 to \$10,000 per location for a total of \$810,000,000.
- **Recommendation:** Provide a utility subsidy such as Low-income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP) for those who struggle to afford broadband.
- **Why is it important?**
 - Iowa is 33rd in nation for broadband adoption
 - The World Bank [estimates](#) that a 10 percent increase in broadband penetration can deliver a 1.21 percent jump in GDP growth.
 - May be funded by a bond offering. This would be viable to fund infrastructure and incentivize adoption



Broadband Access for All Iowans

■ Foundational Recommendations:

- The core and foundational component of our overall strategy as it relates to broadband that impacts health, learning, working, agriculture and manufacturing is to a large extent. If we can't solve for health, learning, working, agriculture and manufacturing through extensive deployment of broadband, then we haven't accomplished our mission.
- **Recommendation:** Identify the education needs of broadband services and application services (e.g., help desk, online learning, telehealth) and meet the education needs of broadband and application services through comprehensive mechanisms such as e-skills training, help desk, and broadband mapping crowd-source training, and leveraging State-wide resources such as K-20 institutions, libraries, cities, counties, community centers, and volunteering programs
- **Recommendation:** Deployment of broadband by private-public partnerships will require greater flexibility for development of revenues than currently exists for cities. The legislature is encouraged to consider future requests for new and flexible funding ideas.
- **Recommendation:** Enhanced Mobile Broadband by increasing individual user experience data download and upload rates of a minimum of 100 Mbps and decreasing End-to-end latency speeds to 1 ms or less.



Broadband Access for All Iowans

- **Knowledge Recommendations**

- These recommendations fall under knowledge, skill and experience to be able to harness the technology that's deployed.

- **Recommendations:** Increase job training for occupations relating to the broadband sector to increase the skilled labor force to implement infrastructure. Harness public-private partnerships to create educational opportunities from high schools up to and including mid-career workers to transition into high demand information technology occupations to center around broadband implementation and the adoption of technology in Iowa.
- **Recommendations:** Increase understanding of new and emerging technologies with public private partnerships to explore technologies. (e.g. smart cities, smart fields, low orbit satellites). Work with academic and community college institutions to invest in the research and adoption of new technologies.





GOVERNOR'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY
ADVISORY BOARD
PUBLIC HEALTH & HEALTHCARE WORKING GROUP

Iowa's Pharmacists: Improving People's Health

By 2025, the U.S. could see a shortage of as many as 31,100 primary care physicians. Even if nurse practitioners and physician assistants are fully utilized, patient needs will not fully be met.¹

Iowa has 132 designated HPSAs and only 62% of the primary care needs in those areas are currently being met.² There are 3,320 highly trained pharmacists in IA who are ready to provide valuable healthcare services.³

Meeting Patients' Needs in the Iowa

3.15
Million
people⁴

727
thousand people
living in underserved
areas⁵

3,320
Pharmacists
ready to help⁶

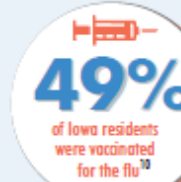


Diabetes

Diabetes is a complex condition that is often managed by multiple medications. Pharmacists can optimize care and help patients understand their medications and their condition in order to improve outcomes and avoid complications.⁷

Cardiovascular Disease (CVD)

For patients with uncontrolled high blood pressure, waiting even two months to optimize medications increases the risk of complications, including hospitalizations. Pharmacists are highly accessible members of the care team who significantly improve blood pressure control and can provide timely follow-up and monitoring to improve outcomes.⁹



Immunization rates across the U.S. have continued to increase since pharmacists began vaccinating.¹¹



Smoking causes nearly 1 of every 5 deaths in the U.S. each year.¹³ Pharmacists are qualified and capable of providing smoking cessation counseling.

50% of people with chronic diseases do not take their medicines correctly.¹⁴



Medications are critical for the treatment of chronic conditions. Pharmacists can help patients use them safely and effectively to avoid medication related problems.





Iowa spends **\$3,569,000,000** annually on prescription medications.¹⁵

Investing in pharmacists' services optimizes the use of those prescription medications. Decades of research have proven the value of including pharmacists on healthcare teams. Improved health outcomes, lower costs, and increased access to care could be a reality for Iowa residents if pharmacists were fully empowered to serve as patient care providers.

Healthcare \$\$ Spent on Chronic Conditions



Chronic Conditions
Other

16

On average
\$1,000
per patient per
year is saved

with pharmacist
interventions for patients
with chronic conditions.¹⁷

Pharmacists' counseling and
adherence programs can save the
healthcare system



in the 6 months following
the start of a new
prescription medication.¹⁸

76% of Iowa
hospitals were
penalized for high
readmission
rates.¹⁹



Patients are
2X
more likely to
stay out of the
hospital

when pharmacists
provide clinical services
after discharge.²⁰



Iowa spent **\$1.8
billion on
Medicaid in
2016.**²²

Pharmacists in Ohio
delivered a **4.4:1 ROI** when
providing medication
therapy management
services to Medicaid
patients. Iowa pharmacists
could do this too!²¹

\$4.40
saved per \$1 spent
on pharmacists'
services

This information was developed through a collaboration between APhA and NASPA with generous support from the Community Pharmacy Foundation.



