

Item No. 3a

EXEMPLARY CORE CAPACITIES

- a.) VOTE: Preliminary Review and input on the 2026 Federal Legislative Agenda


Draft 2026 Federal Policy Agenda

- No action needed today; seeking input
- Seek input - committees, working groups, and public forums.
- Does not necessarily reflect the views of individual board members.
- Used to support key regional initiatives throughout the fiscal year.

Transportation

- Support reauthorization of federal transportation law and Highway Trust Fund, with support for all modes of transportation.
- Reduce freight and passenger train bottlenecks and support intercity passenger rail.
- Utilize local government officials to align priorities through MPO.

Environment

- Reauthorize & modernize Federal Flood Insurance Program.
 - Support improvements for water and wastewater infrastructure.
 - Support for increasing energy production using balanced energy sources.
 - Support policies and resources for clean air.
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Economic Development & Data

Support for:

- The Economic Development Administration and National Science Foundation investments.
- Resources to support the region as a 2026 World Cup host city.
- Full funding of the federal statistical agencies.

Public Health

Support for:

- Disease surveillance, epidemiology and increased lab capacity.
- Increased capacity to prepare and respond to all hazards.
- Continued investment to improve community health, including use of Community Health Workers.

Homeland Security

- Continued support for the Urban Areas Security Initiative.

Emergency Services and Public Safety

- Support for local EMS agencies to use Medicare and Medicaid.
- Support 911 SAVES Act.
- Support the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Act for Next Gen 911.

Early Education

Continued and increased funding for:

- Head Start
- Child Care and Development Grant Program
- Preschool Development Grants
- Refugee Family Childcare Microenterprise Development Program

Thriving Older Adults and Communities and Food Security

Continued and increased funding and resources for:

- Older Americans Act with reauthorization
- Area Agencies on Aging and caregiver supports
- Nutrition and medically tailored meals
- Farm Bill reauthorization (including Nutrition Incentive Program)
- Support expansion of Community Care Hubs (CCH)

Housing

- Funding to create housing options for low-income Americans.
- Support of initiatives that increase the supply of housing.
- Continue funding for housing for homeless persons and families.

Workforce Development

- Reauthorize Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act.
- Reauthorize Higher Education Act & support low-interest loans for health and other professional occupations.
- Expansion of apprentice programs & Pell Grant eligibility.