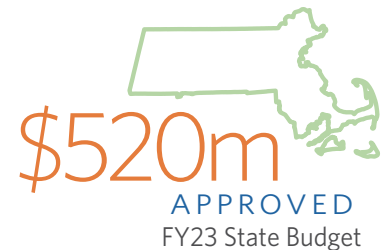


# Our Voice, Our Impact

The Massachusetts Business Roundtable advocated throughout the 2021-22 Legislative Session on key policy priorities based on member feedback. The Roundtable’s voice helped to secure significant investments and initiate system improvements that will strengthen the state’s economic competitiveness.

## Early Childhood Education

Groundbreaking, unprecedented investments will transform the state’s early childhood education system by addressing workforce, equity, and business development needs across the Commonwealth.



## Workforce Development



Roundtable advocacy in partnership with the Workforce Solutions Group helped to solidify historic funding for job training, job placement, and more resources especially for unemployed and underemployed jobseekers.

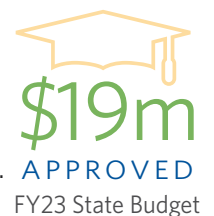


“Investing in workforce development and helping people get back to work is a key component of a full, equitable and sustainable recovery.”

Rapid Reemployment for a Just and Equitable Recovery in Massachusetts Report (March 2021), Workforce Solutions Group

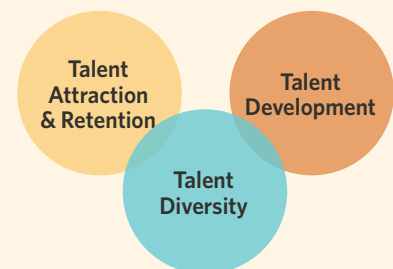
## Early College

Increased funding was a major win for the newly established Massachusetts Alliance for Early College which includes the Roundtable, State Street, and UMass Boston among several supporting organizations.



## Talent Agenda to Drive Competitiveness

During the legislative session, the Roundtable released two reports on the Future of Work, representing member feedback from surveys conducted in the spring of 2021 and 2022. While 80% of surveyed members plan to maintain or expand its presence in Massachusetts and cited “access to world-class, diverse talent” as a driver, Massachusetts’ competitive calling card—talent—may be threatened as employers and talent become increasingly mobile. Recognizing this potential threat, the Roundtable developed: “A Talent Agenda to Drive Massachusetts’ Competitiveness,” released in the fall of 2021 and outlining strategies to attract and retain talent, develop talent, and diversify talent. This Agenda served as a framework for advocacy during the legislative session including advocacy for APRA funding plus funding for workforce development, child care, and other Roundtable policy priorities.



“Business will go to where talent is.”

Member, Massachusetts Business Roundtable



**GOOD FOR BUSINESS**

**Expanding Mental Health & Wellness**

The mental health and wellness of employees consistently ranks among key employee benefits—part of a new wave of benefits since the start of the pandemic. In May 2022, the Roundtable’s Future of Work & Massachusetts Competitiveness Survey found 89% of responding members reported that offering mental health and wellness programs were among the most helpful benefits to attract and retain talent.

During the 2021-22 Legislative Session, the Roundtable understood the value of this employee benefit and incorporated mental health reforms as part of its advocacy at the State House. Following advocacy to both the Senate and House, the Roundtable’s testimony to the Mental Health Conference Committee urged inclusion to require coverage of annual mental health exams, increase capacity for providers in the mental health system, and continue to focus on children, provisions which were incorporated into the final legislation passed and signed by Governor Baker.

“The impact of remote work, greater isolation and increased caregiving responsibilities have created new pressures on employees—or exacerbated existing ones—leading employers to be much more aware and responsive to the mental health and wellness needs of employees.”

JD Chesloff, MBR Letter to the Massachusetts Legislature’s Mental Health Conference Committee

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

The Roundtable advocated for additional priorities that are still pending in omnibus economic development legislation.

**Housing**

“Among the biggest concerns for workers weighing whether to stay in Massachusetts—or relocate here—is the high cost of housing... As you consider allocation of ARPA and surplus dollars, we respectfully urge you to consider housing that focuses on increasing supply to make workforce housing more affordable, addressing burdensome regulations, and providing access to home ownership, particularly in communities of color.”

MBR Letter to the Massachusetts Chairs of the Senate and House Ways & Means Committees

**Tax Relief**

“Commonsense strategies can improve the state’s attractiveness for both employers and employees. Modifying the state’s estate and short-term capital gains taxes will help Massachusetts remain a competitive place to start, operate, and retain businesses, which is particularly important during this period of economic uncertainty and personal mobility.”

Joint Business Group Letter to the Speaker of the House and Chair of House Ways and Means

**LOOKING AHEAD**

The Roundtable will convene members to discuss new and continued priorities such as: MA Competitiveness, Workforce Development, Education, Housing, Clean Energy, Transportation, and more!