Our Vision:
A community where families choose to live and businesses choose to locate because of the quality of life and standard of living
Our Organization

- The Iowa West Foundation is a private foundation intentionally set up by its founders to separate itself from the political process. City and County governments are treated like any other grantee
- Iowa West Racing Association/Iowa West Foundation
- 17 Board members
- 4 Advisory Committees
- 9 Staff Members
- 1 Regional Community
Our Focus Areas

- Economic Development
- Education
- Healthy Families
- Place-making
  - Infrastructure
  - Quality of life
From 1996-today

$400,000,000
Pottawattamie County and Council Bluffs are primary funding areas
Omaha funding policies
Grant Process

• Eligibility Quiz
• Grants Workshop – 3 cycles
• Letter of Inquiry
• If approved, Application
• Due Diligence – (covers Capacity & Budget)
• Advisory Committee Approval
• Board Approval
In the last 5 years...

Shift from Grants → Initiatives

What this means:

• More proactive
• Less reactive
The Initiative Process

• Utilizes community input along with research
• Allows for the collaboration of multiple partners
• Creates an opportunity to leverage funding through partnerships
• Option to redesign service delivery, create anew
• Invests for impact on a larger, longer-term scale
Steps to an Initiative

- Strategic Plan Based off Community Input
- Research/Analysis
- Convening/Strategy (partnerships/task forces)
- Implementation (pilot programs)
- Evaluation/Monitoring
Economic Development
Riverfront North
West Broadway
Mid-America Center
Kitchen Council
Place-making

- Infrastructure
- Quality of life
Trails
Streetscape
CB Athletic Complex
Veterans Affairs Building
Parks - Art in the Park
Neighborhoods
Public Art

*Only 4.5% of total funding 1986-2016*
Loessfest
Healthy Families
Multi-Year Funding

• Boys & Girls Club of the Midlands
• FAMILY, Inc.
• Green Hills AEA
• Heartland Family Services
• Justice For Our Neighbors
• Lutheran Family Services
• MICAH House
STDs

Pottawattamie Co. has one of the highest STD rates in Iowa, and the rate continues to climb.
Sex Trafficking
Charles E. Lakin Human Services Campus
Children’s Mental Health
Education
Pottawattamie Promise
Summer School
International Baccalaureate

Middle Years Programme
In Summary

We are committed to **LISTENING** when it comes to the needs of our communities and **LEADING** the way in fulfilling our collective vision. We seek to invest our resources for maximum **IMPACT**, **LEVERAGING** our investments through the collaboration of multiple **PARTNERSHIPS** throughout the region.
Questions?
What investments do YOU feel the Iowa West Foundation can make that would be most vital to the growth and prosperity of Council Bluffs and southwest Iowa?
Stay Updated

- Website: www.iowawestfoundation.org
- Blogs
  - Leadership Notes
  - Grant at Work
- E-newsletters (sign-up on website)
- Facebook: /IowaWestFoundation
- Twitter: @IowaWestFdn