

# FUNDED PARTNER DIRECTORY: FY26

African Immigrants and Refugees Transition Services.....	6
Africans In Iowa for Empowerment (AIFE).....	7
AMOS Institute of Public Life.....	8
ArtForce Iowa.....	9
Association of Youth Development and Enrichment.....	10
B.Well Foundation.....	11
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Iowa.....	12
Black Women 4 Healthy Living.....	13
Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Iowa.....	14
By Degrees Foundation.....	15
Camp Fire Heart of Iowa.....	16
Can Play.....	17
Carlisle Community School District.....	18
Catholic Council for Social Concern, Inc. DBA Catholic Charities.....	19
Children & Families of Iowa.....	20
Children and Family Urban Movement.....	21
ChildServe.....	22
Community Youth Concepts.....	23
Corinthian Community Development Corp .....	24
Creative Visions Inc.....	25
Dallas County Agriculture Extension District.....	26
Dallas County Health Department.....	27
Dental Connections.....	28

Des Moines Area Community College.....	29
Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC).....	30
Des Moines Independent Community School District.....	31
Dorothy's House.....	32
Ellipsis.....	33
EMBARC.....	34
Evelyn K. Davis Center for Working Families.....	35
EveryStep.....	36
Families Forward.....	37
Forest Avenue Outreach.....	38
Genesis Youth Foundation.....	39
GiGi's Playhouse.....	40
Girl Scouts of Greater Iowa.....	41
Goodwill of Central Iowa.....	42
Grand View Child Development Center.....	43
Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity.....	44
Healthy Birth Day, Inc.....	45
Heart of Iowa Regional Transit Agency (HIRTA).....	46
Hispanic Educational Resources.....	47
HOME, Inc.....	48
International Rescue Committee.....	49
Investing In My Future, Inc.....	50
Iowa ACEs 360.....	51
Iowa AEYC.....	52
Iowa Center for Economic Success.....	53

Iowa Community Capital.....	54
Iowa Congolese Organization and Center for Healing (ICOACH).....	55
Iowa Healthiest State Initiative.....	56
Iowa Homeless Youth Centers.....	57
Iowa Jobs for America's Graduates (iJAG).....	58
Iowa Legal Aid.....	59
Iowa Migrant Movement for Justice.....	60
Iowa Safe Schools.....	61
Iowa State University Foundation.....	62
Isiserettes Drill and Drum Corps .....	63
Jewels Academy.....	64
Johnston Partnership for a Healthy Community.....	65
Knock and Drop Iowa.....	66
LadyLike .....	67
Latinas Latinos Al Exito Inc.....	68
Latinas Unidas por un Nuevo Amanecer (L.U.N.A.).....	69
Latinx Immigrants of Iowa .....	70
Link Associates.....	71
Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI).....	72
ManUp Iowa Mentoring INC.....	73
MindSpring Mental Health Alliance .....	74
Monsoon Asians & Pacific Islanders in Solidarity.....	75
Mothers Against Violence .....	76
New Opportunities, Inc.....	77
Oakridge Neighborhood Services.....	78

One Economy Financial Development Corp.....	79
One Iowa.....	80
Orchard Place.....	81
Perry Child Development Center.....	82
Perry Community School District.....	83
Primary Health Care Inc.....	84
Project Iowa.....	85
Proteus Inc.....	86
Pursuit of Innovation.....	87
Refugee & Immigrant Voices in Action (RIVA).....	88
Sarge's WestSide Boxing Club.....	89
Shalom Community Impact Center.....	90
Short Years Partnership.....	91
St. Vincent de Paul.....	92
Starts Right Here.....	93
The Director's Council.....	94
The Food GRID (HFDC).....	95
The Helping Hand of Warren County.....	96
The Supply Hive.....	97
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants.....	98
Urban Dreams.....	99
WayPoint Resources.....	100
WeLIFT Job Search Center .....	101
Wesley Community Services, Inc.....	102
West Des Moines Community School District.....	103

Willkie House Inc.....	104
Wonder Years Academy.....	105
YMCA of Greater Des Moines.....	106
Young Women's Resource Center.....	107
Youth Justice Initiative.....	108
Youth Law Center.....	109

# AFRICAN IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

## TRANSITION SERVICES

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African Immigrants & Refugees Transition Services was founded by and for immigrants and refugees from Africa living in Iowa. AIRTS provides Immigrants and refugees the resources they need to successfully settle in their new home/community. AIRTS offers services that include Parenting Tools that help parents navigate many different public systems they encounter & parenting education that helps bridge the cultural gap. Early childhood success program that works with pregnant mothers and children ages 0 to 5. Citizenship classes. Interpretation and translation services, connecting immigrant and refugee families with needed resources, assistance filling out benefit applications, immigration applications, and employment application.

# AFRICANS IN IOWA FOR EMPOWERMENT (AIFE)

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Organization Address: 2323 Grand Ave. 2nd Flr Des Moines, IA 50312

Organization Website: [www.aifeusa.org](http://www.aifeusa.org)

Counties served: Polk

## MISSION STATEMENT

To create the opportunity to teach professional skills that our African immigrants or individual would be self-reliant and sufficient to improve and achieve their American dreams.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Our organization, Africans In Iowa for Empowerment - AIFE is a non-profit organization which provides education, information and technology skills to the non privileged African immigrants seeking means to a better life in the state of Iowa. Mainly to reduce low income for families who are desiring to advance their education.

AIFE has rendered services to over 89 Africans in total for its phase I, II, III and now 23 Africans in its phase IV computer literacy training from August 1st through November 31st. The AIFE program, we will conclude, is very successful because it has enabled single mothers, fathers, business owners and students to use our program to make changes in their lives.

# AMOS INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC LIFE

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Organization Address: 3829 Grand Ave Des Moines, IA 50312

Organization Website: [www.amosipl.org](http://www.amosipl.org)

Counties served: Polk;Dallas

## MISSION STATEMENT

AMOS IPL is committed to equipping ordinary people with the skills they need to be effective leaders in their workplace, in their congregations, and in their communities.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

AMOS Institute of Public Life (AMOS IPL) is a broad-based, grassroots organization comprised of 40 diverse member institutions. AMOS IPL brings people together across many lines of difference, acting to strengthen their institutions, change policies and systems to improve the lives of ordinary people, and increase equity and well-being in our neighborhoods and community. AMOS IPL believes that ordinary people, working together, can become leaders and transform our democracy for the common good. AMOS IPL has had successes making systemic change around issues of mental health, infrastructure, economic development, etc. AMOS IPL is affiliated with the Industrial Areas Foundation, the nation's oldest and largest community organizing network.

# ARTFORCE IOWA

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Organization Address: PO Box 1576 Des Moines, IA 50305

Organization Website: [www.artforceiowa.org](http://www.artforceiowa.org)

Counties served: Polk

## MISSION STATEMENT

ArtForce Iowa has a mission to create opportunities for youth to transform through art.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

ArtForce Iowa has two youth-centered programs: the Heroes program, a supportive arts community for young people who are immigrants, refugees, and first-generation Americans; and the Pathways program, a supportive, arts-based community for youth who have involvement in the juvenile court services system, labeled as a Children in Need of Assistance, or living in shelters or the foster care system. Staff provide case management and advocacy to support young people's needs, informal field trips and meaningful connections with caring adults to build resilience and to interrupt trauma with kindness, hope and art.

Learn more about our two other priorities here:

<https://artforceiowa.org/priority-two>

<https://artforceiowa.org/priority-three>

# ASSOCIATION OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND ENRICHMENT (AYDE)

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Organization Address: 1230 6ave #104 Des Moines, IA 50317

Organization Website: [Www.Ayde4you.org](http://www.Ayde4you.org)

Counties served: Polk

## MISSION STATEMENT

Our organization will provide humanitarian and relief assistance including but not limited to food, clothing, shelters, medical supplies as well educational material to needy people, groups and institutions in Iowa and the United States at large. We deal with youth and families in our community's Our mission is to foster a sense of community and support through innovative programs that address the immediate needs of individuals and contribute to long-term community development.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Ayde is a dynamic nonprofit organization dedicated to creating positive change within our community. Committed to addressing key issues such as food insecurity and community well-being, Ayde actively engages in impactful initiatives.

# B.WELL FOUNDATION

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Organization Address: PO Box 41053 Des Moines, IA 50311

Organization Website: [www.bwellfoundation.org](http://www.bwellfoundation.org)

Counties served: Polk

## MISSION STATEMENT

Develop and expand young minds by building character through mentorship and education. In our vision to build stronger futures for youth and lift them to a place of prosperity.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

The B.WELL Foundation supports initiatives that focus on education, mentorship, and families and schools in need of resources. Working closely with fellow well-respected community members and organizations, the Foundation creates opportunities that are community-led, based in and of the communities of service, fostering increased community engagement and exemplifying first-hand the power community members to be the difference in their own communities.

# BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF CENTRAL IOWA

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Organization Address: 2130 Grand Avenue Des Moines, IA 50312

Organization Website: [www.bbbsia.org](http://www.bbbsia.org)

Counties served: Polk;Warren;Dallas

## MISSION STATEMENT

BBBSIA's mission is to create and support one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

"BBBSIA's vision is to see all children achieve their full potential. By partnering with parents/guardians, volunteers, and others in the community, BBBSIA works to ensure each child achieves higher aspirations, greater confidence, and better relationships; avoids risky behaviors; and attains educational success.

BBBSIA provides mentoring services for children (Littles) ages 5-18 in Polk, Warren, and Dallas counties through three core service models:

The Community-Based Program matches an adult mentor (Big) with a child (Little), age 5-15, with mentoring activities taking place in the community throughout the year, as agreed by the mentor, child, and the child's family.

The School-Based Program matches a mentor (Big) with a child (Little).

# BLACK WOMEN 4 HEALTHY LIVING

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Organization Address: P.O. Box 5144 Des Moines, IA 50305

Organization Website: <https://bw4hl.org/>

Counties served: Polk

## MISSION STATEMENT

The primary mission of Black Women 4 Healthy Living is to create a supportive community where Black women feel empowered to take charge of their health and well-being. Unlike other health movements, this initiative is deeply rooted in the local community, focusing on culturally relevant practices with a Holistic Approach.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Black Women 4 Healthy Living (BW4HL) was established to address disparities impacting the health and wellbeing of Black Women. The focus of BW4HL is to improve the quality of life of the Black community by increasing awareness of health issues and providing tools to improve health outcomes. BW4HL strives to bridge gaps between the Black Community and healthcare systems, so that the community can access care and quality healthcare.

# BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF CENTRAL IOWA

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Organization Address: 1421 Walker St. Des Moines, IA 50316

Organization Website: [www.bgcci.org](http://www.bgcci.org)

Counties served: Polk;Warren;Dallas

## MISSION STATEMENT

To inspire and enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Since its establishment in 1963, Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Iowa (BGCCI) programming has evolved to meet the ever-changing needs of the Des Moines Metro community, while never wavering from our core belief that every child, regardless of their income level or zip code, should have access to high-quality, after-school and summer programming in a safe and supportive environment. BGCCI membership is open to all Des Moines youth aged 5-18. As an organization, we engage members in research-based programming and hands-on, educationally enriching activities, every day after-school and all-day during school closures, including the summer months. Our key programming areas are Academic Success, Healthy Lifestyles, and Good Character & Leadership.

# BY DEGREES FOUNDATION

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Organization Address: PO Box 41070 Des Moines, IA 50311

Organization Website: [www.bydegreesfoundation.org](http://www.bydegreesfoundation.org)

Counties served: Polk

## MISSION STATEMENT

By Degrees Foundation ensures more students graduate from high school with a plan and the tools they need to be successful in postsecondary education and fulfilling careers. We are working toward a Des Moines where more students from under-resourced backgrounds graduate from high school with the skills, knowledge, and financial resources necessary to create lives of financial security.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

By Degrees Foundation partners with DMPS to build a culture of college, career, and community from kindergarten through high school graduation. Our partner schools serve diverse students in under-resourced neighborhoods.

We create and facilitate hands-on programming that helps students explore future pathways, build networks, and identify their goals, and we support those experiences with real financial investment. Students can also earn money into dedicated 529 savings accounts for use after high school graduation.

Programming includes postsecondary visits, career exploration, financial education, asset building, and health/wellness supports. We also work with partners to address barriers to student and family success.

