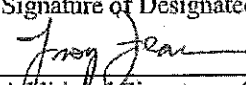
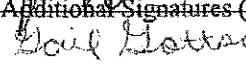
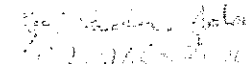
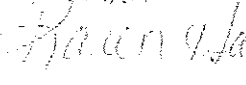


WRITTEN STATEMENT OF COUNTY READINESS

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: Vigo County	
Legal Name: United Way of the Wabash Valley	Mailing Address: 2901 Ohio Blvd., Suite 215 Terre Haute, IN 47803
Contact Name: Claudia Tanoos Contact Title: President, (Single point of contact for communication) Success By 6 Leadership Committee	Contact Phone: 812/234-2524 Contact Email Address: ctanoos@terrehauteedc.com
COUNTY INFORMATION	
Co-Respondents (please list):	Estimated Number of Children to be Served (county-wide): 475
Gail Gottschling, Director, ISU Early Child Education Center Nic Tacker, Administrator, Small World Learning Center Christi Fenton, VCSC, Exec. Director for Elementary Ed. and Title 1 Karen Harding, CEO, Chances and Services for Youth (CASY)	Estimated Number of Eligible Providers (county-wide): 27
AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE	
I HEREBY CERTIFY that, to the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this statement is correct.	
Designated Representative (Printed Name): Troy Fears	Title: Executive Director
Signature of Designated Representative: 	Date: 6/30/2014
Additional Signatures (of co-respondents, if necessary):  Gail Gottschling, Director, ISU ECC  Nic Tacker, Administrator, Small World Learning Center  Karen Harding, CEO, CASY	

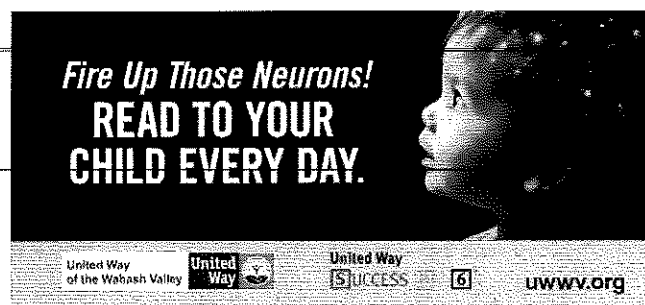
Vigo County: Ready for Early Education Success

Vigo County has been ready to participate in Indiana's Early Learning Pilot Grant Program since 2007, that is when United Way of the Wabash Valley officially set aside funds to establish a Success By 6 Leadership Committee. Success By 6 (SB6) was rolled-out nationally by United Way of America in the early 90s; today there are over 400 such committees across 42 states. Every Success By 6 program is different, each community has the autonomy to focus on the early education issues they feel are most important in their area. Even though the focus may be different, each SB6 program is built on a framework of community collaborations. SB6 is a community building initiative that brings business, schools, government, service organizations and individuals together to build public awareness, influence public policies, and increase access to services – all with the goal of seeing our young children ready to learn when they start school.

The Success by 6 Leadership Committee of the United Way of the Wabash Valley is ready to serve as the lead agency in Vigo County as part of Indiana's Early Learning Pilot Grant Program. The SB6 Leadership Committee already has key community members such as Christi Fenton, Executive Director of Elementary Education and Title 1 for Vigo County Schools, Claudia Tanoos the Vice-president of Terre Haute Economic Development (and SB6 President), Karen Harding, Chief Executive Officer of CASY, and Nic Tacker, Administrator for Small World Learning Center, a Paths to Quality Level 3 provider and current Early Education Matching Grant holder. United Way of the Wabash Valley will be the administrator for the project. Finally, we will utilize our network of community stakeholders and media connections to fundraise for and promote the importance of early childhood education.

United Way of the Wabash Valley holds several fund raising events each year that specifically designate Success By 6 initiatives. Events such as *Power of the Purse*, *Rush the Punter*, and the *Goose Poop 5K* helped raised over \$110,000 for SB 6 programs last year. These events have given SB6 a strong network of businesses and donors who we know will financially support early education initiatives.

Thanks to a grant from the Indiana Association of United Ways, SB6 has utilized \$50,000 over the past year to run a marketing campaign to raise community awareness that preparing children for school begins at birth. In addition to the marketing, SB6 has also conducted community surveys to ensure that the message is getting out there and it is being received. We know that Vigo County is ready to support a PreK program for ALL 4 year olds and the SB6 committee of the United Way of the Wabash Valley is ready to lead the way.



Vigo County: Ready for Early Education Success

Vigo County is a great area to live and raise a family, even though the numbers may tell a dismal story. Current data from *STATSIndiana* shows Vigo County as one of the bottom 10 counties for poverty: 29% of our children live in poverty (rank #7), we have an unemployment rate of 9.5% (rank #6) and the median household income of \$40,091 is one of the worse in the state(rank #9). But with all of this stacked against it, Vigo County is also a very giving community and judging from the community programs that are child focused this community has set childhood education as a high priority.

