When the world shut down in March in response to the global pandemic, the Iowa Hunger Summit was immediately on my mind. Would we be able to gather? What would the hunger fighting community most need? How would we discuss the inadequacies of our broken system?

As the weeks went on, we established a ‘new normal’ and realized the possibilities of a virtual experience. We would be able to offer more information, resources and discussion to an even broader audience. But still, it was difficult to imagine what the Iowa Hunger Summit could look like. Various events in 2020 on top of the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the deepest societal issues and the “cracks” in our systems. People have lost their jobs, their homes, and many even lost their lives. Those most marginalized and exploited were forced to cope and adapt, as strains on our food and health systems pushed people past their breaking points.

People around the world took to the streets demanding justice for George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and the unfathomable number of Black Americans killed at the hand of injustice and inequality, demanding a reckoning of long overdue systemic change. Racial Equity can no longer be a desire, but rather a priority. We must not rely on the status quo or allow ourselves to become comfortable with and normalize a system that leaves so many behind.

This launched me into a period of evaluation and action planning. The framework of this Summit focused on outcomes, rather than intent. The planning was grounded by the belief that we cannot work for merely ourselves, but we must act in support of our neighbors, our community, and our collective humanity. I encourage everyone to pause for personal reflection and evaluation of your work.

In some ways, throughout our planning process, it felt like the worst time to hold a conference. As it turned out, this year was one of the most imperative years to come together. Our community craved a space of reflection, connection and calls to action that nourished a deeper discourse on the flaws in our system and solutions to address the ever rising levels of hunger and poverty.

This guide focuses on the wisdom, learnings, and resources our partners bring to their critical work. Speakers provided historical context of systemic causes of hunger and poverty, delved deep into disaster response and community action, and reflected on what we need to change to create a more resilient, equitable future for all. I want to extend my gratitude to the speakers who made these sessions possible.

The following provides an interactive day-by-day overview of the Iowa Hunger Summit. This year’s Summit created an alternative, virtual space for speakers, audience members and partner organizations to interact and discuss. Our aim was to offer different digital mediums to sustain comparable interactions to previous in-person Summits. This post-event resource guide provides easy access to the materials, recordings, and discussions presented throughout the Summit.

Following the 2020 Iowa Hunger Summit, I encourage everyone to consider and take up the numerous calls to action. Our partners’ calls to end food insecurity, especially as it relates to racial justice and other social inequity, requires commitment. I hope that the 2020 Iowa Hunger Summit can lend to the global call to action to end hunger that has been amplified during the pandemic. I also hope people will make use of what they have learned, the resources gathered and the rising motivation for the betterment of their communities.

Warmly,
Madeline Goebel
Director, Community Outreach
mgoebel@worldfoodprize.org
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## AUTHORS AND CONTRIBUTORS

2

## SPEAKERS

2

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

3

## DAY ONE

Plenary Session

4

Introductory Remarks

The Time is Now: Applying Racial Equity In Our Work To End Hunger

Voice Your Choice

Racial Wealth Gap Learning Simulation

5

Breakout Sessions

6

One Economy: *Data Demands Action!* | The Directors Council

Stress to Success: Prenatal Strategies to Improve Child Outcomes | Iowa ACEs 360 + ISU Extension & Outreach

## DAY TWO

Plenary Session

7

What Does Hunger Mean to Our Workforce?

