



At **Common Good Iowa**, our vision for public policy in Iowa is public systems and structures for the benefit of all people, achieved through collective action.

Common Good Iowa is a non-partisan, nonprofit organization built on a collective 50 years of experience of two respected Iowa organizations — the Child and Family Policy Center and Iowa Policy Project.

Look to Common Good Iowa for the solid research and policy analysis and focused advocacy Iowans came to expect from its predecessors.

### **Our policy agenda advances equity in four areas:**

Well-being of children and families, especially those our current systems fail

Adequate and equitably raised revenue to support strong public structures

Workplace fairness and living wages for all Iowans

Clean air and water and sustainable energy for a healthy future for all

### **Public policy is where our state's values live and breathe.**

Common Good Iowa informs smart policymaking to turn Iowa values — pragmatism, fairness, empathy and accountability — into concrete solutions that advance opportunity for all Iowans.

Our vision is a just, inclusive Iowa with strong public structures, where children and families are healthy and secure, workers thrive, and clean air and water mean a healthy future for all.

It's a vision not yet realized. The devastating impact of racism, a public health and economic crisis and years of neglect of our public systems have been laid bare for all to see. No Iowa community can thrive when some of its members are systemically deprived of opportunity — because we are all part of the same social fabric.

The challenges are real, and the answer is not to think small. Big challenges require bold responses. Because we all do better when bold public policy is as common as it is good.

### **How we work**

Our team of policy advocates and researchers leverage reliable data, solid analysis and collaborative relationships to craft people-centered policy solutions for our state's most pressing issues:

We **conduct research** and analyze data to understand the needs of Iowans.



We **engage Iowans** to amplify community needs and solutions.

We **work with partners** to create powerful pressure for change.

We **advocate for policies** that advance opportunity for every Iowan.

Well-being of children and families, especially those our current systems fail

### Good health and nutrition

Every Iowan can put food on the table and get the health services they need to get and stay healthy.

- Robust Medicaid and CHIP (Hawki) programs and an affordable insurance marketplace.
- Access to the full range of care, including maternal and mental health services, sustainably and equitably funded, regardless of zip code, race or income.
- Strong and accessible nutrition programs, including school lunches, SNAP and WIC.

### Family safety and stability

Every family has the support they need to meet their needs and get ahead.

- Child Care Assistance so stretched working parents can go to work or school while their children attend quality care.
- Material and financial supports in times of crisis to help families avoid hardships and stabilize their households.
- Human service and child welfare systems focused on prevention and early intervention, using proven strategies like home visiting.

### Every Iowa student has access to strong public school, from early learning through higher education.

- Robust funding for the backbone of our education system: Iowa's public PK-12 schools and Regents and community colleges.
- Expanded public preschool so no child misses out on early learning.

### Policymaking tied to enhancing equity

Our public systems adopt policies that break down the structural barriers that have limited the prospects of families of color for generations.

- Analysis of the racial equity impact of proposed legislation as part of lawmaking process, like we currently model a bill's costs and other impacts.
- Programs and agencies analyze data by race and ethnicity and implement data-informed policies that meet the needs of all communities.

Adequate and equitably raised revenue to support strong public structures

### People-centered budget

Iowa's budget meets immediate needs and lays the groundwork for economic recovery.

- Target aid to those most in need due to the COVID public health and economic crises.
- Protect state finances to preserve public services as the foundations of long-term economic growth and opportunity.

### Equitable tax system

We flip our current "upside-down" tax system in which middle- and low-income families pay a higher share of their income in state and local taxes than wealthy families.

- Reform corporate tax credits to assure taxpayer dollars are used for public priorities, not as giveaways to profitable companies that do not need taxpayers' help.
- Expand work supports like the EITC and child tax credit that help low-paid Iowans meet a family budget.

Workplace fairness and living wages for all Iowans

### Family prosperity

Public policy sets the ground rules for a level economic playing field for people and businesses.

- Increase the minimum wage and enact paid sick and family leave.
- Crack down on wage theft and enforce workplace safety.
- Protect collective bargaining, IPERS and other public pensions.
- Reform workers' compensation and unemployment systems to support Iowa workers in tough times.

Clean air and water and sustainable energy for a healthy future for all

Iowa sets a high-road path to prosperity, protecting and enhancing quality of life now and for future generations.

- Weatherization and energy assistance programs make shutoffs rare.
- Make clean water a priority and hold polluters accountable.
- Adopt climate-friendly energy solutions, including solar and wind power.