



Iowa Women's Foundation

FALL 2020 NEWSLETTER

2020 – A Year of Education, Advocacy, and Power



As we look back on 2020 and forward to 2021, we're grateful for the POWER our supporters shared with us. This year, we learned a great deal while never wavering from our mission to improve the lives of Iowa's women and girls.

Before COVID-19, there was already a critical lack of child care slots in Iowa. Business leaders, community officials, and legislators are all feeling the impact of this crisis on our state's economy. Families are juggling working from home and online schooling. And women are leaving the workplace as they disproportionately shoulder the burden of child care. The pandemic has not only brought this critical shortage to light, but it has also erased many of the gains we had made.

Iowa has long been a state where the majority of parents both work outside the home (75% of all families), necessitating a strong child care ecosystem. This year has made that more important than ever. Here are some of the key initiatives we focused on in 2020:



We continued our work with 30 communities on solutions to overcome the lack of quality affordable child care, sharing knowledge and best practices to build successful solutions. Our goal is to add 10 communities committed to adding and expanding childcare availability by the end of 2021.



We created and convened a statewide Business & Child Care Coalition to tackle the issue of access to affordable, quality child care. Solutions are as simple as supplying a list of area providers to their employees, or as complex as building their own on-site center. A tool kit is in the works for businesses of all sizes to identify the best way to invest in child care as a benefit to employees.



We collected and shared resources with center directors and in-home providers to help them with business practices and nonprofit board management. Now, we're developing a training program to keep their businesses healthy in the areas of staffing/staff management, finances, marketing, and customer fulfillment.



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.



Child care advocacy organizations 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. IWF will continue to educate elected officials on the child care crisis and solutions needed. We are thrilled the Governor's Economic Recovery Advisory Council's first recommendation was to decrease the barriers to child care for Iowa's working parents. At the national level, we are advocating for child care providers in the next stimulus package.



IWF was awarded a grant of \$83,050 from the Iowa Employer Innovation Fund through Future Ready Iowa! This is an exciting opportunity providing fast track training for those seeking to become providers and receive the certification needed to open in-home care, or the skills to work in a center.

Together, IWF volunteers and state-wide community partners are working to shatter the child care barrier—the first of the six barriers that keep women and girls from economic self-sufficiency. Iowa has emerged as a leader in this national arena because of the volunteers and leaders in our state who have experienced this issue firsthand and are approaching the issue collaboratively.

A Message from Your Board Chair



As we toasted the new year back in January, little did we know what 2020 would bring. In spite of the challenges, 2020 has been a year of great accomplishments thanks to our volunteers and donors!

OUR 2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ECONOMIC MOBILITY HUB & WORKING GROUPS

The work on the Economic Mobility Hub—made possible from the Women’s Funding Network (WFN)—continues to strengthen the Building Community Child Care Solutions program. The statewide Iowa Businesses and Child Care Coalition was established to strategically address the child care issue from a business and workforce perspective. Our Solutions Tour communities have grown to 30. These communities are working to provide opportunities for residents and businesses to collaborate on increasing accessibility and affordability of child care.

GRANTMAKING

Grantmaking is at the heart of the work of the Iowa Women’s Foundation (IWF). In October, IWF awarded a total of \$100,000 to Core Grants to 13 organizations across the state working to break down the six barriers to economic self-sufficiency: employment, child care, housing, education/training, transportation, and mentoring. In 2020, we neither reduced nor restricted previously granted funds, as we felt the work of our grantees is paramount to reducing these barriers.

COMMUNITY CHILD CARE SOLUTIONS FUND



This year, Community Child Care Solutions Fund (CCSF) recipients will receive a collective \$40,000. The aim of this fund is to increase the number of child care slots in Iowa. The need is great and we received many more applications than we were able to fund.

Read more about each of the grantees on the IWF website:
<https://iawf.org/grantmaking/grant-partners/>

VOLUNTEERS

We are so grateful for each of our committees and volunteers who have worked hard to keep the momentum of our mission moving forward. We could not have done this without our board members, advisory council, and nearly 1,000 individual volunteers across the state who have shared their time, their talents, and their resources to improve the lives of Iowa’s women and girls.

I wish to express our sincere gratitude to our Circles of Giving donors who have pledged gifts for three years, the founders of the 18% Fund Champions, and the 2020 sponsors who have provided financial support. It is because of your continued support and passion for improving the economic self-sufficiency of Iowa’s women and girls that we are able to continue to expand our work forward into 2021.



