



Becoming Common Good Iowa



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CFPC, IPP merge to create Common Good Iowa

*New nonpartisan policy research, advocacy organization formed
by long-established Iowa nonprofits*

DES MOINES, Iowa — Two established nonpartisan policy organizations today announced their merger as a new organization, Common Good Iowa, to provide policy analysis and advocacy across a wide spectrum of issues.

Like the former organizations, the Child and Family Policy Center and Iowa Policy Project, Common Good Iowa advances equity, opportunity and sustainability in the following policy areas:

- Well-being of children and families, especially those failed by our current systems.
- Fiscal policy that adequately and equitably raises revenue to support strong public services.
- Workplace protection and fairness, and living wages for all Iowans.
- Clean air and water, and sustainable energy choices for Iowa's future.

By joining together, the organizations' leaders believe they can leverage their existing networks and skills more efficiently and have a stronger, more visible presence to advance an agenda.

"It's an absolutely critical time to reimagine our work. This moment calls for bolder, smarter, coordinated advocacy for policies that advance opportunity for every Iowan," said Anne Discher, executive director of Common Good Iowa. She has been executive director of the Child and Family Policy Center in Des Moines.

"Common Good Iowa will build on a combined half-century of rock-solid, independently produced research, analysis and adequacy to move positive policy choices for all Iowans," said Mike Owen, deputy director of the new organization. He had been executive director of IPP since 2013.

All staff from both organizations will remain with Common Good Iowa, which will be headquartered in Des Moines but retain the Iowa City office that formerly housed IPP. The initial board of directors is drawn from both CFPC and IPP but will include new members.

"This is exciting for all Iowans who care about equity, opportunity and the future of our state. Advocates, policy makers and individual Iowans are all looking for facts and fact-based perspectives to better inform decision making," said Lois Buntz, president of Common Good Iowa's board of directors.

Vice President Janet Carl said the name Common Good Iowa, along with the decision to merge and the development of the organization's structure, came after months of deliberation and discussion by board and staff members of IPP and CFPC.

"The name 'Common Good Iowa' turned out to be a perfect fit for this new venture, because it reflects the purpose behind all both organizations have done separately," Carl said. "The concept demands public policies, systems, structures and institutions that will benefit all residents of the state."

Discher noted the combined effort will include focusing on not only the economic equity issues that both IPP and CFPC have raised in the past, in such areas as wages and tax policy impacts, but also race equity issues in a state where these have often been overlooked.

"Our work is about improving the lives of all Iowans. We can't meet that goal that without explicitly promoting anti-racist policies in our state. The persistent inequities experienced by Black, Latinx, Asian, Native and other marginalized groups need fixing now," Discher said.

While the merger is complete for the organization, the coming weeks and months will produce more information, as well as a website and social media channels.

In the meantime, Common Good Iowa work will be published on both the Iowa Policy Project and Child and Family Policy Center websites, iowapolicyproject.org, cfpciowa.org, and the Iowa Policy Points blog, iowapolicypoints.org. Staff may be reached at their previous email accounts during this transition.