



The Cedar Rapids Airport Commission
invites applications for

Chief Operating Officer (COO)

Eastern Iowa Airport (CID)
Cedar Rapids, IA





The Airport

The Eastern Iowa Airport (CID) is owned by the City of Cedar Rapids and operated autonomously by the Cedar Rapids Airport Commission. Five Commissioners are appointed to three-year terms by the Mayor and approved by the City Council. The Commission is a policy-making body and oversees Airport management. Commissioners serve on a volunteer basis.

CID is a 3,418-acre facility. The terminal opened in 1986 and expanded in 1996. It underwent a \$2 million concourse improvement project in 2009 and in 2014 began a multi-year demand driven \$121 million terminal expansion and renovation project. The modernization project includes an inline baggage handling system, a complete renovation of the ticket counters and airlines offices, baggage claim, main lobby, and exterior canopies. In addition, the Concourse and the security checkpoint have been expanded.

In calendar year 2025, 815,531 passengers were enplaned; 44,999 operations were recorded; and 28,149 metric tons of cargo were handled. There are approximately 74 full-time equivalent Airport employees who serve the following areas: Administration, Guest Services, Facilities, Maintenance and Public Safety. In addition, there are more than 30 Airport tenants employing more than 1,000 employees.



The Airport (*continued*)

CID has benefited from airline investment with double-digit capacity increases from the five (5) air carriers serving the market: Allegiant, American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Frontier Airlines and United Airlines. Presently, there are nonstop flights to 17 destinations providing the most options for travelers in Eastern Iowa, as well as the border regions of Illinois and Wisconsin.

There are three (3) cargo carriers at CID: DHL, FedEx and UPS, which combine to handle more than 50 percent of the state's cargo. CID has the most privately-based aircraft in Iowa – 126 – providing a very active and engaged general aviation community.

In 2022, the airport embarked on a partnership with a local community college to begin an aircraft maintenance program. In 2024, CID partnered with a private, four-year college to create a business administration aviation studies and flight operations program to establish an aviation workforce development campus at CID. In June 2026, CID launched Ascentus, a new brand and economic development initiative to create a major aerospace hub in the Midwest by re-branding the former CID SuperPark and leveraging existing aerospace industries, government and educational partnerships.

The Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Budget is \$34.5 million, and the Five-Year Capital Improvement Program Budget is \$179.8 million. Projected Capital Improvements for Fiscal Year 2027 is \$38.9 million, which includes almost \$32 million in airfield improvements.



The Community

The Eastern Iowa Airport is located between Cedar Rapids, Iowa's second largest city, and Iowa City, home to the Big 10's University of Iowa and University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. The two cities are connected by Interstate 380, with several smaller communities located between and surrounding both locations.

The Cedar Rapids, or northern end of the "corridor," is known for having a mix of engineers from the region's largest employers, including Collins Aerospace and BAE Systems; and food production employment with Quaker Oats and General Mills, as well as several other large employers in Cedar Rapids.

Iowa City is affectionately known for the "meds and eds" who work at the University of Iowa and the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (UIHC). The Stead Family Children's Hospital is located across from historic Kinnick Stadium and is featured during each Iowa football game with "The Wave," when everyone in the stadium turns to wave to the children and family at the Children's Hospital. The tradition has been dubbed the "nation's No. 1 college football tradition" and is a perfect example of "Iowa Nice."

From art museums to county fairs, roadside diners to high-end bistros, music in the park to Broadway productions, the opportunities to enjoy life without the long commutes you find in other cities is enjoyed here every day.

The diverse economy of the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City area helps to ensure economic stability and wide-ranging opportunities. A growing region home to almost a half a million people, other internationally recognized industries located here include Procter & Gamble, Cargill, Whirlpool, Sub-Zero and Google. Several smaller, yet important medical or technology-based companies also showcase the region's entrepreneurial spirit. For example, Integrated DNA Technologies was on the leading edge of creating and distributing COVID-19 tests and is a leading genomics solutions provider. Or SmartScripts, established in 2015, where entrepreneurs use the latest technology to deliver prescriptions. The area offers numerous opportunities for career growth and access to accomplished individuals.

