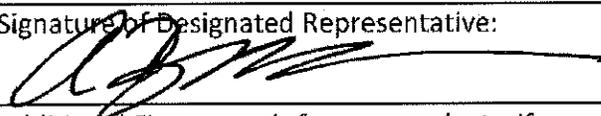


Marion

**STATEMENT OF COUNTY READINESS: Marion County
EARLY LEARNING PILOT GRANT PROGRAM**

Date prepared: June 23, 2014

RESPONDENT INFORMATION	
County: Marion County	
Legal Name: United Way of Central Indiana	Mailing Address: 3901 N. Meridian Street Indianapolis, IN 46208
Contact Name: Heather Girton Contact Title: Early Childhood Project Manager (<i>Single point of contact for communication</i>)	Contact Phone: 317.921.1339 Contact Email Address: heather.girton@uwci.org
COUNTY INFORMATION	
Co-Respondents (<i>please list</i>): Mayor's Office, City of Indianapolis Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce	Estimated Number of Children to be Served (<i>county-wide</i>): 770
	Estimated Number of Eligible Providers (<i>county-wide</i>): 137
AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE	
I HEREBY CERTIFY that, to the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this Statement is correct.	
Designated Representative (Printed Name): Ann D. Murtlow	Title: President & CEO
Signature of Designated Representative: 	Date: June 30, 2014
Additional Signatures (<i>of co-respondents, if necessary</i>):	
	Greg A. Ballard, Mayor, City of Indianapolis
	Michael J. Huber, Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Marion County's civic leaders, community advocates and early education experts are proud to submit this Statement of County Readiness to the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration for consideration as a pilot county for Indiana's Early Learning Grant Program.

Marion County is a thriving, vibrant urban community. As home to the state's capitol, Marion County benefits from the diversity that comes with being a large metropolitan area. The county hosts a robust sports and tourism industry, many global and national businesses and a growing arts and cultural scene. However, even with these resources, significant poverty exists among Marion County's residents.

Education is the most effective way to break the cycle of poverty. For this reason and others, Marion County is taking steps to implement public pre-K for low-income children in a mixed-delivery system utilizing high-quality private child care and public school pre-K programs.

Such a system in Marion County would serve a significant number of children in need. According to the 2011 birth records, Marion County will be home to an estimated 12,000 four-year olds in 2015. Approximately half of those children will be considered both low-income and unserved by current supports for subsidized pre-K in the county.

Participating in Indiana's Early Learning Grant Program will allow Marion County to serve those who need help most. While the county's need is significant, its supply of high-quality pre-K providers is growing. Since 2011, Marion County has seen the benefits of a collective impact approach to increase the supply of high-quality child care. Currently, there are approximately 137 high-quality providers in the community. This number continues to grow thanks to a coordinated effort to improve early learning opportunities in Marion County.

The Indianapolis Mayor's Office of Education Innovation has joined United Way and a diverse network of over 25 civic, nonprofit and business stakeholders in Marion County who have adopted early education as a priority for their organizations. The broad-based support for and emphasis on early learning has set the conditions for Marion County to be ready to effectively implement the state's Pre-Kindergarten Pilot in 2015.

Marion County is committed to providing its youngest residents a path out of poverty and the tools needed for success in school and in life. The network of schools, agencies, government officials and other community partners who contributed to this Statement of Readiness will work together to assure successful implementation of the Indiana Early Learning Grant Program and the Pre-Kindergarten Pilot in 2015 and beyond.

II. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A) Marion County Early Learning Key Stakeholders

Organization	Description	Early Learning Initiatives/Program
Butler University	University	Offers an innovative early education teacher preparation program and instructional supports available to educators county-wide. Specializes in the Reggio approach.
Central Indiana Early Childhood Coalition ²	Community committee	A county-wide group reporting to the Central Indiana Education Alliance. Currently the group is outlining and monitoring a matrix of indicators (health, family wellness and social-emotional / academic outcomes) for overall school readiness. ^{2,3}
Children's Bureau	Nonprofit organization	Child and family welfare agency, manages Marion County's CCDF program.
CICF / The Glick Fund	Local philanthropic organization	Provides significant funding in Marion County for high-impact, sustainable and innovative approaches for pre-K delivery models. ^{1,2,3}
City of Indianapolis / Office of Education Innovation	Local government	Promotes innovative early childhood strategies, including an improved child care search system, an economic impact study for early education, and access to pre-K for low-income families. ^{1,2,3}
Day Nursery Association- Child Care Answers	Child Care Resource and Referral Agency (nonprofit)	Provides county-wide education, referral and search tools for families seeking child care. ^{1,2,3}
Goodwill Industries of Central Indiana Inc./ Nurse Family Partnership	Nonprofit organization	Operates an evidence-based, community health program that helps transform the lives of vulnerable mothers pregnant with their first child. ^{2,3}
Indiana Association of Child Care Resource and Referral (IACCRR)	Nonprofit organization	Provides technical assistance and professional development for Marion County child care providers based on evidence-based best practices. Supports and maintains the state-wide child care search tool and database used by Marion County referral agents and parents. ²
Indianapolis Public Library	Local civic organization	Serves all of Marion County, operates the Itty Bitty Book Mobile, partner with United Way to deliver Early Readers Club and regular professional development opportunities to teachers to increase children's literacy skills. ^{2,3}

Indianapolis Star	For profit media organization	Promotes family engagement and advocates for high-quality child care via an on-going series, <i>Our Children, Our City</i> and several investigative reports on child care quality.
Indy Chamber	Nonprofit organization	Co-sponsor of an economic impact study for early learning education. Supports a business sustainability initiative for child care providers in partnership with United Way.
Indy Reads	Nonprofit Organization	Provides adult literacy services, strengthening family engagement at child care providers throughout the county. ^{2,3}
IUPUI	University	Provides centralized support for the Central Indiana Education Alliance. Offers a teacher preparation program and serves as a local resource for educators seeking a four-year degree specializing in early learning. ^{2,3}
Ivy Tech Community College	Community College	Offers early childhood teacher education (Associates and Certification). ²
Jeff Miller	Local government representative	Indianapolis City Council member (Republican), Co-sponsor of efforts to direct city funds to support pre-K scholarships for low-income children in Marion County.
John Barth	Local government representative	Indianapolis City Council member (Democrat), Co-sponsor of efforts to direct city funds to support pre-K scholarships for low-income children in Marion County.
Junior League of Indianapolis	Nonprofit organization	Provides funding to Marion County early learning efforts and supports innovative approaches to mixed delivery models for pre-K.
Marion County Public Health Department	Local government	Local government agency supporting several child health and child care services (TB screenings, lead inspections, etc.). ²
The Mind Trust	Nonprofit organization	Supports innovative, research-based solutions to educational needs in Marion County. Advises and informs a bi-partisan committee exploring pre-K delivery options.
PNC	For profit organization	Funds the local implementation of the bank's national <i>Grow Up Great</i> initiative. Provides volunteers for high-quality care and leadership for several community committees. Regularly represents the Marion County business community and provides legislative testimony for high-quality early learning. ^{2,3}

Ready to Learn/Ready to Earn ³	Community volunteer committee of Untied Way	A collective impact committee, led by United Way volunteers. The group oversees United Way's long-term commitment to early childhood and provides community input into early childhood outcomes in Marion County. ^{1,3}
St. Mary's Child Center	Nonprofit organization	Offers coaching, professional development and instructional support to implement the Reggio approach in child care and elementary school settings. ^{1,2,3}
United Way of Central Indiana	Nonprofit organization	Funds and implements a long-term program to increase child care quality and access to care via the state's Paths to QUALITY rating system. Provides funding for scholarships for the state's EEMG recipients in Marion County and manages private donations supporting early childhood efforts. ^{1, 2,3}
WFYI	Nonprofit media organization	Offers technical assistance and program support for early educators as part of the American Graduate collective impact initiative. Leading local advocate and media partner promoting the need for quality child care. ^{2,3}
YMCA of Greater Indianapolis	Nonprofit organization	Promotes family engagement strategies, with an emphasis in early childhood and physical and mental wellness. Offers administrative and leadership support to the Central Indiana Early Childhood Coalition. ^{2,3}

¹ Supported recipients of the state's EEMG awarded within Marion County

² Member of the Central Indiana Early Childhood Coalition

³ Member of the Ready to Learn, Ready to Earn Committee

B) Local funding (other than federal and state funding) supporting early learning services in Marion County.

Estimated local funding for early learning services in Marion County:

United Way	\$1,200,000
Early Education Matching Grant	\$300,000
Private funding for services and programs	>\$3,500,000
Estimated Total	>\$5,000,000

The amount of annual grant funding provided by corporations or foundations to fund early learning programs in Marion County is estimated at over 5 million dollars. This includes over 1.2 million from United Way to eligible providers to fund quality improvement efforts and scholarships for low-income children. The amount reflects an estimate of private funding to support Marion County's nonprofit, high-quality child care providers' annual operating budgets. These funds also include support for direct delivery programs and a wide variety of technical assistance supports and early learning services for low-income families with

young children. Most recently, United Way, CICF/The Glick Fund and other community partners contributed over \$300,000 in a cash match to the state's Early Education Matching Grant program for pre-K scholarships in Marion County.

Together, these funds are primarily aimed at supporting Marion County's population of low-income children ages 0-5. In 2011, SAVI reported that Marion County was home to 24,396 children ages 5 and under living in poverty. Several of Marion County's 11 public school systems are expanding services for pre-K using Title I dollars. Currently, Indianapolis Public Schools plan to serve 900 pre-K students in the 2014-15 school year. Lawrence Township Schools, Wayne Township Schools and Warren Township Schools currently have the capacity to serve approximately 900 pre-K students in their Level 3 Paths to QUALITY programs. Indianapolis' charter schools are also beginning to explore and create partnerships to offer high-quality care in their communities, utilizing public and private funds to support these services for families in need.

III. FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

A) *Family engagement services available to families with young children.*

The common denominator among the many partners who provide services to families with young children in Marion County is the foundational belief that parents are their children's first and best teacher. Goodwill Industries' Nurse Family Partnership, a home-visiting program for new parents, is one example of how Marion County is committed to starting early to engage families to support their young children. In addition to Nurse Family Partnership, families have access to a strong and vast network of hospitals and pediatric services to provide care and answers about their children's health and development from the beginning. Helping families utilize these resources along the way are direct referral services like Indiana's Connect2Help (211) and First Steps.

As Marion County's need for supportive family services increases, so does the connectivity of the resources available. Nurse Family Partnership collaborates with Day Nursery to offer a unique opportunity for parents to receive training and employment at one of its child care centers. Those parents are also able to take advantage of child care for their own children while they are employed by Day Nursery.

Additionally, two significant coalitions of providers, funders and community leaders have emerged in the past three years to help align resources aimed at families with young children. United Way's Ready to Learn, Ready to Earn Committee and the Central Indiana Early Childhood Coalition serve as connectors within a network for essential stakeholders in the community that support and promote family engagement in Marion County. As the collective impact grows, so does the depth of services offered and the alignment of resources available to families so that they can remain engaged in their young children's health, development and future success.

B) *Community efforts to engage parents in their children's early education. Describe what assistance will be offered to eligible providers to provide such services.*

In 2012, the *What's Possible?* campaign hosted community conversations about the county's education system. Overwhelmingly, the more than 7,000 respondents wanted improved early learning services. Since then, county stakeholders continue to align and offer new ways for families to engage in their children's early education.

Families need to know what quality looks like and how to access it. The *Kids Need Quality* media campaign supports the promotion of Paths to QUALITY in Marion County. In an effort to help streamline the online child care search process, the Indianapolis Mayor's Office is launching a Pre-K Locator Tool that will help families locate enriched information about providers in their area. The tool will be ready in early 2015 and will complement a network of already existing referral services for families.

Once parents find quality care, they often feel intimidated or don't understand how they can become engaged. At the same time, teachers often feel overwhelmed by how to reach out to parents effectively. One of Marion County's greatest opportunities to support providers and their capacity to engage parents is the availability of quality professional development. Child Care Answers offers year-round, low-cost workshops that can be customized to meet providers' specific needs. United Way also offers several technical assistance programs to eligible providers aimed at increasing interactions with children and engaging families.

Once providers are exposed to best practices, stakeholders like WFYI are able to enrich those efforts by offering a wide variety of events, materials and social media support aimed at families with young children. Ensuring access to wide range programs that represents the diversity of the community is important as the number of eligible pre-K providers increases in Marion County.

C) *Marion County's existing strategies to identify and enroll eligible children.*

The strength of the network of early learning programs and services in Marion County is that no one agency or organization holds the key to identifying children who are eligible for the state's pre-K pilot. The on-going partnership between grassroots initiatives, direct service and system-based services has been the key to past successes. Utilizing partnerships with Child Care Answers, IACCRR and Children's Bureau as well as leveraging United Way's relationship with local churches and human service agencies will provide a starting point to begin identifying eligible children. Engaging eligible families will require a collective impact strategy, including coordinating public relations, marketing and media services.

The county's stakeholders recommend creating a Family Enrollment Task Force (a workgroup of the Central Indiana Early Childhood Coalition) to centralize and manage a communications plan with FSSA so that all information passed along to families is easily accessible, accurate and up to date.

IV. PROVIDER CAPACITY

A) *Eligible providers and capacity to serve 4-year olds (current and projected)*

Marion County has estimated of the capacity of eligible providers to serve 770 *new/additional* 4-year olds for the purposes of the 2015 pilot. This estimate takes into account two important factors: 1) The ability to support approximately 30 new classrooms (in public schools and private providers) with technical assistance to meet eligibility qualifications (Paths to QUALITY/accreditation requirements for environments, ratios and teacher qualifications), and 2) The potential for securing a 10%-50% cash match within Marion County for the pilot.

