



# POLICY WISE in Iowa

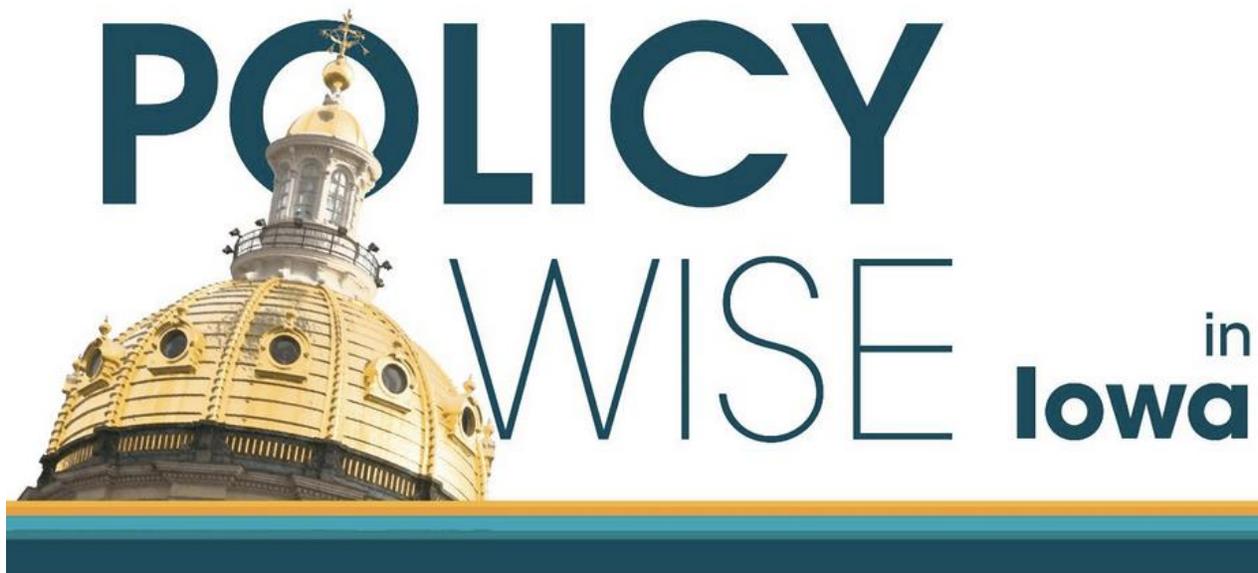
**Moving Ahead of the Curve for Iowa Families**



**Tuesday, November 29, 2022**  
**8 am to 4:30 pm**  
**Iowa FFA Enrichment Center**

[commongoodiowa.org](http://commongoodiowa.org)





# Welcome!

Extraordinary times call for extraordinary effort, extraordinary strategizing, extraordinary collaboration, and extraordinary advocacy.

Iowa families face challenging headwinds today and in the near future as the impacts of budget austerity, climate change, inflation and discrimination seek to undermine their success and survival.

We could not be more excited to welcome you to this first-of-its-kind statewide policy conference where we hope you learn, are challenged, are inspired and are empowered to continue to do all you can to move our state ahead of the curve for our workers, families and communities.

Executive Director



Share your photos and reactions to our event!  
Tag us on Facebook and Twitter (Common Good Iowa)  
Use hashtag #PolicyWiseInIA22



## **Policy Wise in Iowa Moving Ahead of the Curve for Iowa Families**

**Tuesday, November 29, 2022**

**8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. | Iowa FFA Enrichment Center | Ankeny**

### **Schedule, Session Descriptions & Panelist List**

#### **Registration, Networking and Coffee - 8:00 am to 9:00 am**



Please help yourself to our coffee service. Masks are available and encouraged. Be sure to stop by our t-shirt table to pick up one of our Raygun-designed, union-printed, limited-edition conference t-shirts. \$20 - available in sizes Slim XS to Unisex XXXL. We accept cash and card. Orders accepted if we do not have your size. Shipping \$5.