Chelle Lehman

CHELLE LEHMAN

Chair, Board of Directors



Economic Mobility Hub

IWF is one of nine women's funds selected by the **Women's Funding Network (WFN)** in 2020 to launch a mobility hub. As the name suggests, each Regional Women's Economic Mobility Hub is focused on one aspect of economic mobility for women and will direct community assets toward market demands to build lasting livelihoods for women and their families. IWF was selected to lead these efforts in Iowa to expand the **Building Community Child Care Solutions (BCCCS)** program.

With the support of Early Childhood Iowa, Iowa Child Care Resource & Referral, the Iowa Business & Child Care Coalition, and local community partners, we have influenced leaders across the state to view this as an economic issue, not a "kitchen table" issue. One group cannot solve this alone. It will take public-private partnerships to overcome the child care crisis in Iowa.

We are proud that IWF speakers and topics are listed at workshops as a workforce issue—not a social services issue. Community leaders are calling and asking to be a part of the collaboration, and we serve as the go-to source for media and elected officials to learn more about the issue. Business leaders are joining us at the table, committing their time, resources, and action to solve this issue. IWF has bi-partisan legislators who have recognized that child care is an economic driver. **This year alone, five child care bills passed the Iowa House and moved onto the Senate.**

The goal of this hub is to grow and sustain a child care sector that enables women to be active in the workforce, access education, and seek opportunities that advance their career. IWF is well on its way to growing the network from 30 to 40 communities, increasing awareness of the social and economic impact of the child care crisis, and increasing public-private financial support. If you are interested in actively participating in this program, please email Dawn at dawn@iawf.org.



3rd Session Advocacy Powered by the Iowa Women's Foundation



Public policy and advocacy work play key roles in alleviating the barriers to economic success for Iowa's women and girls. IWF is proud to announce the establishment of the 3rd Session Advocacy Team. This name comes from the fact that Iowa's first session of the General Assembly is not more than 110 days. The second session is not more than 100 days. The "Third session" is all year, every year, and spans state and federal legislative bodies. This nonpartisan team will work year-round 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.

Join the 3rd Session Advocacy Team today and be a voice for the women and girls of Iowa. Together, we will monitor legislation; educate and inform our local, state, and national elected officials on issues essential to our work; and host advocacy events. Email ann@iawf.org to become a 3rd Session Advocacy Team member.

Together, we have the POWER!

Announcing 2021 Grantee Partners

Thanks to the generous support
from IWF donors and sponsors,

\$100,000

has been awarded for Core Grant
programs.



With support from Casey's, we've
also awarded

\$40,000

to organizations working to
increase the availability of quality,
affordable child care across Iowa.

*Congratulations to each as we
continue to improve the lives
of Iowa's women and girls!*

2021 CORE GRANTEES

Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Iowa, Des Moines

Boys and Girls Clubs of the Midlands, Council Bluffs/Carter Lake

Catherine McAuley Center, Cedar Rapids,
awarded with support from the Helen Frye Memorial Fund

Crittenton Center, Sioux City

Grin & Grow Child Care Ltd., Waterloo

Hawkeye Community College Foundation, Waterloo

Horizons, A Family Service Alliance, Cedar Rapids

LeadHer, Davenport

Lutheran Services in Iowa, Des Moines

St. Mark Youth Enrichment, Dubuque

UI Labor Center, Iowa City

United Way of the Quad Cities, Bettendorf

Women Food & Agriculture Network, Ames

2021 COMMUNITY CHILD CARE SOLUTIONS FUND GRANTEES

Community Early Childhood Center, Fort Dodge

Crittenton Center, Sioux City

Hawkeye Community College Foundation, Waterloo

Lil' Wildcat Education Center, Glidden

Sunflower Child Development, Decorah

Western Home Communities, Cedar Falls

Iowa Employer Innovation Fund Grant

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IWF was awarded an \$83,050 grant from the Iowa Employer Innovation Fund through Future Ready Iowa! We're partnering with Iowa Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) to recruit, train, retain, and support quality child care and early education providers across Iowa. This Child Care Ready grant offers training and equipment that will support child care providers seeking to start in-home businesses and become registered in the state of Iowa. The series includes sessions on required documentation for registration, required professional development, health and safety basics, and an overview of business basics. This program will increase the number of child care slots available for working families in early 2021, and provide professional careers for individuals. As one participant stated, "I am so grateful to have something like this in place!"

