

Jan



United  
Way



United Way  
of Greater Lafayette

Mobilizing our community to improve lives

Ms. Melanie Brizzi  
Family and Social Service Administration  
402 West Washington Street  
W361, MS-02  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Ms. Brizzi,

I have enclosed Tippecanoe County's Statement of County Readiness regarding Indiana's Early Learning Pilot Program.

While United Way is the legal entity issuing this statement, we are doing so on behalf of the Community Commitment to Education. We have the full support of all three public school corporations as well as the entities co-signing the cover page. Greater Lafayette is actively working towards the same goals as the State of Indiana and we are making great headway in building sustainable paths to improve the education of our children in the avenues outlined in our statement.



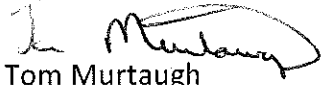

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this selection process and please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

James L. M. Taylor, CEO

## 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: Tippecanoe County	
Legal Name: <b>United Way of Greater Lafayette &amp; Tippecanoe County, Indiana, Inc.</b>	Mailing Address: <b>1114 East State Street, #200 Lafayette, IN 47905</b>
Contact Name: <b>James L. M. Taylor</b> Contact Title: <b>CEO</b> (Single point of contact for communication)	Contact Phone: <b>(765) 742-9077</b> Contact Email Address: <u><b>jtaylor@uw.lafayette.in.us</b></u>
COUNTY INFORMATION	
Co-Respondents (please list): <b>Greater Lafayette Commerce</b> <b>City of Lafayette</b> <b>City of West Lafayette</b> <b>Tippecanoe County</b>	Estimated Number of Children to be Served (county-wide): <b>100</b>
	Estimated Number of Eligible Providers (county-wide): <b>27</b>
AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE	
I HEREBY CERTIFY that, to the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this statement is correct.	
Designated Representative (Printed Name): <b>James L. M. Taylor</b>	Title: <b>CEO</b>
Signature of Designated Representative:	Date: <b>June 27, 2014</b>
Additional Signatures (of co-respondents, if necessary): <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="text-align: center;">   <b>Tony Roswarski</b>, Mayor of Lafayette         </div> <div style="text-align: center;">   <b>John Dennis</b>, Mayor of West Lafayette         </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 20px;"> <div style="text-align: center;">   <b>Tom Murtaugh</b>            Tippecanoe County Commissioner         </div> <div style="text-align: center;">   <b>Joe Seaman</b>, President &amp; CEO            Greater Lafayette Commerce         </div> </div>	

## I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Tippecanoe County is actively working to improve kindergarten readiness through a variety of avenues. Across sectors, our community has embraced opportunities to leverage resources and create sustainable paths to improved education. In the last four years, a concerted partnership has emerged around educational attainment. Businesses, schools and non-profits initiated this effort which has been joined by the faith community, retirees, students and others in order to add resources to help improve the educational attainment of our children. Given existing capacity and resources committed to early learning, we believe that Tippecanoe County is demonstrating its readiness to participate in the Early Learning Pilot Program.

## II. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

*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.*

Tippecanoe County has developed a collective effort called Community Commitment to Education (CCTE). The core partners for this are Greater Lafayette Commerce, Lafayette School Corporation, Tippecanoe School Corporation, United Way of Greater Lafayette and West Lafayette Community School Corporation. Additionally more than 70 organizations and businesses have signed on as partners, providing financial support, volunteers and support for education friendly business policies. These partners are providing annual funding of \$52,000 and you can find them listed at <http://www.readtosucceedgreaterlafayette.org/Partner.html>. The CCTE is not a legal entity, but is an active partnership that uses the United Way of Greater Lafayette as its fiscal agent and program manager. For this reason, the official response is being issued by United Way.

The Cities of Lafayette and West Lafayette as well as the Tippecanoe County government continue to declare their support of the work of the CCTE and are co-signatories of this Statement of Community Readiness.

CCTE has succeeded in helping improve early grade reading achievement through its Read to Succeed effort and is expanding this fall to bring bornlearning and bornlearning academies to Greater Lafayette. This effort is specifically focused on helping parents become their child's first and best teacher. We have embraced this model based on the success it has achieved in Cincinnati and Kentucky as well as the ability for our community to impact as large a population as possible in a sustainable manner. Additionally, our conversations with parents have clearly indicated that, across income levels, they are interested in taking on the role of preparing their children but need the tools and training to do so. This project has secured funding from North Central Health Services to launch this fall as well as to continue and expand the effort over the next three years.

In concert with this work, United Way and IU Health have been successful in building Kindergarten Countdown Camp (KCC) to a level that is impacting more than 25% of incoming kindergarten students who are not ready to succeed. The combination of low-cost efforts to provide a “jump start” for kindergarten and to empower parents to better prepare their younger children for kindergarten are emerging as Greater Lafayette’s strategy to broaden the percent of children prepared to succeed in school beyond its current 55%.

