



Improving the lives of Iowa's women & girls

IOWA WOMEN'S
FOUNDATION

2023 Community Child Care Solutions: Invitation to Submit a Letter of Interest for 2024 Funding

Funding Opportunity

The Iowa Women's Foundation (IWF) has established the Child Care Solutions Fund (CCSF). The CCSF is a "field of interest" fund for grantmaking and action hosted by the Iowa Women's Foundation. In particular, the CCSF is designated 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 affordable child care in Iowa. The funds in the CCSF are invested in organizations and institutions focused on innovative and sustainable strategies/solutions ensuring access to affordable quality child care that decreases the work force gap and ultimately increases women's economic security across Iowa.

Who is Eligible to Apply?

All potential programs must be or plan to be a registered child development home, licensed child care center or preschool, or a Department of Education preschool. You must provide a certificate of registration or license with your LOI. All programs must work to increase the availability of quality, affordable child care in the state of Iowa.

Ideal partners for the CCSF include, but are not limited to, non-profit organizations, for-profit institutions, community partners, and entrepreneurs that are serious about creating and sustaining solutions for quality affordable child care in their areas. Unlike the IWF's Core grantmaking, this fund can be used to support community-based solutions such as: building and expanding a child care center, maintaining and increasing child care entrepreneurs, establishing before and after school programs, innovatively addressing child care for 2nd and 3rd shift workers and creating businesses and child care partnerships. Funds are not to be used for operational expenses or balancing a budget.

What are the IWF's priorities in awarding CCSF grants?

Economic self-sufficiency for all of Iowa's women and girls is central to the mission of the Iowa Women's Foundation and to our grant programs.

The CCSF is a "field of interest" fund for grantmaking and action hosted by the Iowa Women's Foundation. In particular, this fund is designated to improve the lives of Iowa's women and girls through financial independence, specifically by improving the availability of, and access to, quality, affordable child care in Iowa. The funds in the CCSF are invested in organizations and institutions focused on innovative and sustainable strategies/solutions ensuring access to affordable, quality child care that decreases the work force gap and ultimately increases women's economic security across Iowa.

The IWF uses research to identify the biggest barriers to women's success as well as their greatest needs and encourages others, including potential grantees, to do the same.

The IWF looks to communities across Iowa to help us better understand the barriers impacting women and girls' economic security. In the summer of 2015, we met with leaders and members of 18 different Iowa communities to discuss what those barriers were and together six barriers were identified: employment, child care, housing, education/training, transportation and mentors.

The IWF returned to those 18 communities in 2016, we shared the results, interacted with the findings and identified a course of action to address one of the barriers the communities felt was the most



significant—child care. To date, the Foundation is working with 50 communities across the state to shatter the barrier to child care.

How to Apply

A Letter of Interest (LOI) on your business letterhead must be submitted by Friday, July 28th, 2023, 5:00 pm and emailed to grants@iawf.org with the subject line: **Child Care Letter of Interest**. Please read the LOI Guidelines before starting your request.

Questions to Address in your Letter of Interest

Below are the questions that you will be asked to address in your Letter of Interest. Please be brief but concise with your answers. You may not have all the details ironed out just yet, that's ok. Be as thorough as you are able so our reviewers can get a solid idea of your program, how you are filling your specific need, and the funds needed to meet the need.

- What is the mission of your organization?
- Clearly state the need for the project you are proposing for funding.
- What are your plans to meet this need?
- Estimated total amount budgeted for the entire project?
- Estimated amount requested from IWF?
- How will the requested funds from IWF be used?

You must include a copy of your child care registration or license, or documentation noting you are a Department of Education preschool to be eligible. If you are in the process of becoming registered or licensed, you must show proof with a letter from your local area Iowa Child Care Resource & Referral agency.

All proposals MUST show that you are increasing the number of child care spaces to be selected for the next step in the funding process.

Statewide Information Session

An information session will be held via zoom for all that would like to learn more about the process and how to apply. Two sessions will be held in June 2023 – more details to follow. Please RSVP to grants@iawf.org with **CCSF Information Session** in the subject line and request the link to attend.

Timeline

July 28, 2023 – 5:00 pm: All Letters of Interest must be submitted via email

September 1, 2023: Each applicant will be notified of their status. Those moving to the next round of review will be invited to complete a more detailed electronic application at that time.

October 6, 2023 - 5:00 pm: Full applications must be submitted.

November 27, 2023: A panel of child care experts will review all applications. Those selected for a grant award will be notified by November 27th.

January 2024: The first half of your award will be issued with the second half sent after mid-year reports are submitted and approved in July. Funds are to be used during the 2024 calendar year. A mid- and year-end report will be required, and a site visit will be scheduled in 2024.

If you have any questions regarding Community Child Care Solutions Fund Grants, please contact IWF: grants@iawf.org or call 319-774-3815.

