

Prosperity Together—Two Years

Prosperity Together is the collective effort of women’s foundations across the US that are working to raise awareness of their role in improving the economic security of low-income women and their families. In November, 2015, the foundations announced a \$100 million, five-year collective commitment to invest in innovative programs and strategies that create pathways to economic security for America’s women and girls.

During Year One, Prosperity Together partners invested a collective \$29,170,427. And in Year Two, partners gave an additional \$29,251,072. This brings the total commitment to \$58,421,499—surpassing our goal of \$40 million by 46%!

- Year Three will continue work to ensure low-income women and their families are economically secure. Our top priorities include:
- ▶ Providing access to educational opportunities and increasing women’s skills to seek employment.
 - ▶ Ensuring access to quality, affordable child care and early childhood education.
 - ▶ Advocating for pay equity and supporting an increase in the minimum wage.
 - ▶ Developing supports for emerging female leaders.
 - ▶ Enhancing the financial literacy of women.
 - ▶ Promoting paid leave and coaching local businesses on family-friendly workplace policies.
 - ▶ Creating and supporting programs for women and youth of color.

IWF is one of 32 organizations from 26 states and Washington DC that are partners with Prosperity Together. These foundations are experts in their communities and work to meet women’s needs in unique ways. IWF works with all these foundations to bring about change through shared strategies, research, and policy change. Together, we make a difference.

2019 Grants

The Iowa Women’s Foundation is currently accepting grant applications for 2019. The application form can be found on the IWF web site at www.iawf.org. Before preparing your application, please review the Nuts and Bolts for an overview of the process, grant writing resources, and the guidelines for completing the application. Community Information Sessions have been scheduled to provide instruction for successful grant writing. See Save the Date calendar and Grant Guidelines for details. Volunteer mentors are available to review a draft of your application prior to submission. Please send an email to grants@iawf.org and include “Mentor Inquiry” in the subject line no later than May 1 if you would like a mentor.

All applications are due May 31, 2018 at 5:00 PM, no exceptions.

Circles of Giving

Our Circles of Giving keeps growing with new levels to support ongoing efforts to raise funds, award grants, conduct research, educate, and advocate for women and families throughout Iowa. **Please consider making a three year pledge at one of these four levels:**

- ▶ **Newcomers Circle (1st Time Supporters)** \$100 - \$249 per year pledge for 3 years
- ▶ **Leadership Circle** \$250 - \$499 per year pledge for 3 years
- ▶ **Directors Circle** \$500 - \$2,499 per year pledge for 3 years
- ▶ **Presidents Circle** \$2,500 or more per year pledge for 3 years

We’re grateful for the continued support of our Circles of Giving members. Pledges can be made on the IWF web site, or by calling the office at 319-774-3813. Thank you for your support!

Visit www.iawf.org to learn more.



IOWA WOMEN’S
FOUNDATION

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Coralville, Iowa 52241

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SAVE THE DATE

MARCH

Grant Applications are available online.

March 28: Community Information Session - Des Moines

APRIL

Building Solutions Collaborative begins

April 2: Community Information Session – Waterloo
April 3: Community Information Session – Davenport
April 4: Community Information Session – Iowa City

MAY

UI Women in Business Networking Breakfast

Ovation Unveilings
May 14: Cedar Rapids – Hotel Kirkwood
May 15: Des Moines – Wakonda Club
May 16: Ft. Dodge – Location TBD
May 17: Cedar Falls – Location TBD


Grant Applications submission deadline: 5:00 p.m., May 31

OCTOBER

Annual Luncheon,
Coralville Marriott and Convention Center

Interested in supporting the Iowa Women's Foundation?

Want to do more? Looking for volunteer opportunities?
Contact Dawn Oliver Wiand at (319) 774-3814.

