

WE'VE BEEN MAKING AN IMPACT IN IOWA



38

REPORTS ISSUED



28

ENGAGEMENTS



3

TESTIMONIES



220

MEDIA MENTIONS



CHILDCARE

This year, CSI Iowa partnered with the Iowa Women's Foundation (IWF) to analyze a state pilot program designed to help close the state's childcare shortage.

The pilot, funded by Iowa HHS and administered by IWF, leveraged one-time federal ARPA dollars to incentivize private businesses to invest in Childcare Solutions Funds (CSF). A report released by CSI at IWF's "Iowa Solutions Summit: Childcare" used hard data and dynamic economic modeling to analyze the effectiveness of the program.

We found the program increased childcare slots as intended and enabled more parents to enter the workforce. We also used dynamic modeling to show that expanding the program statewide and sustaining through private investment could grow the state's economy by \$13 billion over 10 years. The report received over a dozen TV, radio, and print media hits within 24 hours of its release. The report has caught the attention of the governor's office, Iowa HHS, and Iowa Economic Development Agency. Additionally, CSI briefed the U.S. Department of Commerce on our findings and analysis in December, and CSI Iowa's Director of Policy & Research presented on the report at the "National Child Care Innovation Summit" at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation in DC on December 3rd. The state of Iowa and IWF are considered leaders nationally on innovative childcare solutions, and CSI's work is helping to spread Iowa's solutions to other states.



INCOME TAX CUTS

Shortly after the 2024 legislative session, CSI used its dynamic modeling capabilities to forecast the impact Iowa's income tax cuts on the economy and the state budget over the next decade.

Since 2018, Iowa's governor and legislature have been incrementally reforming and reducing individual and corporate income taxes. Since then, they have reduced corporate tax rates and taken the individual income tax from nine tax brackets with a top rate of 8.98% to a single flat tax of 3.8%. However, lawmakers have been divided on how much to cut. Common Sense Institute's analysis of the income tax changes demonstrated the state has room for additional tax cuts even in the case of a recession. It also forecasted the positive economic impact of the 2024 tax cuts. On the day CSI released its report, the governor's office issued a press release highlighting the report. Later, the Republican Party of Iowa did the same, and the Speaker of the Iowa House touted the report in his weekly newsletter. Since then, CSI has had the opportunity to brief legislators, the governor's office, and the Director of the Department of Management on our tax and budget work. Common Sense Institute's work has put to rest concerns about the sustainability of Iowa's income tax cuts and has paved the way for additional tax relief in the future.



CLARKONOMICS

Shortly after CSI Iowa launched at the beginning of 2024, the chapter issued a report on the economic impact of Caitlin Clark on Iowa's economy.

The report received worldwide attention. Our team tracked 82 media mentions globally in the couple months following the report. In addition to receiving countless TV, radio, and print media hits across Iowa and the Midwest, the report was cited by Forbes, CBS Sports, Newsweek, Sky News London, MSN, AOL, and more. The mayor of Iowa City, home of the University of Iowa Hawkeyes, even referenced the report in a mayoral proclamation! Clarkonomics put CSI Iowa on the map. The boost in name recognition increased the chapter's effectiveness and reach from that point forward.



HEALTHCARE

Common Sense Institute Iowa saw tremendous success with its first fellowship.

We brought on PhD economist Chelsea Lensing as CSI's first Health & Wellness Fellow to research and write the report "Iowa's Healthcare Landscape" with support from our Daniels Scholar Junior Fellow, Toby Lee. The report surveyed Iowa's healthcare landscape, aggregating data on state's healthcare business climate, expenditures, insurance, and rural healthcare to help policymakers identify where to target policies in the upcoming legislative session. In addition to receiving over two dozen media hits, the Director of Iowa HHS requested CSI brief the agency on the report and its findings. During the briefing, the director expressed interest in seeing further research from CSI on particular healthcare issues in the state. This signals the report will help craft policy moving forward, and CSI will have more opportunities to influence policymaking with future reports.