



IOWA WOMEN'S
FOUNDATION



2025

Annual
Report

STAFF

The Iowa Women's Foundation team is driven to create lasting change for women and girls statewide, advancing solutions through research, grantmaking, advocacy, education and collaboration.



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President and CEO



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Vision

We envision a future where economic prosperity is a shared priority, and communities and policies work together so opportunities are accessible, pathways are clear and Iowa's women and girls can thrive.

Mission

The Iowa Women's Foundation is committed to **improving the lives of Iowa's women and girls.**

A Message from Our CEO

Dear Supporters and Partners of IWF,

As I reflect on 2025, I'm filled with both hope and a sense of urgency—hope because of the extraordinary resilience, leadership and collective action I witness every day in Iowa communities and a sense of urgency because the challenges facing women and girls in our state and country remain significant.

Across the United States, women continue to shape our economy, lead our families and strengthen our civic life. Women now earn the majority of college degrees, launch businesses at record rates and serve in leadership roles once closed to them.

Here in Iowa, women are essential to our state's workforce by leading classrooms, running small businesses, staffing healthcare facilities and sustaining our agricultural communities. Yet, many women across the country and our state, particularly in rural areas, struggle to access healthcare, childcare, transportation and living-wage employment. Women are more likely than men to work in lower-paying sectors while shouldering most family caregiving responsibilities.

Iowa girls are achieving academically and participating in record numbers in extracurricular activities and leadership programs. But geography, income and race/ethnicity still shape opportunity. In some communities, broadband access determines whether a girl can complete her homework or not. In others, access to mentors determines whether she sees herself in a STEM career, public office or executive leadership or not. Opportunity should never depend on where a girl grows up but too often, it does.

This is why our work matters, where our work begins and where your partnership makes dreams possible.

Over the past year, the Iowa Women's Foundation has invested in programs that expand economic prosperity, increase access to education and leadership development and support survivors of violence across our state. We've partnered with communities and nonprofits throughout Iowa to tackle systemic barriers, not just their symptoms.

We know that when a woman achieves financial stability, her family thrives. When a girl gains confidence and skills, her entire community benefits. Research consistently shows that investing in women and girls produces measurable returns: higher household incomes, stronger local economies, improved health outcomes and greater civic engagement.

The state of women and girls in Iowa, and in the United States, is not defined solely by disparities. It's also defined by hope and momentum. We're in a pivotal moment, one that calls for bold partnerships, sustained generous investment and unwavering belief in the potential of every woman and girl. As we look ahead, our commitment remains clear: to improve the lives of Iowa's women and girls. To do so, we must all act with a sense of urgency.

It is your generous support that fuels the programs, partnerships and opportunities described in this report. With your continued investment, we can reach more women, empower more girls and build more communities where everyone has the chance to succeed. Thank you for standing with us. Your partnership fuels progress. Together, we're not only responding to today's challenges, we're also building a more equitable and prosperous future for generations of Iowa women and girls.

With gratitude and determination,

Claudia Schabel

Claudia Schabel

President and CEO, Iowa Women's Foundation





2025 GRANTMAKING

IWF invests in organizations that address barriers preventing Iowa's women and girls from achieving economic prosperity.

