

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>Delaware County, Indiana</u>	
Legal Name: <u>Muncie & Delaware County B5 Early Childhood Initiative, Inc.</u>	Mailing Address: <u>201 E. Jackson St. Suite 100 Muncie, IN 47305</u>
Contact Name: <u>Carrie Bale</u> Contact Title: <u>Executive Director</u> (Single point of contact for communication)	Contact Phone: <u>765-747-7181</u> Contact Email Address: <u>bale.munciedelawareB5@gmail.com</u>
COUNTY INFORMATION	
Co-Respondents (please list): <u>Delaware County Chamber of Commerce /</u> <u>The Community Foundation of Muncie & Delaware County, Inc. / Huffer/Child Care Resource Referral</u> <u>Ball Brothers Foundation / United Way of Delaware County / Open Door Health Services</u> <u>Muncie Community Schools / Ball State University</u>	Estimated Number of Children to be Served (county-wide): <u>160-190</u> 470
	Estimated Number of Eligible Providers (county-wide): <u>in pipe</u> <u>New</u> <u>current = 12 + line = 2 + Programs 3 = 17</u> 26
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>Carrie Bale</u>	Title: <u>Executive Director</u>
Signature of Designated Representative: <u>Carrie R. Bale</u>	Date: <u>6/30/2014</u>
Additional Signatures (of co-respondents, if necessary): <u>[Signature] (Chamber)</u> <u>4. [Signature] (Supt Muncie Comm Sch Dist)</u> <u>Phil Schmiedel (Ball Brothers Foundation)</u> <u>Patricia [Signature] (Ball State University Teacher College)</u> <u>Kelly K. Brock (The Community Foundation)</u> <u>Jenni Marsh (United Way of Delaware Co.)</u> <u>John R. [Signature] (Open Door Health Services)</u> <u>Olivia Nicky (Huffer Child Care Resource Referral)</u>	

Statement of County Readiness - Delaware County

I. Executive Summary

The Muncie & Delaware County B5 Early Childhood Initiative, as the lead respondent, and on behalf of the residents, businesses, and community partners strongly believes that Delaware County is positioned to successfully implement the Early Learning Pilot Grant Program. B5 is an existing, engaged, and motivated coalition whose membership includes local foundations, businesses, churches, community service agencies, schools, the City of Muncie, Muncie Action Plan, Ball State University, the Muncie-Delaware County Chamber of Commerce, and IU Health-Ball Memorial Hospital, among others. The B5 charter identifies early childhood education as the critical component to ensure a viable, economically stable, and prosperous Delaware County. The B5 initiative seeks to address the barriers and challenges to the prosperity to which all families and businesses in Delaware County aspire. The B5 collaboration, with input from hundreds of citizens, has established as a high priority the assurance that all children in Delaware County have the opportunity to be prepared to succeed when they enter Kindergarten.

Currently, based on nationally recognized standards, and following an assessment of each child, more than half of the children entering kindergarten in our community are not ready to be successful. Delaware County has the capacity, the will, and the demonstrated desire to expand high quality early education opportunities via a blended model approach that meets the needs of families. If Delaware County is chosen as a pilot program, this selection will align perfectly with our existing efforts to achieve the vision that "For a Stronger Delaware County, all children are Kindergarten Ready by 2020."

B5 is a supporting organization of the Community Foundation of Muncie and Delaware County and is overseen by a Board of Directors. A Steering Committee made up of over 25 community leaders sets the direction, guides, and reviews the work of the seven B5 Task Forces. The Task Forces are made up of over 80 community partners passionate about making Delaware County a better place to live, work, and raise a family. Strategic initiatives arising from the task forces align directly with the overarching county goal stated above. These Task Forces, which focus specifically on early childhood, are: Early Learning Experiences; Early Literacy; Families; High Quality Child Care and Education; Health and Wellness; Communication; and Metrics and Measurement. Some examples of success thus far include: (1) B5 convened a collaborative effort of four PTQ Level 4 child care programs; working together, these programs were awarded funding through the Early Education Matching Grant (EEMG) program; (2) the Kickoff to Kindergarten Jumpstart intensive program, now in its 2nd year, takes place 3 weeks before the start of school; (3) B5 coordinates efforts supporting a community-wide literacy program, "Wonder Reader League," now completing its pilot phase. B5 has also helped coordinate efforts regarding the recently released Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership Opportunity (to potentially increase accessibility in high need areas) which aligns with what we know will help make Delaware County a stronger community.