Provider Type	Current est. number of eligible sites	Current est. capacity for 4-year olds	Forecasted providers in 2015	Forecasted cap. of 4-year olds in	Forecasted cap. for new (unserved) 4-year olds
Charter Schools	2	80			
Public Schools	6	879			
Registered Ministries	10	246			
Private Schools	14	280			
Licensed Homes	49	184			
Licensed Centers	56	2956			
Total	137	4625	228	7697	770

Sources: SAVI, KidsCount, Child Care Answers, FSSA, IDOE, GreatSchools

B) Current efforts to increase provider capacity and future interest in qualifying

Within United Way's Child Care Quality Improvement Project resources are available to providers who do not currently qualify for the pilot, but who are participating in Paths to QUALITY. Already in the project's pipeline, there are over 25 providers who are forecasted to be Level 3 by 2016. One of the project's requirements is a commitment from the provider to serve low-income families.

The current combined system of county-wide technical assistance from Child Care Answers and United Way aims to increase the number of Level 3 and 4 Paths to QUALITY providers in a long-term, sustainable way. Since 2011, 14 providers achieved Level 3 with assistance from United Way. These efforts will continue through 2015, and beyond, to increase the number of providers eligible to participate in the Early Learning Pilot Grant Program.

V. FINANCIAL MATCH

A) Steps Marion County will take to raise funds to assist with the required match.

Marion County leaders have already initiated discussions with local funders regarding the pilot's required match. Most recently, stakeholders were able to convene a small collective of funders to support four high-quality providers' application to the state's EEMG program. Within 30 days, over \$300,000 was committed to support that scholarship program for pre-K in Marion County, with another \$100,000 earmarked for a second round of the EEMG program in 2015.

As the new pre-K pilot's design is finalized by FSSA, Marion County stakeholders are committed to maintaining the momentum around this exciting project. United Way, the

Mayor’s Office, CICF and others will continue to solicit support from existing and new donors who are able to contribute to a cash match for the 2015 pre-K pilot.

B) Marion County’s plan to sustain support for pre-K beyond the term of the Pilot Program.

Support for a mixed-delivery pre-K model in Marion County is growing. Funders and stakeholders know the positive impact of investing in high-quality early learning programs and are committed to creating a path out of poverty for Marion County children. United Way is in year three of a ten-year commitment to improving child care quality. Marion County is also home to several high-quality providers, like Day Nursery, St. Mary’s Child Center, Auntie Mame’s and Flanner House, that have served the community for decades and are now leading the way for others through mentoring and professional development.

Marion County’s charter and public school providers are actively seeking opportunities within the community to expand and creatively use resources to fill the current gaps in pre-K services. A crosswalk of provider requirements currently in development between the Indiana Department of Education and FSSA for public schools will aid the schools’ ability to achieve the pilot’s requirements for 2015 and beyond.

VI. COUNTY READINESS AND PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

Marion County welcomes the opportunity to begin the Early Learning Pilot Grant Program and pre-K pilot in July 2015. Based on the estimates provided in this Statement of Readiness, stakeholders believe that taking the next year to prepare providers, recruit families and raise the cash match is the best course of action.

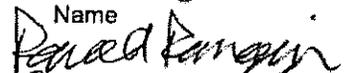
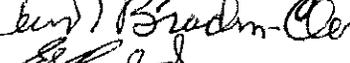
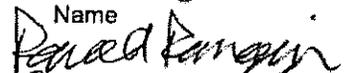
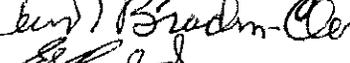
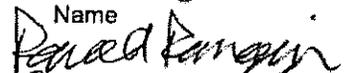
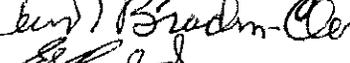
Below is an estimated timeline for Marion County to implement the pilot in July 2015:

Timeline	Task
June 30, 2014	Complete County Statement of Readiness
July 2014	5 County Selection Announced
August 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin formal fundraising process • Receive program design from FSSA • Outline and formalize technical assistance opportunities for eligible providers for application process • Convene the Family Enrollment Task Force / Workgroup • Create Communications Plan for family enrollment
September 2014 – June 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support media and marketing efforts aimed at eligible families to encourage application • Finalize the 10%-50% cash match • Provide technical assistance for assessment tools • Provide professional development for participating providers, including support to implement an effective family-engagement strategy.
July 2015	Launch the pre-K pilot in Marion County

Vanderburgh

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF COUNTY READINESS

Instructions: Your written statement may not exceed **eight (8)** single spaced pages. Additional pages will not be reviewed or considered. A copy of the language of HEA 1004 may be found on the website of the Indiana General Assembly. An authorized representative for the respondent *and any co-respondents* must sign this cover page.

RESPONDENT INFORMATION																
County: VANDERBURGH																
Legal Name: Community Coordinated Child Care of Southern Indiana, Inc. DBA as 4C of Southern Indiana, Inc. on behalf of the Southwest Indiana Business Leaders Roundtable on Early Childhood	Mailing Address: 600 SE 6th Street Evansville, IN															
Contact Name: Jennifer Drake Contact Title: President, CEO (Single point of contact for communication)	Contact Phone: 812-423-4008 Contact Email Address: jdrake@child-care.org															
COUNTY INFORMATION																
Co-Respondents (please list): Southwest Indiana Business Leaders Roundtable on Early Childhood Welborn Baptist Foundation Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation United Way of Southwestern Indiana	Estimated Number of Children to be Served (county-wide): at least 150															
	Estimated Number of Eligible Providers (county-wide): at least 64															
AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE																
I HEREBY CERTIFY that, to the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this statement is correct.																
Designated Representative (Printed Name): Jennifer Drake	Title: President, CEO															
Signature of Designated Representative: 	Date: 6/25/14															
Additional Signatures (of co-respondents, if necessary):																
<table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name</th> <th>Title</th> <th>Affiliation</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. </td> <td>Chairman</td> <td>Southwest Indiana Business Leaders Roundtable</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. </td> <td>Assoc. Supt.</td> <td>Evansville Vanderburgh School</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. </td> <td>PRESIDENT</td> <td>United Way of Southwestern Indiana</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4. </td> <td>Chairman</td> <td>Early Childhood Development Committee, Welborn Baptist Foundation</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Name	Title	Affiliation	1. 	Chairman	Southwest Indiana Business Leaders Roundtable	2. 	Assoc. Supt.	Evansville Vanderburgh School	3. 	PRESIDENT	United Way of Southwestern Indiana	4. 	Chairman	Early Childhood Development Committee, Welborn Baptist Foundation
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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Vanderburgh County stands ready to provide high quality early care and education services to at least 150 additional four year olds through Indiana's Pre-K pilot beginning in January 2015. Based on our estimates, this expansion of programming will serve the majority of four year olds who are currently unserved or underserved in Vanderburgh County. As this Statement of Readiness will attest, the early care and education system in Vanderburgh County benefits from a high level of community awareness and support for early childhood development and comprehensive services for families at-risk.

The network of eligible providers in Vanderburgh County is a diversified mix of public, private and faith-based programs. This diversity ensures that the pilot encompasses and demonstrates the value of a mixed delivery system and provides eligible families with a variety of high quality options to choose from. Vanderburgh County also enjoys diversity in community support for early childhood development. Local support to increase the accessibility, affordability, and quality of early care and education spans key sectors including education, business, health care, not for profits, and philanthropy. The depth and breadth of support for early childhood education in Vanderburgh County encourages innovative and collaborative solutions to address specific gaps in services. 4C Play & Learn and the Vanderburgh County Home Visiting Collaborative are examples of such innovations and are explained in detail in Section III.

Vanderburgh County's culture of innovation and collaboration is apparent in the county's demonstrated ability to successfully pilot programs that deliver outcomes for children and families. As noted in Section II, the Families and Work Institute is piloting a Mind in the Making community-wide project in Vanderburgh County with good results. Evansville was one of five cities chosen nationwide to participate in the Mind in the Making pilot. Likewise, Vanderburgh County's pilot of Paths to QUALITY™ was exceptionally effective and led to a statewide rollout ahead of schedule. Since the statewide rollout, Vanderburgh County has continued to demonstrate the ability to recruit providers and grow child enrollment with Paths to QUALITY providers. The county also displays leadership in provider level achievements. Among providers enrolled in Paths to QUALITY, Vanderburgh County has 48% more licensed centers rated at Level 3 or 4 and 158% more ministries rated at Level 3 or 4 than the rest of the State.

Financial commitment from business and philanthropic partners in the county is solid and complemented by steadfast commitment from the local public school district to fund and accredit their programs. In sum, local collaborative relationships are firmly established, solution-oriented, and backed by local investors who are dedicated to maximizing public/private partnerships and advancing state funding for early childhood initiatives—perfectly positioning Vanderburgh County to deliver a successful pilot implementation.

II. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A. Support for Early Learning Programs or Initiatives

Southwest Indiana Business Leaders Roundtable on Early Childhood: First convened in July, 2012, The Roundtable advocates for the development of initiatives which provide Southwest

Indiana families with the ability to choose between multiple affordable, high quality early care and learning providers for their children. These initiatives will:

- Focus on affordability of these services initially for at-risk families who are currently not receiving other federal or state assistance, as a first step towards comparable services for all Indiana families
- Incentivize usage of high quality providers (i.e., Level 3 or 4 in Paths to QUALITY™, or nationally accredited)
- Provide a choice for qualifying families as to which particular high quality provider they can select
- Utilize a mixed delivery model that takes advantage of the existing network of public, private, church and school-based providers

Membership includes executive leadership from: United Companies, Old National Bank Corp., Vectren Corp., University of Evansville, St Mary's Health, Deaconess Health, Evansville Regional Business Committee Inc., IVY Tech Community College Southwest, and the City of Evansville Mayor's office. Leadership from the Welborn Baptist Foundation, and 4C of Southern Indiana function as resources to the Roundtable.

Southwest Indiana Future Fund: The Future Fund is a one million dollar, privately-raised fund to support high quality, local early childhood initiatives. The Future Fund was established by the Southwest Indiana Business Leaders Roundtable on Early Childhood, is managed by 4C of Southern Indiana, Inc., and is currently funded with gifts from Old National Bank, Vectren Foundation, Welborn Baptist Foundation, United Companies, St Mary's Health, and Deaconess Health System.

Welborn Baptist Foundation: The mission of Welborn Baptist Foundation is to apply Christian principles in support of improved community health, well-being and quality of life for all members of the Tri-State community. Grants made available by Welborn Baptist Foundation are awarded to both secular and faith-based not-for-profit organizations and churches.

4C of Southern Indiana, Inc.: 4C is the non-profit Child Care Resource and Referral agency serving southwestern Indiana. 4C is contracted by the State of Indiana to provide Child Care Development Fund Intake Agent services and Child Care Resource and Referral services, including Path to QUALITY™ to Vanderburgh County. With private support, primarily from the Welborn Baptist Foundation, 4C offers additional early childhood services including facilitated playgroups, family coaching, toy lending, and technical assistance to license exempt providers.

CAPE Head Start: The Community Action Program of Evansville-Vanderburgh County serves as the local grantee for Head Start and Early Start functioning as a comprehensive school readiness program engaging low-income, at-risk families through various local, state, and national opportunities and resources. CAPE Head Start currently serves 660 children from the local community. All CAPE Head Start and Early Head Start sites are fully accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. All of CAPE's full day and most part-time sites are licensed and have achieved Paths to QUALITY Level 4.

Evansville Area Early Childhood Association (EAECA), a Chapter of the Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children: EAECA, a regional chapter of the statewide Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children, promotes and supports high quality care and education for all young children, birth through age eight in Southwest Indiana.

Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation (EVSC): EVSC's early childhood programs are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, inclusive (meaning children with special needs are included in classrooms with their typically developing peers) and employ the Reggio Emilia approach to teaching and learning. The district and individual sites are currently pursuing licensure for the purpose of participating in Paths to QUALITY and strengthening existing partnerships with private, high quality early care and education providers. EVSC currently serves 300 children ages three to five. 240 are served using Title I funding. Sixty slots are currently open to families who pay a fee and/or receive Child Care Development Fund assistance. Services are distributed throughout the county in eight schools based on need and capacity.

Vanderburgh County Family Coaching Collaborative: Established in 2013, the purposes of this collaborative are to: identify gaps in services, create a central point of intake to better match families with the most appropriate family coaching/home visiting services, facilitate better transitions between home visiting agencies, better align family support services with early learning programs, and develop a common set of core competencies and metrics for quality across the different family coaching models in Vanderburgh County. The group is co-facilitated by Welborn Baptist Foundation, and 4C of Southern Indiana. Membership includes EVSC, St Mary's Health, Ireland Home Based Services, Healthy Families, and Deaconess Family Practice.

United Way of Southwestern Indiana: United Way of Southwestern Indiana supports school readiness in Vanderburgh County by offering two unique programs- Napoleon Peacock's Adventure Club and Universal Screenings (described below in Section III.B, Community Efforts to Engage Families.)

B. Local Funding

Vanderburgh County has a long history of investing in early care and education. Since 2002 the Welborn Baptist Foundation has invested nearly six and a half million dollars into a number of healthy early childhood development and school readiness initiatives. The Foundation funded a local pilot of Paths to QUALITY in southwest Indiana prior to its statewide rollout and also funded the original evaluations of Paths to QUALITY. The Foundation continues their leadership in early childhood development investments with annual early childhood grants totaling more than \$500,000.

Formed in 2006, southwest Indiana's local Early Childhood Development Coalition was originally funded by a \$500,000 matching grant from Indiana Association of United Ways (IAUW). EVSC provided the match through a Safe Schools Healthy Students grant which paid for staff during the first three years. Subsequent funding was provided by grants from IAUW and an additional \$500,000 in matching funds from the Welborn Baptist Foundation, the Southwest Indiana Chamber of Commerce, and local businesses. The coalition was made up of more than

seventy cross-sector community partners who worked to promote policies and strategies to encourage school-ready children, ready schools, ready families, and ready communities. Over time as coalition activities evolved and streamlined, advocacy efforts were primarily shifted to the Southwest Indiana Business Leaders Roundtable and project work was shifted to United Way of Southwestern Indiana. Since 2006, United Way of Southwestern Indiana has appropriated approximately \$1.8 generated from the annual giving campaign toward early childhood initiatives.

