



*Improving the lives of Iowa's women & girls*

**IOWA WOMEN'S**  
FOUNDATION

## **FACT SHEET** **2017**

- The Iowa Women's Foundation (IWF) is a nonprofit, grant-making foundation dedicated to improving the lives of Iowa women and girls. One of 140 women's funds around the globe, the IWF is part of an international women's movement that is rooted in a commitment to justice and gender equality.
- Founded in 1994 by a diverse group of Iowa women who recognized inequity in funding for women and girls and wanted to create an organization that would be the go-to source, "for women, about women and by women".
- The Iowa Women's Foundation is the only statewide organization working to enhance and improve economic self-sufficiency for women and girls in Iowa. Through a diversified mix of action and funding including advocacy, education, research, grant-making and convening we can alleviate the causes and not just the symptoms of economic illiteracy. *We unite money, ideas, and action to create lasting change for women and girls, their families and communities.*
- The Iowa Women's Foundation's knowledge of the needs, concerns and priorities of women and girls in Iowa is incomparable. With this information, we seek to achieve lasting community gains by addressing the root causes of social problems and work to measurably transform systems, attitudes and social norms.
- Awarded Grants totaling over \$600,000 to 170 projects reaching all 99 counties in Iowa. Grants from the Foundation are intended to promote broad and fundamental change, particularly in small, grass-roots organizations that often do not receive grant funding from traditional sources.
- Produced *SHE MATTERS: We Listen and Iowa Wins* economic self-sufficiency report, identifying the top six barriers women and girls face to economic self-sufficiency (employment, childcare, housing, education/training, transportation, and mentors), and the four commonalities across all six barriers (awareness/knowledge, empowerment, flexibility, and generational poverty).
- Traveled more than 4,800 miles, returning to 18 communities across Iowa to personally interact with leaders and share the *SHE MATTERS* report, identifying pathways to overcome the barriers women and girls face to economic self-sufficiency in each community.
- Celebrated our first anniversary as a collaborative partner in Prosperity Together, with \$29 million donated to 996 organizations, impacting over 4 million women and girls across the United States.
- IWF is supported solely by generous gifts from over 850 individuals, businesses, organizations and foundations across Iowa and the United States.

