

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 2023 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023). Our work this year was guided by four strategic priorities:

1 Increase philanthropic AWARENESS in Iowa:

PRIORITY



430+

CONTACTS WITH
ELECTED OFFICIALS



4

MEDIA
OPPORTUNITIES



30

OUTREACH/PARTNER
MEETINGS

- Hosted inaugural Iowa Nonprofit Legislative Reception in partnership with Iowa Nonprofit Alliance
- Mobilized partners to advocate for increased support for Iowa philanthropy
- Participated in national working group supporting re-introduction of The Workforce Development Through Post-Graduation Scholarship Act
- Signed on to two national, federal policy advocacy letters
- Participated in the Foundations on the Hill in Washington, D.C.

2 Increase philanthropic IMPACT through ICoF members:

PRIORITY

Rural Equity

ICoF President Kari McCann Boutell continues to serve on the United Philanthropy Forum's National Rural Equity Working Group. As part of this work, the ICoF received a grant and hosted a three-part Rural Health Equity Series this year. The series was co-designed by Dr. Nalo Johnson, CEO of the Mid-Iowa Health Foundation, and focused on philanthropy, policy and population health. Additionally, ICoF secured a grant to support a Rural Equity & Housing Justice Cohort in FY24. Kari also presented about this work at the National Conference for Growing Community Foundations and the Leading Locally Conference hosted by the Council on Foundations.

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 support our equity work, both internal and external. Additional PPREP grant funding was used to launch a new Disaster Recovery Fund Matching Grant Program for Iowa community foundations. As of June 30, 2023, \$4,500 has been awarded to 9 community foundations. Funding remains available in the new fiscal year.

Iowa Youth Philanthropy Conference

In partnership with several ICoF members, the ICoF planned and hosted the Annual Iowa Youth Philanthropy Conference in August 2022. The agenda included content for young people and the adults that support youth philanthropy including sessions on research, advocacy, grantmaking, fundraising and environmental justice.

3 Increase philanthropic RESOURCES connected to ICoF:

PRIORITY



\$112.6 K

Grants received



\$6.5 K

In-kind contributions
received



\$14 K

Match contributions

\$133.1 K

LEVERAGED IN FY23

4 Advance racial EQUITY in philanthropy in Iowa:

PRIORITY

- We published Putting Equity in the Center, the second edition of our 2021 Racial Equity Cohort bookend report.
- A team of ICoF Board, staff and committee members participated in the United Philanthropy Forum's 2023 Racial Equity Cohort.
- The Iowa Credit Union Foundation shared their new report, Economic Realities of Communities of Color in Iowa, on an ICoF webinar.
- We leveraged additional grant funding to support intersectional equity conversations about rural health and housing equity.

**ICOF'S NEW
STRATEGY
FRAMEWORK**

The Iowa Council of Foundations Board, staff and members engaged in a strategic visioning process this year to bring forth a refreshed strategy framework for where we see our organization and our sector moving – and how we intend to support our network along the way. We are excited to share this reframing with you, as we truly see this as the work of our entire network, not just the ICoF staff and board. Our refreshed mission, vision, values and strategic priorities can now be viewed on our website at www.IowaCouncilofFoundations.org.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

Des Moines Public Library Foundation • Dotdash Meredith
Dupaco R.W. Hoefler Foundation • GreatAmerica Financial Services
Lyon County Riverboat Foundation • Polk County Housing Trust Fund
Nationwide Foundation • True North Companies

What Our Members are Saying & Doing...



CHANGING PRACTICES:

“As a result of ICoF programs featuring Grantmakers for Effective Organizations (GEO), we have been piloting new forms of reporting (by Zoom, by phone, via site visits).”

“We added the preference of funding work that advances racial equity to our guidelines, which was born from our participation in ICoF’s Racial Equity Cohort.”

ADVANCING EQUITY:

“My organization is in the early stages of equity work and several ICoF sessions have helped me create a strategy for board discussion around equity which has led to implementing changes in our governance documents.”

“We participated in the Racial Equity Exchange through ICoF. We were able to continue our equity conversations as an entire staff and changes were made at the leadership level. Our leadership is committed to monthly lunch and learns that focus on equity and our other organizational values.”

LEADERSHIP STRATEGY:

“Our strategic planning was led with the learnings from the ICoF Racial Cohort, creating a space for guiding and allowing difficult conversations.”

“I have gained a deeper recognition of the importance and challenge of equity work (racial and rural). Conditions that lead to inequity are a core root cause of many community challenges. Our Board conversations have evolved to be more inclusive of remedies for providing greater opportunities for historically under-represented groups.”



RACIAL EQUITY & HOUSING JUSTICE

Amanda Andere,
Funders Together to End Homelessness



REIMAGINING CAPACITY BUILDING: NAVIGATING CULTURE, SYSTEMS, & POWER

Nichole Hoeflich & Mareeha Niaz,
Grantmakers for Effective Organizations (GEO)



CENTERING EQUITY THROUGH FLEXIBLE, RELIABLE FUNDING:

Nichole Hoeflich & Mareeha Niaz, *GEO*



PUBLIC POLICY, PHILANTHROPY & POPULATION HEALTH

with Dr. Cara James,
Grantmakers in Health



In addition, we hosted topical webinars focused on public policy, salary & benefits research, and racial equity. We also partnered with Foundant to host an in-person peer-learning workshop for ICoF members.

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 retain a percentage of the state’s transfer of wealth. To learn more, visit:

www.iowacounciloffoundations.org/iowa-community-foundations-initiative/

FY23 ICoF BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Matt Mendenhall, Chair
*Executive Director,
Regional Development Authority
Quad Cities*

Beth Jones, Treasurer
*Director of Community Impact,
Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation
Johnston*

Nicole Brua-Behrens, Vice Chair
*Executive Director,
Greater Poweshiek
Community Foundation
Grinnell*

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

Karla Twedt-Ball, Immediate Past Chair
*President & CEO,
Greater Cedar Rapids
Community Foundation
Cedar Rapids*

Rob Barron, At-Large
*Executive Director,
Iowa and Minnesota
Campus Compact
Des Moines*

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