*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.*

Early learning services are primarily funded by federal and state dollars. However, there are local sources of funds that support this. First, the United Way funds early learning through Right Steps Child Development Centers and Bauer Family Resources. Annual funding to these two agencies is \$897,180. Additional local funds are provided by parents seeking early learning settings for their children. Two employers (SIA and Purdue) have invested in quality child care facilities to ensure the children of their employees have access to early learning as well as safe child care. At this time, it does not appear that Title I funding is being used to provide pre-kindergarten in the public schools in Tippecanoe County.

### III. FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

*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.*

Families are being engaged in a variety of ways in our community, including the following examples. Murdock Elementary School has a monthly parent engagement program as part of their Title I efforts. Miller Elementary School engages parents through a contractual effort. Mayflower Mill Elementary School uses the parent university model. Additionally, United Way partially funds the Healthy Families program through Family Services, Inc. The community has experimented with Families and Schools Together, but has found that effort to be more costly. All of these efforts are designed to assist parents become more effective at helping their children succeed.

*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.*

The CCTE plan to implement the bornlearning strategies is specifically designed to ensure a sustainable effort to focus engagement on parents of preschoolers across the community in ways that help them educate their children with an eye towards school readiness. We have already worked with the local school corporations to develop a document defining the steps to school success and have been promoting that through a variety of avenues. This locally developed document will partner with bornlearning communication materials and will be provided through existing providers of early education services, but more importantly, through health care providers, employers, social service agencies and schools.

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

Tippecanoe County will use the Childcare Resource Network as a primary avenue to enroll eligible children in the Pilot Program should we be selected. We will also use local media outlets to help announce the available spots and we will leverage the CCTE partnership to ensure that community members are aware of the options.

#### 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.*

Tippecanoe County currently has 27 child care providers that are ranked as 3 or 4 in Paths to Quality and they have 112 spots available for children aged 3 or 4 at this point in time. These providers will be the primary avenue for managing children served through the Pilot Program. We anticipate that additional child care centers, schools, homes or ministries may choose to improve their rating in Paths to Quality in order to boost provider capacity.

*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.*

We anticipate that additional child care centers, schools, homes or ministries may choose to improve their rating in Paths to Quality in order to boost provider capacity. However, we do not anticipate the Pilot Project changing our existing efforts to encourage providers to improve their Paths to Quality rating. The Pilot design makes it impossible to assure that efforts to build capacity substantially in specific programs will be rewarded by usage. As a community, we will continue to encourage that child care providers improve the quality of their care and will continue to support Paths to Quality as an avenue to achieve that goal.

## V. FINANCIAL MATCH

*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).*

Tippecanoe County is committed to improving kindergarten readiness for its children. We recognize that this is critical to the future success of our children and our community. For these reasons, we have embraced low-cost, sustainable avenues to help parents improve their children's readiness while also providing a level of remediation for children who have not had that benefit. As a community, we applaud the State of Indiana for its efforts to consider ways to improve early learning. However, Tippecanoe County questions the component of this Pilot Program in which locally generated match dollars are provided to Family and Social Service Administration (FSSA) to support the vouchers provided to families. Specifically, the potential for local philanthropic dollars to be administered by the State of Indiana is unacceptable to our community. We respectfully believe that our community is better able to manage the resources that we can generate to improve the lives across our community than is FSSA or the State of Indiana. As evidence, we have already secured funding of \$248,000 from North Central Health Services to fund our bornlearning academies work over three years. We believe that this proven effort is both the right step and a sustainable strategy to create the long term impact that we and the State of Indiana both desire. We have also secured recurring funding from IU Health Arnett for KCC that in 2014 totals \$43,000. In addition to these funds, we have \$52,000 of annual funding to support the work of CCTE as it works to empower parents to better prepare their children for school. These donors have restricted their funds for use locally. Though these funds will not be remitted to FSSA, we believe these funds represent a substantial local commitment to early childhood learning and should be considered matching as we are solidly aligned on our common goal.

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

Tippecanoe County is actively working to launch, expand and sustain its locally defined paths to kindergarten readiness. Should we be chosen to participate in the Pilot Program given our statement regarding financial match, we would look forward to finding ways to sustain our work in building more available spots in Paths to Quality rated 3 and 4 providers.

## 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.*

Tippecanoe County would be prepared to implement the Pilot Program within the confines of its Statement of Community Readiness by January 1, 2015. Our reliance on existing capacity should allow for ease of access to eligible families and FSSA's acknowledgement of local funding being spent locally as a match would allow that component to be met immediately.



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Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this selection process and please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James L. M. Taylor'.

James L. M. Taylor, CEO