

People-Powered Prosperity: A New Economic Vision for Georgia

The Peach State holds the promise of a place with a more inclusive economy and more secure middle class, where families from diverse backgrounds rise out of poverty and where lots of new wealth still flows to innovators. To reach that goal, state lawmakers need a new economic vision. Georgia has long employed a business-first approach to the economy, defined by corporate tax breaks, lax regulations and low wages. But what Georgia needs for a stronger and fairer economy is a people-first strategy focused on four strategic goals: Educated youth, skilled workers, thriving families and healthy communities.

1



Educated Youth

States with a more educated workforce tend to have stronger economies and quality schools to help equip communities to compete in today's global marketplace. Students need both hard skills to one day enter the workforce and a deeper love of learning that leads to new ideas, products, businesses and richer lives. Reaching that goal depends on relentless support for early childhood education and public K-12 schools.

2



Thriving Families

When parents have money to make ends meet and to save or invest in their families' future, the overall economy realizes the gain. Policies such as stronger child care assistance and targeted tax breaks for families can help parents contribute more to the workforce by better balancing career and caregiving responsibilities, while also creating a more stable home environment for children's future success.

3



Skilled Workers

Companies and entrepreneurs thrive when they can find workers with a rich set of skills. Policies that support higher education, training programs and basic literacy can offer people lifelong learning opportunities that help minimize workforce gaps and empower Georgians to transform their lives, improve their earnings and career opportunities and contribute more to their communities and the economy.

4



Healthy Communities

Part of having a strong economy that makes good use of everyone's potential is making sure people are healthy so they can contribute. People are more likely to show up to work on time, get the job done right or start a small business when they're able to see a doctor when sick or access targeted services for things like substance abuse treatment to get back on their feet. Parents and children who are financially secure and can access good schools, decent jobs and quality public services also tend to be healthier overall.

An Eight-Point Plan to Help Georgia's Economy Thrive

The most prosperous states are anchored by an educated and healthy workforce and offer opportunities for people to innovate and contribute. The Georgia Budget and Policy Institute recommends an eight-point policy approach for Georgia lawmakers to better invest in families and communities. These will lead to an economy built on educated youth, skilled workers, thriving families and opportunity for everyone by helping tap people's economic potential. Read the full People-Powered Prosperity report at gbpi.org/people-powered-prosperity.



Update Georgia's K-12 funding formula to meet today's rigorous standards.

1



Empower districts to invest in proven solutions, especially in high-need schools.

2



Expand aid options to make university education more affordable and technical college tuition-free.

3



Increase funds for adult basic education, language literacy and skills-training programs.

4



Help more working parents afford child care.

5



Enact a Georgia Work Credit.

6



Expand health coverage so workers and entrepreneurs can see a doctor.

7



Invest in mental health and substance abuse treatments.

8