# CAMP FIRE HEART OF IOWA

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Organization Address: PO Box 13015 Des Moines, IA 50310

Organization Website: [www.campfireiowa.org](http://www.campfireiowa.org)

Counties served: Polk;Warren;Dallas

## MISSION STATEMENT

Growing up is hard. Camp Fire connects young people (5-18) to themselves, to others and to the outdoors.

Our Vision: We envision a world where all young people thrive and have equitable opportunities for:

Self Discovery: All young people discover who they are.

Community Connection: All young people have meaningful relationships with adults and peers; they contribute to their community.

Engagement with the outdoors: All young people experience the power and awe of the outdoors.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Camp Fire creates safe spaces where young people can have fun and be themselves through School Care, Out-of-School Time Programs, Day/ Overnight Camps & Teen Leadership Development. We collectively serve more than 1,200 central Iowa youth every year. The common thread woven through all our programs is relationships. This is how we support young people as they navigate the challenges of growing up in the world today and learn the life skills they need to thrive. We take pride in our long-standing commitment to inclusivity and diversity within our programs and organization. Since 1910 we were the first multiracial, multicultural, and nonsectarian organization for girls in America. Today, we strive to continue in that spirit and welcome all.

# CAN PLAY

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Organization Address: 6500 Grand Avenue West Des Moines, IA 50266

Organization Website: [www.can-play.org](http://www.can-play.org)

Counties served: Polk;Warren;Dallas

## MISSION STATEMENT

Can Play provides developmental programs adapted to meet the needs of those with financial, physical, cognitive, emotional or chronic health care barriers to play. Our vision is simple: Where Play has No Limits!

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

In our pursuit of breaking down barriers to play, Can Play provides underprivileged youth and adults in central Iowa a space to participate in a variety recreational programs; build positive relationships with role model instructors;

Our Opportunity programs provide no-cost programs to youth living in low-socioeconomic homes. Our participants qualify for the free and reduced lunch participation rate exceeding 75% while 90% are with different minority groups.

Our Courage programs provide adapted programs to youth and adults no matter their physical, cognitive or emotional need. Our program meets them where they are at and demonstrates how they can play despite their barriers.

# CARLISLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Organization Address: 430 School Street Carlisle, IA 50447

Organization Website: [www.carlislecsd.org](http://www.carlislecsd.org)

Counties served: Polk;Warren

## MISSION STATEMENT

At Carlisle we are committed to character, service, and excellence in everything we do. We strive to provide a comprehensive education experience that prepares students to thrive in their chosen pathway after graduation through a positive culture, committed to a safe learning environment, and based on mutual respect among all district stakeholders. We continue to promote partnerships with parents and community to extend and enrich learning experiences within and beyond the classroom.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

The KickStart program serves 40 identified at-risk students entering 4th - 5th grade. Responsive classroom routines set the foundation for trusting relationships and a sense of community within the KickStart program. Students participate in lessons and activities related to reading, phonics, STEM, and life skills to prepare them for the upcoming school year. Through this program students will gain consistent classroom routines to aid in the transition back to school and for students transferring from our lower elementary to the upper elementary. The KickStart program is a week and a half prior to the school year, 8:00am to 1:00pm. This program provides students transportation to and from camp, as well as a breakfast snack and a sack lunch.

# CATHOLIC COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL CONCERN, INC. DBA CATHOLIC CHARITIES

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Organization Address: 601 Grand Ave Des Moines, IA 50309

Organization Website: [www.catholiccharitiesdm.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesdm.org)

Counties served: Polk

## MISSION STATEMENT

Catholic Charities' Mission Statement is as follows: "Family-centered services that empower individuals and strengthen families.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Catholic Charities is a 501c3, non-profit social service organization that serves people of all backgrounds in a 23-county area in Southwest Iowa annually serving over 25,000 people. Catholic Charities began in the Diocese of Des Moines in 1924, responding to a community need for shelter and care of children who could no longer be cared for by their families. Today, Catholic Charities offers essential and basic needs to vulnerable populations, integrated with case management and enhanced resources toward a healthier more sustainable future. Catholic Charities programming includes counseling, refugee resettlement, domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, shelter, and food insecurity.

# CHILDREN & FAMILIES OF IOWA

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Organization Address: 1111 University Ave Des Moines, IA 50314

Organization Website: [www.cfiowa.org](http://www.cfiowa.org)

Counties served: Polk;Warren;Dallas;Other

## MISSION STATEMENT

Children & Families of Iowa's (CFI) mission is Restoring hope, Building futures, and Changing lives.

Our Core values include intentional compassion, family focused, evolving innovation, dependable teamwork, integrity, and exceptional professionalism, with a goal of being known as the standard for excellence in the delivery of services for children and families.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

CFI is a nonprofit, founded over 135 years ago. Impacting over 36,000 Iowans annually & employing over 225 individuals, we have served the community for generations.

Domestic Violence: Shelter, outreach, crisis, & community education

Behavioral Health: Therapy & substance use counseling

Career Planning & Work Readiness: WIOA Title I Program, benefits planning and supported employment for people with disabilities

Childcare & Tutoring: Therapeutic Childcare, Early HeadStart, Preschool, Childcare, & Tutoring

Protective Payee Services: Budgeting for those receiving SSI/SSDI

Health & Human Services: Contracted services with Iowa Department of Health & Human Services

Juvenile Justice Services: Contracted services with Juvenile Courts Services

# CHILDREN AND FAMILY URBAN MOVEMENT

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Organization Address: 1548 8th Street Des Moines, IA 50314

Organization Website: [www.cfum.org](http://www.cfum.org)

Counties served: Polk

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of CFUM is to create a community that supports the potential of children, youth, and families through educational success, healthy living, and community engagement.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

With a commitment to community and education, CFUM carries out its mission through nutritional programs (Breakfast Club and Supper Club) and educational success programs (Haven After School and Awesome Summer Days). CFUM serves the population in the 50314 zip code, which has one of the highest poverty rates in Des Moines.

# CHILD SERVE

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Organization Address: 5406 Merle Hay Rd Johnston, IA 50131

Organization Website: [www.childserve.org](http://www.childserve.org)

Counties served: Polk;Warren;Dallas;Other

## MISSION STATEMENT

We partner with families to help children with special healthcare needs live a great life.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Child *Serve* is the only organization of its kind in Iowa, offering an array of over 30 clinical, home and community-based services and programs to children with special healthcare needs. Children served have developmental delays, disabilities, chronic medical conditions, mental health needs, injuries and/or other special healthcare needs. Child *Serve* is the largest therapy provider for children in Iowa, the largest pediatric rehabilitation provider of its kind in the Midwest, and Iowa's only inpatient rehabilitation medicine program exclusively for children and teens.

# COMMUNITY YOUTH CONCEPTS

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Organization Address: 1446 Martin Luther King Jr. Pkwy Des Moines, IA 50314

Organization Website: <https://www.cyconcepts.org>

Counties served: Polk

## MISSION STATEMENT

Community Youth Concepts' mission is to engage and connect Iowa students through youth development programming and to provide coaching, training, and technical assistance in best practices to youth-serving non-profits.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Community Youth Concepts (CYC) exists to create an Iowa where all youth have access to high quality opportunities that prepare them for success in school, work, and life. CYC provides direct programming to youth primarily ages 12-18 in Polk County, serving youth through ongoing school-based clubs operating across 3 school districts. Three CYC programs are community based and include students from a variety of different school districts in Polk County. In 2020 CYC opened the Stowe Heights Challenge Course, a high and low ropes course serving youth and adults, primarily in central Iowa. Three CYC staff are trained to conduct Youth Program Quality Assessments for internal programming and for other youth-serving organizations and schools.

# CORINTHIAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

## CORP

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Organization Address: 814 School Street Des Moines, IA 50309

Organization Website:

Counties served: Polk

### MISSION STATEMENT

Corinthian Baptist Community Development Corporation (CB-CDC) mission is to coordinate outreach, increase essential service capacity, and build resilient communities in central Iowa through educational programs, community partnerships, and sustainable resources.

### AGENCY DESCRIPTION

"CB-CDC is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation that was established to drive the collective impact of faith-based organizations and community partnerships in Central Iowa.

CB-CDC board of directors is led by Rev. Dr. Jonathan Whitfield, a decorated military veteran who serves as the tenth Pastor and visionary leader of the Corinthian Baptist Church.

CB-CDC trains CARES program staff and volunteers to develop and manage its programs which include - weekly Chaplin services to area prisons; capacity building resources for local churches and nonprofit agencies, an onsite health clinic, and the Corinthian CARES program.

# CREATIVE VISIONS INC.

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Organization Address: 1343 13th Street Des Moines, IA 50314

Organization Website: [www.cvonline.us](http://www.cvonline.us)

Counties served: Polk;Warren;Dallas;Other

## MISSION STATEMENT

### THE MISSION

To develop economically vulnerable individuals, families, and communities into becoming self-empowered, self-responsible, and self-sufficient through education and economic empowerment.

### THE VISION

To break the chain of poverty and hopelessness within vulnerable communities by empowering the individuals within them to become prosperous and productive citizens who contribute to and shape prosperous and productive communities.”

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Creative Visions was founded in 1996. Initially, our focus was to provide educational opportunities and resources to help address the rampant use of drugs, gang violence & crime involving At-Risk Youth. While we received dramatic results from our efforts, we soon realized that we were only addressing the symptoms of a greater problem. It became clear that in order to effectively amend the issues impacting the underserved and at-risk populations - on a long-term basis - a comprehensive approach involving the family and the community would be necessary to bring about the desired change. Our CEO, Ako Abdul-Samad is a Native Iowan born in Des Moines. He has been a Community Activist for over 50 yrs.

# DALLAS COUNTY AGRICULTURE EXTENSION DISTRICT

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Organization Address: 28061 Fairground Rd Adel, IA 50003

Organization Website: [www.extension.iastate.edu/dallas](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/dallas)

Counties served: Warren;Dallas

## MISSION STATEMENT

Our vision is ISU Extension and Outreach will advance land-grant values and research by engaging all Iowans in solving today's problems and preparing for a thriving future. ISU Extension and Outreach builds a strong Iowa by engaging all Iowans in research, education, and extension experiences to address current and emerging real-life challenges.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Dallas County Extension and Outreach is part of the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach organization. We accomplish goals by developing meaningful partnerships in the counties we serve. Through partnerships, we increase abilities of Iowans to make informed decisions by applying needs-driven resources to create significant impact. Dallas County Extension conducts the Reach For The Stars (RFTS) program for both Dallas and Warren counties. The early childhood staff are grant funded through the Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) 4RKids area by the Board of Directors. Staff work with licensed and registered childcare providers in Adair, Dallas, Madison, and Warren counties.

# DALLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Organization Address: 25747 N Ave Adel, IA 50003

Organization Website: [www.dallascountyiowa.gov/publichealth](http://www.dallascountyiowa.gov/publichealth)

Counties served: Dallas

## MISSION STATEMENT

To promote, protect, and improve the public's health through surveillance, education, care coordination, disease prevention, mobilization of community resources, and enforcement of public health policies and regulations.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Dallas County Health Department (DCHD) develops, maintains, and improves health related programs that recognize the wellness continuum. Programs and services at DCHD are guided by the 10 Essential Public Health Services, the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services, and Dallas County Community Health Improvement Plan. Our staff of 9 oversees Immunization, Environmental Health, Community Health, Health Navigation, Emergency Preparedness, Communicable Disease, and Nutrition programming. DCHD works to influence health along the entire spectrum, from one-on-one direct services to policy, systems, and environmental efforts.

# DENTAL CONNECTIONS

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Organization Address: 1111 9th Street, Suite 190 Des Moines, IA 50314

Organization Website: [www.dentalconnections.org](http://www.dentalconnections.org)

Counties served: Polk;Warren;Dallas;Other

## MISSION STATEMENT

To provide equitable access to oral healthcare for all.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Dental Connections provides care to over 15,000 patients across our programs using a community-based approach. We strive to eliminate any barriers that might prevent access to dental care, including transportation, insurance status, work schedules, cultural understandings, and language needs.

To carry out our mission, we operate three core programs:

1. The Main Clinic - a seventeen-operatory clinic in the United Way building that provides comprehensive dentistry to over 6,000 patients per year.
2. The Smile Squad - a mobile dentistry program that includes two mobile dental units and provides comprehensive dentistry at over 60 schools.
3. Little Healthy Smiles - classroom-based screenings and Fluoride/Varnish at 14 preschool locations.

