



# PUBLIC INTEREST INSTITUTE

## FACT SHEET

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### Trimming Iowa's Budget, Part I

Iowa faces a major budget shortfall in the coming fiscal year. Below is a list of specific budget cuts that members of the Public Interest Institute staff encourage the Governor and State Legislature to make for Fiscal Year 2004. The total of the cuts comes to \$21,547,534 based on FY 2003 appropriation levels, with additional savings in the out years:

- **End Cultural and Arts Funding:** The Department of Cultural Affairs gives grants for Cultural and Arts projects each year. While these may be nice things to do, they are by no means vital government functions. Savings: Cultural Grants: \$300,000; Iowa Arts Council: \$1,161,246.
- **Eliminate Advocacy Groups:** These include the Commission on the Status of African-Americans and the Commission on the Status of Women. The Commission on the Status of African-Americans advocates an increase in "diversity training for education professionals," while the Commission on the Status of Women advocates the "development of a plan to achieve pay equity in private industry." Activities like these are the purview of interest groups, and should not be funded by Iowa taxpayers. Estimated savings: \$446,584.
- **Consolidate the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship:** Consolidate the 99 Soil and Water Conservation Districts. If Iowa consolidates the districts with only support staff into the ones that have environmental and soil technicians, the state could save \$1,409,672 in salary costs.
- **End Economic Development Funding for Iowa's Universities:** Given that these institutions already have business and economics departments, why do they need more money for economic development? End the economic development funding for the universities. Savings: University of Iowa: \$239,456; Iowa State University: \$2,325,716; University of Northern Iowa: \$344,252.
- **Reduce the Increases:** In FY 2003, the following programs saw large increases in funding. Student Achievement Grants increased \$7,750,000, Early Intervention Block Grants increased \$10,000,000, and School Foundation Aid increased \$58,852,350. We recommend cutting just the *increases* by 20%. This would save the state \$15,320,470.

*Source: David Hogberg, INSTITUTE BRIEF 10-3, "Cut Iowa's Budget."*

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