It is a fortuitous circumstance that this five-county opportunity has come along at this point in the evolution of our own county-wide efforts. We hope that the State of Indiana will come alongside Delaware County and join us in our efforts to positively impact young children and our community.

II. Community Engagement – A

List of Organizations/Entities	Nature of Organization	Relevant programs or initiatives	Relationship with stakeholders
Muncie & Delaware B5 Early Childhood Education	Not for profit working to create community will and awareness about the relationship between early childhood education and community prosperity	- Shared Vision - Communications - Coalition Building Strategic initiatives	- Arose from the Muncie Action Plan - Community buy-in - Over 70 partners involved, with more coming on board weekly
Muncie Community Schools	Largest Public School Corporation in Delaware County	- Multiple Administrators on Task Forces or on Board of Directors - Coordination of Kickoff to Kindergarten	Representation throughout the community on education
Muncie Delaware County Chamber of Commerce	Business Representative Economic Development	Vision 2016: Community-wide economic development plan. Early Childhood identified as key goal	- Leadership represented on Task Forces and Boards - Education Roundtable - Fiscal matters
United Way of Delaware County	Not for profit community conveyor	Big Goal: Children ready for Kindergarten; asking for local agencies/programs to align with United Way's Big Goal	- Funder, conveyor - leadership roles throughout community - Solutions Teams
Huffer Child Care Resource and Referral	Not for Profit lead resource on all things related to early childhood care and education	- Data collection and dissemination - Professional development - Local ECE Specialist for Delaware Pilot Play and Learn Group	- Task Force Leader - Data provider - Information disseminator - Connection to child care
Ross Community Center	Not for Profit Community Center	Host of Play and Learn Group and family programming	Connection to children and families in high risk area
Muncie Public Library	Public Library	Story Times Wonder Readers League	- Leadership roles - Building culture of readers - Professional development
Open Door Health Services	Federally Qualified Health Center	- WIC - Full medical services - Centering Parenting Classes	- Leadership roles - Chair, B5 Task Force - touch point for families
City of Muncie	Government agency	- Provides staff time and financial resources for B5 - Scholarship money for EEMG grants	- Advocate - Funder - touch point for families
Ball State University	Public institution of higher education	- Teacher Preparation Program - Coordinator of MP3 (children's program in high risk area)	- Leadership involvement on multiple levels - In-kind support - Resources for entire community
Ivy Tech Community College	Public Community College	Teacher Preparation Program	- Leadership involvement - Task Force work
IU Health-Ball Memorial Hospital	Community hospital	Funding and volunteers for Kickoff to Kindergarten and Health and Wellness Committee	- Service on Task Forces - touch point for families - Conveyor
Children's Bureau	Not for Profit agency to support families and children	- Born to Learn - Community Partners Program	- Part of Prevent Child Abuse Network - Programming for families

The broad based cross section of the multiple agencies represented above help truly paint the picture that began several years ago through the visioning of the Muncie Action Plan and the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce, and represents a systematic approach to economic prosperity by ensuring that all children are Kindergarten ready by 2020. The efforts of the B5 cross-community coalition dovetails perfectly with the opportunity set for in HEA 1004. Our community efforts, collaboration, and commitment make Delaware County an ideal partner with FSSA.

