


BoA.
part July
County Selection

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: Bartholomew	
Legal Name:	Mailing Address:
Columbus Learning Center Management Corporation d/b/a Community Education Coalition	4555 Central Avenue - Suite 2100 Columbus, IN 47203
Contact Name: John M. Burnett	Contact Phone: (812) 371-5361
Contact Title: President & Chief Executive Officer	Contact Email Address: jburnett@educationcoalition.com
COUNTY INFORMATION	
Co-Respondents (please list):	Estimated Number of Children to be Served (county-wide):
Amanda Allman (Amanda Allman) Amanda's Day Care (Amanda Clapp) Bartholomew Consolidated School Corp – Busy Bees (Dr. John B. Quick) Cabrina's Safe Haven for Kidz (Cabrina Jackson) Children, Inc (Brenda Flanagan) Cummins Child Development Center (Victoria Baker) Deb's Daycare (Debra Clark) East Columbus United Methodist Church Care Club (Paula Turnbow) First Presbyterian Preschool (Barbara H. Newton) Giggles-n-Grins (Terry Gates Ballard) Head Start (Tonya Scott) Kinder Care Learning Center (Stacy Gant)	268 students will potentially be served with funding from this grant program.
	Estimated Number of Eligible Providers (county-wide):
	27 providers county wide with 14 being Paths to Quality Level III or IV and 1 (Head Start) at Level II but will be at Level III by July 2015
Lil' Stars Daycare (Melodee O'Neal Hand) Nana's Lil' Angels (Lora Fields) Play and Learn Child Care Center (Christina Foster)	
AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE	
I HEREBY CERTIFY that, to the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this statement is correct.	
Designated Representative (Printed Name): John M. Burnett	
Signature of Designated Representative:	
	
Additional Signatures (of co-respondents, if necessary):	
Please see attached	

CO-RESPONDENTS WITH SIGNATURES

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY

1. Amanda Allman Amanda Allman
2. Amanda's Day Care Amanda Clapp
3. Bartholomew Consolidated School Corp – Busy Bees John B. Quach
4. Cabrina's Safe Haven for Kidz Cabrina Jackson
5. Children, Inc Brenda Hanagan
6. Cummins Child Development Center [Signature]
7. Deb's Daycare Debra Clark
8. East Columbus United Methodist Church Care Club Paul Jun
9. First Presbyterian Preschool Barbara H. Newton
10. Giggles-n-Grins Larry Tate Ballard
11. Head Start Jonny Scott
12. Kinder Care Learning Center Stacy DeBart
13. Lil' Stars Daycare Meldee Olub-Hard
14. Nana's Lil' Angels Lou Fidds
15. Play and Learn Child Care Center [Signature]

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The citizens of Bartholomew County are committed to the youth of the community and their families. The efforts began in 2005 when the Council for Youth Development (CYD) was established. The members focused on issues facing families plagued by poverty and a lack of positive experiences. *Ready by 21™*, created by the Forum of Youth Investment, a structured, research based approach to systems change was implemented. In 2009, 324 parents, educators, service providers, probation officers, counselors, and business leaders gave feedback through focus groups. The essential question posed: *How can we close the achievement gap, improve graduation rates, increase enrollment in post-secondary education and ultimately improve the quality of life of our citizens?* Research on early childhood development, including brain research, longitudinal studies, economic impact, and local demographic data and risk factors were among topics discussed. The logical conclusion was early childhood education is a huge moral, social, and economic investment and must be addressed, especially for those living in poverty.

The Community Education Coalition (CEC), comprised of 29 community leaders, and the Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation (BCSC) became the driving forces in initiating work in 2009 around early childhood learning. The target was to enhance current community early childhood programming with an initial focus on at-risk four-year-olds. The mission: Design and implement a universal, high quality, sustainable early education system enabling all children to enter kindergarten prepared socially, emotionally and cognitively. Strategies being implemented include: 1) Increase community understanding of the importance of early childhood learning; 2) Improve the quality of existing early learning programs; 3) Expand early learning programming by increasing the available slots in existing sites and adding a public school option; 4) Remove barriers to accessing pre-k programs: cost, transportation, language; and 5) Increase parental support by expanding available programming.