Federal Nutrition Programs & the COVID19 Emergency

Introductory Remarks from the Governor

Hunger Relief Work During the Pandemic: *Private & Public Collaborations Feed Hope*

Breakout Sessions

9

The History Behind the Calls for Housing Justice and Equality | Polk County Housing Trust Fund

Pantries with a Purpose | Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health + DMARC

## DAY THREE

Plenary Session

10

5 Actions Organized Communities Can Fight for to Improve Food Access at the Local Level

What’s Next: Creating a More Resilient Food System After Shock

Double Up Food Bucks, Food Insecurity + COVID-19

Breakout Sessions

11

An Equity Approach to Addressing Childhood Trauma in Iowa | Iowa ACEs 360

Feeding Older Iowans Amid COVID-19 and Beyond | Iowa Department on Aging + Iowa Food Bank Association

Opportunity Gaps, Nutrition Programs and Covid-19 | Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, Polk County

## ABOUT

13

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13
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**Lori Williams**  Operations Officer, Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

**Donald Wood**  Executive Director, Just Communities of Arkansas (JCA)
This year’s Iowa Hunger Summit pivoted to address the effects of COVID-19 both in format and content. The 3-day virtual event convened an array of representatives from various sectors to discuss hunger and food insecurity in our communities and provided attendees with tangible resources to deepen their engagement in ending food insecurity.

The Summit featured conversations on the importance of racial equity within our food systems, addressed the effects and long-term outcomes of COVID-19 on vulnerable and under-resourced populations, and sought to increase collaboration and united community development both during times of crisis, as well as during times of business as usual.

With the transition to the new multi-day virtual format, the Summit broadened its network and increased participant collaboration. Sessions highlighted a compilation of resources and initiatives that comprehensively support increased food security in Iowa.

The Summit was focused on the following central themes:

➔ **Racial Equity**
   The understanding that one’s intentions do not always equate to meaningful and needed impact is crucial in racial equity work. Many conversations during this year’s Summit emphasized the need for racial equity and systemic change to be ingrained in the work of ending hunger.

➔ **COVID-19 + Disaster Response**
   COVID-19 has negatively affected the lives and food security of many Iowans over the past year. Furthermore, these negative effects are a constant, persistent challenge from the micro- to the macro-level. Through conversations on COVID at this year’s Summit, we addressed the need to strengthen initiatives and highlight the issues of hunger and food insecurity.

➔ **Community Development and Collaboration**
   Over the course of the development of initiatives, collaboration in community development has maintained a key and pivotal role in the creation of positive outcomes towards food security. In various examples throughout the Summit this year, the need for creative and innovative partnerships have been a foundation for successful progression.
INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Barbara Stinson | President, WFPF
Craig Hill | President, Iowa Farm Bureau Federation
Madeline Goebel | Director, Iowa Hunger Summit

“Even in Iowa, where food is abundant, many people around the state face food insecurity…”

Craig Hill

THE TIME IS NOW: APPLYING RACIAL EQUITY IN OUR WORK TO END HUNGER

SESSION SUMMARY

Co-Chairs of the Racial Equity Hunger National Learning Network, Marlysa Gamblin and Donald Wood, provided a keynote presentation on the need for racial equity in the work of ending hunger and food insecurity.

In order to address the root causes of hunger, racial inequities must be identified and the knowledge that racial equity is vital to ending hunger must be operationalized. Actors must understand that representation does not ensure equity.

This conversation led attendees to take a critical examination of accountability, as well as how to implement racial equity within their work. Participants learned that racial equity includes thinking about: historical trauma, the four forms of racism, and the barriers that disproportionately hurt People of Color by race and ethnicity.

RESOURCES

Racial Equity Policy and Program Scorecard
use this to help you rate how your anti-hunger programs and policies promote racial equity

"Racially Equitable Responses to COVID-19 and Beyond"
Executive Summary

“How to Apply a Racial Equity Lens to SNAP, WIC and Child Nutrition.”
Full Report

More Resources from Bread for the World...

"[Systemic racism] happens within institutions, but it also happens between institutions... It is created and sustained by policies."

- Marlysa D. Gamblin
VOICE YOUR CHOICE

Grow: Johnson County, a program of the Iowa Valley RC&D, believes that good food is a human right. They have made it their mission to combat local food insecurity through charitable food production and hands-on education opportunities. Partner organizations, Grow: Johnson County and Feed Iowa First, use a digital survey tool developed by the Iowa Valley RC&D, Voice Your Choice, that allows agencies to gain valuable food preference information from their clients in a non-intrusive way.

