

The Iowa Council of Foundations (ICoF) is pleased to present this annual report, which captures the activities, outcomes and accomplishments of our network in Fiscal Year 2022 (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022). Our work was again guided by our four strategic priorities:

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

PRIORITY

This year we continued to advocate for nonprofit recovery dollars to support the sector in Iowa. In addition we:



**350+**  
CONTACTS WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS



**8**  
MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES



**30+**  
OUTREACH/PARTNER MEETINGS

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

## 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 Education Funders Network and Iowa Campaign community partners. We published a new report, *In a New Light: Philanthropy-Serving Organizations and Co-Funding Projects*, which bookends eight years of collaborative efforts of Iowa funders to support the Campaign in Iowa.

During the spring of 2022, the ICoF reconvened the broader ICoF Education Funders Network, including those who had not been involved in the GLR Campaign. See What I Mean Consulting facilitated a process for the group to explore current priorities in education and to help identify opportunities for alignment. Based on current workloads and member-reported readiness, the ICoF Board decided to hold on reconvening this group until 2023. Stay tuned!



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

ICoF staff continued their participation in the PPREP cohort. Ongoing virtual learning sessions helped staff explore the intersection of race, equity and disaster recovery. ICoF also leveraged PPREP grant dollars to host a cybersecurity training for ICoF members and to implement ICoF cybersecurity work. We continue to update the Iowa Community Foundations Initiative Disaster Philanthropy Toolkit and ICoF's Continuity of Operations Plan as we deepen our learning.

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

PRIORITY

**\$74.9 K**  
Grants received

**\$51.7 K**  
In-kind contributions received

**\$8.9 K**  
Match contributions

**\$135.5 K**  
LEVERAGED IN FY22

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

PRIORITY

- We concluded our 2021 ICoF Racial and Equity Cohort. 54 participants from 27 member organizations completed the 12-month cohort. Data, testimonials and lessons learned are all captured in a report we published in 2022, *From Implicit to Explicit: Lessons for Supporting Funders in Advancing Racial Equity in Philanthropy*. We were pleased to present the report during a session at the 2022 United Philanthropy Forum Conference in Seattle.
- The ICoF was also selected as one of four philanthropy-serving organizations for the Forum's pilot Racial Equity Learning Exchange Series with the Racial Equity in Philanthropy Group. Eight ICoF members are participating in teams of three in this year-long opportunity.
- We received funding from the Forum to host a three-part Rural Equity Leadership series. We partnered with the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque to adapt a curriculum they developed for their affiliate community foundations. We brought together 50 participants to equip them with tools and skills to lead equity conversations in rural communities throughout Iowa.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

Dubuque Racing Association • GreenState Foundation • Humanities Iowa • Mechdyne Corporation  
Gordon Fischer, *Gordon Fischer Law Firm, P.C.* • See What I Mean Consulting

### What Our Members are Saying...



“Three of our staff team participated in the Racial Equity Cohort. The peer to peer connections and large group discussions were the launching off point for us to establish our staff-led Committee, which has led to the creation and implementation of an Action Plan to guide our organization’s work in this area.”

“Through cohort learnings and other sessions we’ve attended through ICoF, our staff has a shared language and understanding to work from and are regularly in discussions on trust-based philanthropy practices and racial equity as it relates to our Foundation. We are continuously evaluating our practices, procedures and organizational culture to determine how we can continue to evolve and grow as a Foundation.”

“I have learned from other professionals and have increased my confidence in working with and guiding my board of trustees. Without so many of these trainings, materials, and the opportunity to network and ask questions, I don’t think our foundation would have grown or changed much in the past couple of years. We have transitioned to an online grants management system, added helpful information to our website, made our staff more accessible, and streamlined our reporting requirements for grantees, accepting reports from other funders.”

“Our participation in the ICoF’s Racial Equity Cohort helped us to engage in equitable and inclusive practices in many facets of our work and gave us the space and direction to determine where and how those practices could be implemented both immediately and in the future of our organization.”

## FY22 Quarterly Membership Programming:



### JUSTICE & INCLUSION IN GRANTMAKING PRACTICE

Melissa Sines, *(formerly) with PEAK Grantmaking*



### PURPOSE-DRIVEN BOARD LEADERSHIP

Anne Wallestad, *BoardSource*



### WHAT’S NEXT FOR PHILANTHROPY IN THE 2020s?

Gabriel Kasper and Jennifer Holk,  
*The Monitor Institute by Deloitte*



### ANNUAL MEETING: Reconnecting, Reflecting & Reenergizing



In addition, we hosted topical webinars focused on the Centers for Working Families model, cybersecurity, racial equity, public policy and rural equity leadership.

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. To learn more, visit:

[www.iowacounciloffoundations.org/iowa-community-foundations-initiative/](http://www.iowacounciloffoundations.org/iowa-community-foundations-initiative/)

#### FY22 ICoF BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

**Jaimie Miller, Chair**  
*Executive Director,  
Iowa Credit Union  
Foundation  
Des Moines*

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

**Matt Mendenhall,  
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*Executive Director,  
Regional  
Development Authority  
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**Nicole Brua-Behrens,  
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*Greater Poweshiek Community  
Foundation, Grinnell*

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*SVP, Greater Cedar Rapids  
Community Foundation, Cedar Rapids*

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*President & CEO, Community Foundation  
of Northeast Iowa, Cedar Falls*

**Denise Swartz, At-Large**  
*Senior Program Officer,  
Mid-Iowa Health Foundation  
Des Moines*

**Malai Amfah,  
Nonprofit Advisor to the Board**  
*Senior Program Officer,  
Campaign for Grade-Level Reading*

#### ICoF STAFF:

**Kari McCann Boutell,**  
*President*

**Laura Riordan Berardi,**  
*Member Services Coordinator*

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