Bartholomew County has demonstrated an organized systemic approach to improving programming for its youngest at-risk children. The catalytic collaboration among all stakeholders has resulted in the analysis of the current state of early learning, identifying gaps and developing aligned strategies to address those gaps. Over the past three years, guided by the Paths to Quality principles, the quality of early learning programming has improved. Through networking and alignment of resources, family engagement and enrichment have also increased.

Expansion of services for children/families has resulted from the implementation of a successful public school district model, *Busy Bees*, which is free for children from families at the 185% poverty level. Additional opportunities have been afforded children/families through scholarships to private and faith-based programs. This was possible due to the generosity of community funders and fund raisers referenced in IIB. Although the gap is through vouchers and scholarships at P2Q level 3 and 4 sites, the need is great.

With the support of the Pilot Grant matched by CEC funding, the evolution will continue and expand to address the gap in services to children living in poverty. Bartholomew County stakeholders are aligned in their commitment to meeting the needs of at-risk four-year-olds and have a proven track record based on on-going outside evaluations in the implementation of quality programming and collective impact of aligned resources. *Bartholomew County is ready!*

II COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Collaborations among business, industry, education and government leaders and early childhood education providers are positively impacting the entire Bartholomew County early learning system by establishing a strong network. This network has assessed and identified gaps in existing services and developed a community-wide plan that is strengthening the entire system.

A. Listing of Community Support Organizations

The listing of key contributors has been divided into four categories: Leadership, Direct Family Services, Family Support Services, and Family Enrichment Resources.

Leadership The following entities have been responsible for convening stakeholders, providing a venue for networking, data collection, impact analysis, systems alignment and goal setting, facilitating distribution of information regarding importance of early learning programming, and financial support of program development.

Community Education Coalition (CEC)- The CEC is a partnership of 29 education, business, government, and community stakeholders focused on aligning and integrating the Bartholomew County learning system, economic development, and quality of life. One of their primary areas of focus is the importance of early learning. In 2009, the CEC partnered with BCSC in opening and providing on-going support for a public preschool program that serves a large number of children from low income families. They award scholarships each year for children to attend private community pre-K programs. They also have facilitated a community-wide information campaign to alert the public to the significance of early childhood education.

Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation (BCSC)- BCSC is the largest Bartholomew County school district (12,000 students) serving students in pre-K thru 12. In 2008 staff members partnered with other community providers and early education experts to design a pre-K program which was implemented in 2009. In addition to serving on the CEC, BCSC staff has provided leadership for the Council for Youth Development and 0-8 Consortium playing a key role in all early learning initiatives.

Council for Youth Development (CYD)- CYD is an organization of community members interested in ensuring a high quality of life for all children and youth in Bartholomew County. The Council serves as a catalyst for change in improving the odds for children and youth to be *Ready by 21*-ready for learning, ready for work, ready for life. CYD achieves this aim through: 1) convening and engaging stakeholders; 2) collaborating with community members and organizations; 3) mobilizing young people; and, 4) analyzing and disseminating information. CYD work groups are divided by children's age spans. The 0-8 Consortium was an outgrowth of one of these groups.

0-8 Consortium- The Consortium mission is to build the best early education system by increasing the community's capacity to serve children 0-8 and their families through the following: raise

public awareness emphasizing the importance of early childhood education; facilitate collaboration among early education providers and family resource providers; and create an integrated, comprehensive early childhood education plan.

United Way of Bartholomew County- serves to advance the common good by creating opportunities for a better life for all Bartholomew County citizens. Their focus is on education, financial stability, and health. These are the building blocks for a good quality of life. United Way supports organizations serving young children and their families which are listed in IIB. The U.W. leadership plays an important role on the CEC, CYD, and the 0-8 Consortium.

Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce- the Chamber advocates and represents businesses' interests and issues affecting the community. They partner with the CEC and support its tri-sector approach to improving education. They have joined in promoting early education as a primary community focus.

Heritage Fund the Community Foundation- serves as a catalyst of change to enhance the quality of life in the community focusing on the following initiative: learning systems; bridging the economic gap; economic growth; and welcoming community. The Heritage Fund collaborates with public and pre-K programs by committing resources so that all four year olds can attend pre-K. They serve on the CEC.

Mayor's Advance Columbus- Over the past year Mayor Kristen Brown has developed the community-wide strategic plan, "Advance Columbus," with a steering committee comprised of broad community representation. The ever evolving dialogue is the basis for community dialogues. A major goal is, *Advance Opportunities for All*. This includes lifelong learning, quality housing, positive youth development, and financial stability. She also is a member of CEC.

Healthy Communities- The board has two major tenets: preventing chronic diseases and reducing risk factors, and attaining health equity. Community leaders from the aforementioned groups serve on the board. Networking with local stakeholders, state and local health departments and national organizations have supported the establishment of the VIM free clinic which provides dental and healthcare to families without insurance. The newest initiative evolving is the Nurse Community Partnership described later.

Mejorando tu Vida Overview- was created to support the Latino families in the community. CEC, FSP, Healthy Communities, Ivy Tech, IUPUC, BCSC and SuCasa partner under the shared goal of assisting Latino families to be prepared for educational success, connected to community resources and events, and assimilating into their primary culture. Family events offered in Spanish provide information on community organizations in addition to fun activities, food, and performances by local youth. The focus is on life-long learning beginning with the importance of talking, reading, and playing in the early years.

Open and reciprocal communication in the above organizations is readily achieved through shared membership. Representatives from each organization serve on the boards of the other organizations, ensuring goal and strategy alignment, augmenting but not duplicating work.

B. Current Funding

The CEC has served as a conduit for raising funds to support the expansion of programming for children/families plagued by poverty. Cummins, Inc, the Heritage Fund, the Community Foundation, philanthropists, anonymous donors and the CEC have made a five year commitment (ending June 2015) of \$2.8 million to support the opening of the Busy Bees Academy currently serving 120 children yearly, 70 of whom attend on scholarship. BCSC invests approximately \$211,000 yearly to cover the cost of utilities, facility maintenance, administration, transportation and health services. In addition, \$260,000 was raised to provide scholarships for children to attend private and faith-based early learning programs. About 35-40 children are served annually.

Two major fund raisers: Dancing with the Stars and the David Galle Golf Tournament, have also positively impacted the at-risk students. Dancing with the Stars raised \$58,000 and \$89,000 the last two years. These funds support the in-home visitation program, Family School Partners (FSP), described in section II A and Children, Inc., a level 4 provider and a key collaborator in this proposal process. The funds given to FSP provides funding for 2 staff members who have approximately 60 families of 0-5 year olds in their case load. Children, Inc. utilizes their funds for 5-7 scholarships. The annual David Galle Golf Tournament raises approximately \$75,000. This is placed in an endowment whose earnings cover the cost for 2-4 children to attend private preschool each year. The intent is to continue both fund raisers.

About 30% of the BCSC Title I budget is spent on early childhood programming for 4 year olds. This includes administrative and personnel costs, supplies and transportation of the students who participate in partial day Title I programs. It should be noted, however, children qualify for Title I services if they are educationally at risk. Family income is not a determinant.