Both programs strive to know what the consumers want to eat, so that each organization can produce food that aligns with the preferences of clients and the communities being served. This tool assuages clients’ hesitation that expressing their opinion will appear ungrateful. Voice Your Choice allows for preferences to be recorded without “invading” the privacy of those individuals.

RESOURCES

Table 2 Table
Check out this great resource mentioned
Read more about food sovereignty...

Become a partner Feed Iowa First | Grow Johnson County

CONNECT

Michi Lópe | Access + Equity Coordinator,
Iowa Valley RC&D
Carter Oswood | Executive Director, Feed Iowa First

Learn more about
Feed Iowa First | Iowa Valley RC&D | Grow: Johnson County

RACIAL WEALTH GAP LEARNING SIMULATION

SESSION SUMMARY

This interactive tool that helped attendees understand the connections between racial equity, hunger, poverty and wealth.

Participants learned how federal policies have created structural inequalities and how these policies increase hunger and poverty in communities of color. Property ownership and education are two of many spheres where harmful policies are still in effect. The simulation guided participants to an understanding of why racial equity is important to ending hunger and poverty in the United States. In becoming more aware of structural inequality, participants can support policies that undo or reduce disparities.

The Simulation’s uses are broad. It is an informative introduction to those unaware of structural inequality and a support tool for those who want a deeper understanding. The quantifiable economic impact of policies that have widened today's racial hunger, income, and wealth divides are also of professional use to field experts.

CONNECT

Minerva Delgado | Director of Coalitions and Advocacy

RESOURCES

The simulation can be a helpful tool for those who have begun working on racial equity and justice and want to learn more on the role public policy has had in creating structural divides based on race.

DOWNLOAD SIMULATION RESOURCES
Simulation Print Kit | Facilitator’s Guide | PowerPoint
Policy Packet | Self-Assessment Workbook

ADDITIONAL READING ON RACE AND HUNGER
Getting to Zero Hunger: Race, Hunger, and Poverty
Ending U.S. Hunger by Focusing on Communities
Where it’s Most Likely
Mass Incarceration: A Major Cause to Hunger

2020 IOWA HUNGER SUMMIT POST-EVENT RESOURCE GUIDE | 5
ONE ECONOMY: DATA DEMANDS ACTION!
The Directors Council

SESSION SUMMARY

The One Economy Project tells a modern-day tale of two cities with its focus on the racial wealth divide. It is a data-driven initiative specifically developed for Des Moines and Polk County that has created a local framework for action. The One Economy Report works to eliminate racial, economic, and other disparities in the African American community by directly addressing five key areas: Employment, Financial Inclusion, Education, Housing, and Health.

The 2020 One Economy: The Blueprint for Action provides a clear picture of the issues and answers the questions around who, what, when, where, and why. It invites businesses, policymakers, and leadership organizations at all levels of cities and counties to take notice and make their place at the table.

Participants are asked to consider the following when engaging in this conversation:
1. Why is the use of the data important in this context?
2. What does the data reveal about our community?
3. What data point caught you by surprise?
4. What if we had not started with data as we began to pursue this journey of “One economy and creating opportunity for all?”

“It is important to understand that when voices are not heard, someone is being silenced.”
- Teree Caldwell-Johnson

STRESS TO SUCCESS: PRENATAL STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE CHILD OUTCOMES
Iowa ACEs 360 + ISU Extension & Outreach

SESSION SUMMARY

Support in the prenatal period is key in building a strong foundation. Using an Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) framework we can identify trauma and intervene. A pregnant mother’s ability to access healthy food is critical to her child’s lifelong well-being. Iowa ACEs 360 and Iowa State University Extension and Outreach discussed how children’s development is the foundation for a prosperous community.

Starting even before birth, a child’s brain architecture is being constructed through an ongoing process that continues into adulthood. Yet, many children experience stress early on that damages the early developing architecture of their brain and can diminish their ability to reach their full potential.

