

BLUEPRINT RECOMMENDATIONS

DRAFT FOR BOARD REVIEW – SEPTEMBER 2024

Pillar #1: Workforce

Goal: Create an environment for New Hampshire’s workforce to thrive through education and training and improved quality of life.

Primary themes: Workforce, Education, Quality of Life

- Lead the exploration for comprehensive workforce program redesign with a “front door” approach to matching public and private partners, resources, and long-term solutions to the talent pipeline.
- Catalyze the formation of a formal economic development cabinet that includes leaders from education, workforce, economic development, housing and others to address critical issues and set KPIs to monitor progress; include a non-voting member from BIA to coordinate activities and produce an annual report.
- Work with BIA members and other industry organizations to increase the number of internships and apprenticeships offered by New Hampshire businesses.
- Facilitate the connection of business, K-12 educators, and parents to develop awareness of career pathways and training programs for jobs not requiring a college degree (signing day, bus tours, etc.).
- Leverage the University System of New Hampshire (USNH) and the Community College System of New Hampshire (CCSNH) as partners in training the next generation of workforce, ensuring classes and programs reflect industry demand.
- Work with public and private sector partners to identify housing supply and affordability solutions, particularly multi-family development near employers and high-growth areas and the “missing middle” of affordable, single family starter homes.
- Review the regulatory and enforcement structure in the state to improve affordability and availability of childcare.
- Improve alignment with economic development partners to showcase both quality of life and career opportunities to younger, working age audiences.

Pillar #2: Business Climate

Goal: Build on New Hampshire’s favorable business climate by exploring tax, regulatory and infrastructure improvements to improve long-term competitiveness.

Primary Themes: Tax/Regulatory, Infrastructure, Energy

- Advocate for the creation of a Regulatory Task Force to review state agency regulations and set goals for the reduction of outdated or unnecessary regulations and set timelines for conducting future reviews.
- Require an economic impact analysis to accompany any new environmental regulations to determine the overall impact on the state’s economy.

- ❑ Support the creation of a statewide online portal to provide a single point of contact for businesses to interact with government offices and resources.
- ❑ Prioritize advocacy efforts to protect and improve the tax climate and overall competitiveness.
- ❑ Work with the NH Department of Transportation to ensure the deployment of federal and state funds for infrastructure improvements.
- ❑ Investigate opportunities to modernize state infrastructure funding to address rising costs and technological changes to maintain and improve safe infrastructure for all users (i.e. revenue generation through vehicle miles traveled).
- ❑ Support the continued growth of the Manchester-Boston Regional Airport for both cargo and commercial travel.
- ❑ Collaborate with energy industry stakeholders and the NH Department of Energy to identify new programs and tools to reduce energy costs – including development of in-state renewable sources and expansion of industrial net-metering.
- ❑ Conduct a perception analysis to determine the awareness and favorability level of New Hampshire outside of the state to better inform the overall narrative around competitiveness.
- ❑ Become more proactive in collaborative efforts to retain and attract businesses, leveraging data and geography to demonstrate opportunity, particularly in advanced manufacturing and emerging industry clusters.
- ❑ Increase civic engagement by BIA members to improve business community representation across the state.

Pillar #3: Innovation

Goal: Develop and foster New Hampshire’s innovation ecosystem through policy, improved collaboration and business expansion.

Primary Themes: Ecosystem, Industry, Narrative

- ❑ Form the New Hampshire Innovation Consortium to serve as a convener of partners throughout the New Hampshire innovation ecosystem including the NH Tech Alliance, NH Life Sciences and related private and public funding entities.
- ❑ Inventory and review current programs and incentive tools that foster innovation and explore enhancing New Hampshire’s “tool kit” to encourage increased investment by existing and future companies.
- ❑ Become the leading voice in advocacy for policy issues enhancing or hindering the growth of the innovation ecosystem.
- ❑ Improve communication and collaboration among various funding entities to increase access to capital for start-ups and entrepreneurs.
- ❑ Re-establish the BIA’s state manufacturing association identity and organizational presence and align programming to increase sector engagement, particularly around advanced manufacturing.
- ❑ Launch a “Made in Your State” program to raise awareness of products invented, created or manufactured in New Hampshire.
- ❑ Use a data centric approach to identify and attract future forward companies in existing and emerging industry sectors, focusing on startups or expanding businesses in the Boston and New York metro areas.
- ❑ Develop a consistent narrative to align key stakeholders to build internal and external awareness of the legacy of innovation, the depth of industry activity, and the opportunities that exist in New Hampshire.