# DES MOINES AREA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Organization Address: 2006 S. Ankeny Blvd. Ankeny, IA 50023

Organization Website: [www.dmacc.edu](http://www.dmacc.edu)

Counties served: Polk;Warren;Dallas;Other

## MISSION STATEMENT

DMACC's mission is to provide quality, affordable, student centered education and training to empower our diverse communities and to serve as a catalyst for economic development. The mission of the EKDC is to use an integrated support service network to help individuals and families achieve success through education, targeted skills training, financial literacy, asset building, real work experience, and connection to employment opportunities, helping them achieve their career goals.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

DMACC is a publicly supported, two-year institution of higher education serving the Des Moines area and 11 counties in central Iowa. Founded in 1966, DMACC operates across six campuses and six attendance centers and offers over 200 programs and certificates, including technical programs, pre-professional programs, and liberal arts transfer degrees. The college also offers high school completion, adult basic education, and instruction for English language learners. DMACC is the largest of the 15 Iowa community colleges.

# DES MOINES AREA RELIGIOUS COUNCIL (DMARC)

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Organization Address: 100 Army Post Rd Des Moines, IA 50315

Organization Website: <https://www.dmarcunited.org/>

Counties served: Polk;Warren;Dallas;Other

## MISSION STATEMENT

DMARC's mission is working together to meet basic human needs for the Greater Des Moines community. These efforts are primarily realized through the Food Pantry Network, a coordinated network of food pantries, mobile units and home delivery program providing fresh and healthy food assistance to low-income individuals experiencing food insecurity. Founded in 1976, the Food pantry Network is Iowa's largest food pantry network.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

The DMARC Food Pantry Network is comprised of 13 partner pantries, an on-site pantry, mobile food pantry, food delivery program and warehouse for coordinated food delivery to partner pantries.

The DMARC Food Pantry Network operates through three pillars:

- creating a dignified experience as close to a grocery store as possible;
- providing healthy, nutritious foods with an emphasis on produce;
- collecting data to tell the broader story of food insecurity.

As the coordinating entity for the Food Pantry Network, DMARC maximizes its purchasing power to secure critical resources, share best practices, and advocate in the fight against hunger. DMARC guarantees food to all Pantry Partners at no cost to make their donations go further for them.

# DES MOINES INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Organization Address: 2100 Fleur Drive Des Moines, IA 50321

Organization Website: [www.dmschools.org](http://www.dmschools.org)

Counties served: Polk

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Des Moines Public Schools exists so that graduates possess the knowledge, skills, and abilities to be successful at the next stage of their lives.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

The Des Moines Public Schools holds the vision of being the leader in urban education. The state's largest urban district, DMPS serves a rich diversity of over 30,000 students in grades pre-K-12. The district spans the city of Des Moines, and it consists of four early learning centers, 38 elementary schools, 10 middle schools, 5 comprehensive high schools, and 10 special programs, including Virtual Campus. Of the students enrolled, 66.4% are minorities, 23.0% are English Language Learners who represent over 100 different languages and dialects, and 15.1% of students receive Special Education services. Additionally, 76.27% of students are low-income (as evidenced by eligibility for Free and Reduced-Price Lunch Program).

# DOROTHY'S HOUSE

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Organization Address: PO Box 57672 Des Moines, IA 50317

Organization Website: [www.dorothyshouse.org](http://www.dorothyshouse.org)

Counties served: Polk;Warren;Dallas

## MISSION STATEMENT

Dorothy's House provides a safe place for the practice of life for those whose lives have been interrupted by human trafficking, exploitation, and prostitution.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Dorothy's House (DH) helps survivors reclaim their physical and emotional health, build skills for independence, and transition to their re-imagined lives. Our programming includes comprehensive care including meeting basic needs, providing recovery support (individual and small group counseling, mentoring, peer support, care coordination, and trauma-informed approaches to improve functioning), and building the skills for independent living.

Empowerment and self-determination are essential to recovery. From the moment a participant steps into our house, DH seeks ways to shift decision-making back to survivors. We use a phased approach to help survivors reclaim their lives step by step.

# ELLIPSIS

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Organization Address: 7225 NW 58th St PO Box 39 Johnston, IA 50131

Organization Website: <https://www.ellipsisiowa.org>

Counties served: Polk;Warren;Dallas

## MISSION STATEMENT

Ellipsis helps kids and families build healthy relationships so they can write their own story.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Our vision is a community where kids and families are valued, hopeful, healthy, and together. We are developing a comprehensive continuum of care that will provide a reliable safety net when family functioning is overwhelmed. We use evidence-based, child-centered, and trauma-informed approaches to care for nearly 600 youth and their families each day. Services include shelter, group foster care, transitional living, therapy, skill development, and integrated health home and are available in Polk, Dallas, and Warren. We are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) and was formed in 2021 as a result of a merger between Youth Emergency Services and Shelter (YESS) and Youth Homes of Mid-America (YHMA).

# EMBARC

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Organization Address: 4801 Franklin Ave, Suite 101 Des Moines, IA 50310

Organization Website: <https://www.embarciowa.org/>

Counties served: Polk

## MISSION STATEMENT

EMBARC's mission is to empower the community toward self-sufficiency through advocacy, education, and community development throughout Iowa. As Iowa's first-refugee-led, nonprofit social service organization, our mission is to see refugee families thrive in Iowa with the skills, resources, and support needed for life. EMBARC helps build stronger refugee communities, which in turn helps build a stronger Iowa.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

EMBARC (Ethnic Minorities of Burma Advocacy and Resource Center) was founded by and for refugees on the belief that sustainable change comes from a community empowered to help themselves. Its efforts work to elevate Burma refugee leaders, strengthen families, and build collaborations that support the elimination of barriers. All programming is evidence-based, and trauma-informed, and incorporates culturally relevant and linguistically appropriate education, services, and support. Programming uses a signature, peer-to-peer, train-the-trainer, "navigator" model to support this work.

EMBARC split from the organization RIVA in 2024 and is now a separate entity offering all traditional EMBARC services and programming.

# EVELYN K. DAVIS CENTER FOR WORKING FAMILIES

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Organization Address: 1171 7th st Des Moines, IA 50314

Organization Website: [www.dmacc.edu/ekdc/index.html](http://www.dmacc.edu/ekdc/index.html)

Counties served: Polk; Dallas; Warren

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Center is a beacon of hope and promise to many Iowans, and part of a broader mission to serve Iowans at all stages in their lives.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

EKDC helps people realize their educational and job dreams. In the caring spirit of our namesake, Evelyn Davis, this first-of-its-kind resource center opened its doors in 2013. Since then, it has delivered educational, job training, and career services to unemployed, under-employed and underserved residents of Central Iowa.

# EVERYSTEP

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Organization Address: 3000 Easton Blvd Des Moines, IA 50317

Organization Website: [www.everystep.org](http://www.everystep.org)

Counties served: Polk;Warren;Dallas;Other

## MISSION STATEMENT

Mission: EveryStep empowers individuals, supports families, and strengthens communities.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

EveryStep is a health and human services non-profit organization serving the needs of vulnerable individuals and families in Iowa. Originally comprised of three separate organizations (Visiting Nurse Services of Iowa, Hospice of Central Iowa, and Amanda the Panda-Grief and Loss Services), EveryStep's 20+ programs provide pre-natal support and parenting education to at-risk mothers; developmental screenings and support for children; health navigation to immigrants and refugees; wellness services to low-income seniors; in-home care to people who are ill, injured or facing the end of life; compassionate support to families and individuals during times of grief and loss; and more.

# FAMILIES FORWARD

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Organization Address: 3001 Grand Ave Des Moines, IA 50312

Organization Website: [www.familiesforward.org](http://www.familiesforward.org)

Counties served: Polk

## MISSION STATEMENT

Over 100 years of providing compassionate, life-changing assistance to families on their path to self-sufficiency.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

As of July 2023, Bidwell Riverside and Hawthorn Hill merged into Families Forward, an organization where the original four programs work together to help families in need.

New Directions Shelter is an emergency shelter for families with children. We assist our clients with securing housing, employment, childcare, & more.

The Home Connection provides long-term, supportive housing for families with children. We help clients develop a plan to attain financial independence in 2-4 years.

The Bidwell Pantry is the largest food pantry in Iowa. We provide food, clothing, & more to all who walk through our doors.

The Child Development Center empowers children to be life-long learners. We offer full-day care for children ages 2-5 years old.

# FOREST AVENUE OUTREACH

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Organization Address: 1800 Grand Ave Suite 4062 Des Moines, IA 50309

Organization Website: [www.forestaveoutreach.org](http://www.forestaveoutreach.org)

Counties served: Polk

## MISSION STATEMENT

Growing community one seed at a time

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Forest Ave Outreach tackles food insecurity through community orchard and gardens in the Riverbend neighborhood in Des Moines. Produce grown by the organization is donated to families in need. Forest Ave Outreach offers youth a pre-apprenticeship opportunity, in partnership with Central Iowa Building trades and the local union apprenticeship centers. Focus is on building a healthy positive relationship between teens and their community, encouraging high school graduation, and teaching both soft and hard skills through a wholistic approach. FAO values community, direct action, and creating change by increasing opportunities for underserved minority youth in Des Moines.

# GENESIS YOUTH FOUNDATION

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Organization Address: 2500 University avenue Des Moines, IA 50311

Organization Website: [www.genesisyouthfoundation.org](http://www.genesisyouthfoundation.org)

Counties served: Polk

## MISSION STATEMENT

Genesis Youth Foundation empowers underserved youth and young adults through sports and the arts while engaging them in educational opportunities to become effective leaders and productive citizens.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Genesis Youth Foundation (GYF) is a dedicated nonprofit organization committed to championing the dreams and aspirations of Central Iowa's immigrant and refugee children and their families, primarily hailing from first-generation African backgrounds and for those low-income families who embrace the African culture. GYF's core mission revolves around "leveling the playing field" for these young individuals, ensuring they have equal access to the opportunities needed for their academic success, community integration, and leadership development.

# GIGI'S PLAYHOUSE

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Organization Address: 6507 University Avenue Windsor Heights, IA 50324

Organization Website: [gigisplayhouse.org/desmoines](http://gigisplayhouse.org/desmoines)

Counties served: Polk;Warren;Dallas

## MISSION STATEMENT

To change the way the world views Down syndrome and to send a global message of acceptance for all.

To see a world where individuals with Down syndrome are accepted and embraced in their families, schools, and communities.

To change lives through the consistent delivery of free educational, therapeutic-based, and career development programs for individuals with Down syndrome, their families, and the community.

To serve individuals with Down syndrome from birth to adulthood.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

GiGi's Playhouse Des Moines is an achievement center for individuals with Down syndrome and their families serving central Iowa. GiGi's Playhouse offers 30+ unique programs that serve the needs specific to individuals with Down syndrome from infant through adult. Our educational and therapeutic programs are free so that cost is never a barrier. Signature programming includes social development, gross motor development, academic support, and family education/support. All of our programs aim to maximize self-confidence and empower individuals to attain their greatest potential!

Our social events give families a chance to get to know one another, celebrate successes, and develop a supportive community here at GiGi's Playhouse Des Moines.

# GIRL SCOUTS OF GREATER IOWA

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Organization Address: 10715 Hickman Rd. Urbandale, IA 50322

Organization Website: <https://www.girlscoutsiowa.org/>

Counties served: Polk;Warren;Dallas;Other

## MISSION STATEMENT

Girl Scouts builds girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place. The five outcomes of Girl Scout programs are Sense of Self, Positive Values, Challenge Seeking, Healthy Relationships, and Community Problem Solving. The four pillars of Girl Scout programs are STEM, outdoors, entrepreneurship, and life skills.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Through Girl Scouts of Greater Iowa (GSGI), girls are introduced to STEM concepts and activities at an early age; learn and use important entrepreneurship skills like goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills, and business ethics; and experience the outdoors through Girl Scout camp and outdoor activities. Within Central Iowa, GSGI offers accessible, inclusive opportunities for girls to participate in quality educational Girl Scout programs. Central Iowa girls have the unique opportunity to participate in our Mission Outreach programs. Mission Outreach programs provide out-of-school-time educational programs for economically disadvantaged and historically underrepresented girls at no cost to their families.