#### **Opening Remarks - 9:00 am to 9:15 am**

- **Anne Discher**, Executive Director - *Welcome & Land Acknowledgment*
- **Charlie Wishman**, AFL-CIO
- **Janet Carl**, Common Good Iowa Board Chair
- **Amber Gustafson**, Common Good Iowa Development Director

## **Opening Plenary - 9:15 am to 10:15 am**

### **Lessons from our Neighbors**

*What Iowa Advocates Can Learn from our Midwestern Peers*

#### **Conference Room A/106**

In a polarized political environment, it's comforting to know you're not alone. We'll look to other Midwestern states for some inspiration – and maybe a few cautionary tales – on advancing human-centered policy. Learn from leaders of multi-issue policy organizations how they continue to build coalitions and work for the common good despite tremendous headwinds.

**Moderator: Mike Owen, Common Good Iowa**

**Panelists: Amy Blouin, [Missouri Budget Project](#)**

**Rebecca Firestone, [Open Sky Policy Institute](#)**

**John Wilson, [Kansas Action for Children](#)**

## **Breakout Session 1 - 10:30 am to 11:45 am**

### **A: Data for Equity**

*How to Use – and Frame – Numbers to Build a Case for Equity that Will Be Heard*

#### **Conference Room C/108**

Join an interactive discussion focusing on the identification and use of data to support and guide the development of equitable and effective systems for children, families and communities. This is an opportunity to work and learn from other leaders on how to use and frame data to build a case for equity in Iowa. Attendees will walk away with ideas to fuel their own advocacy work and strategies for sharing compelling stories with data. Small and large group discussion will be used.

**Moderator: Sean Finn, Common Good Iowa**

**Panelists: Michelle Stover Wright, [BUILD Initiative](#)**

**Malai Amfahr, [Campaign for Grade-Level Reading](#)**

## **B: Over/Under/Around/Through**

*How to Advance Your Policy Goals Through Local and Administrative Advocacy*

### **Conference Room D/109**

Advocating with the state legislature, at times, can seem pointless. Do not lose hope, there are other opportunities to advocate through administrative and local government. This workshop will help participants identify the role of legislative advocacy and administrative advocacy while understanding the connection with local government. Advocates have a voice and influence through a number of channels. Learn which door to enter to be the squeaky wheel for change.

**Moderator: Amber Gustafson, Common Good Iowa**

**Panelists: Kari Carney, [1000 Friends of Iowa](#)**

**Courtney Dufford, [AMOS](#) (A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy)**

**Mary Nelle Trefz, [Iowa ACEs 360](#)**

**Lya Williams, [J-PEAR](#) (Johnston Parents for Equity and Anti-Racism)**

## **C: Common Ground for Common Good**

*What Happened when the Iowa Labor and Climate Justice Movements Found Shared Goals*

### **Conference Room E/112**

Coalition-building comes with its own set of challenges. The Iowa Labor community and environmental advocates are setting the standard for finding common ground and achieving shared goals. Come hear the story of how these two groups came together to fight for working families and climate justice at the same time.

**Moderator: David Osterberg, retired, Common Good Iowa**

**Panelists: Steve Falck, [Environmental Law & Policy Center](#)**

**Charlie Wishman, [Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO](#)**

**Stacey Walker, [Linn County Board of Supervisors](#)**

**Robin Clark-Bennett, [Iowa Labor Center](#)**

## **D: Caring and Struggling**

*Economic Realities for Workers in the Caring Economy – and how our State Can Step Up*

### **Conference Room F/113**

Iowans were struggling to meet childcare, elder care and disabled care needs before the coronavirus pandemic hit in 2020. Now, nearly three years later, our caring system is struggling more than ever before. Come hear from experts who have seen the impact of these shortages and hear what our state can do to address issues of worker pay, shortages, quality of care and their impacts on our state's workforce.

**Moderator: Sheila Hansen, Common Good Iowa**

**Panelists: John Hale, [The Hale Group](#)**

**Anne Kinzel, [RegenPGC](#)**

**Jeannine Laughlin, [New Horizons Academy](#)**

## **Lunch Plenary - 11:45 am to 1:30 pm**

### **Facing the Equity Backlash**

*Building Bridges in Challenging Times*

### **Conference Room A/106**

Not long ago, Iowans, like people across the nation, were acknowledging the ongoing legacy of centuries of racism and marginalization – and it looked like we might actually act to make things better. Now the movement for racial and social justice is facing a painful backlash. Hear from advocates on the front lines of these hard conversations how to stand strong and work for wins even when the going is tough.