The investments previously discussed ultimately helped bring about the establishment of the Southwest Indiana Future Fund, a one million dollar, privately-raised fund to support high quality, local early childhood initiatives. The Fund was established by the Southwest Indiana Business Leaders Roundtable on Early Childhood, is managed by 4C of Southern Indiana, Inc., and is currently funded with gifts from Old National Bank, Vectren Foundation, Welborn Baptist Foundation, United Companies, St Mary's Health, and Deaconess Health System. The Fund provided \$457,069 in matching funds for the Early Education Matching Grant (EEMG)--\$301,500 was designated to providers in Vanderburgh County and will serve 90 four year olds.

EVSC annually appropriates more than \$1,000,000 of Title I funding to early childhood programs. Additionally, as part of their Community Schools work, EVSC convened twelve local partners to collaborate on a \$140,000 Mind in the Making project (based on Ellen Galinsky's book by the same name) funded by a grant from the Families and Work Institute and WK Kellogg Foundation.

III. FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

A) Family Engagement Services

There are a variety of family engagement services available to families in Vanderburgh County. As the county-wide home visiting collaborative develops and a central point of entry is established, home visiting and family engagement services will be more visible and accessible to early care providers and families. In each of the following services there are opportunities to deliver at least some components onsite or in partnership with early care providers.

Healthy Families programming is provided by Southwestern Health Care and currently serves 170 families with children ages prenatal to three. Healthy Families works closely with 4C to maximize service capacity in Vanderburgh County, by prioritizing enrollment with Healthy Families first for families meeting Healthy Families participation criteria.

4C's Power of Parenting Program uses the Parents as Teachers® curriculum and is currently providing personal and/or group visits to approximately 100 families and 130 children ages prenatal to five. About two thirds of these services are delivered in school settings in partnership with EVSC. 4C and EVSC are exploring options to expand this partnership and fully integrate Parents as Teachers home visiting into EVSC's early childhood programming.

Community Partners for Child Safety home visits are provided by Ireland Home Based Services and serve families with children age birth to seventeen. Three goals are developed as a part of

the family case plan. Services can last for up to three months, but may end earlier if the goals are reached. This program serves more than 100 families each year.

Deaconess Family Medicine Residency provides home visits to prenatal patients to address medical and/or psychosocial needs. Case managers provide assistance with identifying and utilizing community resources, education, and social supports. Approximately 100 children are served each year.

Early Head Start and EVSC's Early Childhood Programs have limited home visiting components and are working with the Collaborative to connect families with more intensive services as needed.

B) Community-wide Efforts to Engage Families

Parents in Vanderburgh County have access to a robust supply of community-wide supports to help them engage in their child's early education. 4C, United Way, EVSC, and others work closely to ensure that efforts are not duplicative; rather, supports are offered in a variety of settings and meet a variety of needs. Stakeholders make a concerted effort to ensure that early care and education providers are involved in and have access to supports for their families, i.e., holding events at child care sites, distributing program materials onsite, etc. There is no cost to families or child care sites for participation in any of the following community-wide efforts:

Napoleon Peacock's Adventure Club (United Way): Napoleon Peacock's Adventure Club is a free book-in-the-mail program for children not yet in kindergarten. Children enrolled in the club receive six local children's books and parent activity guides mailed to their home over a twelve month period. A total of 8,876 children have been enrolled in the Napoleon Peacock's Adventure Club.

Universal Screenings (United Way): This program makes developmental screenings and appropriate supports more available to families by working with partnering organizations where there are established patient/client connections. Screenings for children ages birth-five years are administered by families to help identify developmental delays and direct them to appropriate resources to support their child's development. A concerted effort is made to reach children not in formal care and reach families who would otherwise have limited access to services. Since the program's pilot inception in 2013, 175 children have been screened

Mind in the Making (EVSC): This project is led by EVSC and delivered in partnership with eleven other agencies (Southwestern Mental Health, Aha Counseling, CAPE Head Start, Carver Community Organization, PTA, Vanderburgh County Dept. of Child Services, United Way of Southwestern Indiana, 4C of Southern Indiana, YMCA, University of Evansville, and University of Southern Indiana). The Mind in the Making (MITM) project is built on a series of seven learning modules designed by the Families and Work Institute to help adult caregivers—families and professionals—learn how to support the development of executive function skills in young children: focus and self-control, perspective taking, communicating, making connections, critical thinking, taking on challenges and self-directed, engaged learning. To date, twenty-three learning module workshops have been held reaching approximately 230 community members.

Additionally, by embedding this work into family and community programming provided by a core group of "cornerstone" partners (Koch Children's Museum of Evansville (cMoe), Willard Library, Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library, 4C of Southern Indiana, and Wessleman Nature Society), this project seeks to encourage a seamless "birth to eight" system by helping to create a common language for child development, increasing understanding of child development, and increasing awareness of executive functions in the diverse settings that families in Vanderburgh County frequently patronize.

Even Start (EVSC): First established locally in 1997, the Even Start Family Literacy Program offers families with young children the opportunity for the parents to work toward their GED while their children (infants to four years) are also learning in a high quality childcare program. Approximately thirty families are served annually. Families benefit from parent education and skill-building supports facilitated by 4C's Power of Parenting program staff and other community partners. Parent education supports include parenting workshops, parent meetings, optional home visits, and playgroups.

4C Play & Learn (4C): This program seeks to fulfill four objectives for family, friend, and neighbor caregivers: increase caregiver knowledge and skills related to child development and best practices for caring for children, increase caregiver connections to community resources, increase caregiver connection to other adults, and improve home learning environments to promote learning and school readiness. The program operates in strategically planned locations based on need. Locations include public libraries, churches, schools, child care centers, and the YMCA. Since its inception two years ago, 4C Play & Learn has served more than 700 children and serves nearly 150 children each week.

Vanderburgh County Family Coaching Collaborative (4C) : As explained in Section II, the Vanderburgh County Family Coaching Collaborative was formed for the purposes of: identifying gaps in services, creating a central point of intake to better match families with the most appropriate family coaching/home visiting services, facilitating better transitions between home visiting agencies, better aligning family support services with early learning programs, and developing a common set of core competencies and metrics for quality across the different family coaching models in Vanderburgh County.

C) Strategies to Identify and Enroll Eligible Children

Vanderburgh County has a history of demonstrating leadership in successfully piloting early childhood initiatives. Financial support from the Welborn Baptist Foundation, facilitation from 4C, and collaborative efforts among community partners in Vanderburgh County helped ensure ample provider recruitment and exceptional public recognition/utilization of the Paths to QUALITY pilot.

Vanderburgh County also demonstrated remarkable financial and operational leadership in successful attainment of Early Education Matching Grants. Over \$300,000 was raised and allocated to Vanderburgh County providers to meet matching fund requirements. Nine out of ten Vanderburgh County provider applicants were awarded grants. EEMG grant requests included specific grassroots strategies (flyers, community bulletin boards, press releases, door

to door, etc.) for recruiting a similar population of children—children that are currently languishing on waitlists for services and families that are not already “in the system.” Vanderburgh County will employ these strategies and also develop additional strategies to ensure ample child recruitment. As with the EEMG, 4C will facilitate a series of community meetings with key stakeholders to develop recruitment strategies and promote the program. One strategy already in development is the provision of transportation. 4C is working with EVSC and Head Start to explore options for expanding existing bus services to children enrolled with private Pre-K Pilot Providers. Based on our estimates and assuming 100% EEMG uptake, there will be approximately 200 unserved or underserved four year olds in January 2015. The term “underserved” refers to four year olds who are receiving early care and education that is of poor or unknown quality.

IV. PROVIDER CAPACITY

A) Number and type of eligible providers and Estimated Capacity to Expand

There are fifty six providers currently eligible for participation—homes, ministries, and centers including Head Starts. EVSC’s eight sites are in the process of becoming licensed and are already NAEYC accredited. By the time the Pre-K Pilot launches the total number of eligible providers is anticipated to be at least 64. In support of this work, 4C recently conducted an informal poll among existing eligible providers plus EVSC. Survey responses preliminarily identified an additional capacity of 200 slots in Vanderburgh County—which based on our estimates would essentially serve all remaining unserved or underserved four year olds in the county.

B) Efforts to increase provider capacity

Vanderburgh County was able to create ninety additional slots in high quality early care education settings for a similar population of children funded through the EEMG. For the Pre-K Pilot eligible providers in Vanderburgh County will once again review floor plans and staffing plans to identify opportunities to further maximize available space and talent. Additionally, creative strategies such as shared space arrangements, shared professional development, and blending and braiding of funding streams will also help to increase provider capacity. EVSC is leading the way in building public/private partnerships among child care providers. EVSC is currently working with three eligible licensed child care centers and Head Start to develop formal partnership agreements. More broadly, 4C’s privately-funded programs such as the Early Childhood Health & Nutrition Program, the Lending Library, and the License Exempt Support Program function as quality supports which are complementary to Paths to QUALITY and help to increase the pool of eligible providers.

V. FINANCIAL MATCH

A) Required Match

The Southwest Indiana Future Fund (explained in detail in Section II, B), primarily (but not exclusively) funds early childhood initiatives in Vanderburgh County. Roughly half of the funding has been committed to Year One EEMG services. Approximately \$500,000 of the already

committed dollars remains available to deploy if Vanderburgh County is selected as one of the five counties in the Pre-K Pilot. Upon receiving such confirmation, the Roundtable will reevaluate and respond to any increased opportunities for public private partnerships. For the Pre-K Pilot, the Roundtable is prepared to provide up to a fifty percent match (via the Future Fund) to serve up to 150 eligible children in Vanderburgh County—satisfying the vast majority of Vanderburgh County’s theoretical capacity and need. Should the State desire to serve more children in Vanderburgh County, the Roundtable will consider adjusting the local match percentage downward in order to accomplish that objective.

B) Sustainability

The Future Fund currently stands with a total commitment of \$1,000,000 over two years from six lead partners. By virtue of their ongoing participation in the Business Leaders Roundtable - which has among its primary purposes fundraising and advocacy – these partners are committed to securing private funds as an important bridge towards the ultimate objective of sustainable state funding. The Roundtable will continue to advocate for strong public private partnerships and utilize their investments to leverage additional private and public dollars. One promising strategy to potentially address sustainability long-term is the Pay for Success (PFS) model—also known as social impact bonds. Because of Vanderburgh County’s reputation as being committed to smart investments into early childhood education, a group of stakeholders representing Vanderburgh County were selected as one of seventeen teams (the only team from Indiana) to attend the first national institute on PFS hosted by Ready Nation in March 2014. Leadership from the Roundtable, the Welborn Baptist Foundation, and 4C attended. This group as well as other vested, local stakeholders continues to explore the PFS model for potential applications in early childhood education.

Meanwhile, EVSC, community-based providers, Head Start, 4C, and other stakeholders continue to seek out and expand opportunities for collaborations. Though not directly applicable to preschool, for the purpose of further demonstrating strong community collaboration, it is worth noting that this group is collaborating to apply for an Early Head Start Expansion grant.

VI. COUNTY READINESS AND PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

Initial conversations with stakeholders indicate that by using their existing waitlist EVSC will be ready to enroll up to half of the children funded through the Pre-K pilot in January 2015. Other eligible providers plan to hone strategies for recruiting remaining children and ramp up for participation in the pilot by July 1, 2015. As demonstrated in Vanderburgh County’s Paths to QUALITY pilot and further evidenced in this Statement of County Readiness, the robust collaborations among early care and education stakeholders in Vanderburgh County promise sufficient family and community engagement. As details are determined and communicated by FSSA on exactly how the pilot program is going to work, 4C will ensure at the local level that community partners are informed and engaged in this dynamic opportunity. Community-wide work plans will be developed and implemented to help cross-sector stakeholders embrace their individual roles in making the pilot a success.

Southwest Indiana Business Leaders Roundtable on Early Childhood Education

Ron Romain
United Companies
President

Carl L. Chapman
Vectren Corporation

Keith Jewell
St. Mary's

Andrew E. Goebel
Evansville Regional Business
Committee, Inc.

Robert G. Jones
Old National Bancorp

Tom Kazee
University of Evansville

Steve Schaefer
Mayor's Chief of Staff

Jonathan Weinzapfel
IVY Tech Community College
Southwest

Linda E. White
Deaconess Health System

Melanie Brizzi
Family and Social Services Administration
402 W Washington Street
W361-MS-02
Indianapolis, IN 46204

June 25, 2014

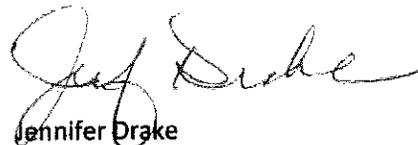
Dear Mrs. Brizzi,

On behalf of the Southwest Indiana Business Leaders Roundtable on Early Childhood Education, it is our pleasure to provide the recommended documentation of a matching fund commitment for the Indiana Early Learning Pilot Grant Program.

The Southwest Indiana Business Leaders Roundtable is prepared to provide up to \$500,000 in matching funds via the Southwest Indiana Future Fund for up to a fifty percent match to serve up to 150 eligible children in Vanderburgh County through the Indiana Early Learning Pilot Grant Program. This commitment is contingent upon Vanderburgh County being selected as one of the five counties participating in the Indiana Early Learning Pilot Grant Program.

Sincerely,


Ron Romain
United Companies, Inc.

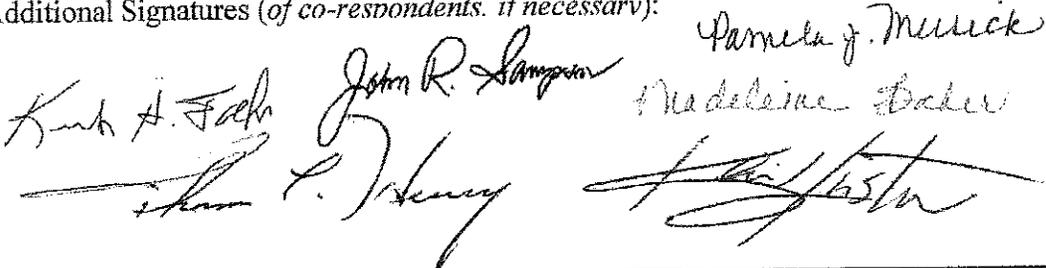

Jennifer Drake
4C of Southern Indiana, Inc.