Access our references
at tinyurl.com/references18
Or scan this QR code with
your smartphone





GOVERNOR'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY
ADVISORY BOARD
EXPANDING IOWA'S WORKFORCE WORKING GROUP



GOVERNOR'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY
ADVISORY BOARD
ECONOMIC GROWTH WORKING GROUP

Foundation for Essential Infrastructure Needs

- **Opportunity: Housing can lead Iowa’s Economic Recovery and Growth**
- **Recommendations:**
 - **Increase Supply of Housing Options for all Iowans**
 - Develop and preserve housing across the continuum, with priority given to housing for low-income families and seniors
 - Transform underutilized facilities such as schools, churches, dorms and student housing, hotels, office buildings, public buildings into housing
 - Launch an employer-assisted housing initiative to incent public/private partnerships in creating workforce housing opportunities
 - Leverage innovative building materials, methods and financing mechanisms, including 3D printed homes, tiny homes and shipping containers
 - **Protect and Expand Housing Opportunities for Iowans**
 - Support the Iowa Mortgage Help foreclosure prevention program and establish an eviction diversion program
 - Provide home repair assistance for low-income Iowans
 - Launch a disaster housing assistance program
- **Measures of Success:**
 - Increase in affordable housing units
 - Decrease in number of cost-burdened Iowans by income level and race
 - Growth of Iowa’s real estate sector GDP

Housing Demand Forecast State of Iowa			
Income (% of MFI)	2020	2025	2030
0-30%	162,170	164,394	167,787
30.1-50%	160,811	163,048	166,180
50.1-80%	241,220	244,623	249,332
80.1-95%	113,263	114,994	117,304
95.1-115%	135,867	137,877	140,614
115+%	491,132	499,290	510,061
Total	1,304,463	1,324,226	1,351,277

Percent of Total Households with Severe Housing Problems by Income Race State of Iowa								
Income	Non-Hispanic by Race						Hispanic (Any Race)	Total
	White	Black	Asian	American Indian	Pacific Islander	Other Race		
With a Severe Housing Problem								
\$0 to \$23,070	57.9%	70%	65.5%	59.9%	62.1%	61.8%	69%	59.6%
\$23,071 to \$38,450	17.9%	24.3%	41.7%	13.2%	13.5%	29.1%	25.8%	19.1%
\$38,451 to \$61,520	6.3%	7.9%	18.8%	3.9%	60.9%	3.3%	16.5%	7%
\$61,521 to \$76,900	2.8%	6.5%	20.3%	11.1%	56.5%	5.8%	9.5%	3.5%
Above \$76,900	1.3%	3.9%	4.8%	4%	0%	1.4%	6.8%	1.5%
Total	10.7%	30.9%	25.4%	21.1%	39.6%	20.1%	23.8%	12.1%

Source: 2020 Iowa Profile



Foundation for Essential Infrastructure Needs

- Support Iowa small business owners in recruiting and retaining top talent
- Recommendations:
 - Empower small business owners with tools to secure their employee base
 - Form small business 401k exploratory committee
 - Fund similarly to a 529 college savings plan
 - Determine demand, parameters and oversight
 - Evaluate legislative action required
 - Work with the Iowa Insurance Division to identify gaps in affordable, available health care options for owners and employees, for example, age-based incentives
- Measures of Success:
 - Number of Iowans who indicate they are prepared for retirement
 - Sustained growth in the number of small businesses in Iowa

Iowa Workforce <u>Not</u> Covered by a Retirement Plan	
Employer Size	Percentage of private wage and salary workers ages 18-64 whose employer does not offer a retirement plan
Under 10	75.0%
10-49	61.1%
50-99	49.0%
100-499	30.8%
500-999	30.2%
1,000+	27.7%

