



## ACTIVITY & IMPACT OVERVIEW 2019-2022


GAC works on behalf of the business community to deliver direct support to businesses of all sizes and bring business community perspective and involvement to the work of the economic development ecosystem to catalyze investment, economic growth and employment for Greater Akron.

*All data and milestones are reflective of activity occurring from March 2019-March 2022*

# STRENGTHENING

## BUSINESS GROWTH AND SUCCESS

### RETENTION AND ATTRACTION PROJECTS

 2,900+ new jobs

\$141 million in payroll 

Increased visibility through storytelling  
100+ Greater Akron Small Businesses

### MET WITH 530+ BUSINESSES

through our collaborative Elevate Greater Akron business, retention, and expansion work to learn more about their needs and connect them with resources for growth.

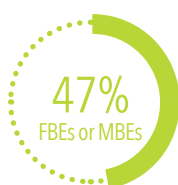
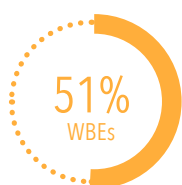
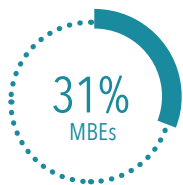


GAC small business benefit programs have been adopted by more than 775 companies

Strengthened employer competitiveness via new small business employee health benefit and 401k offerings.

### SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT

\$12.6 million in grant relief to  
3,028 business recipients



### ADVOCATED FOR BUSINESS GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY

- Made successful efforts to maintain small business state income tax exemption; increased investments by the state in workforce training; development of new investment for in-demand skills certification and new work experience programs like internships and apprenticeships for employers.
- Drove creation and enactment of legislation to streamline Ohio MBE certification for minority, women, and veteran entrepreneurs and create reciprocity at multiple levels of government.

### RESPONSE TO PANDEMIC RELATED CHALLENGES

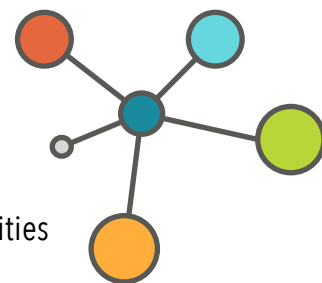


Launch of COVID-19 resource website in 2020

▼  
**31,000**  
unique visitors

### CONVENED AND CONNECTED

**16,259 registrations**  
across **618 businesses** at  
**295** leadership dialogue,  
networking, and event opportunities



# DRIVING

## COLLABORATIVE REGIONAL INVESTMENT TO STIMULATE GROWTH AND INVESTMENT

**Raised over \$1 million in funding raised for Akron-Canton Airport (CAK)** from the private sector and economic development partners in both Stark and Summit Counties to win a JobsOhio 80/20 match, adding new airline Breeze Airways and 6 new destinations to CAK. Local funding also allowed access to state and federal grants equaling \$1 million to resume United Airlines service to Houston in 2023.

**Anchored regional efforts to win \$500,000 for the Phase 1 investment of the EDA Build Back Better Regional Challenge Grant** driving competition for a final award to leverage more than \$115 million of new investment in NEO advanced materials and manufacturing, workforce development, commercialization and innovation.

**Secured the commitment of \$7.5 million in private sector and public partner** matching funds for a new \$28 million advanced materials production facility to stimulate research, innovation and entrepreneurial commercialization and further position Greater Akron as a center of global solutions to industry challenges.

**Advocacy efforts resulted in 78% of total recommended state capital budget investment** awarded to Greater Akron organizations and projects

**Lead and facilitated deep collaboration and joint efforts** between over 25 ecosystem partners in Elevate Greater Akron worked to advance regional economic development initiatives leveraging system-wide investment.



Raised \$1 million+ for Akron-Canton Airport



\$441 million investment made in Greater Akron



# PAVING THE WAY FOR CATALYTIC OPPORTUNITIES

## Collaborative Engagement

leading to the award of a \$125,000 EDA grant to conduct a feasibility study on increasing access to high speed connectivity in Summit County.

## Connectivity

## Private Sector Engagement

to establish strategy and capacity for a Downtown Development Corporation to lead revitalization efforts in Downtown Akron.

## Downtown Revitalization

## Completed Research

to identify opportunities for Greater Akron in areas of in-demand talent, developing a regional polymers cluster, and driving economic inclusion.

## Driving Growth

## Advanced Regional Strategy

and opportunities by launching and leading the Northeast Ohio Polymer Industry Cluster to advance regional polymers strategy and opportunities.

## Innovation

# ADVANCING ECONOMIC INCLUSION AND OPPORTUNITY

**CONVENED** 1,170 business and community leaders for DEI-related dialogues and training.

**ENGAGED** 75 companies in the completion of the Equity and Inclusion Assessment, improving an understanding and support for best practices and progress and opportunity in areas like leadership diversity, staff diversity, and procurement diversity

**LAUNCHED** the DEI toolkit to help companies transition from dialogue to action in their DEI journey

**ALIGNED** the work of the Chamber and the Women's Network to increase support and access for women to leadership development and relationship building within Greater Akron

