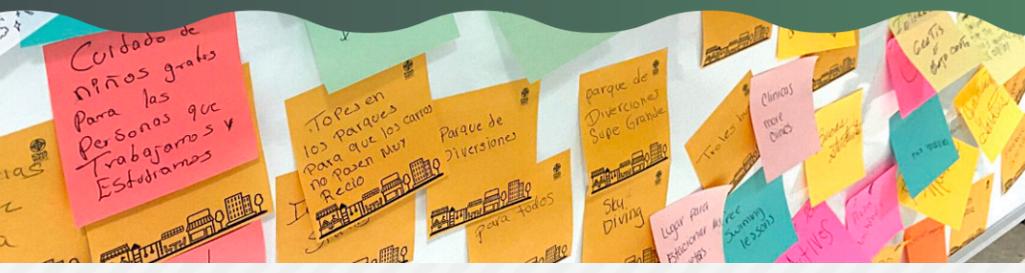




Community PROGRESS REPORT



The Vision

The Iowa West Foundation strives for communities where families *LOVE* to live and businesses *THRIVE*.



The mission: improve lives and strengthen communities for current and future generations.

How:

- Catalyze creativity and collaboration
- Empower partners for community success
- Foster leadership that reflects the community
- Support people-focused outcomes



Iowa West Foundation serves Council Bluffs, Pottawattamie County, and 14 surrounding counties in southwest Iowa and the metro.



Let's Connect

www.iowawestfoundation.org



1. Community Survey

Why the changes?
An anonymous community survey encouraged the Iowa West Foundation to find ways to re-energize our connection with our communities.



2. Opportunity

- We set out to:**
- **ENGAGE** the community in setting our funding priorities.
 - **APPLY** those priorities to a new Strategic Vision.
 - Emphasize **TRANSPARENCY**.
 - Lift up the community by **SHARING STORIES** of partner successes.



4. Vision + Outcomes

Apply Community Input
This led to a restated vision and outcomes that promote growth and prosperity for our region.

BELONGING Hometown pride and community engagement	OPPORTUNITY Post-secondary attainment and a level playing field
FINANCIAL STABILITY Livable wage, housing stability, and freedom from worry	WELLBEING Pursuit of passions and increase in happiness



3. Imagine

Listen | Imagine Hours
Invited county residents to tell IWF what they love about their community and what we could do to make it even better.



Clear community priorities emerged at this point:
Housing • Education • Recreation

5. Share

Sharing Stories
This is a great place to live, and we want to celebrate with our partners.



6. Result

Transparency | Moving Forward Together

Collaboration is key. We are working with others, empowering partners, fostering leadership that is reflective of the community and supporting people-focused outcomes, creating a better environment for the people who live here.

Let's take a look at what we've accomplished together so far.



Housing Development Program

A Unique & Creative Collaboration

With a pledge of \$4 million from IWF, the city of Council Bluffs created a housing development program that addresses the housing crisis in creative ways.

- **THE GOAL:** 1,300 units over the next 10 years

Funds can be used for land acquisition, infrastructure, or developer incentives to create multi-family or single-family housing.

“This is a great start to addressing the housing need, introducing new developers to CB, and boosting our population significantly for the first time in fifty years.”

-Brandon Garret Chief of Staff, City of Council Bluffs

- **THE IMPACT:** More housing stock will help Council Bluffs grow.



Homeowner Repair Program

Habitat for Humanity

- **THE GOAL:** Maintain valuable housing stock and home values in our community.
- **IMPACT:** A sense of pride in home ownership, neighborhood beautification, and owners stay in the place they call home.

“The homeowner repair program enables current homeowners to make essential repairs, allowing them to stay in their homes while preserving these properties for future generations.”

- Kim Smith, Habitat for Humanity



Eviction Diversion

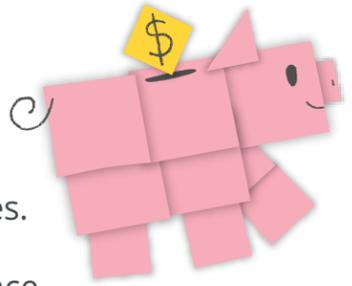
Iowa Legal Aid

Before Iowa Legal Aid established the Eviction Diversion Desk with a grant from the IWF, Pottawattamie County had one of Iowa’s highest eviction rates.

- **THE GOAL:** Provide free legal assistance to help residents of Pottawattamie County avoid eviction and potential homelessness and make sure property owners receive payment.

- **THE IMPACT:** Helped **443 people** in one year, with **94% achieving positive outcomes**. Reduced community burden by preventing evictions and lessening the need for emergency shelters.

Property owners get paid; Tenants stay.



EDUCATION WITH PURPOSE

Preschool

Green Hills Area Education Agency

With the support of IWF funding of \$16 million over the past 18 years, GHAEA has provided high-quality preschool programming for 4-year-olds throughout Pottawattamie County. Kindergarten readiness has a positive effect on third-grade reading ability, high school graduation rates, and future achievement outcomes.

In one year, **86 percent of kindergartners met the fall benchmark for the early literacy screening** in Pottawattamie’s Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) area, ranking 1st among all 38 areas.



Workforce Education

The new initiative provides a total of \$1.1 million to six school districts, Avenue Scholars of Southwest Iowa, and Iowa Western Community College to support and prepare the **next generation of workers for in-demand careers**. Each program ensures students receive support in their career exploration and assistance in transitioning to additional training.

“I was the first high school student in the state of Iowa to complete a registered apprenticeship [in early childhood education] from the Iowa Department of Labor.”

-Stacie Green, Iowa Resident



RECREATION FOR WELLBEING

Places

Top-notch recreational facilities enhance residents' quality of life, promote health, and attract visitors to our community.

Events

Festive occasions like **Summerfest** and **Winterfest** foster a sense of pride, get people engaged in community happenings, and offer fun, free enrichment for all ages.

Activation

The completion of construction is just the beginning. Amenities like the **FIRST Avenue trail** shine brightest when they are more than thoroughfares. They’re gathering spaces, activity hubs, and a way to meet and get to know your neighbors.