Source: AARP

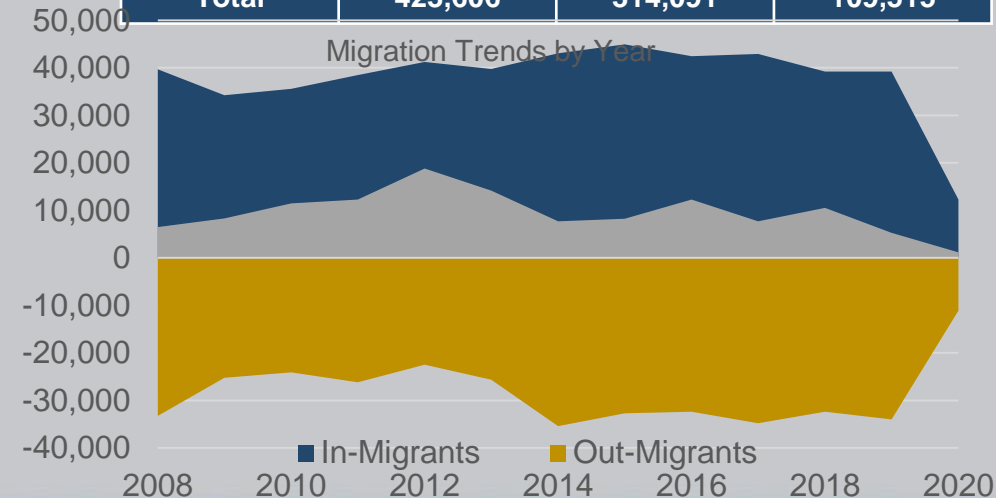


Attract New and Retain Current Iowans

- **Opportunity: Make Iowa the choice for both people and business**
- **Recommendations:**
 - **Market Iowa as the number-one choice for businesses, workers and families**
 - **Attract Out-of-State Remote Workers**
 - Develop a nationally ground-breaking campaign to recruit remote workers to move to Iowa
 - Focus on benefits of Iowa's exceptional quality of life, affordability and natural beauty
 - **Attract a Diverse Workforce**
 - Expand companies' ethnic diversity among executives
 - Companies with strong ethnic diversity among their executives were **36%** more likely to outperform on profitability
 - **Promote Business**
 - Growth opportunities in the targeted industry sectors, including: manufacturing, biosciences, insurance and finance, information technology and educational technology
 - Quality of life
 - Robust broadband

Driver's Licenses Exchanged and Surrendered
State of Iowa | DOT Data 2000 – 2020

Year	In-Migrants	Out-Migrants	Net Change
2010	35,609	24,113	11,496
2011	38,463	26,181	12,282
2012	41,265	22,476	18,789
2013	39,769	25,625	14,144
2014	43,042	35,328	7,714
2015	43,622	35,406	8,216
2016	44,977	32,726	12,251
2017	42,466	34,797	7,669
2018	42,915	32,363	10,552
2019	39,233	33,979	5,254
2020 (First Half)	12,245	11,097	1,148
Total	423,606	314,091	109,515



Attract New and Retain Current Iowans

- **Opportunity: Transform Iowa's communities through creative placemaking**

- **Recommendation:**

- **Develop a creative placemaking and transformational quality of life initiative**

- Model placemaking initiative after key components of the Vision Iowa, Enhance Iowa and Community Attraction and Tourism and Iowa Great Places initiatives utilizing bond financing
 - Implement the Governor's proposed Invest in Iowa Act
 - Leverage Iowa's port authority statute to bolster economic development and recreation projects

- **Opportunity: Turn Iowa into a destination for travelers**

- **Recommendation:**

- **Develop a statewide strategic plan for tourism and create a new funding mechanism to expand Iowa tourism promotion and development**

- Raise the statewide hotel/motel tax from 5% to 6%, generating nearly \$9 million in additional revenue each year
 - Create a checkoff program from Iowa alcoholic beverages, in which a percentage of sales will be collected by Iowa's Alcoholic Beverages Division

- **Measures of Success:**

- Growth in Iowa's total population and net-migration
 - Rise in national rankings of best places to live and visit
 - Increases in state and local sales tax revenue and hotel/motel tax revenue

