



COUNCIL COLUMN

February 2022

Greetings!

Today, I'm delighted to share with you the [2021 ICoF Racial Equity Cohort Bookend Report](#), which includes the comprehensive pre- and post-cohort assessment data from our 27 participating member organizations. The report shares some initial, high-level learnings from our assessment tool. We're feeling proud of everything that was accomplished. Collectively, the cohort saw growth in 12/13 organizational capacities during the year-long cohort.

We will be sharing a more comprehensive report later this year, but wanted to share this report with you in the interim. We appreciate everyone who participated and completed the pre- and post-assessments. This measurement helps us assess the completed work and plan for the future. Thank you.



Press on with your good work,

Kari McCann Boutell

President

Iowa Council of Foundations

Upcoming ICoF Events

Spring Quarterly Membership Meeting + Annual Meeting: *Reconnecting, Reflecting, and Reenergizing*

Thursday, May 12 | 10 am - 2:30 pm

IN-PERSON at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden

You read that right. We're going to meet – IN PERSON – in May! We look forward to bringing everyone back together after spending over two years apart. This membership meeting will be a bit different than a typical content session. Here's what you can expect when we gather:

Reconnecting: Plenty of unstructured, unscheduled time to reconnect with your colleagues.

Reflecting: Space to reflect on the past two years, what we collectively experienced both personally and as philanthropy practitioners.

Reenergizing: Time to hear from your colleagues about what they have been up to and what's on the horizon.

We will also conduct the FY22 ICoF Annual Meeting and elect new board members. Please register now to join us!

[**Learn More and Register**](#)

Rural Equity Leadership Series

May 17, June 14, July 12 | 10 am - 11:30 am | Zoom

Leaders in Iowa know the importance of making their communities welcoming and inclusive places to live, work, raise families and retire. Successful communities understand that centering equity in these conversations ensures that reality for all Iowans and newcomers. Census data tells us that demographics in Iowa are shifting, and we must adapt and evolve as our communities change.

Understanding rural equity and leading racial equity conversations in rural Iowa is good, important and sometimes challenging work. Leaders have been asking us questions like:

- Where do we start? What language do we use?
- How do we support newcomers and diverse populations in our rural towns?
- How do we lead these conversations with business and community partners?

If you've been asking these questions, this three-part series is for you! These interactive conversations will give rural Iowa leaders knowledge and tools to apply in their work. The series will equip leaders to bring their communities/counties together around what they love most about their unique place and the people who call it home.

This series will create a network of regional leaders committed to rural equity who will continue to be allies for each other, as we collectively build bridges and learn to communicate across cultures in rural Iowa. We will use tools developed for the Community Heart & Soul® process that are designed to do meaningful community engagement work in small, rural towns. The tools involve all voices and bring people together around the things that matter most. We hope you will join us - and consider inviting a colleague or fellow community leader to participate with you as well!

[**Learn More and Register**](#)

Welcome, Dubuque Racing Association!

We welcome to the ICoF network the Dubuque Racing Association -- more commonly known simply as DRA. Represented by Kathy Buhr, Director of Strategic Philanthropy, the DRA is the Qualified Sponsoring Organization for Q Casino and co-licensee for Diamond Jo Casino.

Welcome back, Gordon!

We welcome Gordon Fischer back into the ICoF network as an associate ICoF member. Gordon has been a lawyer for more than 25 years and has received the Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy designation from The American College of Financial Services. We're happy to have him back!

Public Policy Update

State:

There are two items of interest related to Iowa community foundations and the state-legislated programs supporting community-based philanthropy:

- The tax bill on the Governor's desk includes an amendment to the Endow Iowa tax credit, reducing the maximum amount of tax credits awarded to an individual taxpayer to \$100,000 annually. This is a change the Iowa Community Foundations CEO Network proposed with a goal to help free up more credits for other donors and to make the program more equitable. CFs are still seeking an increase in the annual allocation of Endow Iowa credits from \$6M to \$10M.
- [HF2286](#) unanimously passed out of subcommittee last week. The bill would direct sports wagering receipt dollars to the County Endowment Fund Program. We will continue to monitor this bill.

Federal:

- On 2/3/22, Reps. Pingree (ME-1), Reed (NY-23), Khanna (CA-17) and Porter (CA-45) introduced the ACE Act ([H.R.6595](#)), the House companion bill to [S.1981](#).

Foundations on the Hill Update

Kari is currently working to schedule meetings with Iowa's Congressional delegates for April 5-7. Thanks to those who have volunteered and agreed to

participate in those meetings! We will share additional details about our 2022 priorities in the March *CF Snapshot*.

Resources: Russian Invasion of Ukraine

As this newsletter was being finalized Russian forces continued their invasion of Ukraine. A collection of resources for those in philanthropy was compiled by the United Philanthropy Forum and is below for our members' reference.

- Our colleagues at the Center for Disaster Philanthropy have developed a [Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis page](#) with some initial information for funders to keep in mind on how they can help, and they note that they will continue to update this information as needs come into greater focus. CDP has also established the [Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis Recovery Fund](#), which will focus on addressing humanitarian needs that arise, particularly among the most vulnerable, marginalized and at-risk internally-displaced peoples (IDPs) and refugees.
- The Philanthropy Europe Foundation (Philea) is tracking information and responses to the crisis [here](#).
- CARE has established a [Ukraine Crisis Fund](#) to reach 4 million with immediate aid and recovery, food, water, hygiene kits, psychosocial support, and cash assistance - prioritizing women and girls, families, and the elderly.
- [The International Committee of the Red Cross](#) is seeking donations to support its work to respond to the Ukraine crisis.
- Devex has an update on [Ukraine's looming humanitarian crisis](#).