2020 Virtual Luncheon: Stories of P.O.W.E.R.

Thank you to our sponsors, Power Hosts, and guests for attending our Annual Fall Luncheon! Despite not gathering at the Coralville Marriott, we were pleased to have so many tune in for our virtual fall event! More than 600 guests viewed the pre-recorded program. Special thanks to IWF sponsors who helped make the event possible, and to those that helped to meet the Match Sponsorship generously provided by James Investment Group. Lois James and Jeremy James, along with all of our sponsors this year, have provided critical POWER to our work to shattering the barriers to women's economic self-sufficiency. Thank you!

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BUILDING COMMUNITY CHILD CARE SOLUTIONS DONORS





Ovation 2021



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?

To date, more than 700 women and girls have been honored with a tribute in the Foundation's signature publication. Ovation provides a fun and thoughtful way to pay tribute to a woman or girl in your life. Honorees come from all different backgrounds and have dedicated themselves to making a difference. Ovation helps us share their stories. It also plays a critical role in our Grantmaking abilities.

Gather your family, or a group of friends, board members, or colleagues and together 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 29th can take advantage of a 10% early tribute allowance. Check out the IWF website for more details! <https://iawf.org/whats-happening/events/ovation/>

Donations = POWER

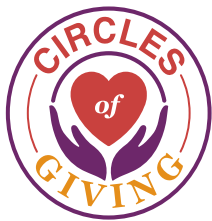


Year-end donations are essential to IWF's work to improve the lives of Iowa's women and girls. Your gift provides POWER across the state as we continue to shatter the barriers to women's economic self-sufficiency. You are the source of this power. Your tax-deductible donation (as allowed by law) and 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!*

Visit iawf.org/donate-now to act now.

You Are the Power

CIRCLES OF GIVING



Circles of Giving is a network of committed donors who provide ongoing support to IWF. This three-year pledge allows us to award grants, conduct research, educate, and advocate for women and girls in Iowa. There is power in our collective numbers. Together, we can grow IWF's statewide impact, resources, and capacity. Please join this extraordinary group and be a part of a larger effort to support Iowa's women and girls with your power.

To learn more, begin a pledge, or renew your pledge, visit www.iwf.org/circles-of-giving. You may also request a hard copy of the physical form by emailing ann@iawf.org.

18% FUND CHAMPIONS



The 18% Fund provides an opportunity for men to support the work of the Foundation, furthering gender equity for all citizens of Iowa. These supporters share their power by investing in Iowa women and girls to break down the barriers to women's economic security, including the wage gap, which nationally stands at 18%.

In Iowa, 70% of Iowa's female heads of household are struggling economically, and with the impact from COVID-19, 1 in 4 women are considering leaving the workforce to care for their children at home. These numbers are staggering.

By committing \$250 a year for three years, your pledge will expand critical programs necessary for women and girls to succeed. Your commitment will reinforce the scope of IWF's work to foster a more economically secure existence for women and girls in our state. Join the men on the IWF Board of Directors and make a pledge today.

"It is by standing up for the rights of girls and women that we truly measure up as men."

– Desmond Tutu, South African cleric and theologian

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Looking for a new endeavor in 2021? Kick off the new year by sharing your time and talents as a volunteer for IWF! Your time equals impact, and the more impact we have, the stronger we are. We'd love to have you join one or more of our monthly committees. For more details contact Ann at ann@iawf.org.



ENVELOPE ENCLOSED

No matter how you choose to support the Iowa Women's Foundation, you are providing an opportunity for women to succeed, families to grow stronger and businesses and communities to thrive. No donation is too small or too large. Please use the enclosed envelope to send your donation today, and know that together we are indeed improving the lives of Iowa's women and girls. With your generous support we will tackle the barriers to economic self-sufficiency!



IOWA WOMEN'S
FOUNDATION

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COFFEE

with **DAWN**

Has it been awhile since you've had coffee with Dawn? Join us for a new bi-monthly series, "**Coffee with Dawn.**" Join us from your couch as Dawn shares current updates on the Foundation, guest speakers weigh in on timely events, and we all stay connected over a cup of coffee.

Watch for an invitation to join us on December 10th at 8:30 am to kick off this new series starting in January 2021.

INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING THE IOWA WOMEN'S FOUNDATION?

Want to do more? Looking for volunteer opportunities? Contact Ann at ann@iawf.org.



info@iawf.org



iawf.org



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