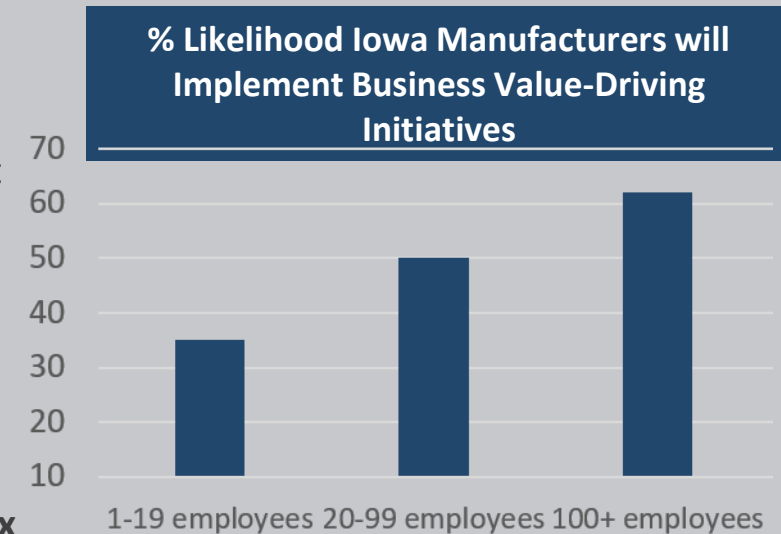


Source: International Economic Development Council



Invest in Targeted Industries and Innovation

- **Opportunity: Grow Iowa's leadership in the Biosciences and Advanced Manufacturing sectors**
- **Recommendations:**
 - **Invest in Industry 4.0 initiatives**
 - Support investments by Iowa's manufacturers in methods and technologies that will enhance productivity and attract larger original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) to incorporate Iowa small-to-medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in their global supply chain
 - **Increase funding to the Regent institution**
 - Support biosciences platform development
 - Create a mechanism that encourages more private investments in Iowa's bioscience companies
 - **Allow the IEDA board to allocate funding between the Angel and Innovation tax credit programs**
 - Based on need to assist more Iowa entrepreneurs and start ups
- **Measures of Success:**
 - Increase in the percentage of manufacturing's share of total state GSP
 - Increase in public and private research and development activities
 - Increase productivity by Iowa's SME manufacturers
 - Increase in average wages for individuals employed in the manufacturing sector



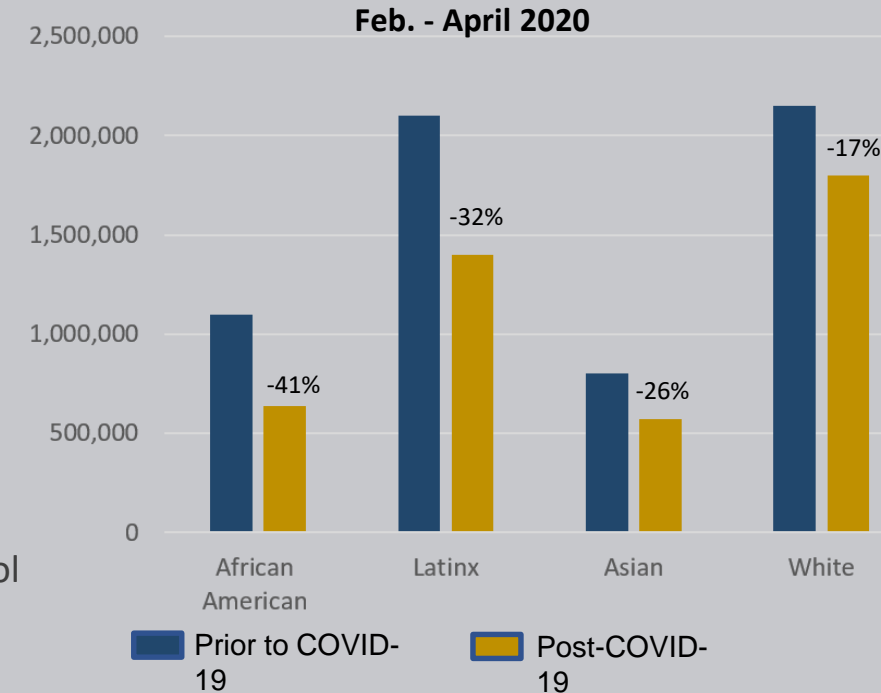
Source: 2019-2020 Iowa Manufacturing Needs Assessment, Iowa State University, CIRAS



Foster Opportunities for Inclusive Economic Growth

- **Opportunity: Support entrepreneurs by removing barriers, embracing diversity and creating a gateway to success**
- **Recommendations:**
 - **Offer state-wide developmental programming**
 - Intentionally remove barriers for broader and more diverse entrepreneurs
 - Create a gateway for entrepreneurs to access the state's resources
 - Lead others into the entrepreneur journey
 - **Expand the Targeted Small Business Loan Program**
 - Assist women-owned, minorities, individuals with disabilities and service-disabled veterans.
 - Research shows these population segments have the greatest challenge in accessing capital and suffered the greatest losses from COVID-19
 - **Modify Iowa's alcohol laws and rules**
 - Improve the customer experience
 - Remove barriers to growth for alcohol manufacturers
 - Allowing businesses that serve alcoholic beverages to buy all types of alcohol directly from retailers
- **Measures of Success Include:**
 - Jobs and revenue created by small business owners
 - Number of new business starts by diverse entrepreneurs
 - Addition of vertically integrated companies such as hop and grain suppliers, packaging materials, equipment manufacturers

National Number of Self-Employed Business Owners Before and After COVID-19 (Racial Minority Groups)



Source: *The Impact of COVID-19 on Small Business Owners: Evidence of Early-Stage Losses from the April 2020 Current Population Survey*



Enhance Competitive Financial Reform

The proposed Invest in Iowa legislation will not only create additional short and long-term tax relief for Iowans, it will provide resources to assist with the childcare challenges many families are facing, create recreation opportunities families can enjoy and ultimately position Iowa as the number one destination for Iowans, our future workforce, visitors and business alike.