Community Engagement – B

United Way Investment in ECE Initiatives July 2012-June 2014			
Recipient	Description		
Huffer Memorial Children's Center	High-Quality childcare on sliding scale	\$	192,000.00
Huffer Memorial Children's Center	Free referral service to high-quality childcare; provides resources and mentoring	\$	72,000.00
Apple Tree-YMCA	High-Quality childcare on sliding scale	\$	48,000.00
Open Door Health Services	High-Quality pediatric care in cohort setting	\$	16,000.00
United Daycare	High-Quality childcare on sliding scale	\$	280,000.00
Kick-off to Kindergarten	Funded 3 week camp at two local elementary schools	\$	13,000.00
		Total \$	621,000.00
Ball Brothers Foundation 2012 - June 2014			
AppleTree Child Development Center	Forest Kindergarten		\$105,000
Community Foundation of Muncie/Del. Co.	Muncie B5		\$75,000
East Central Chapter of Indiana AEYC	Growing Up Wild Professional Development Conference		\$4,890
Huffer Memorial Children's Center	Healthy Childcare Summit		\$2,500
Huffer Memorial Children's Center	Paths to Quality Marketing		\$60,000
Muncie Action Plan	Early Childhood Education Planning Symposium		\$5,000
		Total for 2012	\$252,390
Huffer Memorial Children's Center	Engaging Staff & Families		\$10,000
Transition Resources Corporation	Nature Play for Head Start		\$75,000
United Day Care Center	Facility Upgrades/Professional Development		\$44,000
		Total for 2013	\$129,000
Community Foundation of Muncie/Del. Co.	Muncie B5		\$75,000
Huffer Memorial Children's Center	Summer Palooza		\$750
United Day Care Center	Facility Upgrades/Professional Development		\$45,000
		Total for 2014	\$120,750
		Total Giving 2012-present	\$502,140
Community Foundation Of Muncie & Delaware County, Inc.			
Multiple Programs serving young children a		Total Giving 2013	\$199,557
City of Muncie			
Community Foundation - B5 Early Childhood		Total Giving 2014	\$100,000
George and Frances Ball Foundation			
Community Foundation - B5	Muncie B5	Total Giving 2013 & 2014	\$150,000
Other Financial Support			
Early Education Matching Fund	Shafer Foundation		\$12,500
B5	Mutual Bank		\$10,000
Kickoff to Kindergarten	Salie Mae		\$1,800
Community Foundation	Muncie Action Plan		\$14,000
		Total giving other 2013	\$38,300

Total Community Early Learning Funding 2012-2014 \$1,610,997.00

The funding partners listed previously were unable to report the exact number of children impacted, given that some programming is direct impact funding and some programming is indirect impact funding. An unofficial estimate would be that approximately 1000 children annually are impacted through current support. At this time, no Title I dollars are currently used to provide pre-kindergarten in public schools in Delaware County.

III. Family Engagement

A) Delaware County

Family Engagement Services/Delaware County	Alignment with Early Learning Programs/Delaware County
The Villages - Healthy Families Program	Provide Family Services for family (child must be at least 6 months old. Referrals come from DCS/Doctors/Community Avg 245 assessments annually/serving appr. 75 families a year
Parents Encouraging Parents	Parenting Training series, moving into the Early Childhood realm and focusing on families in homeless shelters
Huffer/Child Care Resource and Referral	FREE referrals and consumer education for families looking for child care, parent workshops, resources and piloting Play and Learn Group for families and young children
Children's Bureau	CCDF vouchers, Born to Learn (Parents as Teachers program) Respite Care and Community Partners offering support for the prevention of child abuse
Muncie Public Library	Story time for young children, Book mobile, Children's librarian helps early childhood professionals find theme related materials Coordinating the Wonder Reader League - community wide
Purdue Extension Offices	Nutrition outreach services for families throughout community
WIC (Women Infants and Children)	Support for women and families, referrals to additional resources in community.
Meridian Services	Child Advocacy Center, Behavioral and Mental Health support for children and families, women services as well.
Open Door Health Services	Prenatal classes, Crib to K classes for families, annual impacts the health of 1700 individual children. Mobile Health Unit, working with early childhood providers for lead screening & physicals Health Fairs, Actively exploring Nurse Family Partnership
Family Support Specialist	Help recruit and work with families who are a part of the (EEMG) Early Education Matching Grant recipients. Help engage families in a variety of means
Glad Tiding Church	Sponsor and host family nights at area elementary school. Looking into opening a high quality child care program
Muncie Community Schools	"popsicle nights" inviting existing and future families to come to schools. Large Community Wide Kindergarten Registration.
Ross Community Center	Hosting Supporting Families workshops and play and learn sessions
Boys and Girls Club/Buley/Motivate Our Minds	Messaging to families who enroll children, disseminate info
B5 Task Forces	Families - working on additional messaging and ACTION items Early Learning Experiences - Developing at transition strategies for families, early childhood educators and schools

