



Rising to the Challenge

What a year it's been! Iowa's women face a new set of challenges moving into 2021. But thanks to the efforts of our donors, volunteers, and community partners, we've been able to quickly pivot and gather support to tackle these issues head on. Your strength, power, and compassion has been vital to moving solutions forward. And with you at our side, we're ready to face whatever lies ahead of us in the new year!

We are truly grateful for your support and are incredibly fortunate to have accomplished so much in the last year with grants, the child care initiative, advocacy and awareness, and the work of all our committees.

Our Top 10 Accomplishments of 2020

1. **IWF was one of nine women's funds selected by the Women's Funding Network in 2020 to launch a Women's Economic Mobility Hub**, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The goal of the Hub is to grow and sustain the child care sector to enable women to be active in the workforce, access education, and seek opportunities that advance their careers.
2. **30 communities with more than 650 volunteers are working together to overcome the lack of affordable child care**, sharing knowledge and best practices to build successful solutions.
3. **The statewide Iowa Businesses and Child Care Coalition was established** to strategically address the child care issue from a business and workforce perspective.
4. **IWF was awarded a grant from the Iowa Employer Innovation Fund through Future Ready Iowa!** With Child Care Resource and Referral as our partner, IWF is providing fast track training for those seeking to become providers, so they can receive the certification needed to open in-home care or acquire the skills to work in a center.
5. **IWF volunteers and community partners are creating a model for a pilot project for shared staffing and services** based on other successful models across the country. A

location/agency host has been identified to pilot these projects. Center directors have been invited to participate to secure feedback, after which the project will be modified accordingly and implemented.

6. **IWF has become a go-to resource for the media and elected officials at the national, state and local levels.**

7. The Iowa Child Care Coalition is a team of child care advocacy organizations who worked together in 2020 to **secure five child care bills passing the state house and ensuring the issue was a priority for both parties.** Now we are working on an aligned message and policy agenda for 2021 focused on increasing affordability, accessibility, and stability of the child care industry through a number of legislative recommendations.

8. Public policy and advocacy work play key roles in alleviating the barriers to economic success for Iowa's women and girls. **The 3rd Session Advocacy Team has been established** This nonpartisan team will work year-long in local communities and at the state and national levels to increase awareness and initiate legislative action that will lead to economic security for ALL of Iowa's women and girls.

9. Amidst the pandemic and financial uncertainty that disrupted many nonprofits this year, **IWF was able to pivot our resources, secure a PPP loan, and minimize revenue loss** Research shows the average drop in nonprofit revenue for 2020 was 45.16%. Thanks to our dedicated supporters, we came in at 10% less than the national average—all while continuing our work at a scale and pace unprecedented for our organization.

10. Grantmaking continues to be at the heart of IWF's work. **This year, we awarded \$100,000 in grants to 13 organizations across Iowa working to address one or more of the barriers to women's economic success.** With support from Casey's, **we also awarded \$40,000 to six organizations increasing the availability of quality, affordable child care in Iowa.** **Next year, we will be awarding Micro Grants for the first time** These are small grants for emergency needs, such as a new refrigerator or building repair.

Thank You!



Thank you for your support in 2020! Our volunteers, donors, and sponsors have truly made a difference for women and girls across our state. As we wind down the year and look ahead to 2021, there is still time to make a donation to support the work of the Foundation as we continue to shatter the barriers to women's economic self-sufficiency together.

When 2020 started, we could never have imagined that social distancing, working from home, and virtual meetings would become the norm. Research tells us that **women have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic** With the lack of child care and school supervision, women are leaving the workforce four

times as often as men. **According to a Washington Post article in July, “The Coronavirus child care crisis will set women back a generation.”** The losses in employment will impact both current and future earnings for women as well as retirement security and gender equity in workplaces and homes.

Women’s economic security is further away for some and at risk for many more. The need for child care in our country has never been more urgent. We will continue to fight for accessible, affordable child care and break down the barriers to economic security. But we can’t do it without you! Year-end donations are essential to IWF’s work.

If you have already supported us this year—THANK YOU! Your gift made everything on our Top 10 Accomplishments list possible. **If you are contemplating year-end giving, consider making an additional donation to IWF to help us do *even more* in the next year.** No gift is too small and every gift makes a difference. Together we have the power to steer our state in a more inclusive and equitable direction in 2021.

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 for economic security.

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

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