# GOODWILL OF CENTRAL IOWA

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Organization Address: 5355 NW 86th Street Johnston, IA 50131

Organization Website: <https://www.dmgoodwill.org/>

Counties served: Polk;Warren;Dallas

## MISSION STATEMENT

Goodwill of Central Iowa's mission is to make purposeful employment possible for all in Central Iowa through inspiring confidence, strengthening abilities, and redefining inclusion in the workplace. We believe in creating an environment where individuals can contribute meaningfully to society through employment, irrespective of their backgrounds or abilities.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

For 68 years, Goodwill of Central Iowa (GCI) has been dedicated to providing unparalleled skills training and employment support for those overcoming barriers. Committed to revolutionizing workplace inclusion while embracing each individual's uniqueness, we create programs, instill invaluable work habits, foster meaningful connections, and champion success through our "person-centered" approach. Recognizing diverse barriers, GCI collaborates with 2,000+ individuals with disabilities, unlocking their potential for impactful careers. Across 22 central Iowa counties, with a strategic focus on Polk, Dallas, and Warren, GCI serves as a beacon of hope, spearheading the redefinition of workplace inclusion with unwavering dedication.

# GRAND VIEW CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

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Organization Address: 3004 E. 38th street Des Moines, IA 50317

Organization Website: [grandviewcdc.org](http://grandviewcdc.org)

Counties served: Polk

## MISSION STATEMENT

At Grand View Child Development Center, we strive for children to have a happy, nurturing, growing experience.

Grand View is staffed and equipped with children in mind. Our program is constructed to be responsive to various special needs, cultures, races, and backgrounds.

Our goal at Grand View is to use our knowledge of children to help them grow, develop and learn to their full ability.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Grand View Child Development Center (GVCDC) is a non-profit, 501(c)3 childcare center located on the east side of Des Moines, serving Grand View Park, Sheridan Park, and surrounding communities. Grand View has been operating since 1995 and at its current location since 2008. The program serves children from birth through 12 years of age and has the capacity to serve up to 70 children. As a community partner, we strive to include families in their child's everyday experiences, and we value a strong connection between home and school. Children in our care are provided with a safe, clean, and caring environment in which to learn and grow with an intentional emphasis on serving the whole family within the Grand View community.

# GREATER DES MOINES HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

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Organization Address: 95 University Ave Des Moines, IA 50314

Organization Website: [www.gdmhabitat.org](http://www.gdmhabitat.org)

Counties served: Polk;Dallas;Other

## MISSION STATEMENT

Seeking to put God's love into action, Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities, and hope.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

GDM Habitat addresses affordable housing needs through programs that assist low-income families in Polk and Dallas Counties. Programs are geared toward transforming neighborhoods, building wealth and knowledge through the homeownership process, building stability through owner-occupied repair (home preservation and Rock the Block® events), and working toward financial self-sufficiency through pre-purchase education and financial coaching. GDM Habitat utilizes a collaborative, neighborhood-focused approach to identify areas of opportunity and build stronger, stable communities for low-income families.

GDM Habitat works with first-time homebuyers, creating affordable homeownership opportunities for qualified, hardworking, low-income families.

# HEALTHY BIRTH DAY, INC.

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Organization Address: 1820 NW 118th St Clive, IA 50325

Organization Website: <https://www.countthekicks.org/>

Counties served: Polk;Warren;Dallas

## MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to improve birth outcomes through programming, advocacy, and research. Health Equity is at the center of our work, with a goal to reduce the racial disparities that persist. We help save babies using the evidence-based Count the Kicks stillbirth prevention program, which educates expectant parents on the importance of tracking their babies' movements in the third trimester of pregnancy and to speak up if they notice a change.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Our vision is to replicate the success of the highly effective Count the Kicks campaign in all 50 states. We hope to reduce America's stillbirth by 32% as we have done in Iowa, which would save 7,500 babies from preventable stillbirth every year.

# HEART OF IOWA REGIONAL TRANSIT AGENCY (HIRTA)

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Organization Address: 2824 104th Street Urbandale, IA 50322

Organization Website: [www.heartoftransit.com](http://www.heartoftransit.com)

Counties served: Polk;Warren;Dallas

## MISSION STATEMENT

Heart of Transit Mission Statement:

To help central Iowa transportation providers create new programs, fund unique transportation services and implement on-going transportation options in central Iowa.

HIRTA Mission Statement:

Provide customer-focused community transportation with a commitment to excellence in safety and service promoting independent lifestyles for central Iowa residents.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Heart of Transit was created as a stand-alone 501c3 to increase HIRTA's reach in our communities. As a governmental body, HIRTA is unable to directly apply for grant opportunities and is also unable to partner with several United Way's in Central Iowa. HIRTA provides door-to-door, public transportation for anyone, there is no application or qualification necessary to ride HIRTA.

Transportation isn't just a convenience; it's the pulse of livability, ensuring everyone has access to the services they need and want. When a community member can't reach an essential service, it's as if that service vanishes from their reality. We help improve healthcare outcomes, increase access to education, and create access throughout the communities.

# HISPANIC EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

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Organization Address: 828 Scott Ave Des Moines, IA 50309

Organization Website: [www.conmigoearyed.org](http://www.conmigoearyed.org)

Counties served: Polk

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Hispanic Educational Resources Inc. is to empower our community through quality education and advocacy.

The mission of Conmigo Early Education Center is to position Latino children to thrive in school, community and life. Conmigo is a premier Latino early childhood learning center, specializing in bilingual, culturally affirming educational programming and experiences for children and families.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

In 1995 Hispanic Educational Resources Inc. (HER) established Xochipilli Early Education Center, the first bilingual early learning program in the Des Moines area. In 2009 HER changed the name from Xochipilli to Conmigo Early Education Center. Conmigo is licensed to provide care and education for 140 children between the ages of six weeks to twelve years old. We welcome all families that would like to learn more about the Latino/ Hispanic culture and give their children the gift of Spanish as well as provide their child a high-quality early childhood experience.

# HOME, INC.

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Organization Address: 1618 6th Ave Des Moines, IA 50314

Organization Website: [www.homeincdsm.org](http://www.homeincdsm.org)

Counties served: Polk;Warren;Dallas;Other

## MISSION STATEMENT

HOME, Inc. is the oldest private nonprofit housing organization in Des Moines. Our mission is to empower our neighbors by helping them overcome the barriers to obtaining and maintaining safe, stable, affordable housing. We do this through education, housing counseling, neighborhood revitalization, and affordable housing development.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Our HUD certified housing counselors provide information, education, and resources to help people attain and retain safe, quality, affordable housing. HOME, Inc. is a vital link in the Continuum of Care network, providing services ranging from crisis-oriented counseling; to homeless prevention efforts through education and case management; and to long-term change through advocacy, homeownership counseling, and housing development. We serve the entire housing market including individuals experiencing homelessness, renters, homeowners, and landlords. We offer the only landlord/tenant counseling service in Iowa and are the only agency providing homeownership counseling and education to the general population in central Iowa.

# INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE

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Organization Address: 108 3rd St Suite 200 Des Moines, IA 50309

Organization Website: <https://www.rescue.org/united-states/des-moines-ia>

Counties served: Polk;Warren;Dallas

## MISSION STATEMENT

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Iowa's mission is to help people whose lives and livelihoods are shattered by conflict and disaster, enabling them to recover and gain control of their futures.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

IRC Iowa opened July 2022, welcoming 291 refugees in year one. Clients receive case management services, addressing basic needs: finding safe housing, help accessing public benefits, transportation, and medical services, school and ESL registration, and Cultural Orientation. Eligible adults receive intensive employment support aiming to increase success in the workforce, or Intensive Case Management, which serves clients with additional barriers to self-sufficiency. Our Financial Coaching Program supports local refugees and other vulnerable populations, building financial, knowledge, skills and assets, with access to low/no cost microloans. As a local office of a national organization, we receive technical support from our headquarters.

# INVESTING IN MY FUTURE, INC.

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Organization Address: P.O. Box 652 Des Moines, IA 50303

Organization Website: <https://www.investinginmyfuture.org/>

Counties served: Polk;Dallas;Other

## MISSION STATEMENT

IIMF assists students and parents to prepare for life beyond high school by equipping and empowering them with the tools that help them navigate post-secondary education and career pathways.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Investing In My Future, Inc., (IIMF) was created in 2010 to provide programs that assist African American students, in the greater DSM area, in understanding the value of an education and preparing them to take their rightful place as future leaders. High School dropout rates are alarming across the Nation. Statistics show that students not completing high school are highly prone to poverty and social failure. IIMF proactively supports and encourages students to complete their high school education through workshops such as interactive STEAM workshops for elementary, middle and high school students. IIMF also hosts college tours twice a year touring colleges in Iowa and Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

# IOWA ACES 360

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Organization Address: 501 SW 7th St. Suite G Des Moines, IA 50309

Organization Website: [www.iowaaces360.org](http://www.iowaaces360.org)

Counties served: Polk;Warren;Dallas;Other

## MISSION STATEMENT

Iowa ACES 360 seeks to improve the health and well-being of Iowans by empowering communities, organizations, and people to take informed actions to prevent and mitigate the lifelong effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Iowa ACES 360 collaborates with leaders, organizations, and community members to create the conditions that families need to thrive. Our three main strategies are:

- Advocate: We cultivate a network of advocates and engage decision makers to promote policies and systems that reduce family stress and improve well-being.
- Educate: We support providers who work with children and families in learning about ACEs science and applying healing-focused, trauma-informed approaches.
- Innovate: We cultivate new strategies that lead to shifts within systems and organizations, with a focus on elevating perspectives of those most impacted by trauma.

While our work is statewide, we place emphasis on coalition building and systems change in central Iowa.

# IOWA AEYC

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Organization Address: 4400 Westown Parkway West Des Moines, IA 50266

Organization Website: [iowaaeyc.org](http://iowaaeyc.org)

Counties served: Polk;Dallas

## MISSION STATEMENT

Iowa AEYC promotes high-quality early learning for each and every child, birth through age 8, by connecting practice, policy, and research. We advance a diverse, dynamic early childhood profession and support all who care for, educate, and work on behalf of young children.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

The Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children (Iowa AEYC) is a state-wide, nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the well-being of all young children, with a focus on the quality of education and developmental services for those birth through age 8. We support efforts to improve teaching and learning, promote leadership and professional development in our field, support accreditation and excellence in early childhood education programs, and build public awareness through advocacy and outreach. Membership is open to all individuals who share a desire to serve and act on behalf of the needs and rights of all young children. Iowa AEYC is an affiliate of the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

# IOWA CENTER FOR ECONOMIC SUCCESS

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Organization Address: 2210 Grand Ave Des Moines, IA 50312

Organization Website: [www.theiowacenter.org](http://www.theiowacenter.org)

Counties served: Polk;Warren;Dallas;Other

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Iowa Center is an economic development organization that empower Iowans to launch or grow their small business. Our mission is to empower Iowans with the potential to succeed as they pursue opportunities for financial success.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Strong small businesses support strong communities. But managing a small business is complicated, and many entrepreneurs lack access to the education, capital, and networks that support small business as a pathway to financial freedom. The Iowa Center is an economic development organization that delivers three lines of direct service to address these gaps and empower entrepreneurs to launch or grow their small business: Business Coaching, Credit + Lending, and Tax Services. The Iowa Center is home to the only SBA Women's Business Center in Iowa, as well as The Iowa Center Loan Fund CDFI. The Iowa Center is certified as an SBA Microlender, and also leads the statewide Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Coalition.

# IOWA COMMUNITY CAPITAL

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Organization Address: 607 Forest Avenue Des Moines, IA 50314

Organization Website: [www.solidaritymicrofinance.org](http://www.solidaritymicrofinance.org)

Counties served:

## MISSION STATEMENT

ICC's mission is to reduce poverty and strengthen social-economic well-being of low-income populations by providing financial services to those who are unbanked, under-banked or who reside in underserved areas. ICC works to empower low-income individuals to develop financial skills and business capacity, leadership skills, social networks, and community awareness. ICC targets the "poorest of the poor" to increase income, savings and credit score, peer group support, and financial responsibility.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Iowa Community Capital (ICC) is a tax exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit organized in Iowa. It's a community development organization certified by the U.S. Treasury CDFI Fund. Solidarity Microfinance is an ICC program launched in 2014 in the Greater Des Moines Area. Currently there are 275 active low-income clients in the program. The Solidarity Microfinance office located at 607 Forest Avenue in Des Moines. Solidarity Microfinance provides small loans, savings services, peer-group learning, and financial literacy training opportunities targeted primarily to women in poverty. To be eligible, clients must have a small business enterprise or want to start an income generating activity that can impact their family well-being.