- **Opportunity: Expand Tax Relief for Iowans**

- **Recommendations:**

- Reduce taxes to allow Iowans to keep more of what they earn
- Implement an additional 1-cent sales tax
 - Commit the \$540 million to enhancing quality of life initiatives, including water quality, recreation and mental health
- Cut individual income tax by 10% on average in 2021
- Lower the highest tax rate from 8.5% to 5.5% by 2023
- Reduce the number of tax brackets from nine to eight in 2021 and further reduce to four brackets in 2023
- Reduce property taxes by lowering the per capita county mental health levy from \$47.28 to \$12.50, resulting in lowering the maximum statewide mental health levy by \$77.1 million
- Repeal water excise tax
- Increase the Early Childhood Development and Child and Dependent Care tax credits by doubling the maximum net income amount for eligibility from \$45,000 to \$90,000

- **Measures of Success Include:**

- Increase investments, income per capita and GDP
- Increase in new Iowans, visitors and businesses





GOVERNOR'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY
ADVISORY BOARD
GOVERNMENT WORKING GROUP

Government Working Group – “Done/not-Done”

■ Establish a common registration portal for employers	6.07
■ Establish a common portal for individual Iowans to	6.00
■ Statewide Master Data Management (MDM)	5.64
■ Boards and commissions review	5.64
■ Standardized accounting methods	5.64
■ Public-private partnerships	5.50
■ Survey of government-owned real estate... ..	4.85



Government Working Group – Greatest Impact

- **Regionalized services**

5.79

No longer every government subdivision operating in isolation, often without communicating with one another

- **Remote work**

5.50

No longer attitude of all government services provided by a government employee in a government office located in Des Moines

- **Continuous improvement/lean**

not scored

No longer “that’s the way its always been done”



Government Recommendations

- Regionalized services 5.79
- Remote work 5.50
- Continuous improvement / leannot scored
- Public-private partnerships 5.50
- Statewide Master Data Management (MDM) 5.64
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GOVERNOR'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY
ADVISORY BOARD
AGRICULTURE WORKING GROUP

Listening to lowans: Formulating Recommendations

- Dozens of input sessions on the future of Iowa agriculture
- Over 165 Iowa leaders from all backgrounds shared their thoughts and perspectives
 - Youth and senior leaders
 - Rural towns and urban metros
 - Global agribusinesses
 - Main street small businesses
- **Three key themes emerged from these input sessions**
 - Biofuels growth
 - Innovation
 - Sustainability



Biofuels growth

- Renewable Fuels Infrastructure Investment
- Approve Existing Infrastructure for Higher Blends of Renewable Fuels
- Retail Availability of Higher Blends of Renewable Fuels
- Liability Protection for Retailers

Innovation

- Value Added Ag Grant Program
- Annual Innovation Award Competition
- Innovation in Transportation Infrastructure - Rural Bridge Initiative
- Ag Innovation Council

Sustainability

- Long-Term Water Quality Funding
- Carbon Sequestration Task Force
- Conservation Engagement



