



# COUNCIL COLUMN

April 2022

Greetings!

Each spring, the Iowa Council of Foundations gathers important feedback from our members in our annual survey. This year, you will see some of the questions we typically ask, but also some additional visioning and strategy questions. The feedback you provide will help inform the work of the ICoF Strategy Task Force as we embark on a 9-month strategic planning process. We need to hear from you about your experience as a member and your hopes for ICoF's and Iowa philanthropy's future!

Your feedback helps us to attract new members, tell our story to legislators, funders and the public, and to plan and prioritize. **Please take 10 minutes today to share your feedback with the ICoF staff, board and Strategy Task Force members.** We value your input.

I look forward to seeing many of you for the Membership Meeting on May 12!



Press on with your good work,

**Kari McCann Boutell**  
*President*  
Iowa Council of Foundations

## Upcoming ICoF Events

### **Cybersecurity Training**

Wednesday, April 27 | 10 - 11 am | Zoom

While it may not be the most fun topic, multiple incidents in [our state](#) and [our field](#) have shown that cybersecurity is something we should all be aware of. The ICoF has been doing our own work in this area and have learned a lot -- there was so much we didn't know that we didn't know!

We wanted to bring this introductory training to our members and Iowa community foundations to help raise awareness and answer your questions about where to start with cybersecurity. This session will be of benefit to all ICoF members -- no matter what your IT/security responsibilities are at your organization, or the type or size of the organization where you work.

Training will be provided by Twin State Technical Services and will be held over Zoom. A link will be provided in your registration confirmation email and an emailed reminder the day before. This event is free for ICoF members and Iowa community foundations thanks to a grant from the The Funders' Network.

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

### **Spring Quarterly Membership Meeting + Annual Meeting:**

#### ***Reconnecting, Reflecting, and Reenergizing***

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

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](#)

## Public Policy Update

**State:** As reported widely across the state, the Legislature has reached a stalemate between the two chambers on a number of policy priorities and the overall budget. This could continue for several days or weeks.

**Federal:** The [Nonprofit Sector Strength and Partnership Act](#) is poised for introduction this week by Reps. McCollum (D-MN) and Upton (R-MI). The bill will establish formal structures and policies to leverage the knowledge, trusted status, and reach of the nonprofit sector. The ICoF has signed onto this [letter of support](#). We will monitor this bill once introduced.

## Foundations on the Hill Update

Kari and Iowa foundation representatives met with each of Iowa's Congressional offices virtually in early April as part of Foundations on the Hill. Please take a moment to review the [ICoF FOTH 2022 Fact Sheet](#) and additional details below.

- **EXPAND THE CHARITABLE GIVING TAX INCENTIVE:** We support offering every American taxpayer an incentive to make a charitable donation, not just those who itemize. (Current Bills: [S. 618](#) & [H.R. 1704](#))
- **ENHANCE THE IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER:** We support of the expansion of the IRA Charitable Rollover to allow seniors to make tax-free IRA rollover contributions to charities through life-income plans. (Current Bill: [H.R. 2954](#)) We also support the permanent extension of the IRA charitable rollover by dropping the age threshold to 65 and allowing rollover gifts directly to donor-advised funds.
- **STRENGTHEN AND SUPPORT THE NONPROFIT SECTOR:** We support of the retroactive restoration of the Employee Retention Tax Credit. (Current Bills: [S. 3625](#) & [H.R. 6161](#))

If you would like to do your own outreach on any of these priorities, contact information is available here: [Senator Ernst](#); [Senator Grassley](#); [Rep. Hinson](#); [Rep. Miller-Meeks](#); [Rep. Axne](#); and [Rep. Feenstra](#).

A special thank you to the following members who participated in our FOTH meetings: *Suzanne Heckenlaible, Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation; Les Garner, Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation; Kristi Knous, Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines; Randy Kuhlman, Fort Dodge Community Foundation and United Way; and Charla Schafer, Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine.* We are grateful for your support of these important conversations!

## 2022 Grantmaker Salary & Benefits Survey Open

The Council on Foundations' [Grantmaker Salary & Benefits Survey](#) provides the sector with the most comprehensive data on staff composition and compensation in the U.S. Grantmakers rely on this annual report to plan budgets, benchmark personnel policies and practices, determine salary levels for new and existing staff, and more. **Through our partnership with United Philanthropy Forum and the Council on Foundations, ICoF members that complete the survey will have direct access to the benchmarking tool and full report.** Those who do not complete the survey but wish to obtain

benchmark data later will need to contact Kari. **We encourage all ICoF members to participate in the survey** — the greater the participation, the greater the insights for the entire field. The survey is open **until May 10**. COF membership is not required to participate.

