



Statement on Governor Pritzker's BUILD Proposal

April 17, 2026

For Illinois' economy to thrive, it needs a housing market that works for everyone. And yet, in recent years, employers across the state have seen firsthand how housing shortages and rising costs affect workforce stability and attraction. The lack of affordable options for sale or rent is a primary hurdle to recruiting and retaining the talent necessary for regional competitiveness and growth.

Against this critical landscape, we applaud Governor Pritzker's BUILD proposal for its focus on removing regulatory barriers at the local level and the strategic use of capital for site development and middle-income housing. Furthermore, by addressing institutional barriers to homeownership—such as student loan debt—this proposal helps stabilize the workforce and our economy.

Housing affordability has long been a relative strength for the Chicago region and Illinois when compared to other regions that power the U.S. economy. Our region is at risk of losing that competitive edge and we must act fast to ensure that our workforce can afford to stay here and prosper. This proposal is a step in the right direction. The Civic Committee remains committed to collaborating with government and community partners to implement these critical solutions and sustain Illinois' economic momentum.