



Iowa Women's Foundation

SUMMER 2021 NEWSLETTER



Get Ready for the 25th Annual Luncheon!

Our event of the year is almost here! Network with colleagues, meet new friends and see what we've been up to at the 25th Annual IWF Luncheon—happening Thursday, October 7 at 11:30 a.m. at the Coralville Marriott (soon to be renamed the Hyatt Regency Coralville Hotel & Conference Center).

Limited in-person seating will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Can't join in person? Purchase a virtual ticket and participate from the comfort of your own space. Get your ticket(s) today to save your seat!

Sign up in seconds at iawf.org/luncheon-signup/ or send a check in the enclosed envelope.

What It's All About—Our 2022 Core Grant Partners

Don't miss the big moment when we announce our 2022 Core Grantee Partners and hear from past grant recipients. See how your support to IWF directly impacts their programs and helps shatter barriers to women's economic self-sufficiency. This is one of our favorite moments of the year—we're thrilled to make the announcement with our friends at our side again!

25th Annual Luncheon



Meet Our 2021 Keynote— Philanthropist Chris Grumm

Chris is the past President/CEO of the Women's Funding Network, which oversees 140+ women's funds around the world. She's also the former Executive Director of the Chicago Women's Foundation, where she initiated programs that provide sustainable, long-term change for women and girls. She currently serves as president of Chris Grumm Consulting Group, continuing her passion for promoting social change and philanthropy.

Meet the 2021 Annual Luncheon Match Sponsor— James Investment Group

Lois James and Jeremy James of James Investment Group, Iowa City, are once again our Luncheon Match Sponsors. *Why?* As Lois notes, ***"When I give money to the Iowa Women's Foundation, I know my dollars will be allocated in a way that is strategic, targeted, and leveraged to truly address the needs of women and girls in the State of Iowa."*** Because of their support and matching donations, IWF grants reach women and girls in ALL of Iowa's 99 counties. Lois and Jeremy lead by example. Join us at the luncheon and be there when we meet their \$10,000 match together!



Attend, Sponsor, Host—Ways to Stretch Your Impact

Sponsor the luncheon, host a table, or purchase individual tickets! Go ahead and invite your mother, sister, aunt, cousin, friend, neighbor, or colleague to join. *Why?* ***Because your support makes a difference.*** The luncheon is a critical annual fundraiser that makes our diverse grantmaking possible. When we come together—we create opportunities for ALL women and girls to become confident, educated, and self-sufficient. That's why!

You play a key role in IWF's success. It's your commitment that helps us continue improving the lives of Iowa's women and girls. Join us on October 7 and be a part of the WHY!

Event Recap—Ovation 2021



One hundred thirty two amazing Iowa women were honored in the **8th edition of OVATION: A Tribute to Iowa Women and Girls** in June. This year's honorees include serial entrepreneurs who have never let an opportunity pass them by; civil servants who jumped at the chance to help others; and refugees who, despite great personal loss, rebuilt their lives through spectacular perseverance. These are only a few of the many stories you'll find in this year's book.

To view a digital version of the book, visit iawf.org/ovation/. To view the individual pre-recorded programs, visit facebook.com/IowaWomensFoundation and head to the video tab to watch presentations in Iowa City, Cedar Rapids, Des Moines, and the Cedar Valley. (You do not need to have a Facebook account to access the programs.) These heartwarming clips will bring a smile to your face!



A Word from the President:

Iowa's Economy Needs Lasting Child Care Solutions



The Iowa Women's Foundation was invited to join Governor Kim Reynolds' Child Care Task Force this spring. The group met for 100 days to develop a comprehensive strategy to address issues that contribute to the child care barrier in Iowa. I was honored to work alongside other statewide members to build a foundation for potential action by the Governor, legislature, communities, and employers to reduce both short- and long-term barriers to child care, and get people back to work.

As Iowa's unemployment numbers ticked up last month, many wonder what it will take to get our state's economy moving. Raise wages or trimming unemployment are two options, but there's another—improving access to affordable child care.