B) In order to fulfill the mission/vision of B5 "For a stronger Delaware County ALL children are Kindergarten ready by 2020" the community is aware that the involvement and support for families is critical to the success of our efforts. B5 has a "Families" task force that is currently developing strategies and ideas around how best to support families in our community. The Delaware County community partners have identified that family and neighborhood engagement is critical and that families understand the importance of early learning, as well as their "teaching role" in the birth through age 5 years.

Many existing agencies operate specific programs for the families they serve, all in the hopes that they can support family engagement on some level. The community has done an assessment on the different types of programs available for families of young children throughout Delaware County, and there are many from which to choose. A few areas that came to light as potential opportunities for growth are 1) increase the number of participants in existing activities; 2) develop a comprehensive means of communicating with families regarding the many opportunities available to them in Delaware County; 3) utilize the existing relationships built within the early childhood community to expand on family engagement activities. Coordinating a systematic means in which families can see all the services and activities available to them can help ensure a greater participation among families, as well as increase the potential for family engagement in the birth through age 3 years.

C) Delaware County will utilize its existing infrastructure of early childhood providers, social service agencies, churches, schools, businesses, and neighborhood associations to help communicate the availability of the opportunity for families to participate in the Pre-K pilot program. A multi-faceted approach to enrolling and recruiting families will enable us to meet the goal of the number of children eligible to enroll. The B5 task force, with the assistance from a marketing firm, will help create a community communications plan to disseminate information to all community partners. The goal will be for families to have a central point of contact (as determined by FSSA) with regard to eligibility requirements and consumer education on options for placement. Following our selection for the Early Education Matching Grant program, Delaware County will have a Family Support Specialist. This person will be recruiting children for Early Education Matching Grant participation and will come in contact with, and develop relationships with families who will want to consider enrollment in the Indiana Early Learning Program, should we be selected.

IV. Provider Capacity

A) Delaware County currently has 12 child care programs (centers and homes) that are currently eligible to be a site for a child who is eligible to enroll. Contact was made with the childcare programs listed in the following chart to gauge potential capacity in the fall of 2015. This chart depicts the potential capacity of existing providers as well as potential capacity of providers who are in the "pipeline" and are actively working towards obtaining their Level 3 PTQ status and could be ready by January 2015.

Existing Eligible Providers			
Name of Eligible Providers	Type of Eligible Provider	PTQ Level	Estimated Capacity for NEW 4year olds in 2015
Apple Tree Child Development	Licensed Center	4	20
Child Study Center	Licensed home	4	2
BSU Child Study Center	Licensed home	4	2
Huffer Memorial Children's	Licensed Center	4	30
Kinder Care Learning Center	Licensed Center	4	5
Playtime Child Care Home	Licensed home	4	0
Precious Little Angels	Licensed home	4	1
United Day Care Center	Licensed Center	4	22
Wee Wisdom	Licensed Center	4	2
Angie Kiddie Kollege	Licensed Home	3	1
Countryside Child Care Center	Licensed Center	3	10
Dollhouse Child Care Home	Licensed Home	3	1

Total 96

Potential Eligible Providers by 2015			
Head Start TRC	Licensed Center	Current Level 2 actively working towards Level 3	31
Kidz Korner	Licensed Center	Current Level 2 actively working towards Level 3	20