 dawn@iawf.org

 /IowaWomensFoundation

 @iowawomensfdn

www.iawf.org **319.774.3813**

Executive Director Dawn Oliver Wiand

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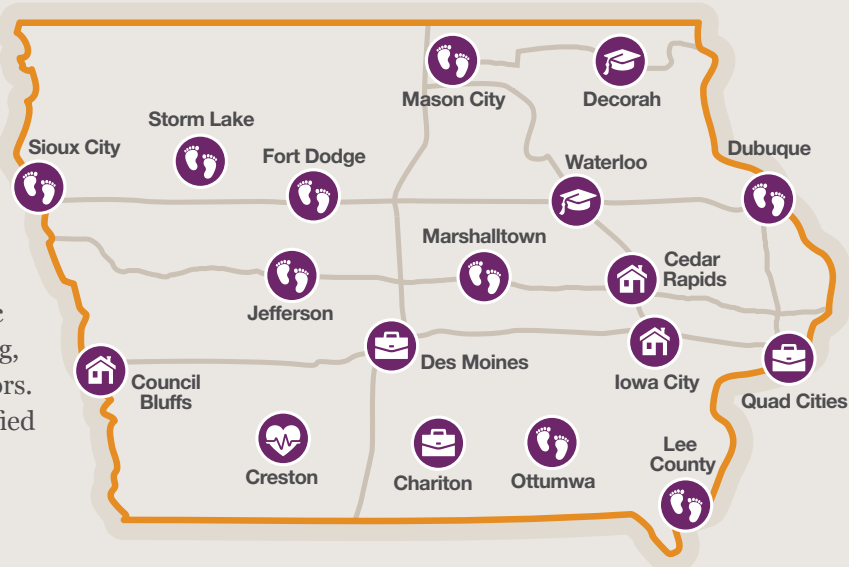
SPRING 2018 NEWSLETTER

Building Community Solutions Collaborative

Child care is not just a family issue or a workforce issue—it’s a community issue.

The Iowa Women’s Foundation will host the Building Community Solutions Collaborative across the state to follow up on our findings from the SHE MATTERS: We Listen and Iowa Wins Tour.

As we visited communities throughout the state on our last tour, six barriers were identified as the leading obstacles to women’s economic self-sufficiency: employment, child care, housing, education/training, transportation, and mentors. Importantly, nine of the communities self-identified child care as their number one priority.



EMPLOYMENT



CHILDCARE



HOUSING



EDUCATION/TRAINING



TRANSPORTATION



MENTORS



HEALTHCARE

The Building Community Solutions Collaborative will bring stakeholders together to work on solutions to the child care barrier. Communities include Dubuque, Fort Dodge, Iowa Falls, Jefferson, Lee County, Marshalltown, Mason City, Ottumwa, Sioux City, and Storm Lake. Through this collaborative work, we will explore innovative ways to exchange ideas among business and community leaders, employees, and organizations.

STORY CONTINUED INSIDE ►

FROM THE President

Welcome to the spring edition of the Iowa Women's Foundation Newsletter. In this issue you will learn about our focus on increasing access to quality child care for women in our state. The upcoming Building Community Solutions Collaborative, set to launch in April, will see IWF visiting at least nine communities that have indicated a priority in addressing this issue. The Solutions Tour will focus on mentoring and growing "how-to" skills: how to get key policy makers and decision makers to listen and understand the issue; how to engage and involve key players in each community in collaboration with IWF; and how to grow women-owned businesses to address this critical need by helping women become entrepreneurs in the area of child care. And in this issue, you will also find a call for proposals for 2019 grantees. The work goes on and the work deepens its impact in our state. What an exciting and meaningful time to be involved with IWF!



JILL OLSEN

Of course, none of this work is accomplished without your support. The Circles of Giving are described on these pages and I encourage you to invest, or invest more deeply in our good work. You will also see the schedule for the unveiling of the women honored in Ovation. If you haven't witnessed the surprise and love in an honoree's eyes as the book is presented to her, you have really missed something. Please consider honoring (and encouraging others to honor) someone with an Ovation tribute. This unique publication archives the inspiring stories of women in our state and provides a major source of revenue for IWF so that we can continue to expand our support for grantmaking, research, education, and advocacy.

Finally, a word about March 8th—International Women's Day—and Women's History Month. We can wryly observe that EVERY month should be women's month, but it is good to spotlight our progress and our challenges. The theme for International Women's Day was, "Time is Now: Rural and urban activists transforming women's lives." This aptly describes the work of the Iowa Women's Foundation of taking planned and effective action for the betterment of women, and in turn, families in Iowa. We cannot afford NOT to support this work. It is an investment in our lives, in the lives of our families, and in the future of our state. Together we can shatter the economic barrier of the lack of quality child care in Iowa and in so doing, transform women's lives.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I salute you and thank you for your continued support. The time is now. The activist is you.

JILL OLSEN

CONTINUED FROM FRONT COVER ▼

Our goal is to promote child care investments that support children's healthy development and a competitive business environment, both in the short- and long- term.

One solution will not fix the problem. During each visit, we will present a variety of options for communities to choose from that best fit the needs in their area. Through listening and learning, educating and engaging, the collaboration will support a stronger Iowa workforce and economy. The collaborative will bring people together from all corners of the state to learn from each other and share their success stories, saving time, money, and energy so communities can focus on real solutions. The Child Care Collaborative Fund, established last year by IWF, will help fund these community driven solutions.



WHY CHILD CARE MATTERS TO IOWA BUSINESSES

The structure of the American family is changing and businesses looking to sustain a reliable workforce need to keep up. In many Iowa communities where child care is either unaffordable, inaccessible or nonexistent, working parents miss work, drop shifts, are less engaged on the job, switch employers, or leave the workforce altogether.