For the school year 2014-15, two providers, included in this proposal, Busy Bees and Children, Inc., will receive a one-time Early Education Matching Grant-one for 50 students and one for 11 students. United Way also financially supports organizations that provide resources and services for young children and their families: Children, Inc. \$190,000, Headstart \$20,000, Early Headstart \$25,000 all of whom provide early learning programming. United Way also provides funding for Family School Partners (\$40,000) an in-home visitation program, mentioned previously. The desired outcome of these programs is: *children enter kindergarten ready to learn.*

III FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Early parent interactions lay the foundation for a child's social and emotional health as well as intellectual growth. Therefore, it is critical to provide resources to encourage and equip parents to participate in their children's development and learning.

A. In-home Service Providers

The following agencies provide in-home visitation working with parents to set goals, modeling desired outcomes, sharing information about child development, connecting them to community resources and facilitating enrollment in early learning programs:

Healthy Families-assists parents in providing for health, safety and successful emotional and intellectual development of child. Focuses on case management, risk assessment, and advocacy.

First Steps Early Intervention- provides occupational therapy, speech therapy, physical therapy, vision and hearing services for children ages 0-36 months.

Family School Partners-provides services to educate parents as their child's first teacher by assisting them in setting a stimulating, nurturing home environment through the use of age appropriate curricular materials with the goal of children entering school developmentally prepared for success. FSPs play an integral role in connecting families with community resources.

Community Partners for Safe Children-provides case management services to connect families to community resources aimed at preventing child abuse and neglect. Serves children 0-18 years.

Early Headstart-provides education and assistance to low income children and their families, includes physical, social/emotional and cognitive development.

Nurse Family Partnership- provides early childhood health support serving families most in need. Links families with health and other needed services as well.

Alignment of in-home visitation programs, community resources for parents and early learning providers is achieved through open and reciprocal communication among all stakeholders. This occurs as an individualized plan is developed for each child by the in-home providers in collaboration with parents/caregivers and teachers. Community resource providers are an integral part of the wrap around services delineated. In-home service providers meet quarterly with the teachers to ensure goal alignment and open communication.

B. Community Family Services and Resources

A myriad of community services are available to support families of early learners. These entities provide education, counseling, health and nutrition assistance and venues for networking with other parents. They augment the in-home services described above.

Child Care Resource and Referral-provides education and individualized referrals for parents seeking child care. Maintains a database of licensed centers and assists with enhanced referrals for families of children with special needs.

Child Care Voucher Program-provides subsidies for child care, preschool for low income working parents or those enrolled in full-time educational training. Subsidy paid directly to provider. Providers must meet certain standards.

Volunteers in Medicine Clinic- primary health care is provided for county families who are uninsured or below the 60% median income. Clients receive physical exams, labs, x-rays, referrals to specialists, dental care, counseling, treatment of acute illness and chronic disease management.

Weekly services are provided with interpreters for Spanish-speaking clients.

WIC (Women, Infants & Children)-provides supplemental/nutritional food to lower-income pregnant and nursing mothers and children birth to age 5.

Bartholomew County Health Department-provides immunizations against vaccine-preventable disease for infants, children and adults. They also provide education materials and consultations.

Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS)-provides support and encouragement to mothers of young children. Includes support and interaction with peers, parenting skills, self-esteem building, focus on family issues. Presentation on topics of interest are shared.

Bartholomew County Literacy Task Force-their mission is for all residents of Bartholomew County to be literate. Two specific programs for young children: Tots Reading Lots, which mails six books with activities to children ages 1-5 years and the Book Express, which makes scheduled stops in high-need neighborhoods completing age-appropriate activities and distributing frequently used books to all children who attend.

Bartholomew County 2014 Pre-K Pilot Grant

Bartholomew County Public Library-provides multiple options for families of young children; story hour, summer/winter reading club, bookmobile and serves as a lending library for books, CDs and videos and provides free internet services.

Active Parenting Today-holds a monthly series of classes focusing on topics such as instilling courage and self-esteem in children, understating your child, developing responsibility, etc.

Support groups for dyslexia, hyperactivity, attention deficit, Downs-Syndrome and autism-provide a venue for discussions, sharing information, support and planned activities.