67% of Iowa mothers reported at least one stressor in the 12 months before giving birth.
**SESSION SUMMARY**

Business Publication Corporation’s panel addressed the systemic issues and root causes of poverty that affect everyone and how the private sector has a unique opportunity and incentive to address these issues.

Iowan business leaders made a case for the role of businesses in ending food insecurity through discussion on incentivizing community action with compensated volunteer hours, paying a living wage, and immigration reform. The conversation proved that there are distinct roles for businesses, and an economic responsibility to take action.

This educational and inspirational discussion provided listeners with tools and ideas for action. Speakers encouraged businesses to start somewhere, no matter how small, despite the uncertainty that comes with venturing into the unknown.

**RESOURCES**

- Iowa Stops Hunger initiative
- Proteus Initiatives
  - Learn: Iowa Immigrant Community Fund Providing Financial Relief to Immigrant Families in Iowa

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**FEDERAL NUTRITION PROGRAMS & THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY**

**SESSION SUMMARY**

Even before the disastrous effects of COVID-19, hunger had been on the rise in the United States. In the year 2020, food insecurity exponentially increased and brought this “hidden” issue to the mainstream.

In this session the United States Department of Agriculture Midwest Food and Nutrition Service revisited the challenges they faced this year in providing relief and resources to Iowans and how the agency pivoted to address those challenges. Flexibility and adaptability were necessary to ensure that children were fed despite school closures, time-consuming bureaucratic processes would not delay immediate relief, and high risk areas were an area of focus. Watch this session to learn what programs are available and what changes have been made to address food and nutrition insecurity from the federal level.

**RESOURCES**

- Presentation Slides
- FNS Responds to COVID-19
- USDA Farmers to Families Food Box Program
“The power of science is in our hands and we have the potential to make a difference in our communities, country and world.“
Governor Kim Reynolds

“Pass the Pork”
“Beef Up Iowa”
“Pack the Pantry”
“Turkey to Table”

“We quickly figured out by talking to food pantries that refrigeration was a limiting factor. With the $440,000 from Cares Act funds we were able to administer 114 grants in 54 Iowa counties.”
- Julie Kenney
THE HISTORY BEHIND THE CALLS FOR HOUSING JUSTICE AND EQUALITY
Polk County Housing Trust Fund

SESSION SUMMARY
Specific to the Des Moines Metro, the The History Behind the Calls for Housing Justice and Equality Breakout Session from Polk County Housing Trust Fund showcased their Undesign the Redline exhibit. The exhibit showed how historic housing policies and practices directly disadvantage People of Color, specifically Black Americans, while shifting wealth to predominantly white communities.

These policies shaped the physical geography and social landscape of the community and continue to have severe implications for access to affordable housing and quality food sources. Watch this session to understand what housing practices continue to affect your neighborhood and how you can address these systemic issues in your community.

RESOURCES
- Slide Deck
- Learn MORE about Food Deserts
- PCHTF Video Series
- Watch | Like | Share

CONNECT
- Lauren Johnson | Policy and Communications Director, Polk County Housing Trust Fund
- Kendyl Larson | Director of Research and Planning, Polk County Housing Trust Fund

WATCH THE SESSION HERE

PANTRIES WITH A PURPOSE
Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health + DMARC

SESSION SUMMARY
Because food insecurity and health are interrelated, public health and food networks have the opportunity to uniquely connect individuals to healthy food. It is also known that your zip code can very likely determine your health; therefore, it is necessary to change the model of food pantries to provide healthier options in their communities.

This Breakout Session explored how the efforts of Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health’s Wellness Pantry and DMARC’s Food Pantry 2.0 leverage the critical partnership between health and food access to reduce hunger. Current traditional models no longer work. It must be understood that a part of ending hunger is ensuring everyone has access to the right food at the right time. Providing the right food means that it culturally appropriate and personally preferred. The newly developed model optimizes access to health facilities. Data-driven decision-making is required to break down myths surrounding hunger, allowing needs of the community to be accurately addressed. Watch the session to hear the successes, lessons, and tools developed and ready for implementation.

