Mission Statement

IOPA aims to package diverse perspectives into objective, insightful policy assessments. IOPA will do that by revealing the potential for bias, supplementing that with external comment/reply, and by presenting research findings from diverse perspectives, including through online conversation forums. The latter will also provide the opportunity for continuous Q&A. IOPA hopes that process defines areas of potential consensus and the basis for informed disagreement. All aspects of Accountability, including ‘Policy Analyst Accountability,’ will be a major IOPA objective.

Through a carefully orchestrated and packaged process of civil, informed disagreement, the IOPA vision is to be a one-stop shop for fully informed policymaking on many issues, especially critical issues now overlooked or mistreated by the longstanding think tanks. See “Why IOPA is Needed.”

IOPA will attract funding by addressing critical issues that other think tanks have overlooked, neglected, or botched, and because of IOPA’s unique strategy of packaging diverse, well-researched perspectives into objective assessments; analysis plus informed, civil disagreement, and online discussion.

That neglected issues and unique information processing method niche will attract donations, research grants, and sounding board fees; perhaps also consulting and subscription-only content.

For now, IOPA will have no salaried or hourly staff; only independent contractors.

IOPA’s income will fund the following activities:

A) Analyses by IOPA scholars such as John Merrifield, Richard Phelps, Nathan Gray, Barry Poulson, and Martha Bradley-Dorsey.

B) Compilation and constant additions to a reviewer database.

C) Website maintenance and expansion.

D) Reviewer stipends to provide diverse perspectives (civil, informed disagreement) on the subjects of IOPA analyses; first stage of converting analyses into assessments.
E) Seeding proposal writing.

F) Commissioning studies/analyses.

G) Purchase access to software such as Maptitude.

H) Travel for IOPA Officers, and for Board Members’ to attend meetings.

**Reasonable Annual IOPA Budget:**

IOPA-Funded Analyses by IOPA Scholars: $100,000

Travel: $10,000

Website Maintenance and Expansion: $10,000

Grant-Funded Analyses by IOPA Scholars: $200,000

Software Rent/Purchase: $5000

Seed Proposal Writing: $10,000

Develop Reviewer Database: $10,000

Reviewer Stipends: $5000

Commission Study/Analysis: $20,000

**Approximate, Reasonable Annual IOPA Total Expenditure:** $370,000

Somewhat more or less than that will be spent, annually, depending upon IOPA’s income.