



# Iowa Women's Foundation

## SUMMER 2020 NEWSLETTER

### *IWF is Recipient of Grant for Child Care Support*

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**T**he Iowa Women's Foundation will lead the state of Iowa as part of a new national effort to support women and girls amidst the financial fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In June, the Women's Funding Network (WFN) announced they are launching the Regional Women's Economic Mobility Hub project to increase the support and resources necessary to advance economic mobility among women and girls.

The WFN consists of 140 women's funds across the globe. Eighteen funds were invited to submit applications for this special grant. IWF was one of nine selected to become a Regional Women's Economic Mobility Hub. Each Hub will direct community assets toward market demands that will build lasting livelihoods for women and their families. As one of the recipients, IWF will lead these efforts in Iowa to expand the Building Community Child Care Solutions program.

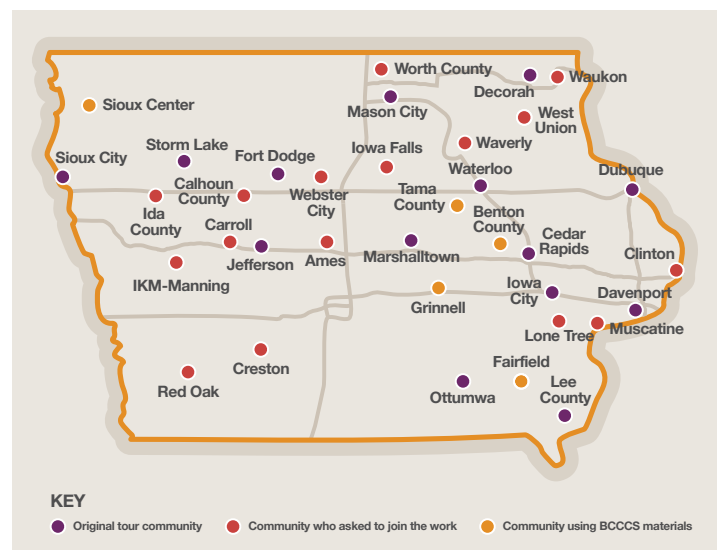
Building Community Child Care Solutions (BCCCS) is the only program of its kind in Iowa. The program is a network of

30 communities engaging in solutions-driven, research-based efforts to increase the availability and affordability of child care. This program was created in response to a year-long research and listening process that identified the shortage of child care as a key barrier to women's economic self-sufficiency.

More than 650 volunteers, including business and community leaders, educational institutions, non-profit organizations, civic groups, philanthropists and elected officials, are working together to explore innovative ways to promote child care investments that support families, businesses and communities in both the short and long term. IWF is the convener, strategist and voice for the collaborative.

The Iowa Women's Economic Mobility Hub will engage additional organizations to test BCCCS strategies and practices, with a goal of expanding the program to 40 communities by November 2021.

Iowa was facing a child care crisis before COVID-19. Now the pandemic has exacerbated many of the issues surrounding child care, most notably, availability. This affects more than just parents. It affects employers, children, and



the local and state economy as a whole. This is a community issue so it's going to take a community-wide approach to address it. The collaborative has been successful due to the different perspectives that have been brought to the table. We are not only helping families, but helping child care providers open new centers and grow existing ones. We are working with businesses to expand their child care benefits and create a stronger workforce in the process.

Success also comes with flexibility. One size does not fit all. IWF has helped communities identify what's needed on a local level so they can tailor their solutions. The Women's Funding Network is giving IWF the opportunity to expand this work and help more communities across the state increase their access to quality, affordable child care, and in turn, increase women's economic mobility.

# President's Message

## Greetings from the Iowa Women's Foundation!

What a different world we are living in from the publication of our last newsletter! The pandemic has not slowed the momentum of IWF. Our team has been incredibly busy carrying out the mission our founders set for us 25 years ago: to improve the lives of Iowa's women and girls. Our efforts are more important than ever as we navigate through our changing world.

We have all had to pivot in some way due to COVID-19, and IWF is no exception:

- The staff is practicing social distancing by working from home and hosting all meetings virtually.
- Our volunteers have continued to work diligently to move the work forward.
- The Executive Committee met every other week for strategic planning and to strive for fiscal prudence throughout the spring.
- IWF applied for and received a PPP loan. This action approved by the board will provide added security as IWF continues to be forward-thinking.