# IOWA CONGOLESE ORGANIZATION AND CENTER FOR HEALING (ICOACH)

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Organization Address: 4300 Beaver Avenue Des Moines, IA 50310

Organization Website: [www.coachiowa.org](http://www.coachiowa.org)

Counties served: Polk;Dallas

## MISSION STATEMENT

ICOACH strives to empower the Congolese community of Central Iowa by creating economic opportunities and delivering community driven assistance.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

ICOACH serves refugee communities mainly Congolese, Eritreans, Afghanistan, Burundians, and Burmese to address challenges faced by newly arrived refugees in Polk, Dallas, Marshall, and Black Hawk counties in five areas: Healing, Education, Economic Opportunity Upskilling, Advocacy, and Development.

Under each category, specific programs and strategies are developed. ICOACH is working hard to address the many needs of refugees to enhance learning while addressing the financial and accessibility needs of our participants. In addition to providing services, we partner with other organizations and businesses to raise awareness, execute plans, and more.

# IOWA HEALTHIEST STATE INITIATIVE

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Organization Address: 301 Grand Avenue Des Moines, IA 50309

Organization Website: <https://www.iowahealthieststate.com>

Counties served:

## MISSION STATEMENT

Creating awareness and integrating solutions to improve the physical, social and mental well-being of Iowans.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

The Healthiest State Initiative is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization driven by the goal to ensure every Iowan can live their healthiest life. By engaging worksites, communities, schools, retail food, organizations, institutions and individuals, we work to create awareness and integrate solutions to improve the physical, social and mental wellbeing of Iowans.

# IOWA HOMELESS YOUTH CENTERS

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Organization Address: 612 Locust St Des Moines, IA 50309

Organization Website: [www.iowahomelessyouth.org](http://www.iowahomelessyouth.org)

Counties served: Polk

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of IHYC is to eliminate homelessness among children, youth, and young families in Polk County. We believe, with support and assistance, homeless individuals and families can attain self-sufficiency and break the cycle of poverty.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Iowa Homeless Youth Centers (IHYC) is a YSS community center serving young adults (ages 18-24) that are homeless or at-risk. The IHYC model focuses on safe housing, life skills, community engagement, education, and employment. Specialized programs include assistance for pregnant/parenting homeless youth and placing individuals in apartments with rental aid and wrap-around services. IHYC provides crucial support for youth aging out of foster care through case management, financial assistance, crisis counseling, service referrals, and immediate needs fulfillment. Nine emergency beds are offered as well as meals. IHYC will work with youth through their two-year degree completion and transition to a four-year college or trade school.

# IOWA JOBS FOR AMERICA'S GRADUATES (IJAG)

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Organization Address: 1111 9th Street Des Moines, IA 50314

Organization Website: [ijag.org](http://ijag.org)

Counties served: Polk;Dallas

## MISSION STATEMENT

ijAG ensures a future Iowa where youth are resilient and well-prepared with skills, purpose, and opportunities. Through collaborative partnerships and innovative approaches, we bridge the gap between education and employment to build strong communities and unlock the potential of Every Student, No Matter What!

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

ijAG achieves transformative change by establishing a sense of community, cultivating workforce and life skills, and providing real-world experiences that foster student belonging, growth, and readiness.

ijAG currently serves 155 sites state wide, 18 of which are in the Des Moines Metro Area. Current students: 713, follow ups: 202, BIPOC:63%, FRL:82%.

Program locations: East (11/12),Hoover (11/12),Johnston (11/12), Lincoln (9/10 & 11/12),North (9/10 & 11/12),Perry (9/10 & 11/12),Roosevelt (11/12),Saydel (9/10 & 11/12),Urbandale (11/12),Valley (10/11 & 12+),Valley Southwoods (9th),Waukee (10-12),Waukee Northwest (10-12).

# IOWA LEGAL AID

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Organization Address: 666 Walnut St Des Moines, IA 50309

Organization Website: [www.iowalegalaid.org](http://www.iowalegalaid.org)

Counties served: Polk;Warren;Dallas

## MISSION STATEMENT

To make hope, dignity, and justice available to low-income Iowans by providing free legal help, challenging unfair policies, and empowering Iowans to advocate for their rights.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Iowa Legal Aid provides civil legal assistance to low-income and vulnerable Iowans, including residents of Polk, Dallas, and Warren Counties. Since 1977, Iowa Legal Aid has served low-income Iowans in need of legal assistance. We are the only professional legal services organization serving all 99 Iowa counties from ten regional offices, including one in Des Moines.

We operate numerous special projects to help meet the unique needs of low-income Iowans, including the Legal Hotline for Older Iowans, Eviction Diversion Project, Community Schools Project, and Race Equity Project. We lead strategic initiatives for veterans, domestic violence survivors, disaster victims, and others in need of civil legal services.

# IOWA MIGRANT MOVEMENT FOR JUSTICE

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Organization Address: 2024 Forest Ave. Des Moines, IA 50311

Organization Website: [www.iowammj.org](http://www.iowammj.org)

Counties served: Polk;Warren;Dallas

## MISSION STATEMENT

To build a movement for justice led by immigrants and refugees in Iowa by providing high-quality legal services and community empowerment through organizing.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Iowa Migrant Movement for Justice is a statewide advocacy and immigration legal service organization driven and led by immigrant and refugee voices and united with allies. We envision an Iowa that is welcoming and inclusive, where the rights of immigrants and refugees are ensured through access to immigration legal services, their voices are heard and the issues that impact them are addressed.

# IOWA SAFE SCHOOLS

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Organization Address: 400 Locust Street Des Moines, IA 50309

Organization Website: [www.iowasafeschools.org](http://www.iowasafeschools.org)

Counties served: Polk;Warren;Dallas;Other

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Iowa Safe Schools is to provide safe, supportive, and nurturing learning environments and communities for LGBTQ and allied youth through education, outreach, advocacy, and direct services.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Iowa Safe Schools was founded in 2002 with help from the Iowa Civil Rights Commission to address the concern of rising numbers of bullying incidents against LGBTQ youth in the state of Iowa. As the need for more comprehensive services and supports became more apparent, Iowa Safe Schools became a 501(c)3 organization to expand the reach of programming to meet the needs of central Iowa students.

# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

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Organization Address: 2415 Osborn Dr Ames, IA 50011-1021

Organization Website: [www.sciencebound.iastate.edu](http://www.sciencebound.iastate.edu)

Counties served: Polk;Other

## MISSION STATEMENT

Aligning donor passion and generosity to advance Iowa State University's land grant ideals.

Science Bound's mission is to increase the number of diverse Iowa youth who pursue and earn degrees in Agriculture, Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math (ASTEM) and Education.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

The ISU Foundation is charged with the vital task of raising and stewarding private gifts to support Iowa State University. The foundation works to match donor passions with ISU's needs while working closely with university leaders to ensure that every gift is used as the donor intends, and gift funds are managed in a fiscally responsible manner. ISU Foundation - Science Bound serves DMPS and three other Iowa school districts by establishing strong, positive, academically influential relationships with our students/families. We expose students to ASTEM disciplines & careers; provide engaging experiences in ASTEM; equip students with knowledge & skills; and, empower students to face challenges & support their communities.

# ISISERETTES DRILL AND DRUM CORPS

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Organization Address: 1432 21st St Des Moines, IA 50312

Organization Website: [isiserettes.org](http://isiserettes.org)

Counties served: Polk;Warren;Dallas

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Isiserettes Drill and Drum Corp Mission Statement is "Promoting self-expression and creativity through music and dance."

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

The Isiserettes are a non-profit 501-(c)-(3) organized in 1980 to give Des Moines area youth something exciting and positive to do to keep them engaged in their education and their community. The Isiserettes are composed of both males and females ranging from the ages 7 to 18 years old. Two of the major goals set for the youth are to build character and social skills. We stress the importance of a formal education while helping the youth develop their creative and natural abilities. We pride ourselves on exposing the group to other diverse communities and environments throughout the State of Iowa as well as the United States, and we have been lucky enough to perform at the White House Easter Egg Roll (2011) and three Inauguration Parades.

# JEWELS ACADEMY

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Organization Address: 1620 Pleasant St., Suite 216 Des Moines, IA 50314

Organization Website: [www.jewelsacademy.org](http://www.jewelsacademy.org)

Counties served: Polk;Warren;Dallas

## MISSION STATEMENT

To provide young women the competitive edge needed to succeed academically and vocationally in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, leadership, financial stewardship, and the arts within an encouraging and nurturing environment.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Jewels Academy has been a central Iowa leader addressing disparities in STEM learning, boosting more women into post-secondary training or education in STEM fields. We are a long-term STEM program year over year from 4th grade to 12th grade. We offer an afterschool program platform where evenings and Saturdays are utilized for hands-on STEM learning. We cultivate interest and further develop an aptitude for science and technology, promote participation in post-secondary career opportunities and the skills they require, introduce cutting-edge technology and concepts, while provide hands-on learning; and build character traits for the betterment of the community.

# JOHNSTON PARTNERSHIP FOR A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

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Organization Address: 5870 Merle Hay Rd Ste C Johnston, IA 50131

Organization Website: <http://www.johnstonpartnership.org/>

Counties served: Polk

## MISSION STATEMENT

Mobilizing partnerships, resources, and services to respond to essential community needs.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

The Johnston Partnership for a Healthy Community is a not-for-profit organization that has been serving the Johnston community for over 20 years. The Partnership has evolved into a comprehensive agency proving programming and services related to essential needs, food insecurity, education and client empowerment. Johnston does not have a community human service organization funded by city government to carry out many of the programs the Partnership provides. With a service-oriented Board of Directors, a small staff, and a dedicated group of volunteers, we operate a food pantry/clothing closet, a school-based mentoring program, as well as other programming within the JCSD to assist students needing extra help with basic needs.

# KNOCK AND DROP IOWA

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Organization Address: 4801 Franklin Ave. #152 Des Moines, IA 50310

Organization Website: [www.knockanddropiowa.org](http://www.knockanddropiowa.org)

Counties served: Polk;Warren;Dallas

## MISSION STATEMENT

Knock and Drop is an organization for positive community action by implementing programs that are beneficial to our Latino Community.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Knock and Drop Iowa is a culturally specific Latino Food Pantry in the Des Moines Metro and surrounding areas. We also service families in Marshalltown from time to time. We have received request from cities and counties around the state wanting assistance.

# LADYLIKE

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Organization Address: 767 SE Williams Ct Waukee, IA 50263

Organization Website: [www.ladylikedsm.com](http://www.ladylikedsm.com)

Counties served: Polk;Warren;Dallas

## MISSION STATEMENT

Since its establishment, LadyLike has been a pioneering force in investing in the potential of thousands of Black women across Iowa and the nation through virtual and personal channels. Rooted in a profound commitment to fostering growth and empowering leadership, LadyLike stands as a beacon for three pivotal reasons

1. Connecting Business, Fueling Growth
2. Resources and Industry Connectivity
3. Leadership Development

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

LadyLike is dedicated to equipping Black women with the skills and confidence needed to take charge, lead with purpose, and contribute to their communities through comprehensive training, impactful leadership programs, and unwavering support for entrepreneurs. The organization is committed creating pathways to essential resources, LadyLike empowers Black women to navigate and overcome challenges, fostering resilience and sustainability.

LadyLike serves as a dynamic bridge, linking Black women-owned businesses with prospective customers and growth opportunities. The organization has cultivated an ecosystem where entrepreneurial spirit thrives, enabling these businesses to flourish and make meaningful contributions to their communities.

# LATINAS LATINOS AL EXITO INC

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Organization Address: PO Box 93531 Des Moines, IA 50393

Organization Website: [alexitoiowa.org](http://alexitoiowa.org)

Counties served: Polk;Dallas

## MISSION STATEMENT

Al Éxito's mission is to cultivate academic achievement and leadership capacity for Latino students through comprehensive, culturally rooted programs that prepare them to fully participate and thrive in Iowa's communities.

Al Éxito (AÉ) vision is to advance Iowa's prosperity through Latino excellence.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Al Éxito (AÉ) is the only statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to engaging and advancing Latinx youth and their families' lives by providing knowledge, resources, and skills to create an equitable future. AÉ inspires, prepares, supports, and positions Latinx leaders, middle school through college, with postsecondary attainment, career readiness, and civic engagement. AÉ integrates culturally specific strategies to ensure Latinx youth have access to resources and opportunities. AÉ fosters Latinos' collective influence to build a better future for our communities and state.