ARC of Bartholomew County-provides resources and referrals for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

Centerstone-provides comprehensive mental health and addiction services, including counseling and distribution of materials on mental health and behavioral health topics.

Community early learning providers network with family resource providers, meeting monthly as a part of the 0-8 Consortium to share ideas and resources in addressing any gaps in services, strengthening the entire system.

Family Enrichment-The following offer venues for families to learn, interact, try new activities and have fun!

Columbus Parks and Recreation Dept-provides family and children's events including kids concerts and programs. They also provide free supervised summer playground visits and day camps focusing on music, art, drama, science and exploration.

Columbus Area Arts Council First Friday for Families-provides a free special event the first Friday of each month.

Purdue Extension Cloverbuds-provides fun, educational projects for preschool children and families.

kidscommons-offers families with young children a safe setting where they can explore together in hands-on, interactive learning. Provides free admission the first Friday of each month.

Lincoln Central Neighborhood Family Center-provides recreational activities for youth and their families.

Hamilton Ice Arena and Columbus Skateland-provide public skating as well as skating and hockey lessons.

Donner Aquatic Center-offers public swimming and lessons. The last hour of the public session is free every day.

Festival of the Young Child and Literacy Festival-two festivals held annually providing children/families free enrichment activities.

Multiple dance and music lesson providers-music and dance are enriching experiences which stimulate creativity, self-expression and enjoyment. Some scholarships are provided.

Collaboration with providers occurs through the 0-8 Consortium. A resource guide summarizing information about each of the above agencies is distributed throughout the community.

C. Recruitment

Currently information flyers are sent home with primary students, posted in mobile home parks on bulletin boards at laundry mats and similar settings. In addition, an ad is placed in the newspaper. All materials are translated into Spanish to assist the large Latino population. The new initiative will expand to include utilizing a multitude of strategies to recruit students/families, such as: newspaper, radio, local television stations and social hubs such like Facebook and Twitter. Information will be distributed through home visitation programs such as those conducted by FSP workers, Children's Bureau wrap around service providers and the Book Express. An information/sign-up booth will be set up at area festival and the county 4H fair. Flyers will be posted at the WIC office, Volunteers in Medicine, the Bartholomew County Health Department and at mobile home parks and SuCasa. Translators will be present at informational sessions. This is extremely important, as 92% of the Latino population is plagued by poverty.

IV PROVIDER CAPACITY

A. Qualified Providers

Bartholomew County currently has 14 early learning providers who serve 4-year olds and are rated level 3 or 4 on Paths to Quality (P2Q). Eight are in-home providers, two are faith-based, one is school-based and three are licensed centers. The following chart presents an overview of current enrollment, current enrollees on vouchers, available openings in January 2015 and available openings in July 2015. This would significantly narrow the gap for 375 children (includes Pilot and voucher numbers) at the 127% poverty level (477).

Provider Capacity for New Students					
Name	P2Q	4 year olds enrolled currently	# of vouchers available	New openings Jan 2015	New openings July 2015
Amanda Allman	III	4	0	2	4
Amanda's Daycare	IV	2	1	1	2
Busy Bees	III	115	0	13	95
Cabrina's Safe Haven for Kidz	III	9	1	0	9
Children, Inc.	IV	49	36	13	46
Cummins Child Dev. Center	IV	40	0	0	0
Deb's Daycare	IV	4	0	2	3
E. Columbus U.M. Care Club	III	5	0	2	5
First Presbyterian	III	54	0	36	44
Giggles N Grins	IV	2	1	0	2
KinderCare Learning Center	IV	22	12	10	24
Lil' Stars Daycare	III	4	0	0	2
Nana's Lil Angels	III	2	2	2	2
Play and Learn Child Care	III	4	0	0	12
Headstart	II	54	54	18	18

All programs offer full day, five day per week programming except First Presbyterian, which offers multiple part-time options. Summer programming is also offered at 13 of the sites.

