



Institute for Objective Policy Assessment

Launch Priorities

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Through some quick, important policy insights I want to give folks a reason to support the IOPA business plan (and/or larger projects) and visit the website regularly; among other things to participate in the online conversation forums that are a key part of the IOPA Assessment Process.

Nearly as compelling a motive as getting more work going is to bring bright young minds into IOPA; capture them. That will reinforce the first objective of garnering support for the IOPA Business Plan.

First dollars (<\$100 K) will facilitate (more details for each at [‘Why IOPA is Needed’](#)):

- 1.) Website improvement, especially the addition of conversation forums for each assessment.
- 2.) This [WSJ Article](#) accelerated IOPA’s focus on State systems for mental health services for Children. IOPA needs to quickly conduct a \$10,000 scoping out study; plan big study.
- 3.) We’re at a Federal Fiscal Cliff. We need to achieve a soft landing or a controlled crash.
- 4.) Initiate true Audits of various aspects of the Climate Change Debate – each can yield some important insights at any initial budget level. The whole stories to tell come in all sizes.
- 5.) Explore different efficient routes to much-improved equity in K-12 education. Free schooling has been a terrible equity strategy, and terribly inefficient, but that strategy persists even in most proposals to expand schooling options to include alternatives to the assigned traditional public school. The planned exploration will include the messaging needed to get low information voters to consider reform that would yield tuition charges for some schooling supported by taxpayer dollars. Part of that policy development and messaging is the evidence that ‘free’ schooling is largely a myth, which we know from property value studies. We can cheaply add to that body of literature (data in hand, already) through a property value study that would measure effects of school choice expansion on property values.
- 6.) Explore ways to decrease leaders’ focus on risks associated with the emergency du jour; get them to take account of risks associated with potential responses to the emergency du jour alongside risk reduction achieved with those potential responses. The Pandemic has already created considerable interest in this chronic, costly tendency towards over-caution in response to the emergency du jour. It will be easy to cheaply garner a lot of focus on this issue.
- 7.) Initiate an integration of income mobility and income inequality considerations. A lot of potentially bad policy ideas are being put forth as solutions to income inequality, which does not seem to be a problem (likely good) if there is significant income mobility; that is, lots of income change during a typical person’s lifetime, especially for those starting in the bottom levels. ‘Seem’ means a lot of hypotheses need delineation and testing.