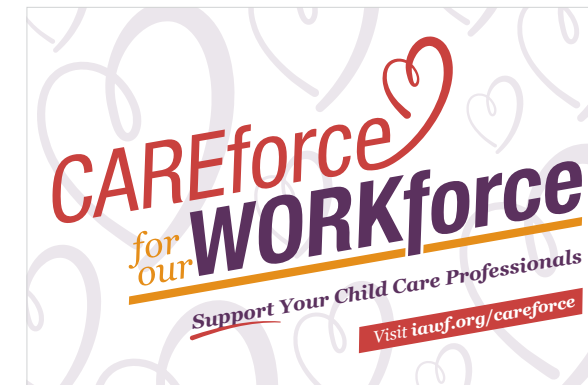
We are happy to report that IWF received 43 Core Grant applications for fiscal year 2021. Community Review Panels have been meeting to discuss each proposal. The diverse proposals all hold merit and touch upon all six identified barriers that lead to the economic self-sufficiency of women and girls in Iowa. Grant recipient decisions go through a rigorous screening process conducted by our Community Review Panels and our Grants Committee. Our 2021 grantees will be announced at the Annual Luncheon in October.

2020 Grantees, both Core and Building Community Child Care Solutions recipients, have not been immune to the impact of COVID-19. Our grantees are continuing to offer their services and programming to the best of their abilities. This includes a pre-apprenticeship program for women conducted by the Iowa Labor Center; programs to ensure low-income families have child care that provides healthy learning and a safe environment to just be a kid; permanent and stable housing through House of Hope; and the opportunity for refugee women to open culturally sensitive child care programs. Grant Committee Members have been in contact with our grantees on a regular basis and IWF continues to be a source of support for all 18 recipients.

The child care initiative set forth two and a half years ago has drawn national attention shining a light on the need for child care reform. Other states are looking to Iowa for direction as this important piece of the economic puzzle is being addressed. In a matter of weeks, this situation has become even more stark as both licensed centers and in-home providers close their doors at alarming rates because of COVID-19. IWF is leveraging the work with partners and volunteers to prepare for recovery. Now more than ever, our foundational work these past few years has provided the platform for us to lead the nation during this time of crisis.

The Public Policy Committee is working with the legislature on several bills that will provide support to our essential child care providers. An Iowa Business and Child Care Coalition has been created to bring businesses

to the table as we talk about economic recovery for our state. Efforts continue within the 30 communities already working to keep and create additional child care slots for their residents. Shared Services and a Recruitment and Retention program both remain a priority as efforts to support our child care facilities are requiring an innovative approach. Our "new normal" is creating a sense of urgency for child care for Iowa businesses as well as Iowa families.



In early May, IWF hosted the virtual Iowa Child Care Crisis for Legislators event and launched the statewide awareness campaign CAREforce for our WORKforce. The legislative meeting was hosted by Representative Ann Meyer, Representative Tracy Ehlert, Senator Mark Lofgren and Senator Zach Wahls. More than 80 individuals joined the zoom session to learn about the child care crisis. Representatives from Early Childhood Iowa, Child Care Resource & Referral, and the Department of Human Services shared updates on behalf of their agencies.

The CAREforce for our Workforce campaign has raised awareness throughout the state of the important role our child care professionals play in not only providing a safe and healthy environment for our children, but also the social, emotional, educational, and physical development of the children in their care. These professionals are educated individuals with degrees, certifications, and licensing credentials, as well as being business entrepreneurs. They are a workforce that 76% of Iowa families rely on. Child care professionals are essential workers.

In June, IWF honored 99 women throughout Iowa in the 7th edition of the signature publication Ovation: A Tribute to Iowa Women and Girls. Unveilings were hosted virtually and featured short videos of the honorees receiving their books in socially distanced settings. These women are part of Iowa's rich history. If you haven't had an opportunity to view the Unveilings, please do.



Plans for the luncheon are currently underway. As you will read in the newsletter, this promises to be a fun, enlightening, and dynamic production, much like the Ovation Unveilings. You won't want to miss it!

Thank you for your continued support as we all share the journey of this uncharted territory. Together, we are improving the lives of Iowa's women and girls.



*Chelle Lehman*

**CHELLE LEHMAN**  
President, Board of Directors





# 2020 ANNUAL LUNCHEON

## We have the **POWER**

**Perseverance, Opportunity, Wisdom, Efficacy,  
and Resilience!**

*Carrie Chapman Catt had the POWER when she directed the National American Suffrage Association and founded the League of Women Voters.*

*James Mott, husband of suffragist Lucretia Mott, had the POWER when he served as chairman of the Seneca Falls Women's Rights Convention and added his name to the Declaration of Sentiments.*

*Sojourner Truth had the POWER when she escaped slavery with her infant daughter and became a leader in the abolitionist movement.*

*Daniel Anthony, father of Susan B. Anthony, had the POWER when he opened a school where girls and boys were taught as equals.*

With your partnership, IWF has the POWER to support and continue to improve the lives of ALL of Iowa's women and girls.