# LATINAS UNIDAS POR UN NUEVO AMANECER

## (L.U.N.A.)

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Organization Address: 100 E. Euclid Avenue, Suite 153 Des Moines, IA 50313

Organization Website: [www.lunaiowa.org](http://www.lunaiowa.org)

Counties served: Polk;Warren;Dallas

### MISSION STATEMENT

L.U.N.A.'s is to empower, educate and advocate for victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in our community, so that they may build futures free from violence.

### AGENCY DESCRIPTION

In 1999, L.U.N.A. was developed as a holistic community-based program to provide culturally specific services to Latinx survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. The agency is statewide and has offices in Des Moines, Perry, and Marshalltown. Our core services include educational counseling, advocacy services, support groups, 24-hr bilingual crisis line, safety planning, community referrals, empowerment classes, and domestic violence and sexual assault training. L.U.N.A. serves about 1,200 survivors each year, including women, children, and men. L.U.N.A. is a trusted resource in the Latinx community. Recently, our programming has expanded to include transitional housing, mental health initiatives, and COVID-19 information/outreach.

# LATINX IMMIGRANTS OF IOWA

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Organization Address: 800 Euclid Ave St Des Moines IA 50313 Des Moines, IA 50313

Organization Website: <https://latinximmigrantsofiowa.org/>

Counties served: Polk

## MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to advocate for the equity of Latinx immigrants in Iowa and empower their communities through education and various types of civic engagement to lessen any barriers to their full participation in the greater Iowa community.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Latinx Immigrants of Iowa (LII) was formed to help our community improve their lifestyle through cultural education and empowerment. All of our services are focused on improving the lives of our Latino community through English, Citizenship and Computer classes. Our goal is for our Latino community to use the tools learned from our classes to improve their communication skills in their work and family life. We could say that 99% of our clients are Latinos. LII also offers other services such as legal advice and financial counseling clinics.

# LINK ASSOCIATES

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Organization Address: 1452 29th St West Des Moines, IA 50266

Organization Website: [www.linkassociates.org](http://www.linkassociates.org)

Counties served: Polk;Warren;Dallas;Other

## MISSION STATEMENT

Providing people with intellectual disabilities opportunities to achieve their personal goals.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Link serves 640+ individuals with the primary diagnosis of intellectual disabilities & their families. Those served frequently have additional intellectual & physical conditions. Supportive services address disability related limitations, promote independence, facilitate learning/growing, encouraging each to be their best self.

Services include: Residential, Therapeutic Recreation, Day Habilitation, Volunteer Investment Program (contributing back to our community), Case Coordination, Health Services, Transportation, Employment Exploration, Community Employment

Persons with disabilities are of the most marginalized groups. Inequalities are manifested through various disadvantages in the psychosocial, cultural, and economic domains.

# LUTHERAN SERVICES IN IOWA (LSI)

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Organization Address: 3125 Cottage Grove Ave. Des Moines, IA 50311

Organization Website: [www.lsiowa.org](http://www.lsiowa.org)

Counties served: Polk;Warren;Dallas

## MISSION STATEMENT

Lutheran Services in Iowa's (LSI) mission is to "respond to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service." Based on our commitment to service, LSI actively seeks out opportunities to improve our communities without prejudice. LSI serves people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, or sexual orientations.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

For 160 years, LSI has provided services to individuals across Iowa according to its mission. We strive to positively impact the people we work with and communities we serve through the provision of early childhood programming, including child abuse prevention programming; clinical services, including Behavioral Health Intervention Services and therapy; intervention and skill-building programs for families experiencing crisis; services for people with disabilities, including host homes, hourly and daily supported living; foster care and adoption; and immigrant and refugee community services.

LSI is accredited by the Council on Accreditation through 2025.

# MANUP IOWA MENTORING INC

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Organization Address: P.O. Box 65575 West Des Moines, IA 50265

Organization Website: <https://www.manupiowa.com>

Counties served: Polk

## MISSION STATEMENT

"Empowering young men to make positive life choices, so that they may go on to live healthy and successful lives at home, at school, and in the community."

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

ManUp Iowa Mentoring INC, a Non-Profit 501(c)3 located in Polk County Iowa has provided prevention services to at-risk male youth since 2013. The ManUp Iowa Mentoring Program is the primary service offered by the organization and is currently hosting 7 Program Sites. Programs are facilitated by a team of Mentors at multiple DMPS Schools and several satellite sites.

The organization was established for the purpose of filling a gap in services for at-risk male youth. Nationwide data shows that male youth are vastly underserved from a prevention angle. The Program continues to address issues in our community including: a lack of positive male role models, a culture of toxic masculinity and an increase in violence and crime.

# MINDSPRING MENTAL HEALTH ALLIANCE

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Organization Address: 511 East 6th Street Ste B Des Moines, IA 50309-1948

Organization Website: <https://mindspringhealth.org/>

Counties served: Polk;Warren;Dallas;Other

## MISSION STATEMENT

Empowering community members through mental health education, advocacy, and support

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Mindspring's programs and services are available to all Central Iowa residents. Mindspring:

- Provides free mental health education courses, advocacy training, and support groups for persons directly and indirectly impacted by mental illness
- Recruits & trains volunteers to facilitate presentations and support groups
- Advocates on behalf of persons affected by mental illness, lobbying our elected representatives for improved mental health care in Iowa

Mindspring serves Polk, Dallas, Madison & Warren Counties. Our target audience includes adults with mental illness (MI), family/friends of adults with MI, parents/caregivers of youth with MI, medical professionals, teachers, students, 1st responders, & the business community.

# MONSOON ASIANS & PACIFIC ISLANDERS IN SOLIDARITY

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Organization Address: 4944 Franklin Avenue Suite B Des Moines, IA 50310

Organization Website: [www.monsooniw.org](http://www.monsooniw.org)

Counties served: Polk;Warren;Dallas

## MISSION STATEMENT

Monsoon Asians & Pacific Islanders in Solidarity's mission is to end gender-based violence and build healthy communities through transformative justice and social change.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Monsoon serves victims/survivors of gender-based violence in Asian and Pacific Islander communities in Iowa. The organization functions as a resource, advocate, and support for the API population in Iowa affected by domestic violence, sexual assault, and trafficking. It also extends training and technical assistance to other programs in providing services to victims of sexual violence in the API communities nationally and in the U.S. Territories in the Pacific through the National Organization of API Ending Sexual Violence (NAPIESV).

# MOTHERS AGAINST VIOLENCE

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Organization Address: 1230 12TH ST Des Moines, IA 50314

Organization Website: [www.facebook.com/MothersAgainstViolence13/](https://www.facebook.com/MothersAgainstViolence13/)

Counties served: Polk

## MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission Statement is to aid in stopping violence and provide assistance and support to victims of violence.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Our Purpose Is to prevent violence by educating parents and youth on the value of life, self and respect for others. Our programs consist of:

After- School Youth Program: For ages 8-17, this program, aged to motivate them to sit and achieve their goals while teaching them to value themselves and their community.

MAV Compensation Program: It may assist you with specific out-of-pocket expenditures Resulting from a crime, additionally, we can fat it facilitate finding alternate resources to address your crime related requirements.

Healing Together Support Group: Dedicated to providing a secure space for individuals to discuss grief and trauma only.

Community Events: We also have safe, family events throughout the year, which are free to the community.

# NEW OPPORTUNITIES, INC.

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Organization Address: 23751 HWY 30 E Carroll, IA 51401

Organization Website: [www.newopp.org](http://www.newopp.org)

Counties served: Dallas

## MISSION STATEMENT

New Opportunities, Inc., in an effort to eliminate poverty, provides direct support and service to children, adolescents, adults, aging adults, and families to help them reach their highest potential in regard to their personal and economic self-sufficiency.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

New Opportunities, Inc. is an Iowa non-profit, federally designated Community Action Agency. Our mission is "Helping People, Changing Lives." We work with individuals to gain financial empowerment and have the knowledge and resources to make financial decisions that are beneficial for them and their families. We believe in the improved quality of life, economic and personal self-sufficiency for all people. We need to be active in building stronger financial resources and a better delivery system. We must influence government, have better collaboration, and continue to build on the trust of our fellow professionals to provide quality services that allow all who participate to be treated with dignity and respect in making their own choices.

# OAKRIDGE NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

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Organization Address: 1401 Center Street Des Moines, IA 50314

Organization Website: [oakridgenighborhood.org](http://oakridgenighborhood.org)

Counties served: Polk;Warren;Dallas;Other

## MISSION STATEMENT

Oakridge Neighborhood is the premier housing and human service provider of Des Moines, offering a stable community where children achieve, families thrive, and prosperity is created. We enrich diverse communities through affordable housing, culturally diverse education programs, and comprehensive employability services.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Oakridge Neighborhood is Iowa's largest project-based Section 8 housing community, with 339 units, and serves as a vibrant hub for immigrants and refugees from over 18 countries speaking 14 languages. Oakridge empowers children and families through comprehensive wraparound programs including career training, job placement, financial coaching, case management, English Language and citizenship classes, as well as early childhood education and preschool.

Youth in grades K-12 thrive in out-of-school academic enrichment, college prep programs, and summer engagement camps.

Teens thrive creatively at Oak Studio—Best Buy Teen Tech Center—a space for innovation, design, videography, robotics, music, and more.

Oakridge is where opportunity lives.

# ONE ECONOMY FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT

## CORP

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Organization Address: 1111 9th Street Des Moines, IA 50314

Organization Website: [www.oefdc.org](http://www.oefdc.org)

Counties served: Polk

### MISSION STATEMENT

One Economy Financial Development Corp (OEFDC) empowers underserved communities in Central Iowa to create financial stability and wealth by providing training, coaching, technical assistance and loans to individuals and small business owners, with an emphasis on the Black community.

### AGENCY DESCRIPTION

OEFDC works with partners to eliminate racial, economic, and other inequalities in the Black community in greater Des Moines and Polk County, Iowa. OEFDC was specifically designed to address racial inequalities in the area of personal and small business finance. OEFDC is filling that gap through the utilization of culturally competent providers and trainers and the development of financial tools addressing the needs of unbanked and underbanked Black population.

Narrowing the racial wealth inequality gap through financial education, technical assistance and access to capital through loans. OEFDC goal is to move the unbanked and underbanked Black population to traditional lending institutions bridging the gap of financial racial disparity.

# ONE IOWA

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Organization Address: PO Box 1419 Des Moines, IA 50305

Organization Website: [www.oneiowa.org](http://www.oneiowa.org)

Counties served: Polk;Warren;Dallas;Other

## MISSION STATEMENT

One Iowa believes LGBTQ Iowans will thrive when they can live authentically. One Iowa's strategic priorities now include improving workplace environments for LGBTQ people, increasing LGBTQ Iowans' access to healthcare, advocating for transgender Iowans, providing training and mentorship to aspiring LGBTQ leaders, and serving as a connector and capacity builder for LGBTQ community resources.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

One Iowa works to advance, empower and improve the lives of LGBTQ Iowans through advocacy, education, and grassroots efforts. Founded in 2005 to secure marriage equality, One Iowa achieved its original mission in 2009. Having earned the trust and respect of LGBTQ communities, One Iowa can effectively connect LGBTQ individuals to safe and reliable resources they need while also advocating for sustainable policy changes. One Iowa serves LGBTQ communities in need by cultivating leadership within the community, providing ongoing educational programming for various service providers, and connecting communities to safe and reliable resources.

# ORCHARD PLACE

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Organization Address: 2116 Grand Ave Des Moines, IA 50312

Organization Website: [www.orchardplace.org](http://www.orchardplace.org)

Counties served:

## MISSION STATEMENT

Orchard Place provides a safe environment for children and their families to heal, find hope and empowerment, and build resilience to overcome mental health adversity.

Tag line: Developing Strong Futures

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Founded in 1886, Orchard Place (OP) is accredited by the Joint Commission and the state of Iowa as a “safety net” provider. Our collaborative programs help children with serious psychological illness reclaim their lives and works with families to help reintegrate these youth into their home communities with the goal of becoming productive members of society. In the past year, OP served almost 7,000 children and adolescents through our inpatient, outpatient and community-based programs. We serve children from birth through 21 years old. Through our three branches of service, we contribute to the community’s well-being by serving the mental health, substance use, behavioral support and educational needs of Iowa’s most at-risk youth.