Total Grantmaking: **\$411,700**

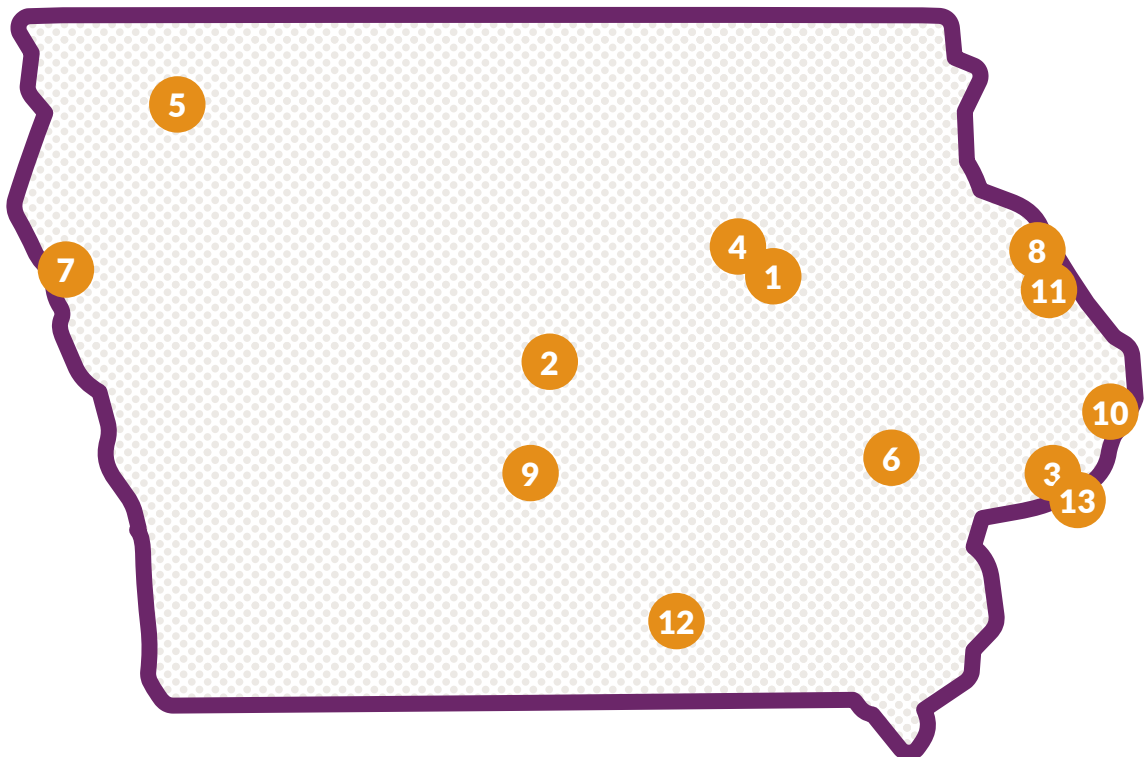
13 Core Grants: **\$400,000**

13 Emergency Grants: **\$11,700**

26 Organizations Funded

2025 Core Grantees

Through grantmaking, the Iowa Women's Foundation invests in organizations that expand opportunities for Iowa's women and girls. In 2025, IWF awarded \$400,000 in Core Grants to 13 organizations across the state. These funds power programs in 2026 that help drive long-term solutions and community-led change throughout the state.



1 \$50,000 | HOUSE OF HOPE – WATERLOO

Barrier: Education/Training

House of Hope empowers single mothers and young women aging out of foster care. IWF funding supports wraparound services, financial literacy education and other training opportunities for women.

2 \$50,000 | ANCHORED HOPE – AMES

Barrier: Housing

Anchored Hope's two-year supportive housing program serves young adults who have aged out of foster care. Grant funding supports a safe transition for young women so they can shift their focus to becoming independent, thriving adults.

3 \$50,000 | FAMILY RESOURCES – DAVENPORT

Barrier: Housing

Family Resources provides direct support services to individuals and families, including female survivors of domestic violence. IWF funding supports emergency shelter and rapid re-housing programs, giving survivors safety and stability as they heal and move forward.

4 \$50,000 | TRY PIE BAKERY – WATERLOO

Barriers: Employment, Education/Training

Try Pie is a teen employment program that offers experiential learning to prepare for future employment. IWF's grant funding supports programming that teaches young women how to recognize their strengths, contribute to their community and manage their paychecks.

5 \$50,000 | SANBORN DAYCARE – SANBORN

Barriers: Childcare

Kids Express Daycare provides safe, nurturing and educational childcare services in Sanborn and surrounding communities. Grant funding expands access to childcare by helping relocate the center to a larger, vacant space within a local senior living facility.

6 \$35,000 | JOHNSON CO. AFFORDABLE HOUSING – IOWA CITY

Barriers: Childcare, Education/Training

The Johnson Co. Affordable Housing Coalition launched a financial literacy and stable housing education program for childcare providers. Grant funding supports this program, reinforcing our efforts to stabilize and strengthen our childcare workforce.

7 \$28,500 | NATIVE AMERICAN CHILD CARE CENTER – SIOUX CITY

Barrier: Childcare

The Native American Child Care Center began as a cooperative effort with local United Methodists. IWF funding enables the center to expand hours and subsidize costs, increasing access to quality, affordable childcare for families.

8 \$25,000 | COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF GREATER DBQ - DUBUQUE*Barrier: Childcare*

The Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque launched a regional expansion of the Dubuque County Childcare Solutions Fund, beginning with a pilot program in Clayton County as well as a childcare provider outreach campaign and needs assessments in Allamakee, Delaware, Clinton, Jackson and Jones Counties. IWF's grant funding supports these efforts.

9 \$20,000 | DRESS FOR SUCCESS - URBANDALE*Barrier: Employment*

Dress for Success offers professional clothing, retention programs and ongoing support to women transitioning into employment. IWF's grant funding also supports the expansion of a Career Center and individualized employment services.

10 \$19,000 | VINCE JETTER COMMUNITY CENTER - CLINTON*Barrier: Mentorship*

The Vince Jetter Community Center provides diverse services to individuals, families and groups, to create a safe and nonviolent community. IWF's grant funding supports programming that empowers Black girls through mentorship, including topics like self-esteem and financial literacy.

11 \$10,000 | DBQ AREA LABOR-MANAGEMENT COUNCIL - DUBUQUE*Barrier: Education/Training*

The Dubuque Area Labor-Management Council focuses on industrial retention and attraction and labor-management relations in the community. Funding supports its TechWORKS program, which empowers female high school students to explore careers and readiness opportunities in the trades.