IWF has been working on behalf of Iowa women and girls for 25 years, and the POWER behind this work is the support received from donors, sponsors, and events like the Annual Luncheon. This year's luncheon will be held Friday, October 9 at the location of each participant's choice—yes, the luncheon is going virtual! Join in from where you are comfortable. It will still be dynamic, engaging, and full of special guests and grant recipient stories. And with a virtual format, we have the POWER to share this event with women and girls across the state.

Lois James and Jeremy James of James Investment Group, Iowa City, our Luncheon Match Sponsor since 2014, will once again be our Match Sponsor for the 2020 Luncheon. They are leading by example and we encourage you to help us meet the \$10,000 match collectively. This support demonstrates the POWER we have when we come together to support women and girls. We are extremely grateful to Lois and Jeremy for their continued passion for the state-wide work enabling IWF to carry out the mission of improving the lives of Iowa's women and girls.

We invite you to sponsor the luncheon, host a table, or purchase individual tickets and share an hour with us along with your mother, sister, aunt, cousin, friend, or colleague. Help us spread the good work of the Iowa Women's Foundation across the state and beyond by purchasing a ticket and making a donation to IWF. The luncheon serves as a major fundraiser that supports the work of the Foundation and enables strong grantmaking to a diverse group of organizations across the state that provide opportunities for women and girls to grow and learn and be economically self-sufficient.

You will hear heartwarming stories from our grantees sharing the POWER of perseverance, opportunity, wisdom, efficacy, and resilience, and—as we have done each year since the first grants were awarded—we will announce our 2021 grantee partners!

Please add POWER to the work of the Foundation by joining us for the 24th Annual Awards Luncheon. Now more than ever, your strong support is critical to IWF's ability to fulfill its mission and ensure its grantmaking and other advocacy work continues despite COVID-induced challenges.



To sign up for the luncheon as a sponsor, table host, or to purchase individual tickets, please download registration forms on the IWF website:  
**[iawf.org/luncheon-signup/](http://iawf.org/luncheon-signup/)**

# Ovation

The 7th edition of Ovation: A Tribute to Iowa Women and Girls was unveiled in June. Ovation is the IWF's signature publication and serves as a critical part of fundraising efforts each year. This year, 99 women from across the state were recognized with a tribute. We are proud to honor these women and celebrate each for the diverse and unique backgrounds each one shares with her family, friends, colleagues, and community.

In celebration of the passing of the 19th Amendment, the book is dedicated to three women who led the suffrage movement

in Iowa: Carrie Chapman Catt, Mary Jane Coggeshall, and Annie Savery. These women's spirited leadership paved the way to Iowa becoming the 10th state in the nation to ratify the 19th Amendment in 1920. As we continue to work towards equal rights for all women, we

celebrate the achievements of so many dedicated, talented, and passionate women. They, too, are the history of Iowa.



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and requirements of social distancing, four Unveilings were pre-recorded and included video clips of the honorees receiving their gift-wrapped books. Each program is specific to a group of women based in a community. These are heartwarming clips that will make you smile as you watch.



To view each event, visit the IWF Facebook page at **[facebook.com/IowaWomensFoundation](https://facebook.com/IowaWomensFoundation)** and scroll to videos to watch the presentations in Iowa City, Iowa City/Cedar Rapids, Des Moines, and the Cedar Valley.

To view a digital version of the book, we invite you to visit **[iawf.org/ovation/](http://iawf.org/ovation/)**. The stories are full of diversity, grit, adventure, generosity, and humor. These women are strong and beautiful individuals who lead by example. These women are Iowa. ***Who will you recognize in 2021?***



## WIB Mentors

***"A mentor is someone who allows  
you to see the hope inside yourself"***

**- OPRAH WINFREY**

***Are you a professional businesswoman looking for a chance to pay it forward?*** Become a mentor and help a young woman navigate through the business world!

The Women in Business chapter at the University of Iowa Tippie College of Business is looking for mentors to support, advise, and inspire their student members. Mentors and mentees will meet once a month to discuss topics, build a relationship, and gain knowledge into the business world. We hope to give mentors and members the opportunity to build lasting relationships through this program! **To sign up for the 2020-2021 academic year, please contact Erin Goss at [erin-goss@uiowa.edu](mailto:erin-goss@uiowa.edu) by August 28.**



# CAREforce for our WORKforce Campaign



The Iowa Women’s Foundation is launching a new campaign to increase the recognition of child care providers as essential, professional workers. The campaign, **CAREforce for our WORKforce**, will also give the public information on how they can support child care providers during and after the pandemic. “Child care workers are not babysitters—they are highly-trained professionals who provide the critical early childhood support kids need for success later in life,” said Dawn Oliver Wiand, Executive Director for IWF. “They’re essential for parents. They’re essential for businesses. And essential for society as we know it.” IWF will be distributing window clings, stickers, posters, and yard signs emblazoned with the **CAREforce for our WORKforce** logo and is also launching a web page with information for those interested in helping their local providers. Individuals looking to support their local child care professionals can visit [iawf.org/careforce](http://iawf.org/careforce) for a list of supplies and services that can be donated.