# PERRY CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

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Organization Address: 920 18th street Perry, IA 50220

Organization Website:

Counties served: Dallas

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Perry Child Development Center (PCDC) with community collaboration, is to provide inclusive, quality child development programs where all children can develop to their full potential. Teachers, parents, and outside resources work together to achieve positive outcomes by providing a rich educational environment where all children can develop healthy physical, social emotional, language, and intellectual capacities.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

The Perry Child Development Center (PCDC) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation located in Perry, Iowa, providing high quality early childhood and school-age programs to families in Perry and the surrounding area. The center is licensed by the state of Iowa and accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. The PCDC has also achieved a level 5 rating on the Iowa Quality for Kids (IQ4K). The PCDC is open throughout the year offering two separate preschool programs and child care for children 3 months-5 years of age. Programs for school-age children through age 9 are available during the school year and during breaks. The PCDC accepts state child care assistance and offers scholarships to qualifying families.

# PERRY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Organization Address: 1102 Willis Ave Ste 200 Perry, IA 50220

Organization Website:

Counties served: Dallas

## MISSION STATEMENT

P.A.C.E.S. (Perry's Academic, Cultural, Enrichment Services Program) mission is to provide a program that will compliment the student's classroom work through homework help, tutoring, enrichment education, character education, fitness & nutrition education, and life skills activities; to develop a student with a more positive attitude toward themselves and the community.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Perry Community School District - Public School Pre-K through 12th Grade. P.A.C.E.S. is a department of the school district. All staff are employees of the school district.

# PRIMARY HEALTH CARE INC.

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Organization Address: 1200 University Ave, Suite 200 Des Moines, IA 50314

Organization Website: [www.phciowa.org](http://www.phciowa.org)

Counties served: Polk

## MISSION STATEMENT

PHC is a team of caring professionals providing health care and supportive services to all people to improve their quality of life.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Primary Health Care is a federally qualified health center that provides healthcare and supportive services to vulnerable populations in Central Iowa, including the uninsured and under-insured since 1981. PHC's scope of services includes family practice, internal medicine, pediatrics, OBGYN, HIV care, mental health, substance abuse, dental, pharmacy, preventative care, immunizations, and homelessness. Across Polk, Story and Marshall Counties, PHC provides services at 14 different sites. PHC offers supportive services including language interpretation, case/care management, connection to insurance/benefits, health coaching, and family support services at its locations and programs.

# PROJECT IOWA

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Organization Address: 4801 Franklin Avenue Des Moines, IA 50310

Organization Website: [www.projectiowa.org](http://www.projectiowa.org)

Counties served: Polk

## MISSION STATEMENT

Project Iowa's mission is to facilitate individual transformation that connects people to their purpose and provides career guidance to obtain meaningful and stable employment.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Project Iowa provides transformational programs to individuals seeking careers. Our purpose-driven programs inspire people to define their purpose and leverage their passion to achieve their personal and professional goals. We collaborate with community partners and employers to connect them with a confident and skilled workforce. At Project Iowa, we know that when individuals succeed the whole community benefits. Purpose, Stability, and Career are the pillars our work is based on. Project Iowa serves adults through our Cultivating Careers program, which is a holistic career training and employment placement program. We serve high school seniors through our YouthWorks program, offering a year long paid, professional internship and training.

# PROTEUS INC.

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Organization Address: 1221 Center Street Des Moines, IA 50309

Organization Website: [www.proteusinc.net](http://www.proteusinc.net)

Counties served: Polk;Warren;Dallas

## MISSION STATEMENT

Proteus provides agricultural workers and their families with affordable health care, education assistance, and job training.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Proteus, Inc. is a multi-state 501c3 non-profit organization that provides workforce stability, healthcare, health and safety training, and other supportive services to agricultural workers in Nebraska, Iowa, & Indiana. The mission of Proteus is to provide agricultural workers & their families with affordable healthcare, education assistance, & job training. Proteus's vision is a better life for farmworkers. Proteus was established in 1979 & has been providing the necessary services to farmworkers, including immigrant families. The organization added the agricultural health program in Iowa in 1991, expanded services into Nebraska in 2010, and expanded services into Indiana in 2013. Proteus is a federally qualified health center.

# PURSUIT OF INNOVATION

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Organization Address: Po box 8400 Des Moines, IA 50301

Organization Website: [www.pi515.org](http://www.pi515.org)

Counties served: Polk;Warren;Dallas

## MISSION STATEMENT

"Pi515's Mission is to challenge, inspire and teach technology skills to students with potential - empowering refugee & underserved youth to achieve success, garner influence & gain stability in their families and communities.

Our focus students are Central Iowa's most underserved-students of color, females, & those considered low income. Many students served by Pi515 come from homes with little to zero digital literacy skills and are often the first in their families to pursue education."

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Pi515 (Pursuit of Innovation 515) is a Des Moines-based nonprofit that empowers underserved youth, especially from low-income, immigrant, and underrepresented backgrounds, through technology education, mentorship, and entrepreneurship. Since 2014, Pi515 has provided hands-on, project-based learning to help students gain essential skills in STEM, leadership, and career readiness, ensuring they are prepared for the tech-driven workforce of tomorrow.

# REFUGEE & IMMIGRANT VOICES IN ACTION (RIVA)

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Organization Address: 1111 9th St Des Moines, IA 50309

Organization Website: [www.rivaiowa.org](http://www.rivaiowa.org)

Counties served: Polk;Warren;Dallas;Other

## MISSION STATEMENT

Refugee & Immigrant Voices in Action (RIVA) advances the lives of immigrants and refugees through collaborative action, advocacy and leadership development.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Refugee & Immigrant Voices in Action (RIVA) works to build the power of the people who are so often sidelined – the leaders, volunteers, and advocates working on the ground in refugee and immigrant communities. These individuals and groups are the experts. They know what their communities need, and how best to serve their neighbors in culturally responsive and effective ways. By partnering with refugee and immigrant leaders and ethnic community- based organizations (ECBOs) to elevate their voices and expand their capacity, RIVA creates a cascade of change that's powered by our own communities.

# SARGE'S WESTSIDE BOXING CLUB

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Organization Address: 2214 Forest Avenue Des Moines, IA 50311

Organization Website: <https://www.facebook.com/Sarges-WestSide-Boxing-Club-382010048967742/>

Counties served: Polk;Warren;Dallas

## MISSION STATEMENT

To provide youth with a supervised athletic club experience along with activities that develop confident, respect and focus in life beyond sports. To promote the belief that each person not only can achieve physical strength but also knowledge through learning. We believe education is the key to success and that strong minds build strong bodies which builds strong communities.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

The Boxing Club, located at 2214 Forest Avenue serves a diverse community of youth--many living within the Forrest Avenue/Drake/King Irving/Union Park/River Bend neighborhood communities in the city of Des Moines. The club works with 40 youth at any given time with the purpose of developing confidence and focus through this organized athletic activity which in turn leads to success in school and career. Youth in the program range from ages 5-12 with a target population representing at-risk and low-income students from these neighborhoods. Some 70 plus percent of youth in the program live in a home with an income level that is below the poverty line.

# SHALOM COMMUNITY IMPACT CENTER

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Organization Address: 7605 Aurora Av URBANDALE, IA 50322

Organization Website: [www.shalomcommunityimpactcenter.org](http://www.shalomcommunityimpactcenter.org)

Counties served: Polk

## MISSION STATEMENT

Shalom Community Impact Center endeavors to inspire new Iowans to become full participants in their local and national communities. We work to empower refugee and immigrant families by providing services and programs which assist with integration and adaptation in their new home country to ensure upward mobility in the areas of education, employment, and health and well-being.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Shalom Community Impact Center helps Iowa refugee and immigrant families assimilate into their new life by offering community based English speaking classes, after school and summer programs, job readiness and computer classes, early childhood programs, access to health care, and transportation to medical care, healthy socialization, and student sports.

# SHORT YEARS PARTNERSHIP

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Organization Address: 515 N Jefferson Way Indianola, IA 50125

Organization Website: <https://www.shortyears.org/>

Counties served: Warren;Dallas

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Short Years Partnership's mission is to support parents' and caregivers' engagement with their children, leading to a lifetime of good health, educational achievement, and future success.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

The Short Years Partnership (SYP), established in 2007, stands as a beacon of family support and parenting education across Warren, Dallas, Madison, Marion, and Jasper Counties.

Short Years' overarching goal is to empower parents and caregivers to foster a lifetime of good health, educational achievement, and future success in their children.

At the heart of Short Years' mission is the vision that all children learn, grow, and develop to their full potential while parents feel comfortable, prepared, and motivated on this transformative journey.

Short Years' flagship program, Parents as Teachers, is an evidence-based parenting education and family engagement model spanning from pregnancy until a child enters kindergarten.

# ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

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Organization Address: 801 73rd St. Suite J Windsor Heights, IA 50324

Organization Website: [www.svdpdsm.org](http://www.svdpdsm.org)

Counties served: Polk;Warren;Dallas

## MISSION STATEMENT

St Vincent de Paul's mission is to help those in need become self-sufficient through education, community connectedness, and unconditional support.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

St. Vincent de Paul's work focuses on assisting those living in poverty in becoming self-sufficient by helping to remove roadblocks as we walk with them on their journey out of poverty. SVdP of Des Moines operates three thrift stores, two social services departments, an education center, a reentry center, and workforce training programs. SVdP employs around 60 paid staff and has over 1,000 volunteers.

The approach of St. Vincent de Paul is multifaceted, and intentionally diversified. Our goal is to treat the symptoms that have caused our clients to experience poverty, not just patch the problem. As such, our programs work hand-in-hand to provide access to resources for those in need. St. Vincent de Paul serves anyone in need.

# STARTS RIGHT HERE

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Organization Address: 455 SW 5th Street Suite A Des Moines, IA 50309

Organization Website: [www.startrighthere.com](http://www.startrighthere.com)

Counties served: Polk

## MISSION STATEMENT

Starts Right Here (SRH) is a program designed to serve youth in a supportive, empowering environment. All young people deserve a chance to rise above circumstances to reach their mental, emotional, physical, and economic potential. At SRH, we work with extremely high-risk youth who have experienced real-life challenges to give them a chance to choose a different future-to change their mindset to one of hope, purpose, and determination, while providing access to resources to support their goals.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Starts Right Here is an organization that engages in community collaborations with schools, health & human service resources, law enforcement (as needed) and other government and civic leaders to promote education attainment and create partnerships with the business community while building significant relationships to stop the negative cycle and encourage positive life choices for our students. The goal is to guide our young people with a roadmap to a secure future and a path to sustained and increasing quality of life, starting with a high school diploma and pathways to careers.

# THE DIRECTOR'S COUNCIL

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Organization Address: 1910 Ingersoll Ave Des Moines, IA 50309

Organization Website: <https://www.tcdsm.org/>

Counties served: Polk

## MISSION STATEMENT

TDC has two primary objectives. The first is to provide support to our fellow members and their organizations through collective grant applications, technical support and peer guidance. The second is to pool our resources to create efficient and effective social service programs that are lacking in our community. Our collective commitment to positively effect the lives of members of our community has given us the strength to begin the planning and implementation of several exciting new programs.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

TDC is a coalition of leaders collectively dedicated to improving the conditions of the individuals in the neighborhoods they serve. By coordinating services and experience, TDC is able to work together to fund member organizations' individual programs as well as implement their own unique initiatives. Amongst other TDC programs are: One Economy, African American Leadership Academy, Black Urban Professionals, I Am Des Moines, and More in the Core (Non-Profit Boot Camp).

# THE FOOD GRID (HFDC)

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Organization Address: 319 S.W. Fifth St. Perry, IA 50309

Organization Website: <https://foodgridia.org/>

Counties served: Dallas

## MISSION STATEMENT

Get on the GRID for everyone to have consistent access to quality, healthy food throughout central Iowa.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

The Food GRID is a community-powered volunteer initiative dedicated to addressing food insecurity and food waste through four core actions: Grow, Rescue, Identify, and Direct. We publish a website and facilitate a Coalition that partners with local growers, markets, restaurants, caterers, and community members to rescue surplus food, grow fresh produce, identify food needs, and direct healthy, usable food to neighborhood community refrigerators across Central Iowa. By keeping good food out of landfills and putting it into the hands of those who need it most through community refrigerators, the Food GRID builds a more sustainable and equitable local food system—one fridge, one neighborhood, one act of kindness at a time.