3700 Morgan Avenue
Evansville, Indiana 47715

PHONE 812-491-4079
EMAIL agoebel@vectren.com

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF COUNTY READINESS

Instructions: Your written statement may not exceed **eight (8)** single spaced pages. Additional pages will not be reviewed or considered. A copy of the language of HEA 1004 may be found on the website of the Indiana General Assembly. An authorized representative for the respondent *and any co-respondents* must sign this cover page.

RESPONDENT INFORMATION	
County: ALLEN COUNTY	
Legal Name: United Way of Allen County	Mailing Address: 334 E. Berry St. Fort Wayne, IN 46802
Contact Name: John Peirce Contact Title: Consultant <i>(Single point of contact for communication)</i>	Contact Phone: (260) 437-2912 Contact Email Address: johnjpeirce@gmail.com
COUNTY INFORMATION	
Co-Respondents <i>(please list)</i> : Madeleine Baker, Early Childhood Alliance; John Sampson, Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership (Big Goal Collaborative); Ken Folks, East Allen County Schools; Steve Hoffman, Community Action of Northeast Indiana; Tom Henry, Mayor, City of Fort Wayne; Pam Musick, Fort Wayne Community Schools; Kari Huston, PNC.	Estimated Number of Children to be Served <i>(county-wide)</i> : 240 to 440 additional by July 2015 of FSSA identified 1,473 unserved
	Estimated Number of Eligible Providers <i>(county-wide)</i> : 73 currently eligible; we estimate 97 by July 2015
AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE	
I HEREBY CERTIFY that, to the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this statement is correct.	
Designated Representative (Printed Name): Todd R. Stephenson	Title: CEO United Way of Allen County
Signature of Designated Representative 	Date: June 30, 2014
Additional Signatures <i>(of co-respondents, if necessary)</i> : 	



I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Provide a brief summary of your county's overall "readiness" to participate in the Early Learning Pilot Grant Program. Your executive summary should not exceed 500 words (or one page).

On June 12, 23 leaders from 15 organizations committed to pursuing the Preschool Pilot and chose United Way of Allen County to lead the effort. Subsequently, United Way engaged 15 additional organizations. According to FSSA, there are 2,235 eligible and 1,473 unserved four-year-olds in Allen who could benefit from the Preschool Pilot. Our 30 collaborating organizations are confident we can provide the capacity to support an additional 240 to 440 four-year-olds. This could begin with existing Level 3 and 4 providers filling vacancies as early as January 2015, followed by a Head Start summer program and perhaps a summer public preschool launch in June 2015, followed by substantial school-based expansion in August 2015.

Allen County is uniquely positioned to succeed in this effort. The Paths to QUALITY™ system was invented here, and Allen County has a higher percentage of Level 3 and 4 providers than any county in the state. The state's largest public school system Fort Wayne Community Schools (FWCS) educates 480 preschool students at 15 sites. All are nationally accredited and primed to meet Level 4 standards. East Allen County Schools (EACS) is well-positioned with its preschool curriculum to achieve Level 3 status and has two Title I preschool sites it is eager to expand. Both school systems are collaborating with United Way to expand their Kindergarten Countdown four-week programs this summer from three to eight classrooms serving a total of 160 children with little or no preschool experience—120 at FWCS and 40 at EACS.

United Way and local foundations already provide over \$1 million in annual financial support for early learning. We have secured commitments of \$100,000 for Preschool Pilot matching funds and anticipate being able to raise a potential total of \$700,000 to \$900,000 based on discussions with private and nonprofit funders interested in leveraging their investment in early learning. In addition, Allen County is fortunate to have three institutions that help grow our professional early childhood education workforce. Indiana University–Purdue University Fort Wayne offers the only Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education degree in Northeast Indiana and has articulation agreements with Ivy Tech Northeast, which awards early learning certificates and associate degrees. FWCS Anthis Career Center has increased output of students with the Child Development Associate Credential™ from eight in 2013 to a projected 18 in 2015.

Connecting all the dots are a United Way Advisory Council for early childhood linked to a Grade K-8 Network, both aligned with the regional Big Goal Collaborative, a cradle-to-career collective impact initiative. Faith-based institutions, higher education, PreK-12 schools, health care, nonprofit agencies, foundations, government and business communities are all represented at the regional level. Our goal at the county and regional level is to act "as if we are a system" to build an inclusive, cohesive infrastructure through mutually reinforcing collaborative actions so all children reach kindergarten prepared for success in school and in life. We are pleased the state is moving in a similar direction and recognizes the importance of parental engagement. Our collaborating partners are committed to helping provide affordable, accessible, high quality early learning for all children. Allen County has what it takes to make the Preschool Pilot succeed, so future generations of Hoosier children can benefit.

II. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A) Provide a list of the organizations and entities, including local government, for-profit and nonprofit, within your county that currently support early learning programs or initiatives. Include a short explanation describing the nature of the organization or entity, the relevant programs or initiatives, and the organization or entity's relationship with other stakeholders in the community. Do not include eligible providers in this list, unless the provider also engages in community or county-wide early learning programs or initiatives.

The United Way of Allen County - The United Way of Allen County has devoted an increasing amount of resources to early childhood development, recognizing that moving "upstream" offers the potential of having a significant impact on all of its "building blocks for a good quality of life:" education, income, health and basic needs. United Way early childhood initiatives include:

Kindergarten Countdown: Piloted in summer 2013, this United Way initiative, in partnership with East Allen County Schools, Fort Wayne Community Schools, Community Transportation Network, and Women United, will engage 160 children in 2014 identified as at-risk for entering kindergarten unprepared to learn. They will participate in a four-week, half-day kindergarten preparation session taught by kindergarten teachers in the schools they will attend a few weeks later focusing on age-appropriate literacy and social-emotional skills.

Let's Talk® Initiative: Modeled after a research-based program in Cambridge, MA, this initiative engages over 2,400 Allen County parents per year beginning at the birth of their child. Parkview Health nurses deliver educational gifts and important brain development messages in two Allen County birthing centers. They provide information about early learning resources in the community including Paths to QUALITY™ Child Care Search. Three months later parents receive more resources and information about the importance of talking with their child. Weekly reminder messages are texted to parents along with age-appropriate tips on how to talk with their child from birth to four years of age.

Ready to Learn, Ready Schools is a collaborative of nine partner organizations designed to provide a positive transition to kindergarten for at-risk children and their families. Child care professionals visit kindergarten classrooms for a day to better understand what children are expected to know to be successful. **Off to a Good Start** classes are conducted for families with children headed to kindergarten, and United Way funds food, interpreters and educational materials parents get to keep. Each spring, parents of 2,700 children headed for kindergarten receive a calendar with activities and resources to help them prepare for school.

Women United is a collaboration of women committed to improving readiness for kindergarten. Its 85 members raised \$66,300 in 2013-2014 and allocated \$21,000 to Community Action of Northeast Indiana for CCDF vouchers (included in United Way funding) and purchased books for 150 Paths to QUALITY™ child care centers. They sponsor two Kindergarten Countdown classrooms and help child care programs move up in Paths to QUALITY™ level.

Early Childhood Alliance (ECA), the Child Care Resource and Referral agency for Allen County is a fully invested partner in all early learning initiatives and interacts with every stakeholder in this Statement. Having developed the Paths to QUALITY™ system adopted by

Indiana, ECA is well equipped to support efforts to engage families, assist providers in moving up in levels, and attracting broad-based community support for the Preschool Pilot.

The Big Goal Collaborative - Allen is among 10 Northeastern Indiana counties that align their early childhood work with The Big Goal Collaborative, a collective impact initiative to improve outcomes from kindergarten to college and career. All entities mentioned in this Statement are actively involved in some way with striving to achieve the region's Big Goal of increasing the percentage of Northeast Indiana residents with high-quality degrees or credentials from 35% to 60% by 2025. Forty schools, universities and agencies are involved in helping the Kindergarten Readiness Action Team achieve its vision of all children being prepared for success in school and life. Fifteen members of this group, including 10 from Allen County, serve on the governor's Early Learning Advisory Committee's seven work groups to help shape the future of early learning in Indiana. There is at least one Allen County representative on each of the seven groups sharing their expertise and helping align Allen County efforts with statewide progress.

The Literacy Alliance provides Family Literacy and adult education classes. Two Family Literacy sites are operated in collaboration with CANI Head Start, and East Allen County Schools' Southwick Elementary. The program offers adult basic education and English while participants' children are in preschool or elementary classes. Parents learn how to guide their children's education. This year, 41 parents completed 4,288 hours of instruction.

The Early Childhood Development Program of **Associated Churches of Fort Wayne and Allen County**, representing 140 churches, provides assistance to inner-city churches that have child care ministries. With funding from The Foellinger Foundation, Associated Churches provides *Let's Grow! Grants* to equip child care ministries to join Paths to QUALITY™ and meet as many of the Voluntary Certification Program (VCP)/PTQ standards as possible by addressing professional development for directors and staff. Over the past two years, 31 providers, including preschools and child care centers caring for 1,355 children age 0-5, have benefitted from the program. Of those, 395 children received CCDF voucher support.

Allen County Public Library (ACPL) - Library cards are free to all Allen County residents, so adults can access educational materials and programs for their young children at any of 14 locations, including one on a campus shared by the Urban League and CANI Head Start in a high-poverty urban neighborhood. ACPL early learning specialists make story time presentations at Head Start, child care homes and centers, and at WIC that model how parents can engage children in the development of early literacy skills. Libraries have dedicated areas with puzzles, play kitchens, and other educational materials that enable adults to interact with their young children. ACPL also conducts an annual summer reading program that provides incentives for adults to interact with their children in ways that promote early learning.

Junior Achievement (JA) *Our Money* program reached 98 early learning classrooms in 2013-14 introducing the meaning of choice and value and developing an understanding of sharing, spending and saving with hands-on activities and storybooks. JA intends to expand the program. **Fort Wayne Museum of Art (FWMoA)** opened the first art-focused Early Learning Center designed around the stages of childhood development in a fun, interactive, and hands-on environment. In consultation with the Early Childhood Alliance, FWMoA built the environment

to foster self-expression and visual literacy. The space attracted nearly 2,300 preschool visitors.

The Junior League of Fort Wayne, an organization of women promoting leadership and volunteerism, has chosen "Readiness for Elementary School" as its major focus area, and the **Young Leaders of Northeast Indiana** Board supports Allen County's Preschool Pilot effort.

B) Describe the local funding (other than federal and state funding) supporting early learning services within your county, e.g., the amount of annual grant funding provided by corporations or foundations to fund early learning programs. Include an estimate of the number and ages of children served. Identify to what extent Title I dollars are currently being used to provide pre-kindergarten in the public schools within your county.

United Way of Allen County provided \$550,139 for early learning for children ages 0-5 in 2013-14. Of that amount, \$108,000 helped increase access for children qualifying for CCDF vouchers through CANI (includes Women United donations). Another \$240,689 of the total went to partner agencies who provide child care along with \$32,750 Women United investments for professional development and helping providers move up in Paths to QUALITY™. The remaining \$168,700 supported Kindergarten Countdown and Let's Talk initiatives and the Urban League's Read & Rise effective parenting program. **Foellinger Foundation's** early childhood development funding for the past year totaled **\$302,500**. **Lincoln Financial Foundation** granted a total of **\$122,000** to early childhood related programs, and the **Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne** contributed **\$40,000** to Early Childhood Alliance. **PNC Grow UP Great** has also been a generous funder. **Other foundations** for which PNC is trustee contributed **\$70,000** to Early Childhood Alliance and Martin Luther King Montessori School the past year.

Fort Wayne Community Schools (FWCS) expended a total of \$2,720,000 in 2013-14 to educate 480 three- and four-year-olds in preschool--\$1,632,000 from Title I and \$1,088,000 from FWCS Racial Balance funds for Young and Bunche preschools. The district will expand its offering by two classrooms for SY 2014-15 so it can serve a total of 544 children.

East Allen County Schools (EACS) expended a total of \$197,124 in 2013/14 for preschool at New Haven Primary School serving 45 students and Southwick Elementary School serving 30 students half-day--all from Title I funds.

III. FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

A) Describe the family engagement services available to families with young children within your county, such as Nurse Family Partnership, Healthy Families, Parents As Teachers, and other services. Describe how these services are aligned with early learning programs in your community.

CANI Early Head Start (EHS) provides comprehensive, year-round, home-based child and family services for **60-80 pregnant women and their children** to age three in families that are below 100% of poverty. Pregnant women receive support and education for a healthy pregnancy. Infants and toddlers are screened in health and developmental areas. Families are offered 48, 90-minute visits each year that address child development, health and safety, nutrition, family development, and goal setting. Referrals to community agencies are made when needed. Children who complete EHS are assured a slot in CANI's Head Start program.

EHS employs a Burmese speaking and Spanish speaking home visitor to serve those populations, a registered nurse to coordinate health requirements, and contracts a registered dietician and mental health professional to provide needed services.

Early Childhood Alliance conducts two family engagement programs: **Parents as Teachers (PAT)** receives referrals from child care programs serving low income or under-served families. PAT served **419 families** last year meeting with them in their homes unless the center better serves their needs. A bi-lingual parent educator meets with families who speak English as a second language. **Book Buddies** met with **98 underserved families and 108 children** the past year in several child care centers. Educators provide books, puzzles, writing materials, blocks, art materials and activities to help extend the learning into the home.

Healthy Families serves **850-900 low-income Allen County families** of newborns per year. The families are referred by health clinics, hospitals and agencies because they are assessed to be at high risk for child maltreatment. Families can remain in services until the child is three. Caseworkers provide education on baby and toddler care, child development, nutrition, health and safety. Children receive developmental testing and those with learning deficits are connected to medical or early intervention services. Parents receive culturally relevant information and materials to help their children develop interest in reading. They are connected to health and social services, high quality child care and early learning opportunities.

