



DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

A Year of Education, Advocacy, and Power

Wow, what a year it has been! 2020 was filled with many accomplishments thanks to the power of our volunteers and donors. This includes advancing the urgent need for child care—one of the six barriers to women's economic self-sufficiency in Iowa.

Access to quality, affordable child care gives women the opportunity to return to the workforce and advance their careers; increase their education and obtain degrees, certifications, and advanced licensing; and helps to open doors for apprenticeships and additional training in the skilled trades.

The pandemic has shed a light on the seriousness of the lack of child care in our state. IWF is working with 30 communities on realistic and feasible solutions to overcome the lack of quality, affordable child care:

- A business coalition has been created and state-wide leaders have met every other week to tackle the issue of child care for their employees.
- Center directors and in-home providers have asked for a list of resources and training to help them with business practices and nonprofit board management that we are compiling and creating.
- Research shows that shared staffing and shared services have been successful for other communities around the country. Pilot projects are being developed for several communities to try.
- Child care advocacy organizations from across the state are working on an aligned message and policy agenda for 2021.

IWF continues to research, educate, advocate, and collaborate with our community partners. This year, we were proud to award \$140,000 in grants to 19 nonprofit recipients for 2021 programs. As we look forward to the new year, we are grateful for the POWER our supporters have shared with us. Despite all the upside-down-ness of 2020, we have continued to carry out our mission to improve the lives of Iowa's women and girls.

2021 Community Child Care Solutions Grant Recipients



With support from our corporate partner Casey's, we are happy to award \$40,000 to six programs from across the state that will increase the availability of quality, affordable child care in Iowa. 21 full applications for Community Child Care Solutions Fund (CCSF) Grants were submitted from 54 Letters of Interest, and each were reviewed by a statewide group representing the child care industry and Iowa communities.

Congratulations to our 2021 CCSF grant recipients:

- Cedar Valley Kids, Cedar Falls
- Community Early Childhood Center, Fort Dodge
- Crittenton Center, Sioux City
- Hawkeye Community College Foundation, Waterloo
- Lil' Wildcat Education Center, Glidden
- Sunflower Child Development, Decorah

To learn more about the CCSF Grantees and the Core Grantees announced in November, visit the IWF website by clicking the button below.

[View Our 2021 Grantees](#)

3rd Session Advocacy

Interested in public policy? Ready to advocate for women and girls? Join the nonpartisan 3rd Session Advocacy Team and be a voice for the women and girls of Iowa. Together, we will initiate and monitor legislation; educate and inform our local, state, and national elected officials on issues essential to our work; increase awareness; and host advocacy events. This nonpartisan team will work year-round in local communities and at the state and national levels to create economic security for ALL of Iowa's women and girls.



Email ann@iawf.org to become a 3rd Session Advocacy Team member. Together, we have the POWER!

Coffee with Dawn

Has it been a while since you've had coffee with Dawn? Join us for a new bi-monthly series, "Coffee with Dawn." Get comfy on your couch while Dawn shares current updates on the Foundation, guest speakers weigh in on timely events, and we all stay connected over a cup of coffee! We're excited to kick off this new series, which will start January 5 at 8:30am!



OVATION: A Tribute to Iowa Women and Girls

2021 promises to be a special year for the 8th Edition of Ovation, with stories of courage, support, grit, community leadership, and impact. Who would you like to honor in the 2021 **OVATION: A Tribute to Iowa Women and Girls**?

Gather your family, or a group of friends, board members, or colleagues to honor an Iowa woman or girl and exemplify them for others to follow in their historic footsteps. Commitments made and paid in full by January 29 can take advantage of a 10% early tribute allowance.

For more information on starting a tribute, funding a tribute, FAQs, and a full list of past honorees, see the IWF website



[Ovation Details](#)

Donations = Power

Year-end donations are essential to IWF's work to improve the lives of Iowa's women and girls. Your gift provides POWER across the state as we continue to shatter the barriers to women's economic self-sufficiency. You are the source of this power. Your tax-deductible donation (as allowed by law and the CARES Act incentives for 2020 taxes) supports the work of the Foundation and provides opportunities for women and girls to find *their* power.

Please make a year-end donation to the Iowa Women's Foundation and see what our collective power can do!

[Donate Now](#)