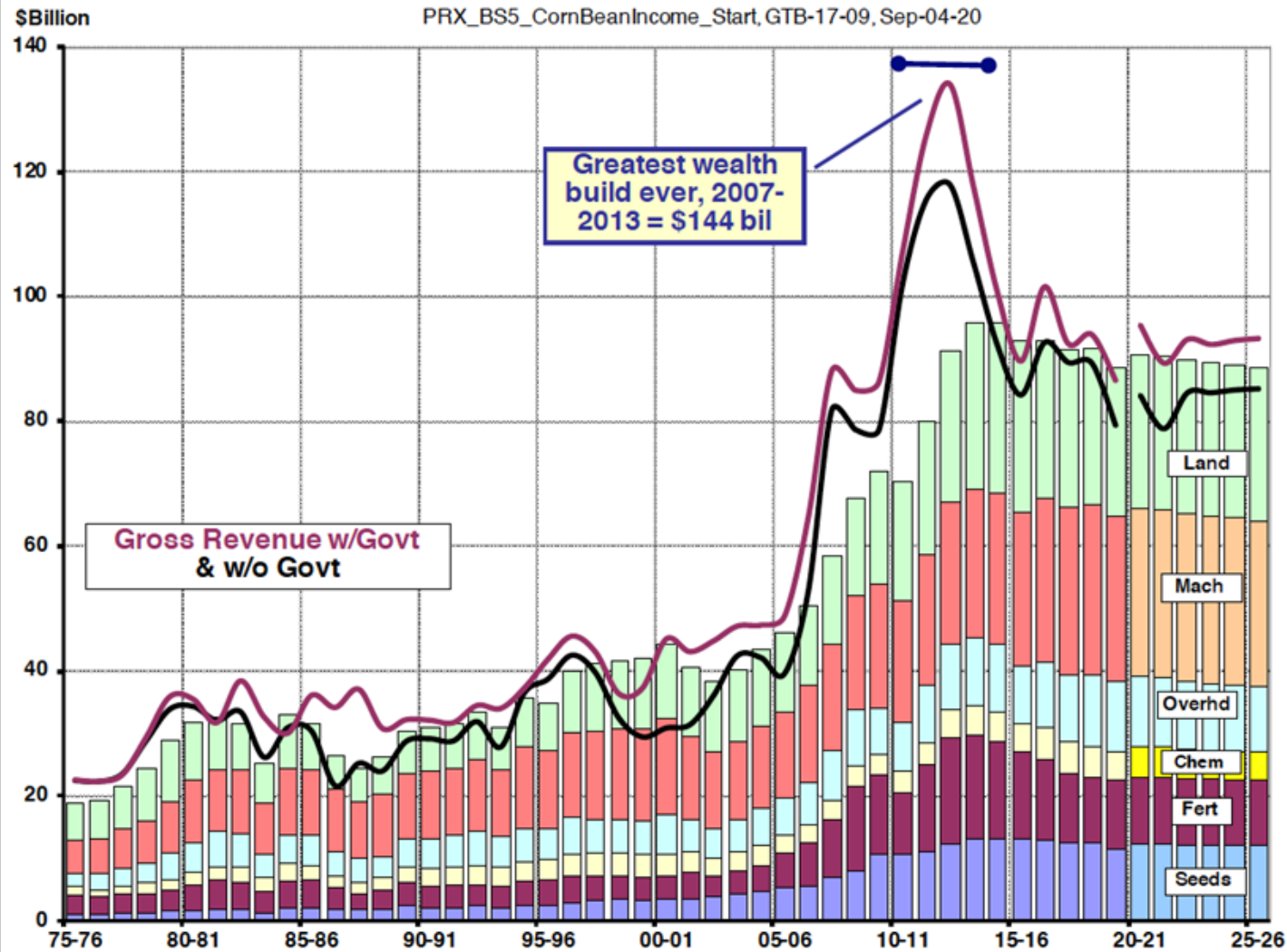
Opportunity: Biofuels Growth

Background

- Biofuels create demand for 40 percent of combined Iowa corn and soybean acres
- \$5 billion of Iowa's GDP; \$2.4 billion of household income and 48,000 jobs
- Coproducts and ag economy synergies are extremely valuable (e.g., dried distillers grains)
- **Recommendation A: Renewable Fuels Infrastructure Investment**
 - Establish a \$5 million annual appropriation for the Renewable Fuels Infrastructure Program (RFIP)
 - Increase renewable fuels availability and reduce greenhouse gas emissions
 - Build on success of RFIP: \$36 million in public, \$200 million private investment to-date
- **Recommendation B: Approve Existing Infrastructure for Higher Blends of Renewable Fuels**
 - Deem all underground storage tanks, pumps, infrastructure currently approved for E10 are immediately approved for Unleaded 88 containing 15 percent ethanol in Iowa
- **Recommendation C: Retail Availability of Higher Blends of Renewable Fuels**
 - Explore a requirement and/or increase incentives for retailers to offer Unleaded 88 with 15 percent ethanol. Always allow one hose per retail fuel site to dispense E0/E10.
 - 2,451 retail sites in Iowa: 800 dispense biodiesel, 303 offer E85, and just 223 offer Unleaded 88 - E15
- **Recommendation D: Liability Protection for Retailers**
 - 16 billion+ miles have been driven on Unleaded 88 - E15 without issues, yet retailers can face lawsuits, bureaucracy, or threats of losing insurance when underwritten by companies with petroleum interests.
 - Iowa can stand behind its retailers to help address these issues.



US CORN + SOYBEANS: GROSS REVENUE VS. COSTS, 1975-2025



Overall financial health of Corn-Soybean Sector drives everything!



Opportunity: Ag Innovation - Tech, Products and Talent

- **Recommendation A: Value Added Ag Grant Program**
 - Funding to support programs or services that add value to traditional crops, expand fruit and vegetable production along with other specialty crops, increase processing capacity, and open new markets for livestock products.
 - Example projects: Cheese makers, local food hubs, hops growers selling to Iowa breweries
- **Recommendation B: Annual Innovation Award Competition (modeled after World Food Prize)**
 - Iowa Ag Innovation Prize: Showcase Iowa and connect innovators to investors, customers
 - Nationally prominent conference that will boost Iowa's image as an incubator for ag innovation
- **Recommendation C: Innovation in Transportation Infrastructure - Rural Bridge Initiative**
 - More than a quarter of Iowa's rural bridges are structurally deficient, limiting the efficient transport of Iowa ag products.
 - Accelerate and expand the adoption of cost-saving technologies at the county level through aggressive communication and stakeholder outreach.
- **Recommendation D: Ag Innovation Council**
 - Governor-appointed Ag Innovation Council to coordinate with ISU entrepreneurial initiatives, IEDA, Cultivation Corridor, Iowa Agritech Accelerator, and other organizations to foster entrepreneurial development and public-private partnership