Urban League Read and Rise is a United Way supported early childhood literacy program that served **277 families and 337 children**, made **585 home visits** and distributed **1,326 books** to clients in one of Allen County's highest poverty neighborhoods. The director has developed a high level of trust and helps parents better prepare their children for success in school. She educates parents about quality child care and leads tours so they can experience the advantages Level 3 and 4 sites offer. She also works with SCAN Healthy Families, Allen County Juvenile Justice Center, and the Drug and Alcohol Consortium.

B) Describe any community or county-wide efforts to engage parents in their children's early education. Describe what assistance, if any, will be offered to eligible providers to provide such services.

Associated Churches has built relationships with all of FWCS and EACS elementary schools and has facilitated Systematic Training for Effective Parenting (STEP) classes in four languages with **250 graduates** to date. These can be offered to parents in additional preschool classrooms at EACS and FWCS. Classes are also offered to the nonprofit and urban child care ministries involved in pursuing Paths to QUALITY™. Given additional funding, Associated Churches could reach more families by developing a well-organized marketing plan targeting families with four-year-olds and build greater capacities to serve more families.

Early Head Start and Head Start centers work hand-in-hand to engage parents, and such support will be applied to the proposed summer preschool. The United Way Let's Talk® Initiative and its partner agencies will continue to expand so parents are informed about child development and actively engaged in their child's learning well before preschool. Let's Talk® parent workshops will be offered to centers and homes participating in the Preschool Pilot. Healthy Families, Parents as Teachers and Book Buddies will continue to engage and educate parents.

Allen County Statement of Readiness for Preschool Pilot

The ACPL library will publicize and promote high quality preschools to library patrons through flyers and conversations with families.

C) Describe your county's existing strategies or current plans to identify and enroll eligible children in the Pilot Program.

Pilot Program partners will use mapping technology provided by the Indiana Association of Child Care Resource and Referral (IACCRR) as the first step in identifying where the highest needs exist for Level 3 and 4 providers. FWCS and EACS school districts will promote the opportunity to parents of existing students who may have qualifying siblings. United Way will support enrollment efforts through its partner agencies as will the Early Childhood Alliance through its network. United Way will work with local media to publicize the opportunities. Early Head Start and Head Start will promote its summer Preschool Pilot to its clients. Organizations who have contact with eligible families such as the Urban League, Associated Churches will promote it through their channels.

PROVIDER CAPACITY

D) Describe the number and type of qualified eligible providers within your county (e.g., public schools, including charter schools, and licensed or registered child care centers, homes or ministries that are level 3 or 4 in Paths to QUALITY™, or private schools that are accredited by the State Board of Education or a qualified national or regional accreditation agency). Identify the estimated capacity of these providers to serve new students.

Providers	No. of Sites	Current Capacity	Current Vacancies	Additional Capacity Summer 2015		Additional Capacity School Year 2015/16	
				Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.
Current Eligible Level 3 and 4 and Accredited Providers				Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.
CANI Head Start Level 4	5	326	0	68	317		
Level 4 Providers less Head Start	30	1855	182			20	120
Level 3 Providers	35	1059	94			10	60
Non-Public Accredited Preschools	3	32	Unknown	To be determined			
Future-State Potential if Interested Providers Achieve Level 3 or 4				Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.
Fort Wayne Community Schools: all sites are NAEYC or Montessori accredited, primed for Level 4 PTQ	17 (2014-15)	544 (2014-15)	0	Under Consideration	Under Consideration	150	200
East Allen County Schools: curriculum in place to achieve at least Level 3 PTQ	2	75	0	Under Consideration	Under Consideration	60	60
Northwest Allen County Schools		25		Engaged; target pop. small			
Southwest Allen County Schools		35		Engaged; target pop. small			
Centers/Homes/Ministries < 3/4	5			Estimate 5 L2 sites moving to L3			
Total potential capacity increase				68	317	240	440

Allen County Statement of Readiness for Preschool Pilot

As the chart above shows, Allen County has 35 Paths to QUALITY™ Level 4 providers, including five Level 4 Head Start locations, with a total capacity of 2,182 slots. It has 35 Level 3 providers with a capacity of 1,059 slots. There are an estimated 182 vacancies in Level 4 and 276 in Level 3, but not all are located where low-income families live. A June 2014 survey indicates strong interest among homes and centers for expanding capacity through the Preschool Pilot, and we estimate five Level 2 providers will move up to Level 3 based on historical trends and community support. The five Head Start locations have physical capacity to create an intensive eight-week summer program of at least six-hours a day and serving 68 to as many as additional 317 four-year-olds if parents are motivated to send children and staffing can be arranged.

Our two largest school districts are mission-driven to serve at-risk populations of high poverty and English Language Learners and should be in position to achieve Level 3 or 4 by 2015. Each is interested in expanding to serve more four-year-olds through school-year and summer programs. All of FWCS preschool sites are nationally accredited by NAEYC or Montessori, so it is well prepared to achieve a Level 4 Paths to QUALITY™ rating if the IDOE and FSSA are able to work out a pathway so schools can meet other requirements. Both EACS preschools are well-positioned to achieve at least Level 3 by summer 2015. FWCS and EACS have experienced the benefits of Kindergarten Countdown and are expanding this summer by 120 students.

E) Describe your current or planned efforts to increase provider capacity within the county to ensure that there are enough seats for the children supported by the Pilot Program. Identify whether there are providers who do not currently qualify who have indicated an interest in qualifying for the program.

CANI Head Start has the **potential of serving up to 317 additional four-year-old children** by creating an eight-week summer program of at least six hours per day at its five existing sites. The first priority would be its Hanna Creighton site that has four classrooms that could be used to serve up to 17 children each, or 68 total. Other sites and potential capacity are: St. Henry's, East Wayne, and the Salvation Army with 68 students at each, and Temple with three classrooms and 15 students each for a total of 45. The challenges will be attracting 317 children and finding the number of qualified personnel to staff the programs.

East Allen County Schools (EACS) operates a Title I-funded half-day preschool at two schools: New Haven Primary serving 45 students and Southwick Elementary serving 30 students. EACS would like to serve **an additional 60 students** beginning with a summer 2015 program for current preschool students as well as new incoming preschool students. It could then continue to serve new and existing students during the 2015-16 school year and throughout the term of Indiana's Preschool Pilot Award to Allen County—if certain conditions are met. To participate in the Preschool Pilot, the district needs IDOE assurance that participation would not jeopardize current or future Title I-funded PK in the District. The two schools need to meet Paths to QUALITY™ and are well positioned to meet at least Level 3 because of its current Scholastic Big Day Pre-K curriculum and because it has teachers in place who are preschool certified. **Fort Wayne Community Schools (FWCS)** is confident it could add enough capacity to provide preschool for **150-200 more four-year-olds by fall 2015** with enough lead time to prepare. FWCS will expand its own capacity in 2014-15 to provide preschool to an additional 64 children from its current level of 480 by adding two sites. In partnership with the United

Way, it is also expanding its Kindergarten Countdown from two to six classrooms serving 120 entering kindergarten students this summer. The district is child-centered, expert at engaging parents and committed to figuring out how to find classrooms and qualified teachers for them.

FINANCIAL MATCH

F) Describe the steps your county has taken or will take to raise funds to assist with the required match for the Pilot Program. If your county has already received funding commitments for the Pilot Program, please attach the commitment letters to your Statement (this is an exception to the no supplementary material rule).

United Way has secured matching funds commitments totaling **\$100,000** provided they are used to support children residing in Allen County as follows: United Way of Allen County - \$25,000, Women United - \$25,000, PNC Grow UP Great - \$50,000. We expect to receive a commitment from The Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne; it was unable to commit by June 30. Tom Henry, mayor of the City of Fort Wayne, believes that supporting the Preschool Pilot fits the intent of the city's Legacy Fort Wayne fund to provide catalytic investment and leverage additional resources that will transform the community and sustain long-term economic development and quality of life enhancements. He has committed to asking City Council to approve up to **\$500,000** to be allocated as matching funds to be spent in Allen County for the Preschool Pilot. PNC intends to pursue "**several hundred thousand dollars**" from its corporate PNC Grow Up Great program. Given this support and time to pursue additional commitments, we anticipate Allen County can provide matching funds in the **\$700,000 to \$900,000 range**.

G) Describe your county's plan, if any, to sustain support for pre-kindergarten beyond the term of the Pilot Program.

As evident in this application, United Way of Allen County has significantly increased the amount of resources it devotes to early learning, and that growth will continue. United Way will aggressively advocate for increased business/community investment and partnerships and continue to work with the City of Fort Wayne, PNC and others to increase and sustain funding for this important investment.

IV. COUNTY READINESS AND PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

Describe whether your county would be ready to implement the Pilot Program requirements by January 1, 2015, including evidence of plans to recruit a sufficient number of eligible children, sufficient provider capacity, and plans for family and community engagement. If your county will not be ready by January 1, 2015, explain how your county will be ready to meet the Pilot Program requirements by July 1, 2015.

Capacity expansion at some of the existing Level 3 and 4 providers could start as early as January, but this would involve a small percentage of the slots we intend to create. We will start CANI Head Start intensive summer preschool in June 2015; FWCS and EACS may decide to offer their own summer programs. Given that FWCS and EACS need to meet Paths to QUALITY™ requirements to be eligible, we are targeting August 2015 for launching the two public district preschool expansions.

**United Way of
Allen County**

334 E. Berry St., Fort Wayne, IN 46802
260.422.4776 p • 260.422.4782 f
www.unitedwayallencounty.org



June 27, 2014

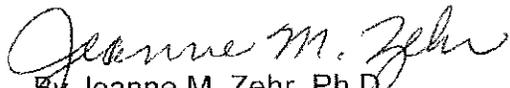
This letter confirms that United Way of Allen County will provide the following funds as a match to the state funds as commitment to the Indiana Pre-K Pilot Project:

\$25,000 from United Way Allen County Discretionary funds (approved by the Investment Cabinet on June 17, 2014)

\$25,000 from the affinity group, Women United (approved by the steering Committee on June 23, 2014)

\$50,000 = Total Commitment

These funds may only be used in Allen County.


By Jeanne M. Zehr, Ph.D.
Director of Community Impact
United Way of Allen County



June 30, 2014

To whom it may concern,

PNC of Northern Indiana is committed to matching funding for early childhood education within Allen County, Indiana. Regionally, we will match a minimum of \$50k, up to several hundred thousand dollars depending on how much funding is made available to us from PNC's Grow Up Great program, a corporate-wide initiative focusing financial resources on early childhood education. Our young children need your support and ours. Thank you for affording us the opportunity to impact young lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kari Huston', written over a horizontal line.

Kari Huston
Vice President & Regional PNC Foundation Officer
Director of Client and Community Relations
T 260-461-6219 F 260-461-6238
kari.huston@pnc.com C 574-320-5539

The PNC Financial Services Group
110 West Berry Street Suite 800
Fort Wayne, IN 46802



Allen

**ALLEN COUNTY
STATEMENT OF COUNTY READINESS
EARLY LEARNING PILOT GRANT PROGRAM**

JUNE 30, 2014

TO:

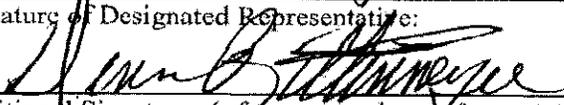
**MELANIE BRIZZI
FAMILY AND SOCIAL SERVICES
ADMINISTRATION 402 W
WASHINGTON ST
W361, MS-02
INDIANAPOLIS, IN
46204
EMAIL: MELANIE.BRIZZI@FSSA.IN.GOV**

FROM:

**JOHN PEIRCE, CONSULTANT TO:
UNITED WAY OF ALLEN COUNTY
334 E. BERRY ST.
FORT WAYNE, IN 46802
(260) 422-4776
(260) 422-4782 FAX
JOHNJPEIRCE@GMAIL.COM
CELL: (260) 437-2912**

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF COUNTY READINESS

Instructions: Your written statement may not exceed **eight (8)** single spaced pages. Additional pages will not be reviewed or considered. A copy of the language of HEA 1004 may be found on the [website](#) of the Indiana General Assembly. An authorized representative for the respondent *and any co-respondents* must sign this cover page.

RESPONDENT INFORMATION	
County: <u>Lake County</u>	
Legal Name: <u>ONE Region</u>	Mailing Address: <u>601 W 45th St. Munster IN 46321</u>
Contact Name: <u>Dennis Rittenmeyer</u> Contact Title: <u>Exec Director</u> (Single point of contact for communication)	Contact Phone: <u>219 682 7399</u> Contact Email Address: <u>drittenmeyer@oneregionnwi.org</u>
COUNTY INFORMATION	
Co-Respondents (please list): <u>Lake Area United Way</u> <u>Geminus/Head Start</u>	Estimated Number of Children to be Served (county-wide): <u>400 target</u>
	Estimated Number of Eligible Providers (county-wide): <u>105</u>
AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE	
I HEREBY CERTIFY that, to the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this statement is correct.	
Designated Representative (Printed Name): <u>Dennis Rittenmeyer</u>	Title: <u>Exec Director</u>
Signature of Designated Representative: 	Date: <u>6/30/14</u>
Additional Signatures (of co-respondents if necessary):  <u>J. Hill, CEO - LAKE AREA UNITED WAY</u>	

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In October 2013, One Region convened a retreat for community leaders. Participating in this full day retreat were nearly 100 local, county and regional decision-makers; including nine state legislators, all six University presidents and chancellors, mayors, business leaders and non-profit administrators. Notably, retreat participants identified early childhood education as the number one issue of importance and in-need of support in Northwest Indiana.