Strong economic growth has allowed residents in these communities to enjoy a variety of excellent career opportunities and a quality of living that is second to none. Together, these two nationally recognized cities make our region one of the best in the Midwest.

The Community (*continued*)

Arts and Culture

The Cedar Rapids/Iowa City area proves that you don't have to live in a large metropolitan area to indulge in cultural richness. Opportunities abound to access art, music, history and theatre.

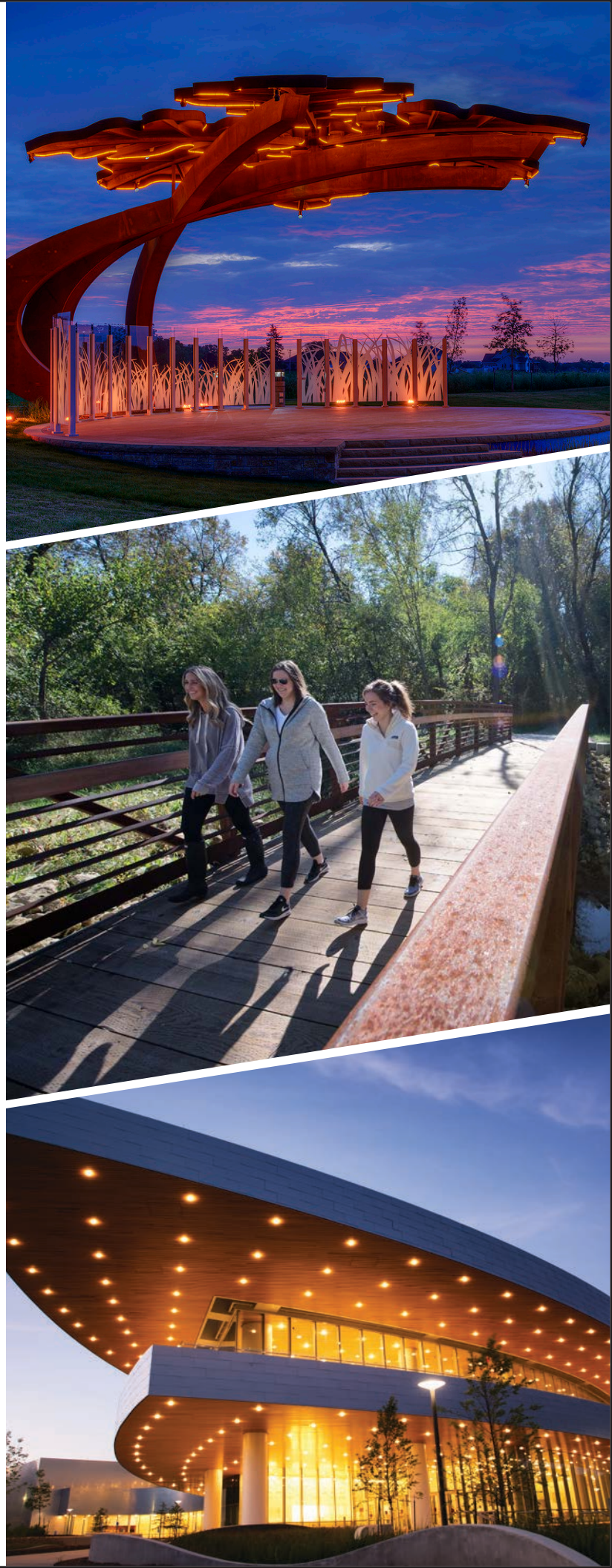
Hancher Auditorium in Iowa City annually hosts some of the world's greatest musical and performance icons. Commissioned works by the Joffrey Ballet and other artists have made their national debuts on the Hancher Stage.

Orchestra Iowa is widely recognized as the state's premier symphony orchestra and showcases world-class talent every year. Whether you love rock, jazz, dance, comedy or polka, you'll find live music and performances almost every night of the week at venues spread throughout the area.

With more than 30 museums, including the African American Museum, Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum, National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, Cedar Rapids Museum of Art, and the Stanley Museum of Art, you will find interesting exhibits and plenty to experience at a pace that lets you do more.