Opportunity: Sustainability - Economic and Environmental

- **Recommendation A: Long-Term Water Quality Funding**
 - Long-term funding via extension of SF512 (beyond FY28) or the Invest in Iowa Act
 - Accelerate adoption of practices outlined in the Nutrient Reduction Strategy and leverage private-public partnership opportunities
 - Build on success since Nutrient Reduction Strategy was implemented and SF512 was adopted:
 - In 2-3 years, Iowa will build 30+ nitrate-reducing wetlands, double the pace of the past 15 years
 - 1+ million acres of cover crops in Iowa with room to grow
- **Recommendation B: Carbon Sequestration Task Force**
 - State-level task force to study economic, social, environmental benefits of agricultural carbon capture
 - Potential new income stream for Iowa farmers impacted by profitability challenges, supply chain disruptions, severe weather events
 - Climate solutions market could double from \$1 trillion to \$2 trillion a year by 2025 (Source: USFRA)
- **Recommendation C: Conservation Engagement**
 - Help consumers, investors, and workers see Iowa as a national hotbed for conservation and sustainable agriculture
 - Explore an Iowa ag brand by reviving the Choose Iowa program with legislative funding and industry collaboration



Biofuels growth

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Innovation

- Value Added Ag Grant Program
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Sustainability

- Long-Term Water Quality Funding
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GOVERNOR'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY
ADVISORY BOARD
EDUCATION WORKING GROUP

Expand Work-Based Learning Initiatives that Forge School-Business Partnerships

■ Background and Current State:

- Iowa has strengthened K-12 WBL foundation in recent years through state and local initiatives launched by public-private partnerships. This shows what could be done with a more significant investment and if scaled properly to each school district in the state.

■ Recommendations and Measurable Goals:

- Expand upon Iowa's STEM BEST program, regional career academies, Registered Apprenticeships, and other models that forge school-business partnerships, coupled with additional funding, and strive to involve every K-12 student in work-based learning (WBL). Specifically, we recommend that:
 - At least 75% of school districts designate a WBL coordinator, or districts share a coordinator, to act as a career coach or career-college transition counselor who facilitates training with regional businesses by 2023.
 - At least 80% of high school students participate in at least one in-depth WBL opportunity by 2024, with participation being 100% by 2027.
 - At least 50% of school districts offer Registered Apprenticeship programs by 2027, with 100% of districts doing so by 2030.
 - School districts begin exploration of integration of social-emotional-behavioral health (SEBH) into K-12 WBL by 2023, with the goal of expanding Iowa's workforce of trained, skilled, and licensed service providers.
 - Incentivize additional business and industry participation in WBL.



Add and Support Supplementary Preschool Supports

■ Background and Current State:

- Iowa's Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program (SWVPP) is a critical resource in providing universal preschool programming for 4-year-olds and setting up students, schools, and Iowa up for success. However, less than 62% of families in Iowa utilized the universal preschool programming in 2019 and there is no targeted programming for children who lack opportunities at home or are in need of more intensive supports.

■ Recommendation:

- Continue with Iowa's SWVPP for 4-year-old children for all families who wish to participate but add supplementary preschool for students with targeted needs. This supplement should include additional resources to build state and local capacity to offer these additional, more cost-intensive targeted services.

■ Measurable Goal:

- >90% of four-year-olds attend preschool.
 - Preschool attendance is an Early Warning System (EWS) indicator that identifies students who are at-risk or those who are likely to experience adverse outcomes. This early identification of students using existing or readily available data indicates who is "off-track" and allows districts, schools, and teachers to intervene early enough to alter student trajectories so students can get back on-track.



Conduct A Statewide Equity Audit to Align Equity Efforts and Determine Gaps

■ Background and Current State:

- Iowa has persistent gaps in student achievement, which are outlined in several reports [reports](#).

■ Recommendation:

- Conduct a statewide equity inventory and needs assessment of education, including surveying educational practitioners and community stakeholders, to assess organizational and institutional equity efforts, programs, and initiatives. Using the results of the statewide inventory and needs assessment, align all state equity work in education to target resources and effort including (but not limited to) the equity initiatives of the following:
 - Iowa Department of Education,
 - State Board of Education,
 - Iowa State Education Association,
 - School Administrators of Iowa,
 - Institutions of higher education (i.e., community colleges, public and private colleges and universities),
 - Local education agencies,
 - Iowa Association of School Boards, and
 - Area education agencies.

■ Measurable Goals:

- The inventory is completed and gaps in work are identified.
- By 2025, at least 20% of all newly licensed teachers statewide are from diverse racial/ethnic backgrounds.



Fund Iowa's Highest-Need Schools to Close Achievement and Opportunity Gaps

■ Background and Current State:

- While the Iowa General Assembly adopted [Iowa Code section 284.11](#) to provide supplemental state assistance to school districts determined most in need, no funding was provided to conduct these efforts (e.g., develop extended learning time programs, hire instructional support staff, provide additional professional development, supplement the salary of teachers in the identified schools).