As the pandemic made brutally clear, working parents need child care to hold down a job. This is not just a family concern. COVID has made it clear that these challenges are an economic matter, and that all sectors must be involved in finding the solution. This is why it is so important to study our state's child care challenges.

The Iowa Women's Foundation (IWF) has been working in 41 communities across the state to understand what's at stake in caring for our state's youngest residents. Along the way, we've learned a lot about how public and private sectors can work together to get the job done.

Luckily, the action steps to solve these challenges are pretty clear: We need to support the child care workforce with increased wages and benefits. We must increase and sustain business investments in child care through public-private partnerships and create a multi-pronged approach to support it through tax credits. Finally, to ensure we reach families needing help the most, we need to raise the Child Care Assistance entrance income limits to 185% in increments of 5% each year.

How can you help address the child care issue? Get involved in your local community. Be a voice for your business, your community, your neighborhood families, and the children of Iowa. Advocate and talk to your local legislators. Join the Iowa Women's Foundation and shatter the child care barrier to women's economic success.

Dawn Oliver Wiand
President/CEO

Did You Know...

Women—impacted the most by the pandemic—are leaving the workforce in droves. Here's what you need to know about COVID-19's impact on Iowa women:



Pre-COVID, **Iowa's female workforce was 770,792**. Since the start of the pandemic, 2.3 million women in the United States have left the workforce—including **53,500 Iowa women**.



According to the National Women's Law Center, **women made up 49% of the overall workforce pre-COVID, but accounted for nearly 60% of job losses**, outnumbering men in all sectors—nationwide and in Iowa.



In April 2021, the economy added fewer jobs than expected, with all job gains going to men while the number of women working or looking for work dropped.



U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen has cited child care as the reason people are not returning to work, noting “caregiving responsibilities and the absence of child care are still important reasons why people are unable to return to work.”

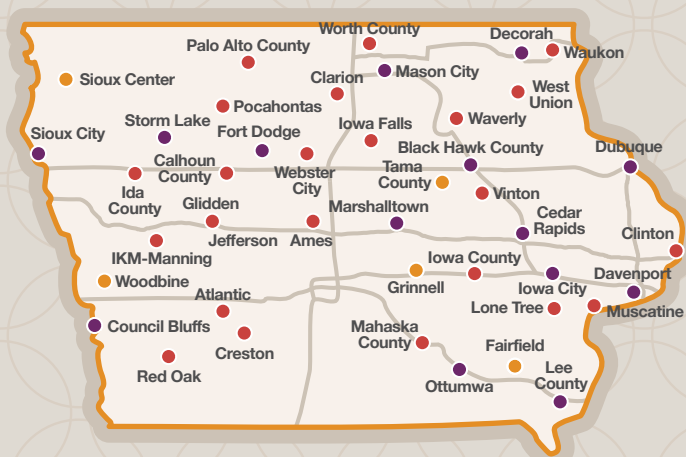


Economic estimates predict **employment for women may not recover until 2024**—two full years after recovery for men.

This is why IWF does what it does! And it's why your support is more important than ever! Like to get hands-on? Become a member of one of several IWF committees to share your talents and expertise! Love our events? Host a table at the Annual Luncheon, or purchase a ticket to attend. Join the Circles of Giving or the 18% Fund. Introduce a friend, neighbor, or colleague to our work. We can't do this alone—help us shatter the barriers to women's economic self-sufficiency by doing what you're already passionate about.

Tackling the Child Care Crisis

Collaboration— 41 Communities and Counting!



Since 2017, IWF has worked to make quality child care more accessible and affordable. Through the Building Community Child Care Solutions Collaborative (BCCCS), we've collaborated with 41 communities across the state—and more than 700 volunteers—to explore innovative child care investments that support families, businesses, and communities in both the short and long term.

This one-of-a-kind network engages in solution-driven efforts that are research-based and community-led. By listening, educating, and engaging, the BCCCS Collaborative lets us learn from each other and work together. As the convener, strategist, and voice for BCCCS, IWF's strong direction and leadership provide accountability through two-way reporting and communications with each community we work with.

