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CF SNAPSHOT

The CF Snapshot is a monthly e-newsletter for Iowa Community Foundations and Affiliates. If you have information you would like included, please [email Michele Walstrom](#), ICoF Community Foundations Services Coordinator.

Upcoming Events

***Save the Date!* Annual Connect Community Foundations Conference**

Tuesday, September 18 | 9:00 am - 4:30 pm

Hilton Garden Inn | Johnston, Iowa

Join us to learn from state and national experts about trends in philanthropy and best practices for community foundations! This conference is designed to provide a framework for thinking about how local community foundations can create positive change in their region and give volunteers and staff an opportunity to learn from one another. This is a *free* opportunity sponsored through the Iowa Community Foundations Initiative and the Iowa Economic Development Authority. Registration and speaker information will be released this summer. Please save the date on your calendar now!

Spring Capacity Building Grants Awarded

The Spring 2018 Capacity Building Grants have recently been awarded to 10 community foundations and affiliates. Grant awards ranged from \$1,000 - \$15,000. Grant award recipients and the program funded are detailed below:

- **Cedar Falls Community Foundation:** grants management software
- **Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines:** professional development for staff

- **Community Foundation of Louisa County**, an affiliate of the Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine: board development and endowment growth
- **Dallas County Community Foundation**, an affiliate of the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines: donor development and outreach for long-term endowment growth
- **Dyersville Area Community Foundation**, an affiliate of the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque: strategic planning
- **Foundation for the Future of Delaware County**, an affiliate of the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque: strategic planning
- **Kossuth County Community Foundation**, an affiliate of the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa: outreach activities, marketing and professional advisor event
- **River Bluff Community Foundation**, an affiliate of the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque: staffing capacity
- **South Central Iowa Community Foundation**: staffing capacity

The Capacity Building Grants Program supports opportunities for qualified community foundations and their affiliates to engage in activities that increase their ability for sustainable endowment growth/building. Pre-applications for the Fall Capacity Building Grant cycle will open on September 18.

Endow Iowa Update

The 2018 Iowa Legislative session ended last month and the Endow Iowa Tax Credit program was not changed. David Adelman, Principal and Director, Cornerstone Government Affairs and lead Lobbyist for Iowa community foundations shared: "The Endow Iowa Tax credit received status quo funding, retaining the credit at \$6 million annually. Due to the scrutiny around tax credits this year, status quo funding is remarkable. Community Foundations from across the state should continue to educate their lawmakers on the benefit of the tax credit and encourage support for its continuation." Adelman will speak at the Connect Community Foundations Conference and provide a recap of the entire session as well as an update to inform your advocacy efforts for 2019.

CF Stories Blog

Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque, reflects on their recent "Welcome Home Summit," hosted for their affiliates and local communities. This event was designed to inspire local leaders to attract and retain new and returning residents. The event featured Ben Winchester, Research Fellow at University of Minnesota Extension, who presented his rural vitality research.

[Read This Month's Blog](#)

Learning Opportunities

Tri-State CF Partnership Webinar Series: CF Investments

Tuesday, June 5 | 12 - 1:30 pm CST | \$50 for non-members

Hosted by Council of Michigan Foundations, Philanthropy Ohio and the Indiana Philanthropy Alliance

For many who are new to the community foundation finance area, the management and interaction with investment committee members can be challenging, especially as different views are shared. This webinar will help guide you on the management of that committee, cover the basics of investment management, and review key areas such as: asset allocation, spending policies, fees on funds, quarterly reports, etc.

[Learn more and register here!](#)

National Standards Monthly Conference Call

Second Wednesday of each month | 12 pm | Next call is June 13

The purpose of this monthly call is to offer community foundation staff a venue to voice questions or concerns related to the National Standards program. The input of community foundation staff is critical to the success of the program. Additionally, this call provides an opportunity for National Standards staff to update community foundation staff about any upcoming changes or improvements to the accreditation process.

[Learn more and register here!](#)

Foundations

October 14-16 | Wichita, KS

The Conference brings the West and the East, the North and the South to the center of the country to network, learn and share experiences with other community foundations. This year's theme – *Inspiring Thriving Communities* – will frame three days of 28 concurrent sessions, seven ideas labs, four deeper dives, three plenaries, and 12 retreats on topics related to: asset development, legal aspects, governance, marketing, finance and operations, programs, public policy and advocacy, and leadership.

[Learn more here!](#)

Peer Pointers

This section of the CF Snapshot features short descriptions of positive work happening at community foundations and affiliates across Iowa. If you'd like more information about these topics, please [contact Michele](#).

Last month's Peer Learning Call featured colleagues sharing how they have successfully implemented communication strategies at their community foundation. Two of the topics are highlighted below.

- **The Community Foundation of the Great River Bend** has strategically moved their communications management and content to an outside firm. As CEO Sherry Ristau explained during the PLC, using an outside firm has provided them access to greater resources and services. The communication strategy now includes monthly blog postings, e-newsletters and increased marketing efforts. [Read a blog post here](#).
- **The Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa** drove people to their Facebook page to create greater awareness of their work by holding a [Good Things Happening Photo Contest](#). During last year's contest, each Friday for four weeks CFNEIA awarded one \$500 grant to the most "liked" photo on their Facebook page for that week. The grants were made to the winner's nonprofit of choice. At the end of the contest, a panel of judges chose 1 grand prize winner of \$5K and 3 runners-up to receive \$1K. Grand prize winners were announced at their Celebration of Community event. CFNEIA received local publicity for their contest and increased the number of likes on their Facebook page by 400.

Community Foundations in the News

[The Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa is working to address a child care shortage in the Blackhawk County area](#)

[The Community Foundation of the Great River Bend is offering grants to support a community-wide initiative to advance their region's vision](#)

[The Community Foundation of Johnson County has hired Shelly Maharry as Executive Director](#)

[The Pottawattamie County Community Foundation recently announced it broke last year's record during their annual Pottawatamie Gives Day.](#)

Articles & Items of Interest

Voter Engagement Toolkit Now Available

Commissioned by the Council of Foundations, Independent Sector and Nonprofit VOTE, this guide lifts up concrete ideas and examples for community and public foundations to encourage voter engagement among their grantees and networks. [Learn more here!](#)

New FREE Publications Available on Rural Transportation

Two new publications were recently released for funders on how technology can improve rural transportation. The publications are available to you for free:

- *Mobility & Aging in Rural America: The Role for Innovation: An Introduction for Funders*. This paper offers insights about what's already working and what is possible from the perspective of providers and thought leaders. It does not require a background in technology or aging.
- *The Future of Rural Transportation and Mobility for Older Adults: Current Trends and Future Directions in Technology-enabled Solutions* is a companion white paper that examines rural mobility through a lens of technology and across a longer timeframe.

[Both publications can be accessed here.](#)

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