The *Iowa Community Foundations Initiative* is a core program area for the Iowa Council of Foundations (ICoF) in its role as the state's Lead Philanthropic Entity—a designation we are proud to have held since 2004. The Initiative helps host and affiliate community foundations carry out their missions more effectively through a variety of activities, including the annual CONNECT conference, access to webinars and other educational opportunities, and marketing support.

In keeping with these efforts, ICoF plans to offer the *Iowa Council of Foundation's Community Foundation Capacity Building Grant Program* again in 2017. The purpose of this grant program is to support opportunities for qualified community foundations and their affiliates to engage in activities that increase their ability to grow/build sustainable endowments. The capacity building grant program's intent is to allow community foundations to secure the professional and/or timely assistance necessary to enhance their organizational capacity as well as address important issues of fund development and effectiveness. Formerly know as the ICoF Staff-Like Capacity Grants Program, the Community Foundation Capacity Building Program is expanding beyond staffing support in an effort to achieve a greater, more measurable impact on endowment growth for affiliate community foundations.

You can view the [Capacity Building Grants Webinar recording from January 17 here](https://youtu.be/D9Oy1x9SC_g). **Guidelines and details will be released following the webinar.**

Five Things You Need to Know:

1. The Deadlines.

The Eligibility Pre-Application is available January 17-February 17.  Once your Eligibility Application is approved, you will be provided with a full grant application. The full grant application submission deadline is Friday, March 31, 2017. No applications will be received after 5:00 p.m. on this date. Grant recipients will be announced in May 2017 and recipients will receive their grant funding shortly thereafter.

2. The Guidelines and Link to Pre-Application.

[Click here to access the guidelines](http://www.iowacommunityfoundations.org/filesimages/Knowledge%20Center/Capacity%20Grants%20Program/2017%20Cap%20Bldg%20Grant%20Guidelines.docx) and [click here to access the pre-application](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RCBL6R2).

3. January 17 Capacity Grant Building Program Webinar.

ICoF is hosting a webinar Tuesday, January 17 at 10 am  regarding the 2017 Capacity Building Grant Program.  This webinar will provide you with information about how the application process works, examples of successful past grants and an opportunity to ask any questions you have about this grant program.  The webinar will last approximately 30 minutes.  [Here is a link to additional information and  registration for you or to share with your affiliates](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/T3DF9K5).

4. The Review Process.

Recipients will be selected through a competitive application process. Preference will be given to applications that provide clear strategies for growing endowment funds as opposed to mere administrative support.

5. The Awards.

Grant awards are anticipated to be in the range of $1,000 - $15,000.

6. The Match Requirement.

To demonstrate commitment to the project, a 50 percent cash match is required.

Please contact Michele Walstrom, Community Foundation Services Coordinator, at mwalstrom@iowacounciloffoundations.org with any questions.