



# Strengthening & Growing Philanthropy in Iowa

## FY·21 | ANNUAL REPORT

The Iowa Council of Foundations (ICoF) is a statewide membership network of Iowa grantmakers committed to strengthening philanthropy and growing its impact throughout the state. We are a member-driven organization.

### FY21 Quarterly Membership Meetings & Programs:



**Making It Stick: From Disaster Response to Long-Term Institutional Change** *This program provided an opportunity for ICoF members to consider the changes they made in their grantmaking practice during the pandemic and asked them to consider which of these changes could benefit their applicants, grantees and communities in the long-term. The dialogue built on our initial Trust-based Philanthropy session in early 2020.*



Shaady Salehi  
Trust-based Philanthropy Project



Brenda Solozano  
Headwaters Foundation



Robert Phillips  
Headwaters Foundation



**Decolonizing Wealth: Indigenous Wisdom to Heal Divides and Restore Balance** *This program featured a dynamic conversation with Decolonizing Wealth author Edgar Villanueva who highlighted his Seven Steps to Healing: grieve, apologize, listen, relate, represent, invest, and repair.*



Edgar Villanueva  
Author & Expert on Social Justice Philanthropy



Sharina Sallis  
Moderator  
CUNA Mutual Group

*\*This program was sponsored by and co-hosted in partnership with the Iowa Credit Union Foundation and CUNA Mutual Group.*



**Building Racial Equity: The Role of Philanthropy** *This two-day program provided an introduction to the roles, responsibilities, and opportunities for philanthropy to advance racial equity.*



Michele Kumi Baer  
Race Forward



Jesse Villalobos  
Race Forward

*\*This program was supported by grant funding from United Philanthropy Forum and co-sponsored by the Claude W. and Dolly Ahrens Foundation, Grinnell College and the Greater Poweshiek Community Foundation.*



**Championing BIPOC Leaders in Our Communities** *This program began the night prior with the Harkin Institute for Public Policy & Citizen Engagement's Sussman Lecture and continued the following day as we debriefed Nikole Hannah-Jones' remarks and also heard from local BIPOC leaders about their work in Iowa communities to advance racial equity.*



Nikole Hannah-Jones  
1619 Project



Joseph Jones  
The Harkin Institute



Joy Briscoe  
Waterloo Community Schools

In addition, we hosted topical webinars focused on derecho response, public policy priorities, child care, accessing free data sources, and a variety of topics related to COVID-19 response and recovery.

### WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

- Becky Miles-Polka, Associate Member • Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa • Fareway
- Grinnell Mutual Group Foundation • Holmes Murphy Foundation • Iowa Health Care Association
- Needmor Fund • Royal Neighbors of America • Verizon Foundation

## FY21 WORK WAS GUIDED BY OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

### 1 Increase philanthropic **AWARENESS** in Iowa:

PRIORITY



**450+**  
CONTACTS WITH  
ELECTED OFFICIALS



**3**  
MEDIA  
OPPORTUNITIES



**30+**  
OUTREACH/PARTNER  
MEETINGS

The ICoF Public Policy Committee and Board of Directors continued to engage in several activities in FY21 to support our public policy priorities around philanthropy and charitable giving. This year, the ICoF:

- Signed on to two national, federal policy advocacy letters and mobilized ICoF members to sign as well;
- Submitted comments to Congressional offices regarding policy proposals and legislation impacting the nonprofit and philanthropic sectors; and
- Participated in the virtual Foundations on the Hill.

We also compiled data and published the ICoF Member COVID-19 and Derecho Response Report and collected feedback from members about proposed philanthropy reforms which was published in the ICoF Member Philanthropic Regulation Report. Both reports were shared and referenced in legislative meetings in the first half of 2021.

### 2 Increase philanthropic **IMPACT** through ICoF members:

PRIORITY



#### Iowa Campaign for Grade-Level Reading

The ICoF leveraged grant funding from an anonymous donor to continue supporting the ICoF Education Funders Network and Iowa Campaign community partners. This year's programs included virtual GLR Week sessions and monthly, peer-learning virtual sessions. We also awarded mini grant funding to several Iowa Campaign communities.



#### Iowa Youth Philanthropy Conference

The pandemic prevented us from hosting the Annual Iowa Youth Philanthropy Conference in person in FY21. However, we were pleased to partner with the Dekko Foundation to provide a virtual learning session focused on effective communication strategies for Iowa youth philanthropy partners in March 2021.



#### The Philanthropic Preparedness, Resiliency, and Emergency Partnership

ICoF staff continued their participation in The Funders Network's PPREP cohort during FY21. Ongoing virtual learning sessions helped staff explore the intersection of race, equity and disaster recovery. Lessons learned and resources continue to be shared with ICoF members and integrated into the Iowa Community Foundations Initiative Disaster Philanthropy Toolkit and ICoF's Continuity of Operations Plan.