RESOURCES
- Hunger VitalSign™
- Questions | More Information

“It's important not to make assumptions about the people we serve, but instead to hear from them directly.”

- Taylor Syvertson

CONNECT
- Daniel Beck | Data, Analytics, and Program Coordinator, DMARC
- Katie Johnke | Nutrition Services Coordinator, Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health
- Taylor Syvertson | Ending Hunger 2.0 Impact Manager, Great Plains Food Bank

WATCH THE SESSION HERE
SESSION SUMMARY

To survive, each person in the world needs access to food, clothes, and shelter. These fundamental needs must be guaranteed to and entrusted by the people for individuals and communities to thrive. However, unsustainable and erratic public and private funding and support continually cutaway and destabilize access to basic needs programs. These inadequacies drive communities to question and address what must be done to ensure food access for themselves and their children.

Throughout this session, Joshua outlined that basics of action must include an understanding of local government.

- **Know** who your local representatives are in your district and ward.
- **Meet** with them.
- **Attend** city council, county supervisor, and school meetings.

Joshua provided additional guidance on actionable steps to better understand your local food system and to get organized with others based on common interests. Underlying all actions is the vital importance of understanding community needs.

RESOURCES

Watch Joshua V. Barr’s Emmy award winning documentary *Breaking Bread, Building Bridges* Watch here: [YOUTUBE LINK](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=example)

Read more from Joshua Barr in his article "A Better Way: 50+ Action Items to Fight Against Racism In Your Community"

WHAT'S NEXT: CREATING A MORE RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEM AFTER SHOCK

Food Banks have been and continue to be at the center of hunger relief throughout crises; the “What’s Next: Creating a More Resilient Food System After Shock” session engaged two of Iowa’s Food Bank leaders in an examination of past shocks to the system and the future projections for the sector, as well as the need for resilience to be incorporated into our overarching food systems.

This session built upon the previous days’ conversations on the response to a global pandemic, as we continue to live in a world grappling with the effects of COVID-19 and the derecho and look forward to improved settled and post-shock food systems. Partnerships and continued collaboration continue to be the cornerstone of achievements made towards food security.
DOUBLE UP FOOD BUCKS, FOOD INSECURITY + COVID-19

SESSION SUMMARY

The Double Up Food Bucks Program (DUFB) is a federally supported fruit and vegetable incentive program. Representatives of a farmers market, retail grocery store, community outreach organization, and the DUFB program shared their experiences, diving into the successes, challenges, and opportunities for growth of the program in Iowa.

This session detailed the experiences of the different program facilitators and provides insight into an innovative approach to increasing local food security while supporting local produce farmers.

RESOURCES

BMC HANDOUT
POLK COUNTY RESOURCES
SESSION SLIDE DECK
FUNDING PROPOSAL

CONFERENCE CALL
Lorrie Beaman | Executive Director, Freight House Farmers Market
Dana Danley | MD, Family Medicine Faculty Physician, Broadlawns Medical Center
Aryn McLaren | MPH, Double Up Food Bucks Coordinator, Iowa Healthiest State Initiative
Emily Toribio | Corporate Outreach & Communications Manager, Fareway

AN EQUITY APPROACH TO ADDRESSING CHILDHOOD TRAUMA IN IOWA

SESSION SUMMARY

The observance and study of the 10 ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) show the long-term impact of trauma and stress. The ACEs are not rare experiences and appear in clusters. The increase in occurrences leads to risk of long-term health impacts.