**Moderator: Tom Rendon, Consultant**

**Panelists: Keenan Crow, [One Iowa](#)**

**Rev. Rob Johnson, [No Justice, No Peace](#)**

## **Breakout Session 2 - 1:45 to 3:00 pm**

### **E: We're All Tax Advocates Now**

*How Iowans Can Work Together to Hold Back the Tide of Budget Austerity*

### **Conference Room F/113**

Tax cuts passed last session have set up a cliff that will cost us nearly \$2 billion a year when fully phased in. Will we be fighting over increasingly smaller pieces of the pie, or will we work together toward a more sustainable situation? Find out what real-world impacts these cuts will have to our schools, health care, infrastructure, local governments and families.

**Moderator: Mike Owen**

**Panelists: Melissa Peterson, [ISEA \(Iowa State Education Association\)](#)**

**Joe Bolkcom, [Retiring Iowa State Senator, Iowa City](#)**

**Alicia Vasto, [Iowa Environmental Council](#)**

## **F: Priority: Maternal Health**

*How to Boost Health Outcomes for Every Pregnant Iowan, No Matter Their Race or ZIP Code*

### **Conference Room E/112**

Iowa has a responsibility to protect the health of mothers, babies, and families. Data shows disparities in birth and postpartum outcomes for Black and Brown mothers. The good news? There are proven efforts and policies to support the lives of mothers and babies. This session will share the importance of engaging pregnant people through non-traditional medical models, while achieving positive birth and postpartum outcomes. Learn how to advocate for policies to support healthy mothers.

**Moderator: Kelli Soyer, Common Good Iowa**

**Panelists: Jodi Long, [Healthy Birth Day](#)**

**Angela Mickens, [Black Women for Healthy Living](#)**

**Sarah Dixon, [Iowa Primary Care Association](#)**

## **G: We Can't Look Away**

*Supporting Iowa Youth in Ways that Matter*

### **Conference Room D/109**

The crisis in Iowa children's mental health is evident and concerning. From schools to families to communities, we see kids who are struggling. Our session will begin with an overview of the most recent data about the mental health of Iowa children from the Iowa Department of Public Health, followed by a robust discussion from community leaders and a student with lived-experience about the implications of the data, the real-world impact this has for children and families and what steps can be taken to make things better.

**Moderator: Anne Discher, Common Good Iowa**

**Panelists: Anne Starr, [Orchard Place](#)**

**Christine Her, [Art Force Iowa](#)**

**Rhonda Chittenden, [Iowa Youth Health Assessment Program](#)**

**Brianna (Bri) Deason, [Iowa ACEs 360](#)**

## **H: Restoring Vibrant Rural Communities**

*What's Needed for Rural Iowa to Grow and Prosper*

### **Conference Room C/108**

Rural communities have unique needs that can easily be overlooked. The hollowing out of business, infrastructure and population in areas outside the cities and suburbs have created challenges for smaller communities in serving families and children. Hear about the impacts underfunding is having on these communities and what local advocates are doing to help small cities and towns hold on critical infrastructure like schools and hospitals while working to build for the future.

**Moderator: Austin Frerick, Common Good Iowa**

**Panelists: Margaret Buckton, [Iowa School Finance Information Services](#)**

**Cheryll Jones, [Child Health Specialty Clinics, Ottumwa](#)**

**Lucas Beenken, [Iowa State Association of Counties](#)**

## **Closing Plenary - 3:15 pm to 4:30 pm**

### **Do Kids Really Count in Iowa?**

*What the Data Say about Child Well-Being*

### **Conference Room A/109**

Like a canary in a coal mine, child well-being is an indicator of broader community concerns. Join us for this exclusive first look at Common Good Iowa's new "Kids Count Data Snapshot and Policy Roadmap" and hear from leaders in our communities what we can do to make things better for Iowa children and youth.