12 \$7,500 | MORAVIA COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT - MORAVIA*Barrier: Childcare*

Moravia School District operates the only childcare center in the community. Grant funding helps fulfill equipment and furnishing needs for a new, larger location, furthering IWF's work to make quality childcare more accessible across the state.

13 \$5,000 | LEAD(H)ER - DAVENPORT*Barrier: Mentorship*

Lead(h)er bridges the gap in professional development opportunities available for working women. IWF's grant funding supports Lead(h)er's free Strike A Match Mentorship program, which has served more than 1,100 women through 2025.

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT:

FUNDING FOR A PATH FORWARD



Jane arrived at Family Resources with her two-month-old baby and fierce determination. After years of abuse, she had made the decision to leave a long-term abuser to protect herself and her newborn child. But safety came with a new set of challenges.

The financial abuse she'd endured was still casting a shadow on her housing situation. Damaged credit, coerced debt and a history shaped by manipulation made landlords hesitate. Weeks passed in shelter with each denied housing application.

Jane began to question whether she could make it on her own, and a life in shelters wasn't what she wanted for herself or her child. She considered the unthinkable: returning to the person she had risked everything to escape. It became clear that without intervention, she and her baby may not have remained safe.

With Jane's permission, the team at Family Resources began advocating to landlords directly, revealing the reasons behind the numbers they saw on her applications.

They explained how financial abuse works, how it traps survivors and how Jane's credit history was not a reflection of irresponsibility, but of survival.

Advocacy painted the picture that paperwork never could: a resilient, capable and determined mother working to rebuild her life for herself and her child.

Through flexible funding, Family Resources backed advocacy with action, covering her security deposit, first month's rent and providing additional rental assistance for a stable foundation. Within days, everything changed.

Jane was approved for an apartment and moved in that same week. For the first time in a long time, the heaviness began to lift, and she felt like she could breathe. She spoke about feeling hopeful again and finally having a sense of control over her life. Because of Family Resources, she wasn't disregarded due to her history. She was seen for her potential.

With a safe place to call home, her focus shifted from survival to healing. She began to process the physical, emotional and psychological trauma of her abuse, taking care of herself in ways she had never done before. She continued to work and improve her financial situation. Most importantly, she was able to raise her baby in a safe and stable environment.

Jane's story reflects several large truths. Domestic violence isn't always physical. Financial and emotional abuse and manipulation can be just as damaging and limiting for victims. In addition, housing and other systems are not designed to recognize these realities, leaving survivors to face barrier after barrier.

The difference for Jane was simple, but powerful: Family Resources took the time to understand and chose to act, much like the Iowa Women's Foundation does for Iowa's women and girls and the systems that fail them. Stories such as Jane's are not isolated successes; they're evidence of what becomes possible when a community commits to investing intentionally and persistently in its women and girls. These are the moments that transform lives and they happen because people like you choose to invest in change.

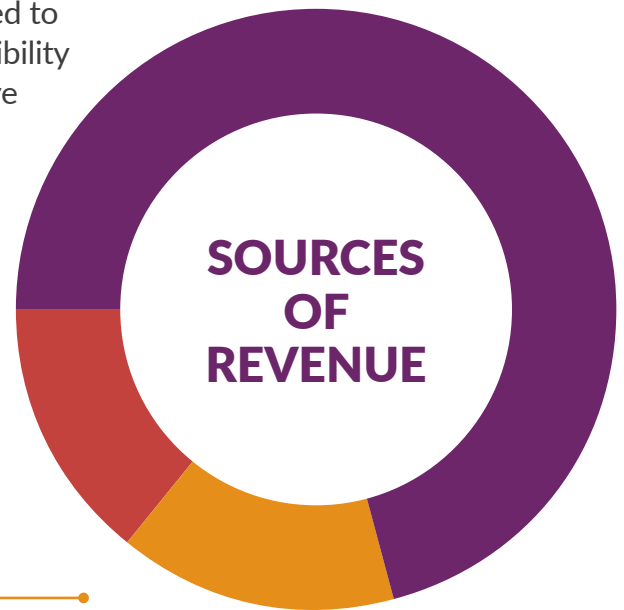


IWF's work is powered by a network of supporters committed to creating a stronger Iowa. Transparency and financial responsibility are top priorities, and funds are directed where they can drive the greatest progress for women and girls statewide.

71% Corporate & Foundation

14% Individual Donors

15% Government Grants



Thank You

to every donor, partner, supporter and advocate. Your generosity fuels opportunity and lasting change for Iowa's women and girls.

Special thanks to last year's Ambassadors! The following individual donors gave a total of \$1,000+ in 2025:

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Move the mission forward and create lasting change for Iowa's women and girls. Scan to donate.



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P.O. Box 5044, Coralville, IA 52241

www.iawf.org