



## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION

### Guiding Principle

The business community must partner with stakeholders and policymakers to advocate for adequate resources to help recruit, develop and retain talent in Tampa Bay. Plans must be in place today to train the workforce of tomorrow. We will work diligently to inform our elected officials that Hillsborough County's new education investment is an opportunity for matching dollars, not replacing them.

### The Chamber Supports

- » Incorporating Career and Technical Education curriculum into all institutions of education at the K12 level (Local)
- » Increase in Associate of Science dual enrollment course offerings (Local)
- » Making Pell Grants available to students who are pursuing short-term certifications (Federal)
- » Adequate resources for apprenticeships (Local, Federal)
- » Mayor Castor's development of a targeted plan for creating a skilled pipeline of talent to support and sustain Tampa's ongoing economic development activities (Local)



## WORKFORCE HOUSING

### Guiding Principle

Developing a sustainable inventory of workforce housing is vital to the continued growth and success of Tampa Bay's business economy. Our region's economic success and continued growth over the last twenty years has resulted in rising housing costs, forcing our workforce to live further away from employment centers. Increasing the inventory of attainable housing for working families earning incomes between 80 and 120 percent of the area median income, is critical to our region's ability to attract and retain talent, improve quality of life, and to continue to successfully compete in the market economy.

### The Chamber Supports

- » Policies and budget prioritization that facilitate the development of, and access to, workforce housing (Local)
- » Amendments to the City of Tampa's and Hillsborough County's Land Development Codes and Comprehensive Plans, which incentivize the development of workforce housing (Local)
- » Pursuing any available federal funds that facilitate the development of, and access to, workforce housing (Federal)



## TRANSPORTATION

### Guiding Principle

Transportation is a core service of government that is critical for economic development and facilitating the efficient movement of goods, people and services. Sufficient transportation funding of all options is needed to implement a robust and connected transportation network in Tampa Bay. We will work diligently to inform our elected officials that Hillsborough County's new transportation investment is an opportunity for matching dollars, not replacing them.

### The Chamber Supports

- » Federal funding for transportation improvements in Tampa Bay. Including (Federal)
- » Hillsborough County's BUILD Grant application for an over-haul of I-75 and Big Bend interchange.
- » Efforts to continue to grow and enhance Tampa International Airport and Port Tampa Bay. Specifically: (Federal)
- » Increase in the Passenger Facility Charge
- » Additional Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) officers to assist in processing increased visitors at Airport and Port Tampa Bay.
- » Reimbursement for required in-line baggage screening systems
- » Bus Rapid Transit as the catalyst project per the Regional Transit Feasibility Plan (Local)
- » Policies that encourage innovative transit alternatives (Local)
- » Development of regional mass transit options (Local)

## HEALTH CARE

### Guiding Principle

The Tampa Bay Chamber supports reducing the cost of health insurance to the business community by increasing access to quality health care for all Floridians and legislation that gives our health care providers the infrastructure and regulatory environment needed to best serve our community.

### The Chamber Supports

- » Better coordination of behavioral health funding between the Federal government and Florida (Federal)
- » The 340B outpatient drug pricing program (Federal)
- » Policies to enhance access to critical health care services via telehealth, including behavioral health services (Federal)

## BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Guiding Principle

Economic development and business thrive where regional collaboration is strong, regulatory and tax burdens are minimal, right to work laws that protect our citizens remain in place and wages are market rate. Businesses locate and expand in areas where these factors exist.

### The Chamber Supports

- » Protecting the economic benefits, the United States enjoys via trade agreements (Federal)
- » Policies that support Keeping the Tampa Bay Rays in Tampa Bay (Local, Federal)
- » Policies that support the recruitment and retainment of high-wage jobs (Local)

## MILITARY AND DEFENSE

### Guiding Principle

The Tampa Bay Chamber has enjoyed a close working relationship with MacDill Air Force Base – a vital part of our nation's defense that has a \$3 billion impact on the Tampa Bay community. We understand the importance of supporting our brave men and women and their families who serve our country and call our community home. As a Great American Defense Community, we will continue to support policies and investments to strengthen Tampa Bay's defense community.

### The Chamber Supports

- » The need for federal budget certainty and predictability to help our defense community plan and support MacDill Air Force Base (Federal)
- » Amending the IRS Code by expanding the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) to include military spouses as part of the targeted groups
- » Funding for the Department of Defense Community Infrastructure Grant Pilot program (Federal)
- » Adequate transportation options for Military families in Hillsborough County (Local, Federal)
  - » A MacDill Ferry Connection
  - » Increased circulator routes for high density military populations in East/South Hillsborough
- » Coordination between HCPS and Military Families to ensure a seamless education transition for Military Families (Local)
- » Opportunities that support veteran and military spouse gainful employment and a pathway to entrepreneurship (Local, Federal)