

CF SNAPSHOT



FOR GOOD.
FOR IOWA.
FOR EVER.



February 2025

The *CF Snapshot* is a monthly e-newsletter for Iowa Community Foundations and Affiliates. If you have information you would like included, please [email us!](#)

State Public Policy Update: Endow Iowa Tax Credit

Below is a copy of the public policy alert that went out on Friday, January 31 in a separate e-blast update. We wanted to ensure everyone has seen it.

The Iowa Economic Development Authority has announced a proposal encompassing [a number of tax credit changes](#), including the elimination of the Endow Iowa tax credit program. With signoff from the Governor, the proposal is designed to align Iowa's incentives with the new, reduced individual and corporate income tax rates. The money currently appropriated for Endow Iowa is intended to be re-appropriated to increase the Workforce Housing tax credit in 2026.

Where Things Stand Now

A formal bill has not yet been drafted or introduced. We anticipate this will not happen until later this month or in early March. **Please note: Endow Iowa has**

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been funded for calendar year 2025 and foundations may continue accepting and processing applications for the tax credit.

Why This Matters for Philanthropy

We know how important Endow Iowa is to you and the donors and communities you serve. Endow Iowa was established by the Iowa Legislature in 2004. Over the last 20 years, more than 53,000 donations totaling over \$435M has been leveraged for endowed funds at Iowa community foundations -- thanks, at least in part, to this program. Regardless of what the future holds for Endow Iowa, we can celebrate and appreciate two decades of building one of the strongest networks of community foundations in the country.

Next Steps for Iowa Community Foundations

A call to determine next steps was held the afternoon of January 30 with the Iowa CF CEO Network. They, in consultation with their lobbyist, David Adelman, decided to not take a formal position on the proposal at this time. Instead, we will be launching an **Endow Iowa Impact Campaign**. This marketing and communications plan will help us all share the stories of impact Endow Iowa has created throughout our 99 counties. Our goal is for this to help legislators see the numerous benefits of Endow Iowa. The ICoF team is developing marketing materials and templates with shared language, as well as a coordinated timeline. We hope to have this ready for everyone next week. Please keep an eye on your inboxes! Until then, you are welcome to make people aware of the proposal.

Moving Forward

We will keep you apprised of developments as we hear about them via ICoF Public Policy Alert emails. If you hear an update from your local legislator, please [let Kari know](#). She is happy to help answer any questions you may have too. Thank you for all you do to grow philanthropy in Iowa!

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Spring Capacity-Building Grant Timeline

The [Capacity-Building Grant Program](#) supports opportunities for qualified community foundations and their affiliates to engage in activities that increase their ability for sustainable endowment building and growth. Grants are available each year in Spring and Fall cycles. The 2025 spring timeline is:

- Pre-application will be available on the ICoF website **February 3**
- Pre-applications reviewed on a rolling basis through 5 pm on **March 3**
- Final applications are due by 5 pm on **April 1**
- Grant applicants will be notified of grant decisions by **May 1**

Disaster Recovery Fund Challenge Grant & County List of Disaster Funds

The ICoF has received an extension for the [Disaster Recovery Fund Challenge Grant Program](#) application. The new deadline is June 30. The ICoF team continues to monitor and notify CFs when the Governor declares a state of emergency in their county.

Also, the ICoF is compiling a list of disaster recovery funds for each county, to be made available year-round on our website. This ensures they are ready to be shared whenever disaster strikes.

[Review the list here](#). Did we miss your fund? Please send the county name, name of the fund, and a link [to Laura](#).

If your county does not have a permanent disaster recovery fund in place, now is a great time to get one established!

- One-third of post-disaster donations happen within the first four weeks. Don't lose out on your community's generosity by not being prepared with a fund in place to take those gifts.

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- A \$500 matching grant is currently available to seed your new fund.
- Spring is typically the start of storm season in Iowa. If you get a fund in place now, you'll be prepared in time for active weather in a few months.
- Make sure the URL website address to your fund is easy to share with media outlets and the public.

Learn more about establishing a fund and other steps you can take to prepare in the [Iowa Community Foundations Initiative Disaster Philanthropy Toolkit](#).

5 for the Future/Transfer of Wealth Update

At Connect, the ICoF team unveiled the [5 for the Future of Iowa video](#). If you would like to customize the video with your local data, please [contact Laura](#).

