

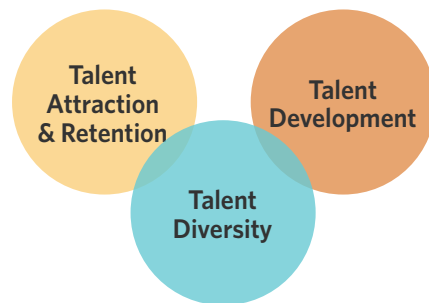


Our Impact Together

In 2023, the Roundtable was focused on the state’s competitiveness, supporting investments and policy ideas in areas such as housing, workforce and economic development, and early childhood education all of which encourage talent—our key competitive advantage—to live, work, play, and innovate in Massachusetts.

We achieved many milestones aimed at advancing our member-driven public policies and initiatives guided by our **Talent Agenda**, which is framed by three pillars: Talent Recruitment and Retention; Talent Development; and Talent Diversity.

Read some of our end of year highlights!



97
MEMBERS COMPANIES
statewide

12+
MEETINGS
with leaders from the
Administration and Legislature

15
TESTIMONIES submitted

RESEARCH REPORTS

In 2023 the Roundtable released two reports on talent, recognizing that access to talent is a top reason why employers choose to stay, relocate, or expand within the state. Yet, affordability issues, at a time of increased mobility, are causing an outmigration of residents and making it difficult for employers to find and retain the talent they need to fill open jobs.

Framed around “untapped talent” these reports focus on the diverse talent already in the Commonwealth and highlight recommendations for how employers and policymakers can better access these talent pools.

- ▶ **Tapping Untapped Talent: How Foreign-Educated Immigrants can Strengthen the Massachusetts Economy:** Released in partnership with the Center for State Policy Analysis at Tufts University, this report highlights the challenges faced by foreign-educated college graduates and offers solutions for how this key population can fully participate in the state’s labor market.
- ▶ **Equitably Addressing the Workforce Crisis in MA: How to Capitalize on Minority Serving Institutions:** Released in collaboration with the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation (MTF), this report provides policymakers with a better understanding of what Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) are and how Massachusetts can better use these critical institutions to strengthen our current and future labor force needs.

COALITIONS/COMMISSIONS

Represented Roundtable members on key committees set up by the Administration and Legislature including the Economic Development Planning Council, a Siting and Permitting Commission, and a Free Community College Advisory Committee.

Provided leadership and ideas to coalitions the Roundtable is engaged with including: the **Workforce Solutions Group**, **Student Pathways Coalition**, the **MA Apprenticeship Network**, and the **MA Alliance for Early College**.

MEDIA/COMMUNICATIONS

- ▶ OpEd: **Competitiveness is the Key: Here's What is Needed**, CommonWealth Beacon (Jan 2023)
- ▶ OpEd: **Massachusetts Can Win in the New World of Work**, CommonWealth Beacon (June 2023)
- ▶ OpEd: **Foreign-Educated Immigrants Can Strengthen the Mass. Economy**, CommonWealth Beacon (Oct 2023)
- ▶ Co-authored OpEd: **The Moral and Economic Case for Addressing Health Inequities**, Boston Business Journal (Oct 2023)

MEETINGS WITH POLICYMAKERS

Hosted various Committee and Board Meetings and Open Forums with members and appointed and elected officials including:

- ▶ Secretary of Economic Development, Yvonne Hao
- ▶ Secretary of Administration & Finance, Matt Gorzkowicz
- ▶ Secretary of Housing and Livable Communities, Ed Augustus
- ▶ Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development, Lauren Jones
- ▶ Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll
- ▶ Boston Mayor, Michelle Wu
- ▶ Attorney General Andrea Campbell
- ▶ Senator Barry Finegold
- ▶ Representative Jerry Parisella
- ▶ Representative Josh Cutler

TESTIMONY

Filed legislation and testified before legislative committees on more than 14 bills including, **H.1934, An Act to encourage employer supported childcare; H.43, An Act to create an executive office of housing and livable communities; H.592, An Act to create and expand student pathways to success**, and the FY24 budget, among others.

Submitted testimony and joined the broader business community to support **H.4104, An Act to improve the commonwealth's competitiveness, affordability, and equity**. This is the first tax relief bill to be passed in the Commonwealth in the last 20 years.

AWARDS

This year the Roundtable was honored to receive two awards recognizing our commitment to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion. In June, the Roundtable received the **Corporate Leadership Award** at the **2023 NAACP Boston Freedom Fund Awards** as a result of our policy and legislative work. In October, the Roundtable attended the **10th Annual Raising Our Voices Breakfast with English for New Bostonians** where we received their annual **Business Leadership Award** for our work advocating for immigrants as an essential part of the workforce.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024

With only seven months remaining in the legislative session, the Roundtable is focused on:

- ▶ Advocating for an economic development bill that includes priorities around talent, housing, infrastructure, and climate change.
- ▶ Engaging with the business community on the state's housing crisis and potential solutions.
- ▶ Working with members and partners on the recommendations from the two reports framed around untapped talent.