Cybersecurity Tips

We also received a notice from the Technology Association of Grantmakers reporting that several TAG member foundations are "seeing an increase in unusual network activity and attempted breaches for their foundations and

nonprofit partners." They offered these steps to ensure your organization is being proactive on cybersecurity:

COMMUNICATE:

- Make sure your entire staff, not just IT, is aware of the potential threat in a calm, non-inflammatory fashion.
- Remind your team about the risks of being phished and consider a "refresher" security awareness training session.
- Ask your team to be on the lookout for anything that "seems weird." Adopt an approach of "If you see something, say something."

SECURE:

- Enable and enforce multi-factor authentication (MFA) where possible.
- Make sure that your HR systems and other systems that contain sensitive PII (personally identifiable information) are locked down.

MONITOR:

- Keep a close eye on network traffic and security logs.
- Use configuration management to manage what files should and should not be on your critical infrastructure. If you see new files appearing that you didn't create, that's a red flag.
- Be aware of financial activity in your organization, and be on the lookout for financial fraud attempts.

You can view additional tips from the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency at <https://www.cisa.gov/shields-up>.

**** We will announce a cybersecurity training we have been planning for ICoF members and Iowa community foundations very soon. Stay tuned! ****

Grade-Level Reading Initiative Updates

Member Check-in Call

March 10 | 12 pm | Zoom

Dr. Connie Beecher, ISU Extension, will be joining as the guest speaker.

If you have questions about GLR or need the Zoom login information, please [contact Becky Miles-Polka](#).

Resources

Iowa Arts Council Opens FY2023 Grants and Designations

Get ready for new and returning grant offerings from the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs beginning July 1, 2022. [Learn more here](#).

Iowa Rural Development Summit '22

The sixth Iowa Rural Development Summit will be held April 12-13 at the Gateway Hotel in Ames. [Learn more and register here](#).

Exponent Philanthropy Blog:

[Read more](#) on why lean funders should consider general operating support.

Career Center Postings

Manager of Donor Relations and Data Services

Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa
Full-time | Cedar Falls, IA

Grant Writer

Vision to Learn
Part-time | Remote

Program Manager

Waterloo Community Foundation
Full-time | Waterloo, IA

Assistant/Associate Director

University of Iowa - Larned A. Waterman Iowa Nonprofit Resource Center
Full-time | Iowa City, IA

Project Coordinator

Black Hawk County Gaming Association
Full-time | Waterloo, IA

Investment Operations Analyst

Grinnell College
Full-time | Grinnell, IA

Employment Engagement Director

Iowa Women's Foundation
Full-time | Remote (Iowa resident)

Development Manager

Iowa Women's Foundation
Full-time | Remote (Iowa resident)

Administrative Assistant - Grantmaking and Development

Quad Cities Community Foundation
Full-time | Quad Cities/Bettendorf, IA

Development Officer - Gift Planning

Iowa State University Foundation
Full-time | Ames, IA, hybrid work arrangement available

Executive Director

CEONet
Part-time | Remote

Program Officer

Humanities Iowa
Full-time | Remote (Iowa)

ICoF Member Benefit: We'll list your job openings for free! [Submit your posting here.](#)

Visit the Philanthropy Career Center

Educational Opportunities

Effective Grantmaking Practices to Withstand a Pandemic

PEAK Grantmaking

Mar. 1 | 1 - 2 pm | Free

Standing up grant programs with urgency while also being flexible to respond to changing needs during COVID is not an easy feat. It might surprise some to discover how some cities and counties did just that over the last two years as they managed relief grants to sustain their business communities.

Join us for a webinar with economic development leaders from Loudoun County and the City of La Quinta to discover how they established grant processes and utilized systems to enable them to not only support businesses to endure this ongoing pandemic but also prepare for a future crisis.

Details and Registration

Grantmaker Ethics and Accountability

The Grantmaking School & COF

Mar. 15 | 12 - 2 pm | \$99

Philanthropy has come under increasing scrutiny in recent years in terms of the sources of wealth underlying charitable gifts, the allocation of resources, and its decision-making processes. More than ever, those engaged in philanthropy need an ethical orientation to inform their work. This session will:

- Encourage you to reflect on how the concepts of DEI can inform ethical decision-making
- Enable you to understand to whom and to what you are accountable in your work
- Provide you with practical tools and step-by-step guidance in navigating ethical problems

Details and Registration

Upcoming National Conferences & Convenings

Mar. 14-16: [TFN's 2022 Annual Conference: Seize the Moment](#)

Mar. 21-25: [PEAK2022 Online](#)

May 10-12: [40th Anniversary of the Funders' Committee for Civic Participation](#)

May 10-11: [2022 Blue Sky Funders Forum Annual Convening](#)

May 16-18: [GEO 2022 National Conference](#)

Colleague Inquiry

A member has requested your help with the following:

"[We] would like to see CEO position descriptions for ICoF member foundations." Can you share yours? [Send it to Laura](#) by noon on Friday, March 4, please!

Do you have a question for your philanthropy colleagues? Please [let us know](#) and we will compile responses and resources from your peers across the state.

[Archived Colleague Inquiries](#)

ICoF Members Making Headlines

[Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines and Mid-Iowa Health Foundation](#) among donors to \$3.5M collaboration to address home health hazards in Central Iowa

[GreenState Credit Union](#) awards 3-year, \$135k grant to Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence for financial empowerment program

[Pella Community Foundation](#) awards \$125k to local nonprofits





This is an online, archived version of our email newsletter originally sent 2/28/22. This newsletter is intended only for members; please do not forward outside of your organization.

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