The ICoF social media accounts (Facebook and LinkedIn) are sharing posts specific to the 5 for the Future initiative every other Friday as we move into 2025. Share a post for easy awareness-building, and start a conversation!



Upcoming Trainings & Events

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CF Boot Camp

Presented by Indiana Philanthropy Alliance

February 26-28, 2025 | Cost: \$150*

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. CFs 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 days and it is recommended that you plan to join each session live.

- Wednesday, February 26 | 9:30 am - Noon
- Wednesday, February 26 | 1:00 - 3:00 pm
- Thursday, February 27 | 9:30 - 11:30 am
- Thursday, February 27 | 1:00 - 3:00 pm
- Friday, February 28 | 9:30 - 11:30 am
- Friday, February 28 | 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Registration for Iowa community foundations is open now through 5 pm on February 19. You will be given the option to pay online or "Invoice Me." Further instructions are on the invoice screen for payment, and an invoice will be emailed to you if you click "Invoice Me."

*Registration costs for Iowa community foundations are being subsidized through the Iowa Community Foundations Initiative.

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

Annual Community Foundations Legislative Breakfast

Wednesday, March 5, 2025 | 7:30 - 9 am | State Capitol, Des Moines

Please join your community foundation colleagues from around the state as we gather at the State Capitol to talk about the important work of Iowa community foundations with legislators.

[**Register**](#)

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Legal Matters for Community Foundations

March 18 & 20, 2025 | Noon-3:30 pm each day | Virtual
\$150 per participant for Iowa Community Foundations*

Led by the Council's legal team this workshop is designed to answer your broad legal and practical questions on administering funds, grants, and community foundation activities. This live, participatory workshop will also provide technical and practical understanding of complex rules and regulations.

Throughout the workshop, sessions will be curated with the help of insight gleaned from the Council's top-notch legal team that interacts with nearly 2,000 foundation leaders each year, as well as trends spotted by their broader team, including the National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations, a supporting organization of the Council. It will be a timely and take on the basics that inform day-to-day business decisions and operations. To register:

1. Please use this page: [Legal Matters for Community Foundations - Virtual - March 2025](#) to login and start your registration. If you do not already have a COF login, you'll need to create one first to be able to proceed with the registration process. A new login can be created from the registration page by following the prompts.
2. Once logged in you will be asked if you are registering yourself, or a colleague; make your selection and click Next.
3. Under the "I will be attending as..." section, please select Iowa Council, which will then ask you to provide a passcode. The passcode is **lowaLMCFMar25**. Click Next.
4. Confirm or edit badge information and answer registration questions. Click Checkout.
5. Review your cart, and make sure the registration fee is \$150.
6. Complete your checkout with provided payment options.
7. If you encounter any issues, please contact the Council on Foundations at educate@cof.org.

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*This cost is generously underwritten by the Iowa Community Foundation Initiative.

[Register via COF website](#)

Federal Public Policy Updates

Like all of you, we have been tracking the actions last week of the presidential administration's order to **freeze federal grant and loan funding** (Memorandum M-25-13), the subsequent fallout, the judge's order to temporarily block that action, and the memo being rescinded. While this is good news -- for the time being -- we anticipate there will be forthcoming efforts to restrict and halt critical funding that our nonprofit sector and communities rely on. Here is what we know is in the works, and what you can do ... [\[Read the public policy alert issued by ICoF on 1/29/25\]](#)

A **Funder Briefing call** will be held via Zoom on Thursday, February 6 from 3 - 4 pm for ICoF members. Kari will provide updates and we will also discuss funder strategies on how best to support nonprofits and communities should future funding freezes come into effect. [Register here.](#)

Community Foundations in the News

[Cedar Falls Community Foundation announces grants to expand child care](#)

[Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines awards \\$310k to local nonprofits](#)

[Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque donors give \\$900k to Cascade library project](#)

[Fayette County Community Foundation awards \\$176k to local orgs](#)

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[Keokuk Area Community Foundation sets up fund to assist those displaced by fire](#)

Articles & Items of Interest

Registration Open for the 2025 Iowa Rural Summit

Join rural leaders, economic developers, and community changemakers in Ames, Iowa, on April 9-11 for networking, insightful sessions, and innovative strategies to drive rural success. [Learn more.](#)

Career Center Postings

Chief Financial Officer

Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation

Full-time | Cedar Rapids, IA

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

Washington Snapshot

The latest Washington Snapshot from Council on Foundations is available [here.](#)

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