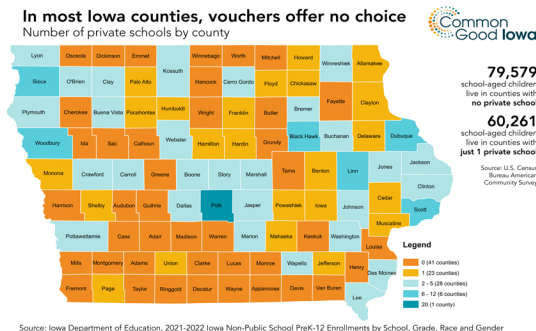


# 2023 Annual Report

## Common Good Iowa forged a path to progress

### Analysis ■ Private school map shaped voucher debate

Did you see this map during the voucher debate? Many did. Our widely shared map showed how vouchers subsidize private school tuition for wealthy families at the expense of many rural communities with few or no private schools.



“Forty-one counties in Iowa have no private schools, according to the group Common Good Iowa. Another 23 counties only have one private school.”

“Few Iowa families will have more choices with GOP ‘school choice’ plan,” Iowa Capital Dispatch, January 17

### Watchdog

#### ■ CGI issued early alert on youth data

In March, Common Good Iowa was among the first to report that Iowa is pulling out of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, which, for 25 years captured data on adolescent health, including alcohol use, violence, mental health and suicide.

They say, “You can’t improve what you don’t measure.” By abandoning the YRBS, Iowa is losing an essential tool for measuring the well-being of Iowa youth — notably, one that best compared the experiences of straight and cisgender students with LGBTQ+ students — and with it a degree of accountability for meeting their needs.

### Advocacy ■ Public pressure netted food for 241,000 kids

Thanks to the advocacy of Common Good Iowa and partners in the Iowa Hunger Coalition, in June Iowa reversed course and opted into a federal initiative bringing food assistance to 241,000 Iowa children.



Assuring Iowa participated in summer Pandemic EBT, which helps families put food on table in when there are no school meals, was a priority of CGI and coalition leaders. A CGI query to HHS staff on the state’s plans netted this response: “Iowa is not participating in the summer Pandemic EBT program this year.”

Iowa would be leaving \$28.9 million dollars in federal nutrition assistance — about \$120 per child — on the table by refusing to apply.

CGI staff and partners jumped into action to urge state officials to reverse course. We talked to the media. We worked with legislative allies and alerted advocates, quickly gathering 41 signatures from hunger-fighting groups on a letter to the governor. Even before the letter went live, the pressure had gotten through. The night before its release, news leaked out that HHS had decided to apply for P-EBT.

### Connecting ■ Policy conference brought Iowans together

Advocates, community leaders and students gathered at our November Policy Wise in Iowa event, where they wrestled with topics from wages, tax policy and open government to school vouchers and AI — all informing the fundamental question: how to expand opportunity for every Iowan?



## Common Good Iowa

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Waterloo

# Common Good Iowa donors & funders

Donors and funders power the work of Common Good Iowa. Foundation support makes up the biggest share of our funding and plays a key role in fulfilling our mission. But donations from individuals and labor organizations punch above their weight — they help us respond quickly to policy threats and opportunities and demonstrate statewide support and investment in our work.

#### \$100,000+

The Annie E. Casey Foundation  
Center on Budget and Policy  
Priorities  
The David and Lucile Packard  
Foundation

#### \$50,000-\$99,999

Alliance for Early Success  
Economic Policy Institute  
Stoneman Family Foundations

#### \$10,000-\$49,999

Fred & Charlotte Hubbell  
Charles H. Bruner & Amy Welch

#### \$1,000-\$9,999

Sarah Clark & John Thomas  
Cole-Belin Education Foundation  
Jerry Depew  
Jan & Cornelia Flora  
Jack Hatch  
Hawkeye Area Labor Council  
AFL-CIO

IBEW 405  
Iowa Federation of Labor AFL-CIO  
Iowa UAW State CAP  
Iowa State Education Association  
Jean Mote  
Tyler Olson  
Monica O'Neil  
Edith Parker  
Susan Ravenscroft  
Janice Reinicke  
Jay M. & Alissa Smith  
Scott Syroka

#### \$500-\$999

American Federation of  
Government Employees Local  
2547 VAMC  
Anne Bacon

Janet Carl  
CWA Iowa State Council  
Peter Fisher  
Austin Frerick  
Dennis Groenenboom  
Amber Gustafson  
IBEW Local 288  
IBEW Local 347  
IBEW Local 55  
Iowa Alliance for Retired  
Americans  
Iowa Citizen Action Network  
Jean Lloyd-Jones  
Plumbers and Steamfitters  
Local 33  
Jen Sherer & Ryan Downing  
MaryAnn Strawhacker  
Robert Tucker  
UA Local 125 Plumbers &  
Steamfitters  
Charlie Wishman

