



IOWA WOMEN'S FOUNDATION

JULY
NEWSLETTER

Building Community Child Care Solutions Tour

Iowa has an affordable, quality child care crisis. This crisis is affecting families, businesses, and communities all across the state. According to data collected from Iowa Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R), there are:

- 527,194 children ages 0-12 in the state of Iowa
- 240,070 children under the age of 6
- 75% of Iowa households with children under the age of 6 have all parents working outside the home
- There are 167,816 registered child care spaces available, creating a shortfall of 359,377 spaces
- On average, 1 in 2 children go without access to affordable quality child care
- Iowa has lost 40% of its child care businesses over the past five years

As of July 2, 2018, there were 40,048 open jobs listed on Indeed.com across the state. It is estimated that the state loses \$675MM in unrealized annual GDP due to an employee shortfall. Coupling child care and job availability, there is an opportunity in Iowa to bring these two issues together. Filling employment positions requires child care, and child care puts people to work. Iowa businesses need to be a part of the solution. They play a key role in solving the problem, providing a healthy workforce, and ultimately, improving their own bottom line. It has also been shown that when businesses provide child care, employee absences decrease by up to 30% and job turnover declines by as much as 60%.

This issue is no longer just a family issue; it's also a workforce issue, a business issue, and a community issue. This work has to be community-driven.

Over the past three months, the Iowa Women's Foundation has been facilitating meetings with communities across the state with a tool kit of possible solutions to improve the availability and accessibility of quality, affordable child care. Businesses have joined other community leaders, child care providers and various local and state-wide organizations to discuss and evaluate possible solutions to the child care crisis that will best fit the needs of their community. During these meetings, specific

solutions are identified and sub groups are created to study and explore the feasibility of implementation and next steps.

Tours have been held in Iowa Falls, Waterloo, Fort Dodge, Lee County, Mason City, Sioux City, Ida County, Storm Lake, Marshalltown, and Jefferson. Meetings have been scheduled in Ames and Ottumwa. IWF will be visiting the communities of Dubuque and Grinnell before the end of the summer.

The IWF is re-visiting all 14 locations to measure progress and help make connections with other communities that are going through the same exercise. Groups will share their findings and attendees will make recommendations to their communities on the best and most feasible solutions to the child care issue. Watch for more updates as we continue to work together to eliminate this critical barrier for women, families, businesses, and communities.

Child Care Solutions Fund - LOI Deadline August 1

The Iowa Women's Foundation has established the Child Care Solutions Fund (CCSF) to enhance its investments in organizations and institutions that are focused on strategies that will increase women's economic security by decreasing the workforce gap through access to quality, affordable child care. Currently, too many women must opt out of the workforce because there is no child care available to them or their families. The availability of affordable, quality child care is a key component to diversifying, broadening, and strengthening the workforce and Iowa's economy.

The CCSF grant process operates on a different timeline and structure than IWF's Core Grants Program. Various stakeholders, partners, and experts in child care in and around Iowa will make decisions regarding awards. Letters of Interest (LOI) are being accepted through August 1, 2018, 5:00 p.m. For more details, download the CCSF Letter of Interest instructions at www.iawf.org. The IWF is proud to sponsor this new grant that supports solutions to the child care crisis.



Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Inductees. Featured from left to right, Dianne Bystrom, Jean Jew.

Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Inductees

We are delighted to announce that IWF founding member, Dr. Jean Jew, will be one of the 2018 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame inductees. Dr. Jew has been a long-time advocate for gender equity and combating sexual harassment. From all of us at IWF, and on behalf of Iowa's women and girls—thank you, Jean, for all of your hard work and dedication!

We would also like to congratulate our friend Dr. Dianne Bystrom at the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics, who is also one of this year's inductees. Dr. Bystrom has long been a strong advocate for women in politics and is a true mentor to women pursuing leadership positions. She played a crucial role in the success of IWF's SHE MATTERS initiative and was honored in our most recent edition of Ovation.

For more information about the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame inductees, visit

Our heartfelt thanks and congratulations to each of these women for the work they have done and will continue to do for Iowa's women and girls.



The 2019 HER Women of Achievement Honorees. Photo courtesy of Kelly Buchanan, Gazette.

HER Women of Achievement

The HER Women of Achievement Awards Luncheon, organized and sponsored by the Cedar Rapids Gazette, was held in June. IWF is happy to announce that Executive Director, Dawn Oliver Wiand, and board member and Past President, Liz Swanson, were selected as recipients of the first annual awards. The fifteen women recognized in Eastern Iowa have had a significant impact on their communities. The IWF was honored to have Dawn and Liz be a part of this first group of women to be acknowledged.

As her nominator Alison Ames Galstad wrote, "Dawn has had an extraordinary impact on the work of the Iowa Women's Foundation...Dawn's work with the Foundation is shattering an economic barrier for women and girls in Iowa." Liz was nominated by Julie Zerwic and the University of Iowa College of Nursing because of "her passion and commitment to improving the health and welfare of the citizens of Eastern Iowa."



The 2019 Annual Awards Luncheon Keynote, Danielle Kurtzleben. *Photo courtesy Caitlin Sanders, NPR.*

2019 Annual Awards Luncheon

The Iowa Women's Foundation is pleased to announce that Danielle Kurtzleben will be the keynote speaker at the Annual Luncheon on October 4, 2018. Kurtzleben is a political reporter for National Public Radio and is a regular on the NPR Politics podcast, which she also hosts on occasion. She specializes in economics and politics, particularly as they relate to gender. Both at NPR and in her former roles at Vox and U.S. News & World Report, Danielle's work makes sense of policy and data to help listeners more easily understand their place in American politics.

A native of Titonka, Iowa, Danielle has a wide perspective of the world between rural America and the Beltway. Blending insight, trends and humor, her address will highlight how gender issues are rapidly changing and how it may impact the future of politics, policy, and beyond.

Interested in sponsoring the luncheon or being a table host? Please contact Ann at Ann@iawf.org, or 319-774-3815. Individual tickets will be available September 1. Watch the website for more details.

Happy Birthday IWF

The Iowa Women's Foundation is celebrating 25 years in 2019. *Interested in helping plan a year-long celebration?* Come join the fun and help us commemorate where we've been, and where we are going for the next 25 years. Contact Ann at ann@iawf.org for more details.



IOWA WOMEN'S
FOUNDATION

STAY CONNECTED



The Iowa Women's Foundation is committed to improving the lives of Iowa's women and girls through a diversified mix of funding and action: research, grantmaking, advocacy, education, and collaboration. To achieve its goals and make the most significant impact, IWF brings together and invests in organizations across Iowa that make women and girls more successful. IWF is the only statewide organization working to enhance and improve women's economic self-sufficiency.

For more information, please visit our web site at www.iawf.org.