■ Recommendations:

- Provide funding for “highest-need” schools (Iowa Code § 284.11), identified as those in need of targeted support and improvement under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, to deliver evidence-based professional learning and coaching.

■ Measurable Goals:

- An increase in after-school tutoring and other extended learning time for students.
- Reduction of the achievement gap in reading as measured on state and national tests.
- An increase in the number of teachers and other instructional staff who complete training and demonstrate expertise in teaching reading.



Expand Statewide Connectivity and Create a Statewide Learning Management System (LMS)

■ Background and Current State:

- Governor Reynolds and the Department will make \$19.3 million available, from the CARES Act's GEER Fund, to districts and nonpublic schools for increasing connectivity for PK-12 students for the 2020-21 school year.
 - The Department conducted the Household Technology Access Survey in June and used information from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) to estimate the number of households in each school district and nonpublic school in Iowa without internet access. The Department then used these estimates to create GEER allocations for each public school district, out of which a proportionate share for equitable services to nonpublic schools will be allotted.
- To continue connecting students and educators across the state, the Department of Education has created [Iowa e-Learning Central](#) (ILC). Implementation of ILC will occur in two phases:
 - Providing schools for one year a LMS with access to course resources and
 - Establishing a long-term LMS with access to courses developed by Iowa educators, for Iowa educators.



Remote Learning (continued)

■ Recommendations:

- Continue the work of expanding connectivity across the state and creating a statewide LMS that provides educators, students, and communities with high-quality content and resources by:
 - Providing statewide support of an online learning platform so that any teacher, parent, or student may access it and learning remains constant regardless of school closure,
 - Compensating educators for developed content that meets criteria for high-quality, and
 - Continuing improvements to strengthen the platform and educator-developed content over the next five years.

■ Measurable Goal:

- All secondary students demonstrate success (measured as 0-1 Ds or Fs or “Unsatisfactory” grades if standards based) in at least one required remote/blended learning course.



Table 3. Reading/ELA and Mathematics Comparison for Iowa's Three Largest Racial/Ethnic Groups: 2017-18 to 2018-19.

■ Source: Iowa Department of Education. Note: In 2018-19, the ISASP was delivered for the first time. The updated assessment included many new features, which were needed. The ISASP raised the bar for student performance expectations as well as having tighter alignment to Iowa academic standards. In addition, content areas such as writing were added as well as more difficult items to measure knowledge. These important enhancements were needed to update Iowa's test system.

Student Group	Iowa Assessment Reading 2017-18	ISASP ELA 2018-19	Difference	Iowa Assessment Math 201718	ISASP Math 2018-19	Difference
All Students	77.0	69.8	-7.2	78.3	70.2	-8.1
White	81.0	74.5	-6.5	82.7	74.9	-7.8
Hispanic	62.4	54.9	-7.5	63.0	55.2	-7.8
Black	49.5	40.3	-9.2	46.6	39.1	-7.5



Elevate K-12 Educational Outcomes for all students by closing achievement gaps and offering alternatives

■ Background and Current State:

- Historically, Iowa has had a leading K-12 education system that provided great opportunities for our children and helped drive economic growth in the state.
- Unfortunately, our academic results have been stagnant, while other states have made large gains in student performance. Over the last 30 years, Iowa ranks 49th out of 50 in terms of improvement in student achievement. In addition to our lagging overall performance, children growing up in low-income households in Iowa are on average two to two and one-half grade levels behind their peers by the time they get to eighth grade.
- Today, student achievement in Iowa is in the middle of the pack compared with other states. For instance, in 2019, our NAEP scores for 8th Grade Reading and Math Proficiency dropped to 32nd and 24th respectively (out of 50 states).
- The Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (2018-2019) showed the significant gaps that exist among minority students in Reading and Math Proficiency: In reading, Black students were 29.5% below the average for all students and Hispanic students 14.9% below. In Math, Black students were 31.1% below all students and Hispanic student were 15.0% below.
- Finally, the state has an opportunity to better scale concepts such as work-based-learning, including Career Technical Education



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■ Recommendations:

- Modify Chapter 279 of Iowa Code to clarify that the primary role of a School Board is to provide 1) oversight regarding student academic achievement and 2) strategic leadership for maximizing student performance. Provide additional support resources, training, and coaching to enable School Boards to improve their effectiveness.
- A barrier to meeting the needs for Iowa children is the limited number of educational choices—particularly for those growing up in low-income households. We should remove any identified constraints in the current open-enrollment system and also pass “state-of-the-art” public charter school legislation that will allow the formation of non-profit, public charter schools to meet unmet needs.

■ Measurables:

- Success will be measured by closing the achievement gap between white students and minorities and between students from low-income households and those from more affluent households.
- Success will also be measured by the ranking of Iowa’s K-12 system relative to other states (NAEP scores).