# THE HELPING HAND OF WARREN COUNTY

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Organization Address: 109 East Clinton Indianola, IA 50125

Organization Website: [www.helpinghandwc.com](http://www.helpinghandwc.com)

Counties served: Warren

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of The Helping Hand Food and Clothing Pantry of Warren County is to compassionately cultivate community and provide essential needs and resources such as food, clothing, household items, personal care products, baby items, and basic human needs to our community at no cost. We believe in the power of compassion and equality to all we serve. We serve all populations regardless of age, race, gender, education, and income.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

The Helping Hand Food and Clothing Pantry of Warren County is located in Indianola. The Helping Hand is open to Warren County residents four times a week to service their clothing, food, hygiene, and household needs. Monthly, we serve over 600 people in the clothing pantry and over 1,000 people in the food pantry. We provide a full order of groceries and personal care items once a month per family or individual and our community can receive emergency food consisting of sandwiches, meat, vegetables, and fruit everyday. In July 2021, we purchased six community refrigerators and placed them throughout our county to increase access to healthy food in rural Warren County, and food recovery from local businesses is placed in them twice a week.

# THE SUPPLY HIVE

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Organization Address: PO Box 8338 Des Moines, IA 50301

Organization Website: [www.thesupplyhivedsm.org](http://www.thesupplyhivedsm.org)

Counties served: Polk;Dallas

## MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to provide a space of nourishment through extraordinary times in order to promote leaders in local communities.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

At our core, we're a mutual aid group orchestrating compassion to uplift the marginalized. We provide life's essentials—food, water, hygiene—while empowering through education. Actively combating racial inequity, we support local events promoting unity and inclusivity. Beyond needs, we emphasize community connection, spreading the joy of togetherness. Our flexible model involves the community notifying us of needs, leveraging donors, and our volunteers preparing essentials for direct distribution. Each action is a note in our symphony, composing a future where compassion, empowerment, and community resonate for all, creating lasting echoes of support.

# U.S. COMMITTEE FOR REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS

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Organization Address: 1200 University Ave, Suite 205 Des Moines, IA 50314

Organization Website: <https://refugees.org/uscri-des-moines/>

Counties served: Polk;Warren;Dallas;Other

## MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to protect the rights and address the needs of persons in forced or voluntary migration worldwide and support their transition to a dignified life.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

The U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) is a private non-profit that has served refugees and immigrants across the country since 1911. USCRI's Des Moines Field Office (USCRI Des Moines) has been bringing hope and opportunity to Iowa's newest community members since 2010.

USCRI Des Moines is Iowa's largest refugee resettlement agency. Since 2010, the agency has welcomed over 4,000 refugees from around the world through its cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of State's Office of Refugee Resettlement. USCRI Des Moines also serves secondary migrants and those who have lived in Iowa for longer periods of time, reaching nearly 1,000 individuals per year through its comprehensive array of programs.

# URBAN DREAMS

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Organization Address: 1615 2nd Ave Des Moines, IA 50314

Organization Website: [urbandreams.org](http://urbandreams.org)

Counties served: Polk;Warren;Dallas;Other

## MISSION STATEMENT

### MISSION STATEMENT

Urban Dreams advocates for all members of the community, breaking down barriers to success and collaborating with key stakeholders to overcome obstacles and uplift underserved and underrepresented people.

### VISION STATEMENT

Our Urban Dream is to create equal opportunity and access for people to pursue their Dreams.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Since 1985, Urban Dreams has provided Des Moines' inner city and Iowa with various human service programs that break down barriers for underserved and underrepresented populations. Whether contributing to neighborhood safety by building relations with the local police, providing mental health counseling, offering substance abuse recovery classes, or preparing individuals for college and the workforce, Urban Dreams is Here to Help!

Our home base is in the heart of Des Moines' inner city. UD is accessible to those who need us most. This area leads in families living in poverty, low-wage earners, single-family homes, high school dropouts, ex-offender residency, gang participation, abandoned property, overall crime rates, and other issues.

# WAYPOINT RESOURCES

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Organization Address: 1155 SE Boone Dr Waukee, IA 50263

Organization Website: <https://waypoint.care/>

Counties served: Dallas

## MISSION STATEMENT

To serve people's immediate needs and create connections that encourage lifelong wellness.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

WayPoint Resources (FKA Waukee Area Christian Services) hosts the largest food pantry and only free medical clinic in the Dallas County Area. We help people with supplemental food, clothing, basic health care, housing and school essentials, emergency financial assistance and one-on-one navigation through other community resources. We provide this help through a client-choice food pantry, an anytime food room stocked with rescued food from our community partners, an onsite community garden, a student weekend snack pack program, a clothing closet for preschool through high school students, a free medical clinic and overall client support program, including housing stabilization and eviction prevention programs.

# WELIFT JOB SEARCH CENTER

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Organization Address: 106 East Second Avenue Indianola, IA 50125

Organization Website: [weliftjobsearch.org](http://weliftjobsearch.org)

Counties served: Warren

## MISSION STATEMENT

WeLIFT (We Learn Independence for Tomorrow) Job Search Center uses appropriate services and tools to empower individual employment and resources to work towards economic self-sufficiency.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

WeLIFT Job Search Center is a community employment and career pathway resource where compassion, integrity and dignity drive our focus to empower employment success and service to our community. WeLIFT is a nonprofit organization which provides job readiness skills, community outreach, local resources, partnerships and individual navigation for holistic services. Our services are available for free to anyone who seeks guidance in employment, and assistance in community navigation of services. WeLIFT is proud to serve South Central Iowa, Marion, Madison and the surrounding communities. WeLIFT believes in the power of partnerships to provide direction and a holistic approach towards self-sufficiency.

# WESLEY COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC.

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Organization Address: 5508 NW 88th Street Johnston, IA 50131

Organization Website: <http://www.wesleylife.org>

Counties served: Polk;Dallas

## MISSION STATEMENT

Guided by Christian compassion, we support the independence, health and well-being of older adults wherever they call home.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Guided by Christian compassion, WesleyLife supports the independence, health and well-being of older adults wherever they call home. In its 75 years, WesleyLife has grown exponentially as the needs of older Iowans have grown.

Older adults often encounter financial, health, independence and social isolation challenges. We provide a comprehensive network of services so the challenges faced by older adults can not only be met but help them thrive. Services include 12 Communities for Healthy Living (independent, assisted, and long-term care) and Wesley Community Services, a broad network of services that include Home Care, Adult Day Care, Hospice and Meals on Wheels. Services are offered in 18 counties in Iowa and Illinois.

# WEST DES MOINES COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Organization Address: 3550 Mills Civic Pkwy West Des Moines, IA 50265

Organization Website: <https://commed.wdmcs.org/>

Counties served: Polk

## MISSION STATEMENT

West Des Moines Community Schools: Working in partnership with each family and the community, it is the mission of the district to educate responsible lifelong learners so that each student possesses the skills, knowledge, creativity, sense of self-worth, and values necessary to thrive in and contribute to a diverse and changing world.

WDMCS Community Education: To support and serve our school community through programming, outreach, service, and facility use.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Community Education is a department of the West Des Moines Community School District. We work collaboratively to provide opportunities that are inclusive, accessible, and responsive. We support and serve our students, families, and community through classes, before and after school care, intercultural outreach, service opportunities, and facility use.

West Des Moines Community Schools (WDMCS) has been inspiring joy in learning for more than 100 years. We are a caring community that knows every child as an individual and offers them a place to belong. With approximately 9,000 students, around 1,300 employees, and 13 schools, WDMCS can provide each student with the opportunities and resources they need to succeed.

# WILLKIE HOUSE INC.

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Organization Address: 900 17th St. Des Moines, IA 50314

Organization Website: [willkiehouse.org](http://willkiehouse.org)

Counties served:

## MISSION STATEMENT

To develop character and esteem in young people through the promotion of academics, social skill building, health, and recreation.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

Willkie House Inc. is a historically-Black nonprofit organization founded in 1917. Our services focus on low-income youth, and we help them overcome their challenges and grow into their best selves through our four pillars: academics, social skill building, health, and recreation. To this end, we operate afterschool and summer programs for elementary and middle school youth out of a purpose-built facility that we have called home since 1951. This building, located at 900 17th Street in Des Moines, includes four classrooms, two computer labs, a kitchen, a gym, a playground, and more. In addition to supporting youth, our licensed child care services play an important role in allowing parents to hold down jobs and provide for their families.

# WONDER YEARS ACADEMY

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Organization Address: 3838 Martin Luther King Jr PKWY Des Moines, IA 50310

Organization Website: [wonderyearsacademy.org](http://wonderyearsacademy.org)

Counties served: Polk

## MISSION STATEMENT

Our devoted team educates and nurtures children from infancy to school age. Each child will have the right and the attention to develop a positive self worth. Each child in our care will feel they have a secure base to develop positive relationships, explore the environment, and to learn through age appropriate play and planned experiences. We build strong relationships with our families to work toward a common goal, a well rounded child ready to succeed at school and life.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

We are a child care center and preschool that is located in the Lower Beaverdale neighborhood in Des Moines. We have been operating since 1992 and currently employ 17 staff members. Infant, Toddler, Pre-school, and School Age care is provided year round, weekdays, from 7:00 am to 5:30 pm.

# YMCA OF GREATER DES MOINES

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Organization Address: 501 Grand Avenue Des Moines, IA 50309

Organization Website: <https://www.dymca.org/>

Counties served: Polk

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the YMCA, our reason for being, is to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all.

Our mission in action is strengthening the foundations of community through youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

The Y provides programs promoting youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility.

The Y champions equal access to programs to promote personal well-being, meaningful relationships, and healthy lifestyles.

The Y supports academic, cognitive, physical, and social-emotional development of youth.

The Y provides affordable housing and supportive services for individuals experiencing homelessness to help them increase income, become self-sufficient, and achieve housing stability.

# YOUNG WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER

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Organization Address: 818 5th Ave Des Moines, IA 50309

Organization Website: <http://www.ywrc.org>

Counties served: Polk;Warren;Dallas

## MISSION STATEMENT

Empower participants to be strong, self-confident and resilient.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

At the Young Women's Resource Center (YWRC), we believe that every girl deserves a life of possibilities. We help participants realize their full potential by providing programming to girls and young women ages 10 – 24 throughout Greater Des Moines. We offer support groups and services for all girls and young women, regardless of what they may be going through in their lives, through Empowerment, Young Moms, and Counseling groups. The YWRC is a safe place that reinforces the beauty, resiliency and strength that participants already possess. We are happy to make the Young Women's Resource Center a place girls and young women can find the things they need, whatever those things may be.

# YOUTH JUSTICE INITIATIVE

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Organization Address: 250 Mills Civic Parkway West Des Moines, IA 50265

Organization Website: [www.yjifriends.com](http://www.yjifriends.com)

Counties served: Polk;Warren;Dallas

## MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to develop and sustain restorative processes in our community to promote healing, increase accountability, and provide support.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

YJI began as a community-driven, pre-diversion effort to reduce youth contact with the criminal justice system in West Des Moines. Today, it includes Diversion/Restorative Justice, Enrichment, and Professional Development. YJI centers collective community care—uplifting youth and families through love, support, and opportunity. Diversion services blend restorative practices, academic support, and family engagement to promote accountability and growth. YJI maintains the lowest re-offending rate in Polk County. Enrichment offers tutoring, meals, and neighborhood-based programs. Professional Development/Tech Connect provides paid teen jobs and tech support for older adults, building intergenerational bonds and skills.

# YOUTH LAW CENTER

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Organization Address: 300 Walnut Street Des Moines, IA 50309-2266

Organization Website: [www.youthlawcenter.org](http://www.youthlawcenter.org)

Counties served: Polk;Warren;Dallas;Other

## MISSION STATEMENT

Youth Law Center (YLC) is dedicated to protecting abused & neglected children & youth, educating youth of their legal rights & promoting statewide policies that positively impact children & their welfare. Our mission is to ensure children of Central Iowa have permanent homes where they are safe, loved & encouraged to flourish physically, emotionally, academically & socially.

## AGENCY DESCRIPTION

YLC is dedicated to providing legal representation to our community's most vulnerable children. In FY21-FY22 we represented over 1,144 children in over 1,700 legal matters. Our work is not limited to inside of a courtroom. We strive to improve our clients' well-being by collaborating with community partners. We encourage systemic change by advocating for policies benefitting children & youth. Most of our clients fall well below the federal poverty guidelines, endure significant physical & emotional trauma & face many challenges. YLC uses a multi-disciplinary team approach combining the disciplines of law & social work to provide a comprehensive plan for the social, emotional, educational & legal welfare of our clients.