Child care-related work benefits can be a valuable tool for businesses looking to develop, grow, and hold onto their workforce. Research shows that increasing access to quality, affordable child care options isn't just a great perk for employees—it's good for your bottom line and can play a critical role in your workforce retention strategy.

Why should your business make child care benefits available to employees?

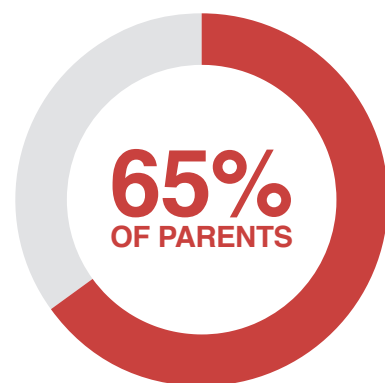
Consider Your Bottom-Line



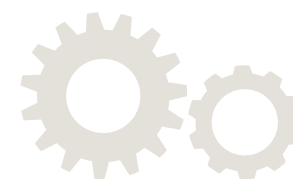
**\$4.4 BILLION
LOST ANNUALLY**

by U.S. businesses due to employee absenteeism as the result of child care breakdowns

Increase Productivity



are late to work or leave early because of child care issues



Due to a lack of viable child care policies at work, over a six-month period, working parents:

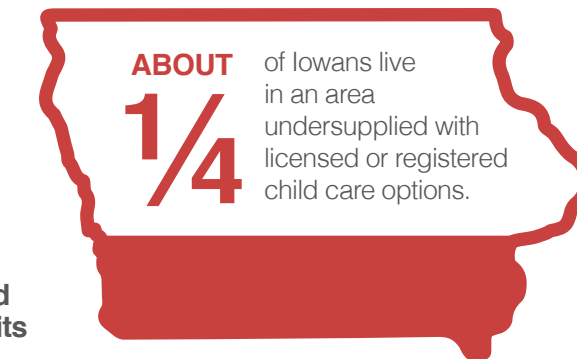
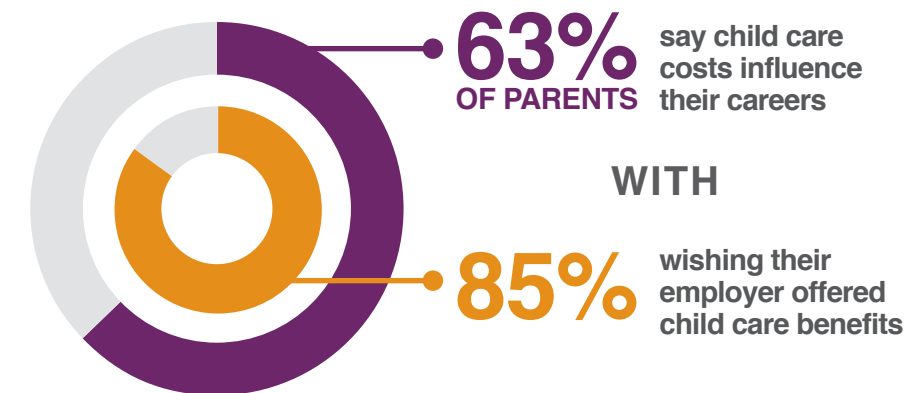


Miss an average of 4.3 days of work



Are late to work or leave early an average of 7.5 times

Attract Job Applicants



Increase Employee Retention

In the state of Iowa, because of child care issues:

**17,916 PARENTS
QUIT A JOB**

did not take a job, or greatly changed their job in (2016)



12,778 WOMEN

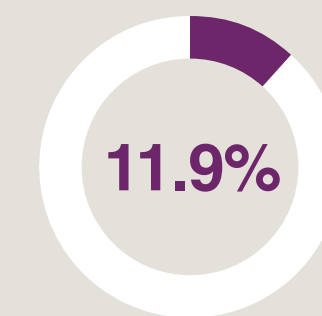
reported they could not accept full-time work (2017)

Make Your Community Stronger

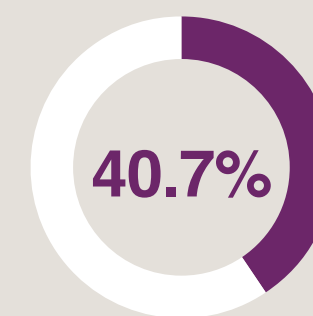
Investments in high-quality early learning programs mean significant public savings due to a strong return on investment:



How much of a family's income is spent on infant/toddler child care for a single child in Iowa?



A family earning the median household income



A family earning the single-parent median household income



Sources available from IWF.

To learn more, please visit our website at www.iawf.org