In 2026, Cedar Rapids was named as the 22nd Best-Run City in America by WalletHub and was ranked No. 33 on the Top 100 Best Places to Live list by Livability.

For three consecutive years, Iowa City has made the list as Best Places to Live for Families, from FortuneWell. In 2026, Iowa City ranked No. 8 as one of CNN's "America's Best Towns." Livability ranked Iowa City in 2026 as one of the Top 100 places to live in the U.S. and it has been ranked as one of the Best College Towns in the Midwest by Conde Nast Traveler.





Position Overview

The Chief Operating Officer (COO) serves as a key member of the Airport Executive Leadership Team and is responsible for the strategic oversight, leadership, and management of all airport operational functions. This position effectively collaborates internally and externally to develop creative solutions to challenges and at the same time, can visualize and take advantage of opportunities. Reporting directly to the Chief Executive Officer, the COO ensures the safe, efficient, compliant, and customer-focused operations of CID while advancing the Cedar Rapids Airport Commission's strategic growth plan.

About the Role

The COO provides leadership for airfield operations, terminal operations, public safety, maintenance, facilities management, environmental compliance, emergency preparedness, and operational readiness. This role ensures continuous compliance with federal, state, and local regulations while managing airport construction, environmental initiatives, and operational programs. The position is responsible for developing operational strategies, leading organizational performance initiatives, managing departmental budgets, and fostering a culture of safety, integrity, customer service, innovation and collaboration.



Key Responsibilities

- **Oversee All Airport Operations & Compliance** – including security, safety, airfield, terminal, emergency management, maintenance, and FAA/ TSA regulatory compliance (CFR Part 139, TSRs 1540/1542).
- **Supervise Airport Teams** – Lead Facilities, Maintenance, and Public Safety teams to ensure efficient operations and adherence to safety standards. Establish department goals, policies and priorities.
- **Manage Infrastructure & Projects** – Inspect and maintain airport infrastructure, oversee construction projects, ensure environmental stewardship, support aviation educational programs for community, coordinate vendors, and ensure quality control.
- **Financial & Resource Management** – Identify capital needs, administer budgets, approve expenditures, and optimize resource allocation for operational efficiency.
- **Stakeholder & Agency Coordination** – Collaborate with city, state, and federal agencies, tenants, and external business partners. Collaborate with the CEO and executive peers to enhance capacity and optimize service delivery.
- **Safety & Training Leadership** – Develop safety and financially responsible culture, implement safety protocols, design efficiency practices, and ensure technical performance and compliance.

Leadership Qualities and Style

- Strategic thinker who inspires innovation, accountability, and team development.
- Skilled communicator adept at building partnerships across internal and external stakeholders.
- Decisive and calm under pressure, particularly in emergency or complex operational situations.
- Decisive problem-solver with strong judgment in safety, operational, and emergency management environments.
- Ability to make independent decisions while balancing regulatory compliance, operational needs and long-term organizational priorities.





Preferred Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in aviation management, business, public administration, or a related field plus six (6) years' experience;
- Minimum of 10 years of progressively responsible airport operations experience, including at least five years at an executive or director level.
- Proven ability to manage budgets exceeding \$65M and lead multidisciplinary teams.
- Strong knowledge of FAA and TSA regulations, emergency response protocols, and large-scale airport systems.

For the full job description, [click here](#).

Salary and Benefits

The starting salary range for this position is \$144,569 - \$218,717 depending on qualifications with first step increase at 6 months after successful completion of probationary period. Also included is an excellent benefits package. Relocation assistance will be offered.

How To Apply

Apply online: <https://flycid.com/careers>

Application Deadline: September 9, 2026

Contact: HR@flyCID.com.

Please note: After your application is complete, you will receive an important email from us. Please check your inbox and your junk/spam folder, and if you have not received our email, please notify us at: HR@flyCID.com.

The Cedar Rapids Airport Commission, operator of the Eastern Iowa Airport, is an equal-opportunity employer. We support diversity and are committed to creating an inclusive environment for employees.