

Policy & Advocacy Committee

2026 Action Summary

Executive Summary

The Policy & Advocacy Committee was established to better understand the issues affecting communities across the Tri-State region while creating opportunities for regional dialogue and shared learning. Recognizing that many challenges extend beyond county and state boundaries, the committee brings together community leaders, subject matter experts, and partner organizations to examine issues that influence the region's long-term economic vitality.

Throughout 2026, the committee focused on issues identified by the Tri-State Development Advisory Board as regional priorities, including housing and workforce housing, childcare, broadband, and entrepreneurship. Through presentations from regional leaders, practitioners, partner organizations, and subject matter experts representing each of the three states, the committee emphasized education, information sharing, and discussion while highlighting practical approaches already making a difference in communities across the region.

Key accomplishments included:

- Exploring regional issues through presentations from regional leaders, practitioners, partner organizations, and subject matter experts.
- Examining challenges and opportunities from Missouri, Illinois, and Iowa perspectives.
- Supporting the development of issue briefs as educational resources.
- Building a shared understanding of issues affecting communities across the Tri-State region.
- Laying the foundation for the Regional Issues Summit Series.

Looking ahead, the committee's work will transition into the Regional Issues Summit Series, expanding opportunities for community leaders, businesses, educators, service providers, and regional partners to learn from experts, share perspectives, and explore collaborative approaches to issues affecting the Tri-State region.