There are more than 975,517 poor and low-income voters in Iowa and 85 million across the nation. Together, we account for one-third of the electorate. Together, we can ensure that the days of poverty and low-wages - and the unnecessary cruelty of abandonment amidst abundance - are numbered. Together, we can revive the heart and soul of this democracy to ensure dignity and justice for all. Forward together, not one step back!

Key Resources

Poverty and Low Wages
- Living Wage Calculator: https://livingwage.mit.edu/
- Hours of Work to Afford Housing: https://ifitc.org/por
- Household and student debt: https://www.newyorkfed.org/research/notes/ch33.html

Rolling Back on Basic Needs
- SNAP Cuts: https://frac.org/research/resource-library/snap-roe-state-fact-sheets
- Tracking EITC: https://frac.org/research/resource-library/eitc-state-fact-sheets

Health Care and the Pandemic
- Medicaid Eligibility Rollback: https://www.hhs.gov/healthcare/medicare/medicaid-privatization-factsheet.html
- Veteran Suicide Data: https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention/data.asp
- Gun Violence Archive: https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/
- Mapping Police Violence: https://mappingpoliceviolence.org/
- Immigration Detentions: https://trac.org/immigration/quickfacts/

Democracy
- Voter Restrictions: https://tracker.washingtonpost.com/tracking-trump/voter-rights
- Anti-Trans Legislation: https://transgenderact.com/
- Poor People’s Campaign Resources
  - Poor People's Moral Agenda and Demands: https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/resources/moral-demands/
  - A Poor People’s Moral Budget: https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/resource/poor-peoples-moral-budget/
  - A Poor People’s Pandemic Report: https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/pandemic-report/
  - Compilation of Fact Sheets: https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/resource/factsheets/

For more information and resources, visit poorpeoplescampaign.org.
IN IOWA:

Poverty and Low-Wages: Poverty is a policy choice, reflecting both low wages and high costs of living. These two conditions make it hard to meet basic needs and easy to fall into debt. In Iowa:
- Between 2018-2020, there were 964,000 poor and low-income people, accounting for 30.8% of the population.**
- To meet their basic needs, a household with two adults and two children needs to earn over $23/hour. However, the current minimum wage is just $7.25/hour. At this wage, an individual must work 91 hours/week to afford a modest two-bedroom apartment.
- There are 548,589 people, or 33% of the workforce, earning less than $15/hour. This includes 466,366 adults and 30.3% of Asian and Native workers, 61.2% of Black workers, 51.3% of Hispanic workers, 30.6% of white workers, 42.2% of working women and 62.5% of working women of color.
- Average household debt rose 6% in 2022 to an average of $45,720.
- Average student loan debt held by households was $5,210 at the end of 2022.

Rolling Back on Basic Needs: Pandemic relief policies temporarily lifted the load of poverty, but ended too soon, resulting in higher rates of economic, food and housing insecurity. In Iowa:
- In 2021, 661,000 children in 371,000 households received the expanded Child Tax Credit and 181,000 low-wage workers without children received the expanded Earned Income Tax Credit. The expansions contributed to a dramatic decline in poverty, but ended in 2021.
- In 2022, 278,800 people relied on expanded SNAP (food stamps) benefits to feed themselves and their families. However, in 2023, SNAP benefits were reduced by $90-$250/month, cutting them down to $6/day. At least 141,862 people will be impacted by these cuts.
- At the beginning of 2023, more than one year after eviction protections were ended, 72,117 households reported being behind on their rent or housing payments.

Health Care and the Pandemic: Across the country, approximately 1,000 people are still dying from Covid every week and millions of people lack access to health care. In Iowa:
- During the most intense period of the pandemic, 152,800 people were uninsured.
- With the ending of continuing eligibility for Medicaid, 152,500 people are estimated to lose access to health care.
- Between 2019 and 2020, Iowa experienced a 1.5-year decline in average life expectancy.
- Approximately 1.4 million workers, or 80% of the workforce in the state, do not have access to paid leave.