Total 147

Potential NEW Eligible Partner Providers		
Muncie Community Schools	2 classrooms to open and operate licensed child care PTQL 3 sites in partnership	30
County School in Delaware	1 classroom to open and operate licensed child care PTQL 3 sites in partnership	15

Total 192

B) Delaware County has identified increased access to High Quality Preschool environments as a piece of the overall strategic plan to meet our goal "For a Stronger Delaware County ALL children will be Kindergarten Ready by 2020". We not only have identified the need for more children to have access to high quality preschool, we have also identified certain pockets geographically where there is limited availability of high quality environments. Delaware County B5, along with our partner Huffer/Child Care Resource & Referral, will work to employ a blended model approach to increase capacity to serve more children in areas where there currently is no availability. This means working with existing child care providers in targeted areas to increase their quality. We will also form new partnerships with Muncie Community and Delaware County schools to develop High Quality Preschool programs within existing school buildings in high need geographic areas and low performing

schools. We will target NEW sites that will be eligible to participate by July 2015. With additional sites we could serve approximately 45 additional children on top of the existing capacity mentioned above, bringing our Potential Total Capacity to approximately 160 – 190 4 year old children.

V. Financial Match

A) The Delaware County community as a whole has expressed excitement about the Pre-K Pilot opportunity. Our previous commitment demonstrated in the early childhood realm, in conjunction with the current momentum generated around the B5 Early Childhood movement, positions Delaware County to be able to secure a financial match necessary for implementation. Although no funds have been secured for this specific Pre-K Pilot opportunity as of yet, funds were most recently obtained for participation in the Early Education Matching Grants (EEMG). Delaware County was well represented with four NAEYC Accredited not-for-profit child care programs, working in collaboration to develop unique solutions to provide comprehensive preschool services for 44 additional children in Delaware County. Three funders committed funds, thus exceeding the required 1:1 match component prescribed by the Early Education Matching Grants.

As detailed in the Community Engagement section B, Delaware County has demonstrated a strong commitment to early childhood programs and has supported not only those programs and initiatives financially but with time, talent and advocacy as well. B5, as the designated Lead Respondent for the 2014 Indiana Early Learning Pilot Grant Program, will help coordinate solicitation and commitments from funders for Early Learning Pilot Program. B5 will return to previous funders (local foundations, City of Muncie and corporate entities) who have previously demonstrated commitment to begin the process of advocating on behalf of the Early Learning Pilot Program.

B) With the time constraints surrounding the "Statement of County Readiness", Delaware County has not yet identified a plan to sustain the support for the Pre-K pilot program beyond the term of this program. The discussion among community members and spheres of influence has generated excitement about alignment with our goals surrounding early childhood. It is the belief and desire that some of these initiatives (Early Education Matching Grant, Early Head Start- Child Care Partnership and Pre-K Pilot program) will grow momentum within Delaware County and go forward based on identified needs.

VI. County Readiness and Program Implementation

Delaware County will be ready to engage in the Pre-K Pilot Program in January 2015 with partial participation with regards to implementation, and full participation beginning in July of 2015. Four large eligible childcare providers are currently involved with the Early Education Matching Grants; the target date for full implementation (including any new partners) will be July of 2015. Meeting the recruitment components as well as the community and family engagement will occur through the existing network of social service agencies and community partners. Communication channels are currently being developed to ensure a more fluid form of communication across multiple entities. This will encourage more participation in all services

offered throughout the community. As evidenced by our Kickoff to Kindergarten program and the impending Early Education Matching Grants, social service agencies and community partners see themselves as a critical component to getting the message out, especially to families identified as high need in specific geographic locations. Ultimately with the potential inclusion of the Pre-K Pilot program in Delaware County, we will continue to build a system of early childhood that supports the healthy development of all children, helping to ensure that ALL children are Kindergarten ready by the year 2020. Delaware County knows that the future prosperity of our community lies within the future of our youngest citizens.