To date, BCCCS communities have:

- Increased the number of child care slots by 3,308
- Established in-home providers in 34 communities, creating opportunities for entrepreneurship
- Opened 8 new child care centers, with another 20 in planning and fundraising stages
- Expanded 4 child care centers, with 16 more working to increase their capacity
- Trained new entrepreneurs and center staff through Child Care Ready—a fast-track training program supported by the Governor's Employer Innovation Fund
- Supported current providers with virtual visits and trainings, PPE supplies, funding from CARES, professional development, and so much more
- Established the statewide Iowa Businesses and Child Care Coalition to strategically address the child care issue from a business and workforce perspective
- Helped businesses invest in child care through: onsite child care, including child care information in new hire packets, forming a child care co-op, back-up care, subsidized care, and financially supporting expansion and construction costs
- Established before- and after-school programs in Grinnell and Glidden, and helped Ottumwa expand their existing program
- Helped Community Colleges develop child care-related business courses and create certificate programs
- Worked with CCR&R, IWF, and community volunteers to create a shared services program, shared staffing program, and center stabilization team
- Successfully advocated with elected local, state and national Iowa officials to make child care a priority, with policies to increase availability, affordability and sustainability
- Successfully led efforts to increase awareness of the child care crisis in the media

Early Childhood Iowa and Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) have been instrumental in supporting the child care initiative, along with local community partners who are essential to the success of this work. Because of the BCCCS partners, we will shatter the child care barrier. But our work is just beginning, and much more needs to be done before quality, affordable child care is indeed available for all.

To join your local BCCCS collaborative, visit
iawf.org/child-care-solutions/

Grantmaking: The Heart of What We Do



As we celebrate our 25th year of grantmaking, we're proud to have awarded \$1.15 M to 248 programs across the state benefitting thousands of women and girls in all 99 Iowa counties. Talk about impact!

Core Grants

The Core Grants program was established in 1996 to help organizations across the state support women and girls. This program continues to grow and accepts applications annually in the spring. To qualify for a Core Grant, applications must address one of the six barriers to women's economic self-sufficiency: child care, education/training, employment, housing, transportation, or mentors. After a formal review of applications by our Community Review Panels (CRPs) and Grants Committee, a diverse group of projects is considered by our Board of Directors, which makes the final decision for funding.

Building Community Child Care Solutions Fund (BCCCSF)

The BCCCSF was created to shatter the child care barrier and increase the number of child care slots within the state. A volunteer group of child care experts are convened to review BCCCSF applications and make recommendations to the Board of Directors for funding.

Grant awards for both Core and BCCCSF are presented in January to be used in that calendar year. Site visits are scheduled to meet one-on-one with grantees throughout the summer months. A mid-year report is submitted and reviewed to see progress with the programs funded, and a year-end report is completed providing outcomes, individuals served, and impact created.

As one donor recently noted, ***"I feel really good about the programs IWF supports and am confident with the reporting methods they require their grantees to complete. It shows me where and how my donations are used and the impact I can have with others to support women and girls."***

Micro Grants

In addition to Core and BCCCSF Grants, IWF now offers Micro Grants—small, one-time cash awards given to nonprofits and other community organizations that may not be eligible for traditional grants. These funds (between \$300 and \$1,000) are to be used for immediate needs. Applicants must serve women and girls, and their organizations must address at least one of the six identified barriers to women's economic self-sufficiency.

Complete details for each grantmaking program can be found at iawf.org/grantmaking/





**IOWA WOMEN'S
FOUNDATION**

2201 East Grantview Drive
Suite 200
Coralville, Iowa 52241

SAVE THE DATE

COFFEE *with* DAWN



Join us from your kitchen table the first Tuesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. for Coffee With Dawn! President/CEO Dawn Oliver Wiand will share current updates on the Foundation, host guest speakers to weigh in on timely events, and stay connected over a cup of coffee.

25th ANNUAL LUNCHEON

To reserve your seat, visit
iawf.org/luncheon-signup/

The 25th Annual Luncheon will be held October 7, 2021 at the Coralville Marriott Hotel and Conference Center (soon to be a Hyatt Regency) at 11:30 a.m. Space is limited—purchase a table or in-person tickets now before they sell out! A Private Broadcast will also be available for those who would like to attend virtually.


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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