**Take the GSB Survey**

## Participation Invited in a National Survey to Better Understand Volunteer Engagement

Members are invited to participate in a groundbreaking national research project on strategic volunteer engagement in the social sector. The research is being funded by ICoF member The Leighty Foundation, Lodestar Foundation, VolunteerMatch, The National Alliance for Volunteer Engagement, and the UJA Federation of New York, with technical assistance from Independent Sector. To participate, simply [sign up here](#) and you will receive a link to the survey from the researchers at the Do Good Institute when it launches.

## Grade-Level Reading Initiative Updates

### ***Member Check-in Call***

May 19 | 12 pm | Zoom

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

## ICoF Website Update

You may have noticed a few changes on [our website](#) lately! We have added a new main menu item to highlight Our Initiatives, including Advancing Equity, the Community Foundations Initiative, Disaster Preparedness, the Ed Funders

Network, and Youth Philanthropy. We hope this change makes it easier to keep tabs on all of the Network's great work.

## Resources

### **\$100M in Destination Iowa Grants Available Soon**

Grants to help communities move forward on transformational, shovel-ready attractions in four areas: Economically Significant Development, Outdoor Recreation, Tourism Attraction and Creative Placemaking. [Learn more here.](#)

### **Mapping the Movement to Redistribute Power**

The Trust-Based Philanthropy Project has created [this interactive map](#) to share the stories of funder practitioners who are changing philanthropy to center trust, transparency, and equity. [Read the story of our own ICoF member, Mid-Iowa Health Foundation!](#)

### **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. [Learn more here.](#)

## Career Center Postings

### **Accounting Specialist II**

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

### **Program Manager**

Iowa Credit Union Foundation  
*Part-time | Remote (U.S.-based)*

### **Director of Membership and Development**

GEO  
*Full-time | Washington, D.C. (remote possible)*

**Executive Assistant to the CFO and Project Coordinator**

Northwest Area Foundation  
*Full-time | St. Paul, MN (hybrid)*

**Grant Program and Community Engagement Coordinator**

DRA (Dubuque Racing Association)  
*Full-time | Dubuque, IA with Remote options*

**Charitable Giving Advisor**

Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines  
*Full-time | Des Moines, IA*

**Assistant/Associate Director**

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

**Investment Operations Analyst**

Grinnell College  
*Full-time | Grinnell, IA*

**Executive Director**

CEONet  
*Part-time | Remote*

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

**Visit the Philanthropy Career Center**

## **Educational Opportunities**

**Cultivating Trust-Based Leadership**

*The Trust-Based Philanthropy Project*  
May 5 | 12 - 1:30 pm | Free

An organization's leadership team plays a key role in upholding and reinforcing values and culture—not just by what is said, but what is done. For this reason, trust-based philanthropy is most successful when there is buy-in and modeling from leadership. In this final session of the 4D series, we will hear from practitioners who have embraced self-reflective practices to cultivate their own trust-based leadership, as well as what they're doing to reimagine their roles and their trustees' roles toward advancing a more intentional trust-based culture within their organizations.

## Details and Registration

### **Uniting Americans through Service: The Power of AmeriCorps and Philanthropy Working in Partnership**

*Council on Foundations*

May 16 | 11 am - 12 pm | Free

Join COF for a conversation with Michael D. Smith, newly appointed CEO of AmeriCorps! The conversation will explore how philanthropy and AmeriCorps can connect to advance the Biden Administration's priorities for national service. Mr. Smith will share his vision for the agency and its partnership with the philanthropic sector, and specifically how philanthropy can partner with AmeriCorps VISTA, AmeriCorps Seniors, FEMA Corps, and the new Public Health AmeriCorps. .

## Details and Registration

## Colleague Inquiry

*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

**Alliant Energy Foundation** [creates graphic novel series to keep kids in STEM](#)

**Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation** [health grant giving totaled \\$3.3M in 2021](#)

**Mid-Iowa Health Foundation** [announces third HealthConnect Fellowship cohort](#)



This is an online, archived version of our email newsletter originally sent 4/25/22. This newsletter is intended only for members; please do not forward outside of your organization.

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