Climate Crisis and Ecological Devastation: Extreme heat, storms and drought are becoming more common, with poor and low-income communities of greatest risk. In Iowa:
- Over the past century, the state warmed 0.6 degrees Celsius. As this trend continues, food production, spread of diseases, and health will all be adversely impacted.
- Precipitation patterns have also changed, with increased risks of flooding, drought and water scarcity.
- The percentage of poor and low-income households that pay more than 50% of household income for housing has grown.

Democracy: Across the nation, a surge of attacks on voting rights and the rights of women and LGBTQ+ people are denying basic rights to millions of people and constraining our ability to participate in democracy. Poor and low-income people can change this direction. In Iowa:
- There were 14 voter restrictive bills introduced between 2020 and 2023, and 22 anti-LGBTQ+ laws introduced in 2023.
- Three of the voter restriction bills were passed, and three of the anti-LGBTQ laws were passed.
- An abortion that was blocked by a state judge in 2022 is being contested by Republican lawmakers.
- In Iowa, there are 975,517 poor and low-income eligible voters, including 929,273 white voters, 14,794 Latino voters, 2,734 Asian voters, 8,562 Black voters and 503 Indigenous voters. Together, they account for 38% of the electorate.


Militarism: Government spending that prioritizes war, mass incarceration, excessive policing, and anti-immigrant forces is leading to greater violence, fear and criminalization of the poor. In Iowa:
- In 2023, taxpayers will contribute $7.42 billion to Pentagon spending. $211 million to immigration enforcement and $254.32 million to nuclear weapons.
- Over the past 30 years, $13 million in military equipment (tanks, drones, combat rifles and ammunition) has been transferred from the Pentagon to state and local law enforcement.
- Between 2001-2020, 1,345 veterans committed suicide.
- In 2021, 364 people were killed by gun violence.
- There are 13,549 people incarcerated. As of April 2023, 66 immigrants are in detention.
- From Oct 2002-June 2022, over 16 people were deported from Iowa.

There is an abundance of wealth and resources to meet our basic needs and ensure we all survive and thrive.

- A proposed federal tax on the annual increase in billionaires' wealth would generate an estimated $557 billion over 10 years. Iowa is a leading state for meat processing, an industry known for high CEO pay and low worker wages.
- In Iowa, state taxpayer dollars are being siphoned towards militarism: state taxpayer dollars for deportations and border control could instead subsidize more than 44,626 public housing units. Taxpayer dollars going to nuclear weapons could provide health insurance for 102,176 children. Taxpayer dollars going to the biggest weapons contractor, Lockheed Martin, could hire more than 4,218 elementary school teachers.
- More than $69.91 million from Iowa taxpayers that is going to federal prisons could instead power more than 205,466 households with solar energy.
- Iowa has only spent $334 million of the $1.4 billion it was allocated under the American Rescue Plan, which could be used for housing, health care and other pressing needs. If the state and local governments do not allocate these resources by December 2024, the remaining funds will be lost.

Moving these resources, and investing more, to fully meet all of our needs will save lives and revitalize our national economy.

- During the pandemic, eviction moratoria and moratoria on utility disconnections saved lives. If enacted earlier, they could have reduced Covid deaths by 40% and 15%, respectively, across the nation. Universal health care could have saved 330,000 lives.
- Enacting Medicare for All would save $450 billion in health care costs and 68,000 lives every year.
- Ending mass incarceration could raise average US life expectancy by 5-6 years.
- Providing permanent safe housing delivers lifelong benefits to children and families at an national average cost of $12,800 per person per year, far less than the cost of crisis services for those suffering chronic homelessness.
- Paid Family and Medical Leave improves employment, especially among women, increases child well-being and protects against poverty when health challenges arise.
- Investing resources for the poor stimulates the economy much more than making the rich even richer, because the poor need to spend nearly everything they earn. Every dollar going to a low-wage worker adds 5 times more to the economy than military spending, without negative impacts on employment.
- Overdue improvements to TANF could triple its reach and improve the lives of at least 2.38 million families nationwide.
- Every dollar invested in providing families clean water and proper sanitation yields 5 times as many returns to the US economy.
- Freedom from debt would allow more people to start small businesses and move around the country to take better jobs, strengthening our economy and workforce.