#### \$200-\$499

Steve Abbott  
Jeffrey Anderson  
Marti Anderson  
Linda Appelgate  
Alice Atkinson  
Lois & Robert Buntz  
Carpenters Local No. 1260  
Cedar Rapids Building Trades  
Council  
Alicia & David Claypool  
CWA 7108  
John Fuller & Kathy Fait  
William & Margaret Furlong  
Francis & Joann Giunta  
Peter & Katy Hansen  
Michael & Barbara Henning  
Kathy Herman  
IBEW 347

Cheryll Jones  
Jackson Lashier  
Janice Laue  
David Loeb sack  
David Maier  
Bonnie & Brian McAreavy  
Kim Miller  
Philip Montag  
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Ken Sagar  
Susan Salter & Ro Foege  
Joe Shannahan  
Sheet Metal Workers Intl Assn  
Local 263  
Mary & Nathan Shepherd  
Michael Sherer  
Michael Smith  
South Central Iowa  
Federation of Labor,  
AFL-CIO  
Kenneth & Raija Starck  
Michelle & Ehren Stover-  
Wright  
United Steel Workers,  
AFL-CIO Local 444L  
Waterloo Building Trades  
Council  
Barbara & Joel Wells  
Robert & Eunice Welsh  
Gaye Wiekierak

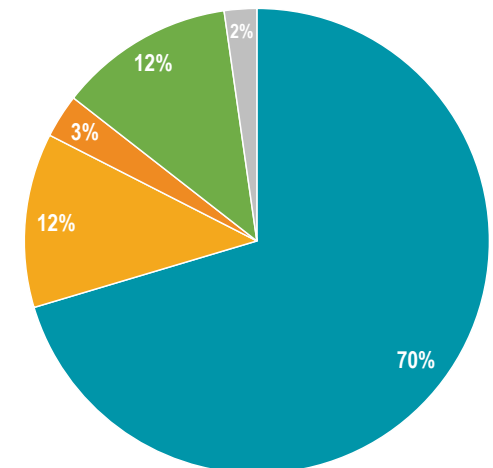
Reflects funds received  
Nov 1, 2022 - Oct 31, 2023

Average individual donation  
**\$162**

New individual donors  
in the year  
**99**

Increase in total individual donors  
from previous year  
**18%**

### CGI funding sources by type



Foundation support  
Donations — individual  
Donations — labor  
Contract revenue  
Conference revenue

## Policy priorities

Common Good Iowa promotes policies that expand opportunity for every Iowan and make our state a great place to live, work and raise a family.

Dismantle barriers to opportunity created by historic and current-day racism and other forms of discrimination.

Conduct policymaking in open with adequate time for public input to shape the debate.