Lake County enjoys committed and active stakeholders that support early learning programs and initiatives. The efforts of the hundreds of Lake County stakeholders and providers engaged in early learning programs and initiatives are organized primarily through One Region, Lake Area United Way, Geminus, Early Learning Partnership of Northwest Indiana and Child Care Resource and Referral. Lake County early education stakeholders firmly believe that early learning activities improve a child's chances of being ready to learn when they reach kindergarten. Ultimately, these activities are an important element in breaking the cycle of poverty so many Lake County families experience.

Additionally, Lake County stakeholders provide and support a wide array of programs and services for the families of young children, including Parents as Teachers, the Real Fathers Initiatives, Circles around Families, and others. These critical programs help foster an environment that is conducive to healthy physical, intellectual and emotional development and are already integrated into the existing Lake County early education provider network.

With a projected pool of nearly 2,000 unserved indigent children, Lake County will not have any difficulty utilizing its existing, effective early learning communication network to identify and place 1/3 of these children into eligible early learning programs. Lake County stakeholders have identified approximately 300 existing spaces available for eligible children. As this is a pilot program with no guarantee of future state support, Lake County is moving forward with prudent capacity building measures that will provide in-need families with high-quality, sustainable programs for the future.

Lake County stakeholders are fully committed to securing the necessary cash match for the pilot program and have provided commitments for the cash match. At the time of this submission, local stakeholders One Region, Lake Area United Way, and Geminus have provided written commitments to deliver the necessary funding for the pilot program. Moreover, the Lake County stakeholder group is currently exploring long-term, community-based, sustainable funding solutions for preschool and is organizing the *Lake County Early Childhood Education Funding Summit* to take place in Fall 2014.

As one of the few counties vying for selection in the Early Learning Pilot Grant Program, Lake County is unified, prepared and motivated to capitalize on this unique opportunity to enhance preschool for the neediest among us. Lake County welcomes a partnership with the state to help shape the future of early learning in our county by increasing collaboration to help us understand which early learning programs are the most effective and efficient.

II. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A. Provide a list of the organizations and entities, including local government, for-profit and nonprofit, within your county that currently support early learning programs or initiatives. Include a short explanation describing the nature of the organization or entity, the relevant programs or initiatives, and the organization or entity's relationship with other stakeholders in the community. Do not include eligible providers in this list, unless the provider also engages in community or county-wide early learning programs or initiatives.

Lake County has a strong commitment to provide and support a variety of effective early learning options for young children. One Region, Lake Area United Way, Geminus, Early Learning Partnership of Northwest Indiana, and Child Care Resource & Referral are the core collaborative partners that unify child care providers, public and private schools, faith-based providers, family support services, early education supporters, and local communities.

Over the years, Lake County early education stakeholders have worked together to successfully develop a coordinated system of communication and outreach services to meet the early education needs of poverty-stricken children and provide their families with support services to enable and enhance the effectiveness of the early learning programming.

One Region

One Region is an action-oriented community organization designed to improve the quality of life in Northwest Indiana through regional collaboration. Enabling and enhancing early learning opportunities for children is an essential element in One Region's action plan.

One Region engages in major regional programs and initiatives and conducts community meetings and workshops. One Region is a stakeholder-driven organization that facilitates the aggregation and management of community resources to improve the economy and quality of life in Northwest Indiana and address regional areas of concern.

Lake Area United Way (LAUW)

Lake Area United Way (LAUW) is a non-profit organization tasked with identifying and resolving pressing community issues, as well as making measurable changes in the communities through partnerships with schools, government agencies, businesses, organized labor, financial institutions, community development corporations, voluntary and neighborhood associations, the faith community, and others. LAUW completes this mission by strategically identifying community goals and focusing on critical issues such as early childhood education.

LAUW has a specific internal division called United For Children that focuses on educating our children from birth through 3rd grade. One such program of United For Children is Success By 6 (SB6) which is a program to ensure that all children in Northwest Indiana (NWI) are ready to learn by age six. SB6 pursues multiple strategies including public awareness, parent education, increasing quality childcare, and increasing public access to services like health care and literacy to galvanize communities to help young children come to school ready to succeed. SB6 is the nation's largest network of early childhood coalitions and are organized regionally to provide maximum benefit to the communities they serve. Key objectives in 2014 for NWI's SB6 program include: Promoting quality child care and education, promoting kindergarten

readiness, promoting public awareness and engagement, promoting a compelling case that positions early childhood education as an economic investment opportunity.

The SB6 initiative provides funding to eligible entities that provide early learning programs, including grants issued throughout Lake County for capacity or program expansion within the Kindergarten readiness framework. In the fall of 2013, SB6 provided \$23,000 to Lake County early learning initiatives. SB6 has also partnered with Lake County communities to place Born Learning Trails in parks and library systems to encourage developmental journeys of small children while coaching parents on assisting with the learning of the child, five years and younger. SB6 works to collaborate and introduce early learning programming to all child care partners and schools within Lake County. Since the inception of Success By 6, Lake Area United Way has contributed over \$300,000 to this vital program.

LAUW serves as the backbone organization generating, convening and coordinating resources across funders, service providers, government and civic leaders to deliver large-scale, measurable and sustainable impact in early education throughout Lake County.

Geminus – Early Head Start/Head Start

Geminus Head Start has established a two (2) generational approach by providing intensive and comprehensive child development services as well as family support to families throughout Lake County through engagement and an empowerment model that builds the pathway to self-sufficiency.

Geminus operates Early Head Start (EHS) which serves 136 children from birth to age three (3) and Head Start (HS) which serve 1,368 children from age three to age five, with a combined funded enrollment of 1,504. Geminus contracts with two public school districts in Lake County to serve as Head Start Delegate agencies. These delegate agencies are, City of Hammond School District and Lake Ridge School District. Collectively these delegates serve 432 of the funded 1,368 Head Start children and their families. Eligibility is based on the federal poverty guidelines with enrollment priority given to children with disabilities and those in foster care.

Geminus Corporation provides oversight of the facilities, manages the funding, monitors the quality of the programs and provides other compliance and administrative duties.

Early Learning Partnership of Northwest Indiana

Early Learning Partnership of Northwest Indiana (ELPNWI) is a non-profit early childhood parent education and support organization helping children prenatal to kindergarten entry achieve school readiness and optimal social, emotional, and cognitive development. ELPNWI serves the families of nearly 500 children across Lake County. ELPNWI's primary organization goals are as follows: Enhance parent knowledge of child development and improve parenting practices; increase early detection of developmental delays and health issues; promote safe and healthy relationships to prevent child abuse and neglect; improve school readiness and school success.

ELPNWI provides countywide programs to facilitate early learning and school readiness opportunities for children of Lake County including Parents as Teachers (PAT), Empowering Teens as Parents (ETAP) and the "Ready to Soar" pilot program. Ready to Soar is a school readiness academy pilot program aimed at developing a sustainable model for facilitating the transition into Kindergarten for 4- and 5-year olds in Lake County. The school readiness programs include preparation workshops for 4- and 5-year olds that are coordinated with developmental and vision screenings in cooperation with local school systems. Children who are identified as having delays through screening are offered appropriate additional services.

ELPNWI conducts the Parents as Teachers Regional Council and the Parents as Teachers Lake County Collaborative. Through its substantial countywide activities facilitating the Parents as Teachers initiative, ELPNWI provides counseling services for families-in-need, referrals to head start and other early learning programs throughout the county, and plays a central role in facilitating critical collaborative initiatives throughout the county.

Child Care Resource & Referral

Child Care Resource & Referral ("CCRR") provides parents with critical information regarding child care and early learning services offered throughout Lake County. By talking with parents one-on-one, CCRR counselors gain a unique understanding of the delicate balance of family life, particularly for low-income families. They understand that finding high-quality child care is just a first step to raising happy and healthy children.

CCRR provides workshops, counselors, hot lines and newsletters to childcare providers and families. CCRR reaches out to parents across the community to communicate critical information that educates and empowers families to make informed choices regarding child care providers and early learning options available in Lake County.

CCRR provides referrals to local child care providers, information on state licensing requirements, availability of child care subsidies and other important information to families and child care providers across Lake County.

B) Describe the local funding (other than federal and state funding) supporting early learning services within your county, e.g., the amount of annual grant funding provided by corporations or foundations to fund early learning programs. Include an estimate of the number and ages of children served. Identify to what extent Title I dollars are currently being used to provide pre-kindergarten in the public schools within your county.

The funding portfolio for early learning services in Lake County is diverse. Local charitable institutions, corporations, municipalities and other stakeholders provide approximately \$1,145,000 per year through grants and cash contributions for Lake County early learning services. Local in-kind contributions to early learning providers account for approximately \$3,020,000. As such, the total local contribution to early learning services in Lake County is valued at approximately \$4,165,000. Recent early education grant funding and monetary contributions were received from the following entities: City of Hammond Gaming Fund, Lake Area United Way, Geminus, Foundations of East Chicago, BP Foundation, School City of Whiting, North Township Trustee, Griffith Public Schools, Legacy Foundation, Tri-Creek Community Schools, Myerberg Family Foundation, PNC Bank, Griffith Public Schools, Lake County Retired Teachers, Hammond Community Corporation.

Title I dollars are currently being utilized to provide pre-kindergarten programs in the Gary and East Chicago school districts. Gary School Community Corporation utilizes \$2,000,000 in Title I funding to provide half-day pre-kindergarten programs for approximately 500 children at multiple locations. The School City of East Chicago utilizes approximately \$900,000 in Title 1 funding to provide 15 general and special education pre-kindergarten programs for approximately 570 children.

III. FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

A) Describe the family engagement services available to families with young children within your county, such as Nurse Family Partnership, Healthy Families, Parents as Teachers, and other services. Describe how these services are aligned with early learning programs in your community.

Lake County has a wide array of programs and services to support families of young children. These programs, described herein, address a variety of issues that could negatively impact a child's health, well-being and learning environment. Moreover, these programs are already integrated into the existing Lake County early education provider network through an active system that identifies families that may need counseling and/or support services and provides referrals to those services.

Healthy Families (HF): HF is a nationally recognized evidence-based home visiting program model designed to work with overburdened families who are at-risk for adverse childhood experiences, including child maltreatment. It is the home visiting model best equipped to work with families who may have histories of trauma, intimate partner violence, mental health, and/or substance abuse issues. Participating families receive a risk assessment to determine family strengths and needs, intensive home visiting, linkages to community resources, developmental screenings for children, depression and interpersonal violence screening for caregivers. Trained home visitors work with parents to develop family goal plans to meet their unique needs and build their capacity for problem solving. Mental Health America of Lake County has been providing HF services in Lake County for more than 15 years and has the capacity to serve over 400 families in long term services the evidence-based curriculum Parents as Teachers; this information is blended within the Healthy Families framework. HF is home-based and workshop based program.

Parents as Teachers – Lake County Partnership (PAT): Through advocacy and outreach, Parents as Teachers serves as a voice for early childhood education and champions the critical role of parental involvement and early intervention in the education continuum. Parents as Teachers raises awareness and works to shape policy around the importance of enhancing school readiness by reaching children during the critical, formative years of life.

PAT workshops and education and case management support are available at sites throughout Lake County and through home visits. PAT sites are located in Hammond, Munster, Crown Point, Cedar Lake, Lowell, Hobart, Griffith, Whiting, and East Chicago. PAT service delivery includes personal visits, developmental screenings, group connections, and resource networking. PAT has the flexibility to serve families that are outside of HF's enrollment requirements. Lake County has an experienced network of PAT providers. ELPNWI has developed and led the PAT Regional Initiative, where programs partner to share best practices, training resources, and opportunities for sustainability. Currently, there are Four PAT providers in our community: ELPNWI, Mental Health America of Lake County (MHLAC), School City of Hobart, and St. Paul Lutheran Church. On an annual basis, the Parents as Teachers Lake County Partnership conducts more than 15,000 home visits. The Lake County Partnership along with Healthy Families and Geminus Early Head Start/Head Start (through a blended model using the PAT curriculum) have served more than 1400 children with home visits.

Empowering Teens as Parents (ETAP): ETAP provides enhanced support for pregnant and parenting teens at school and at home, using the Parents as Teachers model. Along with PAT home visits, ETAP works with teens in a school setting helping them reach their educational goals and prevent subsequent

pregnancies. MHALC and ELPNWI offer enhanced support for teen parents and are working with schools in Hammond, East Chicago, Griffith, Lowell, Hobart, Lake Station, Whiting and Gary. ETAP has the capacity to serve approximately 105 pregnant and parenting teens. This is a countywide family engagement program administered through ELPNWI. ETAP is provided free to Lake County teenagers in-need and aligns with early learning programs by improving child outcomes and readiness through improved mental and emotional health for teenage parents of young children and enhanced family stability.

Circles Around Families (CAF): CAF is a "wraparound" system of care designed to enhance the quality of life for children with emotional/behavioral problems through counseling and coordination of available traditional and non-traditional resources throughout the community. Counselors help families identify challenges, work with them to develop a comprehensive plan to address their issues, and provides assistance in seeking help utilizing various services throughout Lake County. CAF is a countywide family engagement program administered through Geminus. CAF is provided free to Lake County families in-need and aligns with early learning programs by improving child outcomes and readiness through improved mental and emotional health and family stability.

REAL Fathers Initiative (RFI): RFI is a program to increase involvement by fathers and their families in the lives of their children by providing counseling, prevention and treatment programs for non-custodial fathers in the child welfare and juvenile justice system. RFI is a countywide family engagement program administered through Geminus. RFI is provided free to Lake County fathers in-need and aligns with early learning programs by improving child outcomes and readiness through improved child-father relations and improved family stability.

Community Partners (CP) – CP is a program designed to provide counseling and community resources to help families in Lake County remain intact despite difficult, or catastrophic events before local or state governmental agencies intervene. CP is a countywide family engagement program administered through Geminus and is offered for free to Lake County families in-need. CP aligns with early learning programs by improving child outcomes and readiness through improved mental and emotional health for young children and parents and improved family stability.

B) Describe any community or county-wide efforts to engage parents in their children's early education. Describe what assistance, if any, will be offered to eligible providers to provide such services.

