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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.



We announced our virtual 2021 Connect Conference Series last month, which will feature sessions throughout providing relevant content, experts in the field and peer-sharing. [Details about the entire series are now available here.](#) Please mark your calendars now and plan to join us throughout the year!

As in past years, Idea Implementation Grants will be available. There will be two cycles this year - in May and October - to assist you in implementing ideas sparked by the sessions. Additional information will be provided soon. Our first session of this series [Rural Community and Economic Development will be February 24 from 10 - 11:30 am.](#) Please join us!

## County Endowment Fund Program Annual Report

The County Endowment Fund Program Annual Report will be distributed to State Legislators and the Governor's Office soon. This Report serves as an annual

their reports with the data from their county community foundation. You can [view the 2019-2020 annual report here](#).

Again this year, we encourage community foundations to share a local grant impact story when you distribute your copies of the CEFP Report. We have developed this [one-page template](#) to make it easier for you to share how this program has made a positive impact in your county.

Each community foundation will receive the number of copies they ordered of the report for distribution. If you have questions regarding the report or template, or would like additional copies of the report, please [contact us](#).

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## Spring Capacity Building Grant Cycle Now Open

This grant program supports opportunities for qualified community foundations and their affiliates to engage in activities that increase their ability for sustainable endowment growth/building. Past grants have supported marketing, professional development, community leadership, strategic planning and more. For the Spring 2021 cycle, we will more broadly consider staffing capacity grants in response to operating capacity needs due to the ongoing pandemic.

The Spring Capacity Building Grants Cycle is now open! The first step to participate is to submit a Pre-Application. This Pre-Application is available now and due as soon as possible or by March 1. Once reviewed and approved, you will receive the full grant application to complete and submit by 5 pm on April 2.

[Learn more and access the Pre-Application here!](#)

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## New Video Released in Training Series

ICoF has a new training video series for Iowa community foundations. These short videos are for community foundation and affiliate boards and advisory committees to assist in ongoing training and professional development. Videos will be released periodically throughout this year and are designed to be viewed during a board meeting. Each video has a complementary tool that board and committee members

The second video is now available and features 2020 Connect Conference speaker Susan Howlett, nonprofit consultant and author. Access the video [Engaging Advisory Committee & Board Members in Fund Development here](#) and the [tool here](#).

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## ICoF Releases Member Reports

ICoF recently surveyed members on important topics related to the field. As a result, the following two reports are being released:

- [ICoF Member COVID-19 and Derecho Response Report](#) details the response of Iowa's philanthropic community to these two disasters. This report also highlights changes in practice funders made during 2020 and what they plan to continue in 2021 and beyond.
- [ICoF Member Philanthropic Regulation Report](#) details the responses we collected from community foundation and private foundation members regarding proposed philanthropic regulations that have been discussed in several states and nationally throughout 2020.

The ICoF Public Policy Committee will be using the information from both reports to inform our 2021 Public Policy Agenda and state and federal legislative conversations. We thank you for your participation and also invite you to utilize the reports for your own internal learning or conversations with your boards or grantmaking committees.

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## Upcoming Trainings & Events

### **Connect Series: Rural Community and Economic Development**

February 24 | 10 – 11:30 am

Join us for the first Connect Conference Series session of 2021! Together we will learn from rural development experts about what is currently happening in Iowa and also from colleagues who have formed strategic partnerships for the betterment of their communities. On this call you will learn from:

helps rural communities add capacity to better support their local entrepreneurs. Entrepreneur Labs allow a rural community to offer a robust set of entrepreneur support services, all delivered virtually by their network staff on behalf of the community. He will also provide an overview of their Innovation Lab services and network as well as the Rural Ideas Network.

- *Liesl Seabert, Rural Community Revitalization Program Manager, Iowa Economic Development Authority* – Liesl will share information about the Empower Rural Iowa work and any opportunities for community foundation partners to engage in the work and/or leverage funding opportunities in 2021.
- *Bill Menner, Executive Director, Iowa Rural Development Council* – Bill will provide updates from the IRDC, share information about funding opportunities available to rural communities, and preview what is in store for the 2021 Iowa Rural Summit.

