



Improving the lives of Iowa's women & girls

IOWA WOMEN'S FOUNDATION

2021 FACT SHEET

- 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, the organization continues to be a go-to source "for women, about women and by women".
- IWF is the only state-wide organization working to enhance and improve the economic self-sufficiency of women and girls. Through a diversified mix of action and funding including research, grantmaking, advocacy, education and collaboration, IWF works in a targeted and comprehensive way to identify, support and advocate for viable lasting change, and continues to partner with local communities to shatter the barriers to economic success for women and girls.
- To date, IWF has awarded Core grants and Building Community Child Care Solutions Fund grants totaling over \$1,190,000 to more than 230 projects reaching all 99 counties in Iowa. Grants from the Foundation are intended to promote broad and fundamental change and provide opportunities for economic self-sufficiency and growth for women and girls.
- IWF funds and supports gender specific research. We then take what we learned from these studies and invest wisely in activities that create pathways to economic success for Iowa's women and girls. Our most recent research project - SHE MATTERS started in 2011, updated in 2015 and guides our work today through our Building Community Child Care Solutions Collaborative (BCCCS).
- The IWF and partner organizations started the BCCCS to address the child care barrier. The barrier identified through research and community conversations as the priority barrier. Through collaborative work, 30 communities across Iowa with the help of over 600 volunteers are now exploring innovative ways to exchange ideas among business and community leaders, employees, and organization to promote child care investments that support children's healthy development and a competitive business environment, both in the short and long term.
- The Building Community Child Care Solutions Fund (BCCCSF) is a "field of interest" fund established by IWF for grantmaking and action. The BCCCSF mingles and leverages money and leadership from diverse donors to improve the lives of Iowa's women and girls through economic self-sufficiency and specifically by improving the availability of, and access to, quality child care in Iowa. The funds in the BCCCSF are invested in organizations and institutions focused on strategies/solutions ensuring access to affordable quality child care that decreases the work force gap and ultimately increases women's economic security across Iowa. With support from Casey's, IWF has awarded \$100,000 to 17 programs throughout the state.
- Starting in 2021, a new Micro Grants program is being established for small, one-time-only cash awards to non-profits and other community organizations, including organizations that may not be eligible for traditional grant funding. These grants for short-term projects or tasks are awarded to organizations that address at least one of the six major barriers that IWF research has identified as most critical to the success of Iowa's women and girls.
- IWF is supported solely by generous gifts from over 743 individuals, businesses, organizations and foundations across Iowa and the United States.