Lake Area United Way, Geminus, ELPNWI and CCRR all engage in county-wide outreach efforts to engage parents in their children's early education through various programs such as Parents as Teachers and other family engagement programs and services as previously described (please see program descriptions described in Sections II and III.A). Lake County early education stakeholders will work with eligible providers to develop solutions and offer assistance to enhance parental engagement in early education.

C) Describe your county's existing strategies or current plans to identify and enroll eligible children in the Pilot Program.

With one of the highest populations of young children experiencing poverty in Indiana, Lake County children who are eligible under the Early Learning Pilot Grant Program will not be difficult to identify and enroll. Lake County has an organized stakeholder communication system that is adept at reaching out to

social service institutions, early education providers, and families. This system will be utilized to identify and enroll eligible children in need of early education services that may not otherwise be served.

Some eligible providers, such as Geminus Head Start with 27 locations retain a sizeable wait list for each location. These resources will be aggregated and used to assist in identifying those children.

Existing family engagement services, such as PAT, and child care provider referral services offered through existing county-wide programs and initiatives will be mined to identify eligible children. CRR currently captures comprehensive information from families seeking information about local childcare providers, including the number of children in the household, and their respective birthdates, as part of their routine activities to help families find child care providers. Lake County early education stakeholder organizations will facilitate enrollment of eligible children.

IV. PROVIDER CAPACITY

Describe the number and type of qualified eligible providers within your county (e.g., public schools, including charter schools, and licensed or registered child care centers, homes or ministries that are level 3 or 4 in Paths to QUALITY™, or private schools that are accredited by the State Board of Education or a qualified national or regional accreditation agency). Identify the estimated capacity of these providers to serve new students.

There are 54 Level 3 and 4 providers on the Paths to Quality scale in Lake County. Additionally, there are 23 private, faith-based centers that are accredited. There are 28 public schools. With an estimated 105 providers in Lake County, there are an existing 300 vacancies available to the unserved population looking to be served starting in January 2015.

In order to increase capacity to a total of 400 children, 100 additional children will be added through work within the school districts. The districts, while accredited, will expedite the Paths to Quality certification process to secure a Level 3 rating at the earliest opportunity possible.

Capacity building within the current Paths to Quality centers at Level 2 would occur concurrently to allow for some flexibility for the parents and assist the providers in moving up the scale.

V. FINANCIAL MATCH

A) Describe the steps your county has taken or will take to raise funds to assist with the required match for the Pilot Program. If your county has already received funding commitments for the Pilot Program, please attach the commitment letters to your Statement (this is an exception to the no supplementary material rule).

Lake County is fully committed to securing the necessary cash match for the pilot program and has full confidence in its ability to do so. At the time of this submission, local stakeholders One Region, Lake Area United Way, and Geminus have provided firm written commitments to deliver the necessary funding for the pilot program (see respective commitment letters attached to this document). One Region, Geminus and Lake Area United way have identified the following as potential partners in fulfilling the required local cash

match element for pilot program participation due to their past charitable support of Lake County communities in-need and early education: Anderson Foundation, Legacy Foundation, B.P. Foundation, Foundations of East Chicago, Crown Point Community Foundation, Community Foundation of Northwest Indiana and the Knight Foundation.

One Region, Lake Area United Way and other early learning stakeholders in Lake County are currently organizing the *Lake County Early Childhood Education Funding Summit* to take place in August 2014. The summit will assemble local and regional foundations, business entities, non-profits, and other community stakeholders to establish intermediate and long-term sustainability goals for early education programs and initiatives in Lake County. The Summit will also discuss public-private partnership opportunities, increased collaboration between non-profit entities, Social Impact Bond financing and other innovative funding solutions for early education.

VI. COUNTY READINESS AND PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

Describe whether your county would be ready to implement the Pilot Program requirements by January 1, 2015, including evidence of plans to recruit a sufficient number of eligible children, sufficient provider capacity, and plans for family and community engagement. If your county will not be ready by January 1, 2015, explain how your county will be ready to meet the Pilot Program requirements by July 1, 2015.

Lake County is ready to serve 300 children by January 2015 and an additional 100 children by July 2015, for a total of 400 children. Existing provider referral services and Geminus Head Start, who has a wait-list of approximately 376, will provide a large unserved applicant pool in January 2015. Lake County stakeholders are willing to expend whatever resources are necessary to capture a sufficient applicant pool to satisfy the state's requirements.



Melanie Brizzi
Family and Social Services Administration
402 W Washington St.
W361, MS-02
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Ms. Brizzi:

On behalf of One Region I am pleased to submit this letter of financial commitment in support of the required match for the proposed Pre-Kindergarten Pilot program for Lake County, Indiana and administered by the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration.

One Region, a 501(c)(3) community development organization, recognizes the value and importance to our region in establishing a successful partnership with the State of Indiana to provide families with early learning options that will enhance opportunities for educational success and an end to the cycle of poverty. As such, One Region is committed to provide partial funding to meet financial matching requirement for the pilot program. One Region's commitment goes far beyond its own financial support of Lake County's participation in the Pre-K pilot program, as we have devoted significant time and resources to securing additional commitments to help meet any necessary local match as well as funding for the long-term sustainability of Pre-K services in Lake County.

In preparation for this unique and critical opportunity, One Region has joined with Lake Area United Way and Geminus Corporation to partner on funding, organization and planning activities in order to implement Indiana's early childhood pilot program in Lake County. This planning includes a Lake County Pre-K Fundraising Summit where long-term sustainability and a wide-variety of traditional and innovative funding options will be discussed. We make this commitment with the understanding that all funds contributed by One Region or raised by One Region from community foundations and other public and private donors will be used exclusively in support of Lake County's participation in the early childhood pilot program.

Should you have any questions or wish any additional information or clarification, please contact me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis Rittenmeyer".

Dennis Rittenmeyer
Executive Director

Lake Area United Way

221 W. Ridge Road
Griffith, IN 46319-1097
tel 219.923.2302
fax 219.923.8601



June 30th, 2014

Melanie Brizi
Family and Social Services Administration
402 W Washington St
W361, MS-02
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Ms. Brizi,

On behalf of Lake Area United Way, I am pleased to write this letter of financial commitment in support of the attached "Statement of Readiness" for Lake County, Indiana.

Lake Area United Way, a 501C3 community organization, is committed to supporting Lake County's participation in the early childhood pilot program put forth by the State of Indiana. Lake Area United Way has a specific division, United For Children which is committed to help educate children from birth through the 3rd grade. We utilize several programs including Success By 6, kindergarten camps, reading buddies and other programs that help get this vital work accomplished.

Lake Area United Way is prepared to partially fund a, yet to be determined, financial matching requirement for the pilot program pending specific match amounts and our internal financial capacity. We make this commitment to not only personally financially support the Lake County's in the early childhood project but also to devote time and energy in raising additional funds in support of the matching funds requirement.

We make this commitment with the understanding that all funds contributed by Lake Area United Way or raised by Lake Area United Way from community foundations and other public and private donors will be used exclusively in support of Lake County's participation in the early childhood pilot program.

Please know we are excited to join with One Region and Geminus Corporation to implement Indiana's early childhood pilot program in Lake County.

Should you have any questions or wish any additional information or clarification please contact me directly.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeremy Miller", written over a white background.

Jeremy Miller
Lake Area United Way
Chief Operating Officer
221 W Ridge Rd
Griffith, IN 46319
219.923.2302 ext 305

GEMINUS

PARTNERING FOR THE FUTURE

Geminus Corporate Center • 8400 Louisiana Street • Merrillville, Indiana • 46410-6353
219.757.1800 • Fax 219.757.1950 • www.geminus.org

June 25, 2014

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of Geminus Corporation I am pleased to inform you of our commitment to actively partner with One Region and Lake Area United Way in submitting the Lake County Statement of Readiness required for Lake County to be eligible to participate in the Pre-K Pilot Initiative. We will support this partnership in any way necessary, including our willingness to contribute directly to the partnership effort to raise the local match required for Lake County to participate as a Pre-K Pilot county.

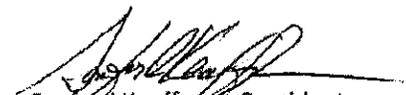
Geminus is the Lake County Head Start (HS) and Early Head Start (EHS) Grantee as well as the FSSA Lake County provider of enrollment services for CCDF Childcare Vouchers. We are acutely aware of the large number of Lake County families that qualify for these services who are currently not able to access needed services due to resource limitations. Geminus maintains sizable waiting lists for both HS and CCDF Vouchers, so if Lake County is chosen, we can begin by looking to those lists for eligible families with a child who might qualify for a Pre-K Voucher. We are also the FSSA contracted Community Partners (child abuse prevention services) provider and the Lake County Access Site for Wraparound Services for children with SED disabilities, so we partner with many Community Providers and assist many Lake County families to find the services they or their children need.

Geminus looks forward to being able to help get word out to the many low-income Lake County families we have contact with about their possible eligibility for a Pre-K Voucher for their 4 year-old. That may include some who are eligible for HS or CCDF Vouchers as well, but it will benefit others who are not eligible for HS. The Pre-K Voucher option is not a threat to HS because we have so many HS eligible 3-4 year-olds in Lake County. We understand the state will process Pre-K voucher applications, but Geminus can and will provide the application and eligibility information that we are provided by the state. Since Geminus provides many additional services, we will look for ways we can help make a Lake County launch of Pre-K vouchers successful. We'll begin by looking at our substantial HS waiting lists for children who may also be eligible for Pre-K Vouchers.

Please know we are excited to join with One Region and Lake Area United Way to assist with implementation of Indiana's early childhood pilot program in Lake County.

Should you have any questions or wish any additional information or clarification, please contact me directly.

Sincerely,



Sanford Kauffman, President
Geminus Corporation

Circle Around Families • 219.757.1822 • Fax 219.757.1856 • www.circlearoundfamilies.org
Community Behavioral Health Network • 219.757.1839 • Fax 219.738.5283 • Toll Free 888.851.3350
Head Start XXI • 219.757.1840 • Fax 219.757.1856 • Toll Free 888.893.6891
Lake County Child Care Development Fund Program • 219.757.1957 • Fax 219.738.5283
Prevention Service • 219.757.1835 • Fax 219.757.1856 • www.leadinitiative.org

STATEMENT of COUNTY READINESS
EARLY LEARNING PILOT GRANT PROGRAM
COVER PAGE

RESPONDENT INFORMATION	
County: Jackson County	
Legal Name: Jackson County Education Coalition	Mailing Address: 107 Community Drive Seymour, Indiana 47274
Contact Name: Dan Hodge Contact Title: Executive Director	Contact Phone: 812-271-1123 Contact Email Address: jcecdirector@jceconline.org
COUNTY INFORMATION	
Co-Respondents: Jackson County United Way Community Foundation of Jackson County Child Care Network WIC Healthy Families/New Hope Services Kids Unique Daycare Purdue Extension office Ivy Tech Medora Community Schools Brownstown Community Schools Seymour Community Schools Crothersville Community Schools Human Services - Head Start Jackson County Public Library Zion Lutheran School St. Ambrose Catholic School Community Health Center of Jackson County	Estimated Number of Children to be Served: 200 <i>255</i>
	Estimated Number of Eligible Providers: 10 <i>12</i>
AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE	
I HEREBY CERTIFY that, to the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this statement is correct.	
Designated Representative (Printed Name): <i>DAN HODGE</i>	Title: <i>Executive Director</i>
Signature of Designated Representative: <i>Dan Hodge</i>	Date: <i>6/30/14</i>
Additional Signatures (of co-respondents, if necessary): See Attached	

STATEMENT of COUNTY READINESS - SIGNATURE PAGE

Gloria Couch Jackson County United Way Executive Director

Jessie Gail, Child Care Network, Inc.

Margie Ellis - HEALTHY FAMILIES / NEW HOPE SERVICES

Jean Roberts - WIC DIRECTOR / New Hope Services, Inc.

Cindy Koop - Kids Unique Daycare

Cindy Redin - Kids Unique Daycare

Lauren Neuen-schwab - Purdue Extension

Bonnie Ragle, Ed. D. IvyTech Community College

Tom Judd - Superintendent - Medora Schools

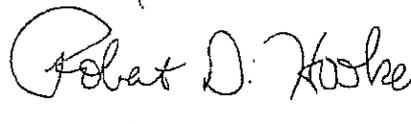
Chris Marshall - Coopersville Elementary Principal

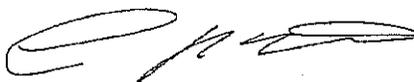
Roy S. Stubbins - Zion Lutheran School

Joseph Hott - Human Services, Inc. Head Start

May Reed - Jackson County Public Library

 Robert D. Kosher - Supt. Seymour Community Schools

 Robert D. Kosher - Supt. Seymour Community Schools

 PRESIDENT & CEO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF JACKSON COUNTY, INC.

Maribelbut Leona St. Ambrose School Principal

J. J. Small BCCSC, Supt.

STATEMENT of COUNTY READINESS -- JACKSON COUNTY

I. Executive Summary

There are over 43,000 residents in Jackson County, the county consists of four distinct towns the largest of which is Seymour. Jackson County is a rural county, the outer lying towns are Brownstown, Crothersville and Medora. Jackson County is located in the SouthEast region of Indiana.

Business, educators and community leaders have formed a county-wide backbone organization know as the Jackson County Education Coalition (JCEC), the key respondent on this grant proposal. One of JCEC's initiatives is to make sure that every child is kindergarten ready. Community leaders recognize and understand the importance of pre-kindergarten programs as it relates to the vitality of Jackson County. JCEC has formed a team that includes members from local industry (Cummins, Aisin, Kremers Urban, Schneck Medical Center), the Jackson County United Way, the Community Foundation of Jackson County, child care providers and the 4 school corporations to improve kindergarten readiness in the county. This team has spent approximately \$20,000 in 2014 on marketing the importance of kindergarten readiness to families. JCEC has provided education and outreach to parents. This has been accomplished by social media, pamphlets and working with United Way agencies to identify children and families with the greatest need.