Those interested in participating in the **CAREforce for our WORKforce** campaign as a volunteer may contact Dawn at [dawn@iawf.org](mailto:dawn@iawf.org) for more information.

# 2020 Iowa Legislative Update

BY SENATOR ZACH WAHLS

The ongoing novel coronavirus pandemic has turned the lives of people across our state upside down and is accelerating many trends—some good, many bad—that existed before its onset. One of the trends that has been affected is the deterioration of access to affordable, quality child care in our state. Research conducted by the Iowa Women’s Foundation—where I serve as a proud member of the Board of Directors—has shown that our state was already failing to provide adequate child care slots, and I fear this pandemic will make that reality worse, not better.

The Iowa Legislature had the opportunity to take steps in support of our child care system, and even though several bills advanced out of the Iowa House, none advanced in the Senate. By the time the Legislature reconvenes next January, it is likely Iowa’s child care crisis will be much worse than it is today. If you have not already, please be sure to reach out to your state Senator and Representative (you can look them up at: [legis.iowa.gov/legislators](http://legis.iowa.gov/legislators)/find if you don’t know them already) and make sure they know protecting Iowa child care providers is a critical issue for you.

The more our legislators hear from their constituents, the more likely they are to advance these bills next year. The good news is that several bills have already been introduced, now they just need to be voted on and passed—and that won’t happen until enough Senators decide to make it a priority. This non-partisan issue needs all of our support. Contact your legislators today!

Senator Zach Wahls is a Democrat from Coralville and represents Cedar, Johnson, and Muscatine Counties in the Iowa Senate. He can be contacted at (319) 318-2094 or [zach.wahls@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:zach.wahls@legis.iowa.gov)

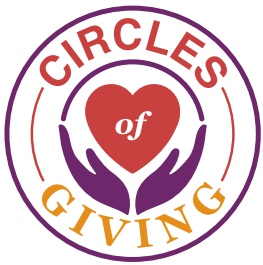


# Your Gifts

The Iowa Women’s Foundation relies on the generous gifts provided by our donors to assist in improving the lives of Iowa’s women and girls. This work is even more important as we maneuver through the COVID pandemic and provide support for the wellbeing of our female head of households, child care providers, and businesses, much of where the economic impact of this pandemic has been felt the hardest. Even before COVID hit, Iowa was in the midst of a child care crisis. Without child care, single mothers struggle with hard choices, and businesses are left without the workforce to meet their goals. We need the support of everyone across the state as we leverage funds to have the most impact for the benefit of Iowans.


As evidenced by the number of grants submitted and the fabulous programs seeking funds, we know that together your support is providing an opportunity for women and girls all across the state to obtain the financial security to be self-sufficient, and the pride that is instilled in these individuals has a lifelong impact that generations to come will see and follow. The work of the Foundation continues as we move towards tackling the barriers identified as obstacles to women’s economic self-sufficiency: employment, child care, housing, education/training, transportation, and mentoring.

How can you support these endeavors? We’re glad you asked! Get involved by sharing your time, talents, and resources. We need feet on the ground to actively move the work forward, and we need your financial support.



Circles of Giving provides an opportunity for donors to make a three-year pledge to the Foundation. If you are brand new to the Foundation, you may start your pledge at a minimum of \$100 a year for three years. The next level is for our seasoned donors. At \$250 or more per year you are continuing to make a difference in the lives of Iowa’s women and girls. If you have already pledged your support for three years, or are reaching your renewal date, please consider increasing your pledge by 10%. Your donation is priceless, and we are truly grateful for your support!

The Iowa Women’s Foundation has established the 18% Fund. This fund specifically provides an opportunity for men to support the work of the Foundation furthering gender equity for all citizens of Iowa. 18% is the national percentage in the wage gap between men and women in the United States. In Iowa, it is closer to 22%. By pledging \$250 a year for three years, your pledge will help expand critical programs necessary for women and girls to succeed. Your commitment will reinforce the scope of IWF’s impact in enabling a more economically secure existence for women and girls in our state. Join the men on the IWF Board of Directors and be among the first to make a pledge today!

 **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

2201 East Grantview Drive  
Suite 200  
Coralville, Iowa 52241

**SAVE THE DATE**

**ANNUAL LUNCHEON**

October 9, 2020

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**GRAPES & GRATITUDE**

Cedar Rapids/Iowa City

November 19, 2020

Des Moines

TBD

Cedar Valley

December 8, 2020

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**CHILD CARE SUMMIT**

TBD

**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



iawf.org



/IowaWomensFoundation



(319) 774-3813



@iowawomensfdn

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**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, OPERATIONS**

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