[Learn more and register here!](#)

### **Connect Conference Series Session 2: Community Foundations Boot Camp**

*Presented by Indiana Philanthropy Alliance*

Begins March 30 | 12 – 2:30 pm | Cost: \$100\*

The Community Foundation Boot Camp is a virtual training program designed to provide participants with an overview of the structure and operations of a community foundation. Community foundations are unique and complex organizations and IPA has designed this training to be an intensive dive into all functions of a community foundation. The program is offered in six sessions scheduled over three weeks and it is recommended that you plan to join each session live:

- Tuesday, March 30; 12:00-2:30 pm
- Thursday, April 1; 12:00-2:00 pm
- Tuesday, April 6; 12:00-2:00 pm
- Thursday, April 8; 12:00-2:00 pm
- Tuesday, April 13; 12:00-2:00 pm
- Thursday, April 15; 12:00-2:00 pm

**Registration for Iowa community foundations is open now through 5 pm on March 1.** Invoices will be sent once the registration period closes. Registration costs for Iowa community foundations are being subsidized through the Iowa Community Foundations Initiative.

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## CF Stories Blog

This month, ICoF President, Kari McCann Boutell, writes about how to connect with your legislators during the 2021 Legislative Session to communicate the impact of Endow Iowa and the County Endowment Fund Program.

[Read the blog here!](#)

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## 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](#).*

Building relationships with professional advisors in your area can seem like a daunting task, but those relationships can lead to the benefit of the PA's clients, the community foundation, and most importantly the community. Recently, the **Hardin County Community Endowment Foundation, an affiliate of the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines**, received a \$4.5M gift as a result of building trusted, local relationships with PAs in their community:

- Read the story about the Alden sisters' generous gift and legacy [here](#) -- and don't miss the video halfway down the page! Such excitement from staff and board members upon receiving the gift!
- Review the [ad](#) that the HCEF ran in their paper following the gift.

To learn more about how to connect with your Professional Advisors or talk with donors about their estate planning, plan to attend Connect Conference Series planned giving sessions this summer. You will learn from experts in the field on how to cultivate these relationships and approach these conversations.

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## Community Foundations in the News

[The Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine recently announced another round of grants through its Racial Equity Fund.](#)

[The Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation is combating youth violence through its SET Fund for Safe, Equitable and Thriving Communities.](#)

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## Articles & Items of Interest

### USDA Announces Grant Program

The USDA Rural Development Program recently announced two grant opportunities:

1. [The Rural Community Development Initiative \(RCDI\)](#) The program is to develop the capacity and ability of private, nonprofit community-based housing and community development organizations and low-income communities to undertake projects related to housing, community facilities, or economic development in rural areas.
2. [The Community Facilities Technical Assistance and Training Grant Program](#) is to provide technical assistance and/or training with respect to essential community facility programs. Grants may be made to 1) eligible entities who then provide technical assistance and/or training to eligible ultimate recipients, or 2) direct assistance to ultimate recipients. The maximum grant application is \$150,000 for Technical Assistance Providers (TAPs) and \$50,000 for Ultimate Recipients (UR).

Additional information and grant application guidelines can be found [here](#).

### CFLeads & ABFE Survey of CFs with Funds of, by, or for Black Communities

CFLeads and ABFE are conducting a survey to get a better understanding of community foundations' funds that invest in Black communities and/or are by and for Black donors. [You can complete the survey here.](#)

### The Wellmark Foundation's 2021 MATCH Grants

- Large MATCH Grants (up to \$100K with 100% match) [due February 17](#)
- Small MATCH Grants (up to \$25K with 50% match) [due May 26](#)

support projects that provide access to healthy foods or create or enhance a safe environment to be physically active in. Guidelines and important information are outlined in their [2021 Request for Applications](#).

### Career Center Postings

The following positions are currently posted:

- **Black Hawk County Gaming Association - Executive Director, Full-Time**
- **Waterloo Community Foundation - Executive Director, Full-Time**

To view all career postings for positions in philanthropy throughout the state, please visit the [Career Center](#).

### Washington Snapshot

Access the most recent edition of Washington Snapshot from the Council on Foundations [here](#).

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