



IOWA WINE
GROWERS
ASSOCIATION

Funding needs of the Iowa Wine & Grape Industry

Our industry requires a consistent funding source to ensure that the Midwest Wine and Grape Industry Institute is able to continue to provide the educational and scientific assistance for Iowa wineries and vineyards to ensure growth and sustainability in the industry.

Short Term

Over \$7.5 million is collected in state excise tax. Iowa wineries sell 5.93% of the wine sold in Iowa. Currently, the industry is awarded by the Iowa Legislature \$238,000 which is appropriated on an annual basis. **We request that the amount be increased to \$500,000 for a set number of years.** Additional, consistent funding allows us to better plan for the future as well as to expand and grow what the Institute offers to wineries and vineyards. It is also a more accurate representation of the contributions made to the tax base by Iowa wine sold.

Long Term

The long-term goals of the industry include the creation of an on-site, commercial winery at the Midwest Wine and Grape Industry Institute that would advance grape and wine research and evaluate new technology, allow for more hands-on education and training opportunities and offer custom processing services. The cost to fund this project would be a **one-time funding initiative of \$7 million.**

Through these investments, at least **eight new positions** could be added including enology faculty, an Extension wine specialist and graduate positions. Consistent funding attracts and retains quality staff.

When we invest in the Institute, we know that the quality of Iowa wines will improve, thereby increasing the market share of Iowa wine and thus the contribution to the tax base. Additionally, wineries and vineyards will have opportunities for expansion, adding new jobs and spurring economic development in rural areas across the state.