Racial & gender justice

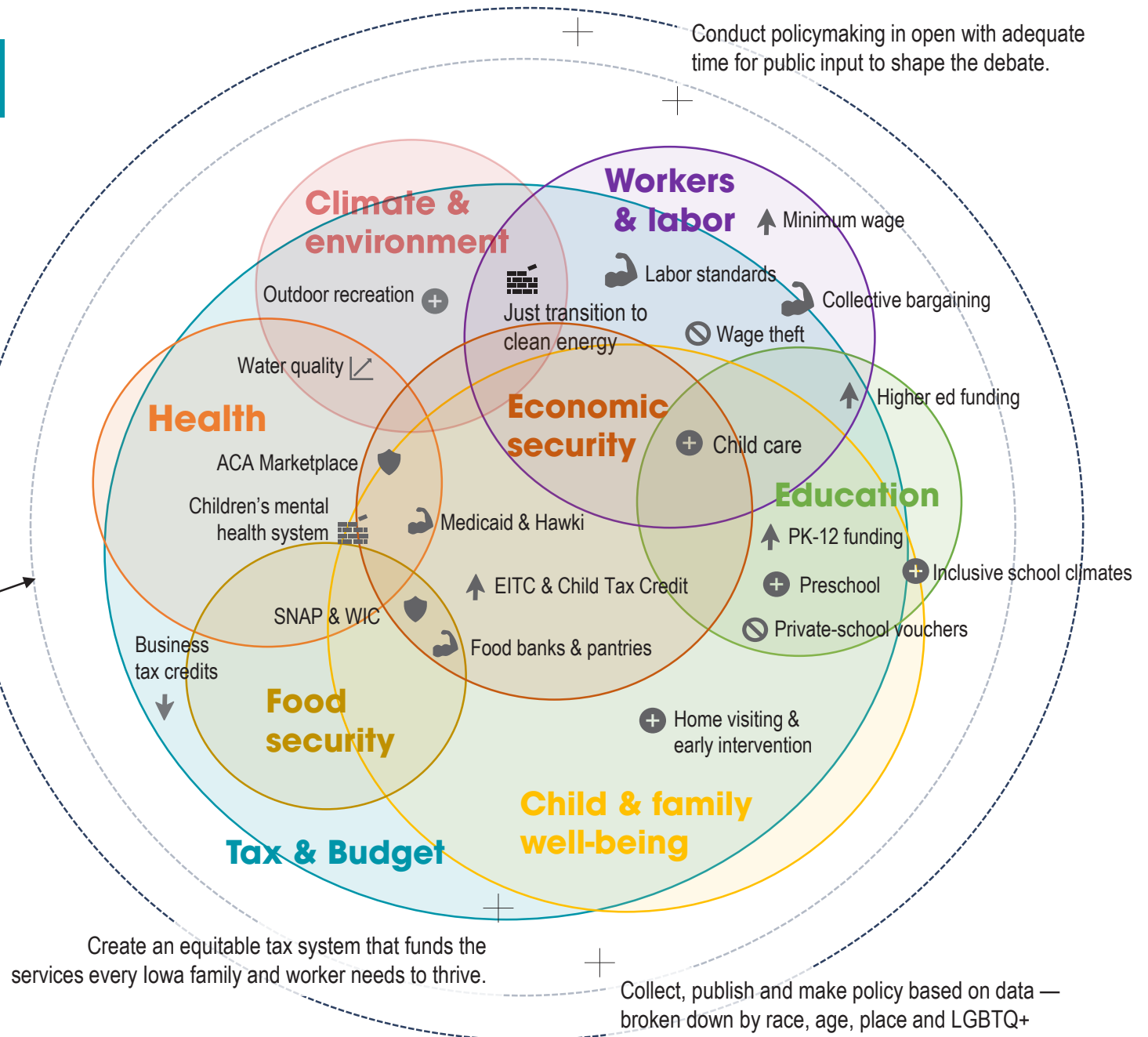
Transparent, data-informed policymaking

### Key

- |  |   |
|--|---|
|  Strengthen |  Expand  |
|  Increase   |  Protect |
|  Improve    |  Rein in |
|  Build      |  End     |

Create an equitable tax system that funds the services every Iowa family and worker needs to thrive.

Collect, publish and make policy based on data — broken down by race, age, place and LGBTQ+ and disability status whenever possible.





# Common Good Iowa shapes the news

CGI appeared in the media nearly 70 times in 2023, an average of more than once a week. We appeared across the state — in major dailies, small-town weeklies, digital-only upstarts and on radio and TV.



■ "The situation is dire. With the [federal] child care dollars expiring, the squeeze on child care providers will mount in Iowa, causing families to lose access and providers to continue to struggle," said Sheila Hansen, senior policy advocate and government relations manager for Common Good Iowa.

**"Iowa groups back \$16 million bill extending child care support,"**  
Iowa Starting Line, September 21

■ "You say tax cut, I say fewer teachers. You say tax cut, I say who gets the benefit? I mean, these are a lot of connections to the issue of cutting taxes. The taxes that have already been cut, in laws already passed, will reduce our general fund by 20% in just a few years."

**Deputy Director Mike Owen on Iowa tax policy,**  
Iowa Press, Nov. 10

■ "Iowa's overall [sixth place Kids Count Data Book] score is partly credited to things like the Hawki program that provides health coverage for kids of uninsured working families, Anne Discher, director of Common Good Iowa — an Annie E. Casey Foundation grantee — tells Axios."

**"The cost of Iowa's child care crisis,"** Jason Clayworth,  
Axios Des Moines, June 14

■ "The recent report by Common Good Iowa finding that Iowa workers are robbed of \$900 million annually by their employers should be a wake-up call. This report was the first of its kind in 10 years and found a 50 percent increase in stolen wages in Iowa over a decade."

**"Stealing wages is illegal theft,"** Nate Willems op-ed,  
The Gazette, Jan. 27

■ "[Policy Analyst Sean] Finn notes that some of these persistent poverty areas in Iowa correspond with neighborhoods where Black people have suffered from racist policies, such as those in the 1930s and beyond that restricted their access to home ownership financing."

**"Policymakers miss Iowa's persistently poor neighborhoods,"**  
Ed Tibbetts, Iowa Capital Dispatch, July 17