Increasing the number of providers at P2Q 3 or 4 will continue to be a goal. In addition to the 14 level 3 or 4 P2Q centers, one additional center is at a level 2: Headstart, a licensed center, has indicated an expectation of being at a level 3 P2Q in 2015. This would result in an additional capacity to serve 18 students at 127% poverty. Busy Bees is investigating the potential of licensing two Busy Bees satellite sites located in schools. This would add an additional capacity to serve 30 more students. In total, it is predicted there will be 89 openings for enrollment in January 2015 and 268 openings in July 2015. Increasing provider capacity will continue to be a goal.

V. FINANCIAL MATCH

A. Matching Funds for the Pilot Program

All the funders listed in Part II B have met and discussed the required match. The consensus is to commit to funding the match for the Pilot Program. See letter of commitment in Appendix A.

B. Sustainability

Sustainability of support for Pre-K programming for at-risk four year olds beyond the Pilot Program has been discussed and will continue to be during the ensuing months. Potential strategies identified include: 1) the school district has expressed they are willing to file for a referendum; 2) the two fund raisers mentioned in II B will continue; and 3) additional financial support could be sought through the United Way campaign. Of course, ultimately the hope is that the State Legislature will choose to provide funding for Pre-K programming statewide.

VI. BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY READINESS

Critical conversations by all stakeholders were launched in 2009. The conclusion was to establish the following mission: "to design and implement a universal, high quality, sustainable early education system in Bartholomew County so all children are socially, emotionally and cognitively prepared to enter kindergarten". Catalytic collaborations among business, industry, foundation, school leaders and early childhood educators have resulted in increased family resources and early learning opportunities for Bartholomew County's at-risk four year olds. Undergirded by the Pilot Program, the collective impact of the systematic alignment of purpose will continue to evolve. It is estimated that the projected early learning openings for new at-risk four year olds will be 89 in January 2015. The available spaces for enrollment in July 2015 triple, being estimated at 268. The January date is more limited in available spaces as enrollment campaigns have already been completed by most providers. This would greatly reduce the gap for 375 children (includes Pilot and voucher numbers) at the 127% poverty level (477). Recruitment strategies to ensure enrollment of new students are delineated in III A. On-going evaluation plays a significant role in continuous improvement. A longitudinal study of program results would be welcomed. "When we invest wisely in children and families, the next generation will pay that back through a lifetime of productivity and responsible citizenship. When we fail to provide children with what they need to build a strong foundation for healthy, productive lives we put our future prosperity and security at risk"(National Scientific Council, Harvard).

Appendix A

Community Education Coalition
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www.educationcoalition.com

Community
Education
Coalition



June 24, 2014

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

Dear Ms. Brizzi,

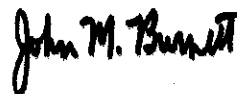
As President and CEO of the Community Education Coalition, I am writing in support of the application by Bartholomew County for the Indiana Early Learning Pilot Grant through FSSA.

Building a community-based educational coalition can address various learning needs of a community, and we encourage a community mindset where access to education begins at an early age and continues throughout adult life. A major effort to educate the citizenry of Bartholomew County on the importance of early childhood education is on-going. The Community Education Coalition is pleased to support the eligible Paths to Quality Pre-K providers in Bartholomew County as they continue to grow and develop the early childhood programs. The Community Education Coalition will be the organization that will contribute a cash match of 10% in support of Bartholomew County's application, once the required match amount is determined.

In order to improve the quality of life of our citizens and our community, we must invest in our 0-5 year olds. Almost 30% of students entering kindergarten do not have the readiness skills to be successful, and those children who lag behind at the end of 1st grade only have a one-in-eight chance of ever catching up.

I fully support the Bartholomew County and the application for the Indiana Early Learning Pilot Grant through FSSA.

Sincerely,



John M. Burnett
President and CEO