**Moderator: Anne Discher, Common Good Iowa**

**Becky Tayler, [Iowa Safe Schools](#)**

**EJ Wallace, [Save the Children Action Network](#)**

## **Event Information**

### **Evaluation**

At the conclusion of today's session, attendees will receive an email asking for your feedback. Please take a few minutes and share your thoughts on today's learning so we can continue to create valuable learning opportunities for you and others in the community.

### **Continuing Education Units**

Attendance for the full day could provide professionals with 6.5 hours of continuing education. If you registered for continuing education, ***please stop by the registration table to access a QR code to complete at the end of the day to provide staff with information to develop your certificate.*** Time will be allotted based on your attendance. Certificates will be emailed within 72 hours of the event.

### **Assistance**

If you have questions about the event or if you need assistance at the event, please text or call Amber Gustafson at 515-306-9870.

### **Recording**

Due to the sensitive nature of some of the session content, we ask participants not to make audio or video recordings of today's sessions. Thank you for your understanding.

### **Donate**

Common Good Iowa is a 501(c)3 organization. The support of donors like you means so much to us. Please give today to further our mission of Bold Policy for Families & Communities.

**[Make a Gift Today](#)**



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Common Good Iowa | Policy Wise in Iowa: Moving Ahead of the Curve for Iowa Families | November 29, 2022

# POLICY WISE in Iowa



Thank you to our generous sponsors!



## The Common Good Iowa Board of Directors



## **Common Good Iowa Staff**

**Tywana Butts** - Office Assistant - [tbutts@commongoodiowa.org](mailto:tbutts@commongoodiowa.org)

**Angelica Cardenas-Chaisson** - Senior Policy Advocate - [acardenas@commongoodiowa.org](mailto:acardenas@commongoodiowa.org)

**Anne Discher** - Executive Director - [adischer@commongoodiowa.org](mailto:adischer@commongoodiowa.org)

**Sean Finn** - Policy Analyst - [sfinn@commongoodiowa.org](mailto:sfinn@commongoodiowa.org)

**Amber Gustafson** - Development Director - [agustafson@commongoodiowa.org](mailto:agustafson@commongoodiowa.org)

**Sheila Hansen** - Senior Policy Advocate - [shansen@commongoodiowa.org](mailto:shansen@commongoodiowa.org)

**Tricia Lyman** - Operations Manager - [tlyman@commongoodiowa.org](mailto:tlyman@commongoodiowa.org)

**Mike Owen** - Deputy Director - [mowen@commongoodiowa.org](mailto:mowen@commongoodiowa.org)

**Nathan Shepherd** - Finance Manager - [nshepherd@commongoodiowa.org](mailto:nshepherd@commongoodiowa.org)

**Kelli Soyer** - Senior Policy Advocate - [ksoyer@commongoodiowa.org](mailto:ksoyer@commongoodiowa.org)

**Natalie Veldhouse** - Policy Advocate - [nveldhouse@commongoodiowa.org](mailto:nveldhouse@commongoodiowa.org)

## **Common Good Iowa Board Members**

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**Tyler Olson**, Cedar Rapids

**Lois Buntz**, Cedar Rapids

**Cheryll Jones**, Ottumwa

**Ken Sagar**, Des Moines

**Sue Ravenscroft**, Ames

**Austin Frerick**, Cedar Rapids



Today is **Giving Tuesday**, an important part of the holiday season when we take time to give to support the work of organizations that are helping to create change in our communities, state, nation and world.

While many non-profit organizations offer crucial direct services that meet the immediate needs of struggling families and individuals, Common Good Iowa is one organization working to change the policy-level, systemic approaches to addressing these issues for the long-term, sustainable success for every Iowan.

***In the world of philanthropy, creating change is not an either/or proposition. It's both/and... both direct service and systemic change.***

If you believe in the need for systemic change along with direct service to meet the needs of our communities, we encourage you to give a gift to support our work - [\*\*and there is no better day to give a gift than today - Giving Tuesday!\*\*](#)

Wishing you the warmest of holiday seasons and all the very best in 2023 and beyond...

Yours,

Amber Gustafson

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amber".

Development Director