### 3 Increase philanthropic **RESOURCES** connected to ICoF:

PRIORITY



**\$57.5 K** Grants received



**\$32 K** New service contracts received



**\$29.5 K** Sponsorships & in-kind contributions received



**\$37.5 K** Match contributions

**\$156.5 K**  
LEVERAGED IN FY21

### 4 Advance racial **EQUITY** in philanthropy in Iowa:

PRIORITY

This year, equity continued to be a through line in all ICoF programming. We also offered specific racial equity programs for members, including the launch of the 2021 ICoF Racial Equity Cohort for 54 participants from 27 member organizations. Participants completed an assessment to begin their cohort engagement and regularly updated a tool to track their progress, accounting for changes in practices, policies, procedures, and behaviors at member organizations. The cohort will continue through the end of 2021.

Additionally, ICoF President Kari McCann Boutell rounded out the second half of her participation in the United Philanthropy Forum's Racial Equity Cohort, which continues to inform programming for ICoF members. We will build on this work by supporting racial equity programs and conversations for our members in the next fiscal year.

Since 2004, the ICoF has served as the state's Lead Philanthropic Entity (LPE), helping market and administer the County Endowment Fund Program and the Endow Iowa Tax Credit program in partnership with the Iowa Economic Development Authority. Both state-legislated programs were designed to capture a percentage of the state's transfer of wealth.

In FY21, Iowa community foundations reported **27.44%** growth in endowed funds and **29.03%** growth in overall assets.

In addition, Iowa community foundations granted **\$110 million** into their communities in FY21.

[LEARN MORE HERE](#)

“Once I heard about the group employee benefits for members of the Iowa Council of Foundations, Kari McCann Boutell connected me to Tracy Hitchcock at Capitol Benefits Group in Des Moines.



Tracy was very helpful and easy to work with. She explained all the employee benefit options available to smaller community foundations. With Tracy’s help, we took full advantage of them and found the benefits to be priced significantly lower than what we could get on our own.

Based on our experience, the partnership that ICoF has developed with Capitol Benefits Group is a real asset for ICoF members who previously did not have access to affordable options.”

— Randy Kuhlman, C.E.O.  
Fort Dodge Community Foundation  
and United Way



“Being a new professional within philanthropy, the Iowa Council of Foundations has been an important resource as I navigate my role and seek to learn from those in our sector.

When I reached out with a desire to be paired up with a peer mentor, I appreciated how quickly she identified someone for me. I also value the intention behind having several opportunities for members to connect. I’ve met amazing individuals through ICoF events.”

— Kathleen Badejo, Grantmaking Specialist  
Quad Cities Community Foundation



“Because of the ICoF programming and education, our competitive grantmaking now includes operating support requests. This not only provides incredible support to our nonprofit organizations, but also builds trust in our relationships with our grantee organizations and has provided an opportunity to inform our donors of the importance of providing operational support.”

— Ellie Moore, Director of Grantmaking  
& Strategic Communications  
Community Foundation of Johnson County

## A MESSAGE TO OUR MEMBERS

There are many ways we measure the strength of our network and the impact of our work at the Iowa Council of Foundations. Many of those metrics and outcomes are highlighted in this report. What is harder to capture in words is the real strength and resilience we have seen from our membership.

It’s been challenging the past two years, as we have adjusted to living and working in a pandemic, to do all of our convenings virtually to learn and network together. While we share the sentiment many of you have expressed to us – we look forward to gathering in-person again! – the network has shown its adaptability and perseverance. Active participation in virtual programs has been a strong and positive indicator for us this year. With over 900 participants in FY21 (more than 200 over the year prior), we continued to provide our members with a space to come together to learn, support each other, dialogue, strategize and explore together... and you continued to show up. Thank you.

While we will someday return to our valued traditions, the ICoF will likely look and feel different moving forward. We hope the lessons the pandemic has taught us has changed our network for the better. We concluded our fiscal year in a strong financial position, with a steady number of members and poised to continue delivering on our strategic goals in the coming year.

Together we continue to strengthen and grow philanthropy in Iowa. Thank you for being a part of our network. Thank you for being a reliable source of support and strength for your peers. And thank you for contributing to our collective impact in Iowa.

In partnership,



*Karla Twedt-Ball*  
Karla Twedt-Ball  
ICoF Board Chair



*Kari McCann Boutell*  
Kari McCann Boutell  
President

### FY21 ICoF BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

**Karla Twedt-Ball, Chair**  
SVP, Greater Cedar Rapids  
Community Foundation

**Gina Rooney, Treasurer**  
Foundation Manager,  
The Wellmark Foundation

**Kaye Englin, At-Large**  
President & CEO, Community  
Foundation of Northeast Iowa

**Jaimie Miller, Vice Chair**  
Vice President,  
Iowa Credit Union League  
Executive Director,  
Iowa Credit Union  
Foundation

**Suzanne Mineck, Secretary**  
President, Mid-Iowa  
Health Foundation

**Matt Mendenhall, At-Large**  
Executive Director, Regional  
Development Authority

**Nicole Brua-Behrens, At-Large**  
Executive Director, Greater  
Poweshiek Community Foundation

### ICoF STAFF:

**Kari McCann Boutell, President**

**Laura Riordan Berardi, Administrative & Communications  
Coordinator**



**Iowa Council of Foundations**  
6919 Vista Dr., West Des Moines, IA 50266  
(515) 989-1188

info@IowaCouncilofFoundations.org  
www.IowaCouncilofFoundations.org  
www.IowaCommunityFoundations.org