Child Care Network, a local non-profit and United Way agency, received and invested \$200,000 into early childhood education programming within each of the public school corporations the past 9 years. In 2012, Crothersville Community Schools initiated their own small public pre-k program. With funding from the Jackson County Education Coalition, Seymour and Medora Schools will also initiate pre-kindergarten programs. Crothersville will expand their program and increase their capacity. Thus, up to 100 additional children will have pre-kindergarten opportunities as of August 2014.

Jackson County Education Coalition is collaborating with the Jackson County United Way and the county's Child Care Resource and Referral Agent (CCRR) to improve the overall quality of our childcare providers. Jackson County currently has 18 Paths to Quality (PTQ) Level 1 providers. Five of these eighteen providers have expressed interest in achieving a PTQ Level 3 or 4. Two faith based organizations providing childcare as a Registered Ministry have also committed in becoming a PTQ Level 3 or 4 provider or equivalent. JCEC is offering scholarships to help PTQ Level 1 providers to achieve a PTQ Level 3 or 4.

Jackson County will meet the financial match criteria set forth in the grant proposal. Stakeholders in Jackson County gathered and reviewed the grant opportunity and are preparing to implement this program by July 1, 2015 if selected.

II. Community Engagement

- A) A growing list of organizations and entities are providing support for early learning programs and/or initiatives in Jackson County. Below is a current reflection of these organizations and entities with a brief explanation about what services they provide the community.

Brownstown Community Schools - Public school system that hosted Child Care Network's Family Preschool program and Jump Start* program during 2013-2014. Five children participated in the 2013-2014 Family Preschool program. The 2014 summer Jump Start program will accommodate thirty children.

Crothersville Community Schools – Public school system providing a twice a week, half day pre-kindergarten program for twenty-eight children. Fifteen children are attending the June 2014 Jump Start program.

Medora Community Schools – Public school system that hosted a 2013-2014 Family Preschool program and will provide a pre-kindergarten program in August 2014. Twelve students attended the 2013-2014 Family Preschool program.

Seymour Community Schools - Public school system providing pre-kindergarten opportunities to children beginning in the Fall of 2014. Twenty-four students attended the Family Preschool programs in 2013-2014. Seymour's 2014 summer Jump Start program will accommodate sixty children.

Child Care Network, Inc. – A local not-for-profit organization that initiated an affordable, quality, public, early childhood education program (Family Preschool) in 2005. CCN also coordinated annual "Jump Start to School Success" programs within the county's four public school corporations. Jump Start programs at Brownstown, Crothersville and Seymour are planned for the Summer of 2014.

Jackson County United Way – is focused on assessing needs, securing resources, and strategically investing those resources to create lasting change in the areas of education, health, and financial stability for all people in Jackson County. Early childhood education has been a focus of JCUW since 2005, as it was identified in a community needs assessment. JCUW has supported early learning initiatives (for example Family Preschool, Jump Start Kindergarten, Parents as Teachers, Early Learning Trails and staff support for early literacy programming) with over \$400,000 during the last 10 years.

* Jump Start is an intensive summer program for children entering kindergarten.

Jackson County Education Coalition (JCEC) – Is a county-wide partnership of education, business, and community leaders focused on aligning and integrating the county's learning system with economic growth and a high quality of life. JCEC has developed, planned, organized and funded projects in the pre-kindergarten initiative including in 2014 a marketing campaign to promote kindergarten readiness and granting money to the local school corporations to start or expand their pre-kindergarten offerings.

Rotary – Provides early childhood learning through the “I Like Me” books that are donated to the county school districts. A total of six hundred and fifty books were donated to all of the county schools in 2014.

County Public Libraries (Seymour, Brownstown, Crothersville, and Medora) – Early childhood learning services such as literacy education in the form of story time (serving birth to six year olds), Adventures in Art (serving 3 to 5 years old), Bubble fest (early learning science program), and the summer reading program are some of the programs provided by the children's department. A traveling bookmobile (Discovery Bus) goes to licensed daycare providers, public schools, Head Start and other community events throughout the county.

Purdue Extension – Purdue's outreach office has collaborated with CCRR to provide continuing education credits for daycare providers. The Extension Educator has also partnered with Head Start to teach low income parents and children about nutritional and healthy living for low income families.

Human Services Inc. – Level 3 Paths to Quality Head Start provider in Jackson County; served 72 children in 2013-2014. Head Start has several committees including health advisory, education, and early intervention which involve community members as well as using the community for resources for the families.

- B) Funding for early learning services in Jackson County have come from many sources. Over the past several years, funding has been received from the Community Foundation of Jackson County, the Jackson County United Way, Schneck Medical Center, local industries, Jackson County Education Coalition, EcO 15 Regional Grant, and personal donations. Total funding has exceeded \$500,000 dollars since 2008 with over 7000 children from the ages of birth to six years old being served. In 2014, \$160,000 from the Jackson County Education Coalition was granted to Seymour, Crothersville and Medora School Corporations to either start public pre-kindergarten programs (Seymour, Medora) or expand their current pre-kindergarten offerings (Crothersville).

Public school administrators are engaged in determining if and how Title I funds could be used to assist in sustaining pre-kindergarten offerings at the public schools. Crothersville Community schools have shown a commitment to fund pre-k programs through their general fund.

III. Family Engagement

- A) A growing list of organizations and entities provide support to families through their services. Below is a current list of these organizations with a brief explanation on what services they provide the families.

Healthy Families – Provides home visits for low-income families of children from birth to three years old. Healthy Families provides referrals to community resources and provides education (Parents as Teachers curriculum) to the families.

WIC – Is a dependable referral resource for families from infancy to school age. WIC currently distributes preschool information to the eligible children in this county. WIC serves an average of 365 Jackson County infants (65% of all infants born in Jackson County).

Jackson County Public Library – Provides programs that encourage families to play, sing, dance, communicate, read and work together with their children. Families are given new skills to teach their child at home to energize the child's creativity.

Head Start – Holds monthly, quarterly and individual meetings with families and has a parenting retreat once a year. Head Start also has the parents complete monthly smart goals and are given support through their Parent, Family Engagement Specialist. The Family Engagement Specialist includes an early intervention specialist, a nutritional specialist, an education specialist and a community engagement specialist.

Community Health Center of Jackson County – A non-profit organization for the uninsured and underinsured providing family medical primary care needs, dental, behavioral and pediatrics. The Community Health Center is housed in the Community Agency Building which houses services such as WIC, Healthy Families and the Jackson County United Way. Year to date, the Center has provided services to 359 children between the ages of birth to five years old. The Center has 6,578 clients with 431 being under the 150% or below poverty line. The Center will provide early education learning materials to clients on the importance of kindergarten readiness and could assist to identify eligible children for the program.

B) There are county-wide efforts to stimulate parent engagement in the education of their child. Below is a list of county-wide events with a brief description of each event.

- **Jackson County Fair** – This significant local free event is in Brownstown and is frequented by approximately 100,000 people annually. Booths are set up at the county fair to promote and inform families on the importance of early childhood learning.
- **Oktoberfest Festival** – This annual tradition is a three-day street festival in Seymour that draws approximately 100,000 people every year. Oktoberfest's One Kids Square features free, fun, learning activities for pre-kindergarten children.
- **Kids Fest** – Child Care Network, Inc. coordinates this annual "Day of the Young Child" celebration. Kids Fest is an informational fair for parents of young children and provides many learning activities for pre-k children. Attendance exceeds 1,000 people at the annual April event that features forty plus booths.

C) The Jackson County Education Coalition created a marketing initiative in 2014 to promote the importance of kindergarten readiness while providing tools and information to parents to assist in the preparation of kindergarten readiness. Approximately \$20,000 has been spent in 2014 on this initiative. JCEC along with the local providers will invest more time and money in a larger marketing campaign to identify and enroll eligible children and engage their parents.

The current marketing initiative includes handing out pre-kindergarten informational back packs to children at community events, working with local restaurants to distribute marketing information to young parents, and working with the local Red Cross to hand out fliers to all of the trailer parks in Jackson County. The public school corporations have prepared brochures, billboards and used local and social media to spread the word about pre-kindergarten classes. The JCEC has also made efforts to inform local industry of the additional pre-kindergarten opportunities in the county. These strategies will be expanded to again identify and enroll eligible children for the Pilot program.

Over 60% of the children currently attending pre-kindergarten classes in Jackson County are enrolled with faith-based providers. Faith-based providers operating an eligible Registered Ministry pre-kindergarten program will play a role in identifying

and enrolling eligible children. Parish staff knows the needs of their members well and will be eager to promote early childhood education to their members who have eligible children and to serve both parent and child.

A coordinated effort will be launched to assist in identifying children who are currently not-served. Partners included in this coordination would be: Anchor House (a homeless shelter for families with children), Child Care Network, the Community Health Center of Jackson County, Jackson County Health Department, Jackson County United Way, New Hope Services (WIC and Healthy Families), Read Jackson County, Turning Point Domestic Violence Services and Work One employment office will provide information on this program and encourage enrollment.

IV. Provider Capacity

- A) Currently, there are three PTQ Level 3 or 4 providers in Jackson County. In addition, one registered ministry's school is accredited by the Indiana Department of Education and another church anticipates their registered ministry daycare program and school will receive accreditation by the end of this year. Fifty additional children could be served by these two providers.
- B) Currently, there are 18 PTQ Level 1 licensed daycare home providers in Jackson County. The Jackson County Education Coalition along with the Jackson County United Way is developing a scholarship program that will subsidize PTQ Level 1 providers if they become a PTQ Level 3 or 4 provider. Letters were mailed to all licensed home daycare providers to determine interest in becoming a PTQ Level 3 or 4 provider. JCEC was pleased that five licensed daycare providers contacted expressed interest in becoming a Level 3 or 4 provider. The public schools have shown an interest in becoming a PTQ Level 3 or 4 site. Seymour and Medora Community School Corporations will start offering public pre-kindergarten classes in August 2014. Crothersville Community School Corporation is expanding their pre-kindergarten capacity and project National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accreditation by the 2015-2016 school year. Several registered ministries have also expressed an interest in becoming a PTQ Level 3 or 4 or equivalent. Based on the FSSA website, the current number of eligible children receiving services is 48. Based on the responses received from the licensed home daycare providers, public schools, Head Start, and additional accredited registered ministries the number of children that could receive pre-kindergarten services in Jackson County by July 1, 2015 is over 200 children.

V. Financial Match

- A) In 2013, the Jackson County Education Coalition designated \$200,000 for 2014 pre-kindergarten initiatives. JCEC may provide a significant dollar amount in 2015 if needed to assure a sufficient number of eligible pre-k providers and programs are available. Others have shown interest in supporting the Pilot Pre-k program. These include industry (Cummins, Aisin, Kremers Urban, and Schneck Medical Center), the Community Foundation of Jackson County, Jackson County United Way and personal donors. The Cummins Foundation for Communities has been approached and is very interested in investing in Jackson County pre-k programs. The Cummins Foundation will need to understand the logistics of the Pilot Pre-k program before they are willing to commit any specific dollar amount.

Statistics from the FSSA website show there are 255 children out of 303 eligible children that are not being served in Jackson County currently. Using an average cost of \$4000 per child, the amount needed for the 255 children currently not being served is approximately 1 million dollars. This would be the maximum dollar amount needed. Based on funding in 2014 and the commitments in 2015, the required financial match commitment is attainable.

- B) The Jackson County Education Coalition is encouraging public school administrators to consider a redirection of their Title I funds to sustain pre-kindergarten offerings at their schools. Additional funding may be needed to sustain the pre-k programs at Head Start, the eligible licensed daycare providers and/or Registered Ministries. This funding could potentially come from industry, private donors or other granting organizations such as the Jackson County United Way, or the Community Foundation of Jackson County.

VI. County Readiness and Program Implementation

If awarded the Pre-k Pilot grant, Jackson County will be ready to serve over 200 eligible children and their parents by July 1, 2015. A sub-committee of the Jackson County Education Coalition was formed in October 2012 and is meeting monthly to address all pre-kindergarten initiatives. Sub-committee members include representatives from local industry and school corporations, the CEO and Human Resource Director of Schneck Medical Center, Executive Directors of the Jackson County United Way and Child Care Network, and the Vice President of the Community Foundation of Jackson County. Marketing the importance of kindergarten readiness has already begun. In the Fall of 2014, public pre-kindergarten will be provided by three of the four school corporations in the county. The school corporations are targeting low-income needs based children as an enrollment priority for their pre-k programs.

Meetings with licensed home daycare providers are on-going to raise them from PTQ 1 provider to a Level 3 or 4 provider by July 1, 2015. The Jackson County United Way and the Jackson County Education Coalition are collaborating on an initiative to identify and provide training to licensed daycare providers to become a PTQ Level 3 or 4 provider. As stated earlier, based on the interest of local licensed daycare providers, public schools, Head Start and Registered Ministries participating the number of children that could be served in the county by July 1, 2015 would almost triple from what is being served today.

Plans are being developed to engage more families within the communities with their child's early learning process. Plans would include working with local industry, restaurants, churches, and other establishments/agencies to engage the community. Families would be engaged in a number of ways. Head Start has already established a framework for this, their program engages families by building strong relationships between parents and their children while providing learning and development for both. Head Start provides monthly, quarterly, and individual meetings with families and offers a parenting retreat once a year. Parents complete monthly smart goals and are given support through Head Start's Parent, Family, and Community Engagement Specialist.

Registered ministries and other organizations/agencies would play an important role on the family engagement piece. Families would also be engaged at the different community events held throughout the county. Some of these events are already being held i.e. county fair, Kids Fest, some would be new. Social media will also play a part in the engagement of families. The Jackson County Education Coalition has established a Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/jceconlineprek>) which is another tool for community engagement and family awareness as well as providing helpful tips on early childhood learning.

Jackson County licensed home daycare providers, registered ministries, Head Start and public school corporations are working to resolve the pre-k needs of our community and will offer a range of services including half day, full day, and intensive summer programs. If awarded this opportunity, Jackson County and the supporting organizations in the county would be ready to implement this Pilot program by July 1, 2015.