This presentation explained the impact of childhood trauma on Iowans’ lifelong health and how historical and societal factors often contribute to the trauma that People of Color and those who live in poverty experience. Attendees learned how systems cause these conditions and identified what they can do to respond. It is important to include the following Critical Concepts in conversations around and data collection regarding trauma:

Collective Trauma, Historical Trauma, Epigenetics, Equity, Health Equity, and Equitable Recovery

RESOURCES

SLIDE DECK
2020 Iowa ACEs Report

CONNECT
Lisa Cushatt | Director, Iowa ACEs 360

WATCH THE SESSION HERE

2020 IOWA HUNGER SUMMIT POST-EVENT RESOURCE GUIDE
RESOURCES
Iowa Food Bank Association Food Assistance Hotline
(855) 944-FOOD (3663)

CONNECT
Alexandra Bauman, RD LDN | Nutrition, Health & Wellness Director, Iowa Department on Aging - alexandra.bauman@iowa.gov
Linda Gorkow | Executive Director, Iowa Food Bank Association - linda@iowafba.org

SESSION SUMMARY
The COVID-19 pandemic amplified the difficulties older adults face in regards to food insecurity, social isolation, and access to resources. The Iowa Department on Aging and the Iowa Food Bank Association discussed the innovative partnerships and collaborations that arose to meet the needs of older Iowans during the pandemic and beyond as 10,000 people in the U.S. turn 65 each day.

OPPORTUNITY GAPS, NUTRITION PROGRAMS AND COVID-19
Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, Polk County

SESSION SUMMARY
Iowa State University Extension and Outreach discussed the implementation of youth nutrition programs to reduce inequality related to social determinants of health. The ‘Kids in the Kitchen’ program serves as a case study on effective approaches to close opportunity gaps.

COVID-19 added challenges and forced changes to the conventional solutions to reduce opportunity gaps and serve Iowa youth. This session reviewed the lessons learned and adjustments made and beyond.

“As educators, we need to be aware that not all youth are coming from the same situation and that the situation they are coming from is not something that they have any control over.”

- Sarah Tanis
The Iowa Hunger Summit annually gathers leaders from across Iowa representing community organizations, business and industry, state and local government, social agencies, churches and religious communities, schools and universities, civic and social clubs, and other individuals and groups that lead or participate in projects to confront hunger. The annual Summit is attended by over 500 hunger fighters from Iowa.

The World Food Prize Foundation, under the direction of former Foundation President, Ambassador Kenneth M. Quinn, created the Iowa Hunger Summit in 2006 with former Governors Robert D. Ray, Terry E. Branstad, and Tom Vilsack serving as honorary co-chairs. The first Hunger Summit took place in 2007 where the Governors were joined by then Iowa Governor Chet Culver in honoring Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and Foundation Founder Dr. Norman E. Borlaug.

Based on the outstanding success and growth of the Iowa Hunger Summit, the World Food Prize Foundation announced in 2012 the creation of The Iowa Hunger Directory - a new initiative to extend the valuable programming of the Iowa Hunger Summit throughout the year. The Iowa Hunger Directory website includes a statewide calendar of events, an interactive map and a section of tips and best practices. It has grown to include nearly 500 organizations and reaches into every county in the state.

The monthly Hunger Directory Newsletters share information about innovative efforts and collaborations among Iowa’s hunger fighters with over 800 individuals, and the Iowa Hunger Calendar enables people across Iowa to identify and take part in hunger-fighting events in their own communities.

To learn more about the Iowa Hunger Summit visit www.IowaHungerSummit.org and sign up for the Hunger Directory at www.IowaHungerSummit.org/HDSignUp.

The World Food Prize Foundation elevates innovations and inspires action to sustainably increase the quality, quantity and availability of food for all. The Foundation supports this through a variety of innovative programs year-round including by: recognizing and rewarding individuals making exceptional achievements in addressing food security; convening global leaders in Des Moines each year to address the latest issues and innovations in food and agriculture; inspiring and recognizing empowering students around the world by providing educational and professional experiences on pressing food security and agriculture issues; and addressing Iowa’s challenges and successes in fighting hunger and poverty.