Community Engagement - Early Learning Programs

Success By 6 Leadership Committee of the United Way of the Wabash Valley

- *Mother Goose on the Loose* - This is a collaborative project with the Vigo County Public Library(VCPL). The program, administered by the VCPL, provides a reader/instructor who visits child care sites with a high percentage of low-income children (based on CCDF numbers). The reader demonstrates to the provider how to turn a basic 30-minute book reading lesson into an early literacy skill building lesson by incorporating music, movement, nursery rhymes, puppets, colorful scarves, and positive reinforcement. SB6 provides \$15,000 annually to the VCPL to assist with personnel costs, the purchase of books for every child, and literacy kits for the provider to use to extend the literacy skill building lesson. In 2013, there were 360 site visits with 2,915 children served.
- *Born Learning Trails*- A Born Learning Trail is an outdoor interactive trail that contains a series of engaging signs to help parents, grandparents, and caregivers turn a trip to the park into a fun, learning experience. Each trail costs approximately \$1,500. SB6 currently has two trails in Terre Haute city parks, and is currently working with VCPL to place a third one for the county on the grounds of the main branch. We do not have a way to count how many children use the trails.
- *Kindergarten Readiness Calendars* - For the past three years, SB6 has worked with Vigo County School Corporation (VCSC) and the VCPL to produce and distribute a "Getting Ready for Kindergarten" calendar. The calendar is distributed in early summer via child care providers and local businesses. The calendar is designed to provide parents of 3 and 4-year old children a year-round calendar of activities (Aug. thru July) to prepare their child for kindergarten. Last year SB6 distributed 4000 calendars at a total cost of \$2,000.
- *Community Marketing Program* - In 2013, with a \$50,000 grant from the Indiana United Ways SB6 worked with MillerWhite to develop an ad campaign that focused on school success begins at birth by reading to your child every day. From August 2013 to May 2014 TV ads and billboard ads ran alternately. Our next step will be to conduct a community-wide survey to study the impact of the advertising. We have \$4,000 budgeted for the survey to be conducted by an ISU marketing class.

- *Professional Development grants for Child Care Providers* - SB6 budgets \$4,000 each year for professional development grants for child care providers and their staff to attend educational conference. In 2013, a total of 21 providers/staff received \$1,800 in funding.

Resource and Referral Department of Chances and Services for Youth(CASY)

The following trainings conducted by CASY's Resource and Referral staff are supported with community funding.

- *Nemours/Early Care and Education Learning Collaborative*-A child care collaborative to support eating healthier, moving more, and growing up healthy and ready to learn! Nearly 200 Licensed Center staff trained in this first year impacting around 1050 children.
- *Growing Up Wild* is an early childhood education program that builds on children's sense of wonder about nature and invites them to explore wildlife and the world around them. Through a wide range of activities and experiences, Growing Up WILD provides an early foundation for developing positive impressions about the natural world and lifelong social and academic skills. Over 200 child care providers trained impacting roughly 1500 children
- *I am Moving, I am Learning* This national Head Start created campaign focuses on getting young children moving, learning, and eating nutritiously for better growth physically and mentally leading to better school success and a lifetime of learning. Around 100 providers trained impacting around 1200 children.
- *Project Brain Tree* Training and resources on the development of literacy and mathematical skills to assist child care providers in helping preschool children to be better prepared for success in school. Roughly 200 providers trained and over 1500 children impacted

Higher Education Involvement

- Indiana State University
 - Community School for the Arts(CSA) provides art and music lessons to early learners. *Swirls and Twirls: Music and Movement* for children 4 and younger. The class encourages children to explore movement through music. *Squiggles and Doodles: Preschool* introduces art to children 4 and under. Scholarships available for low-income families.
- Ivy Tech Community College -each spring ITCC holds *Matter in Motion* a day of great science activities children, including a special pre-school section.

Terre Haute Children's Museum

- *Tot Time* is an interactive, science-based educational program for children ages 2 - 5. Programs are held twice a month. Children participate in story time, perform science-related projects and experiments, and learn how science is all around them. Admission is free thanks to funding from Altrusa International of Terre Haute.
- *Toddler Zone* is a great play and learning space for early learners with a safe carpeted climbing structure, padded floors and a variety of age-appropriate books and toys.

Vigo County School Corporation

- *Vikes and Tykes Pre-K* - As part of VCSC's college and Career readiness a Vikes and Tykes Pre-K and daycare was established 2001 at West Vigo High School. It has allowed for teacher training while providing a quality early childhood program.
- *Big Buddy Little Buddy* is a transition to kindergarten opportunity at our Title I schools. It allows young children in the spring of their 4 year old year to interact with teachers and other students at their "new" school.
- *Pre-K programs* – Currently six sites provide Pre-K ½ day programs through Title I funding. Over 200 children are currently enrolled. A seventh site will be up and runner next school year.

Community Engagement - Early Learning Funding

United Way of the Wabash Valley

- Program Funding - The United Way of the Wabash Valley helps fund over 68 community programs provided by 30 member agencies. There are only two programs in Vigo County that specifically target early learning programs.
 - CASY - Child Care Resource and Referral - received \$19,600, Funds are used to conduct workshops and on-site child care assistance to providers and their staff needing additional resources to move up the Paths to QUALITY levels. Program assisted approximately 350 providers/staff in Vigo County, who care for over 1100 children.
 - United Child Care Center-received \$46,000. Program funding is used to provide scholarships for families, programs, staff development, salaries and program expenses. UCCC has reached the Paths to Quality 4 level. It has the capacity to care of 30 children
- Special Fundraising Initiatives for SB6
 - *Power of the Purse* - The Power of the Purse is held in October each year at the Hulman Civic Center, with over 581 attendees who pay \$35/ticket for the opportunity to share in a "Taste of Terre Haute" luncheon provided by 15 area restaurants. The event also includes a silent auction and a live auction of designer purses "stuffed" with extra special items. In 2013, the event raised \$75,000 for SB6
 - *Rush the Punter* - Terre Haute native Steve Weatherford, punter for the New York Giants, hosts a 5k run in April. Each year the money raised goes to a United Way Initiative. In 2013, the event drew over 850 participants and raised \$10,000 for SB6. If Vigo County is selected for the PreK Pilot program it is planned to request this funding again.
 - *Goose Poop 5K* - This fun family event got its name because the 5k trail for this run winds through Hawthorne Park which is the home to many Canadian geese. The event attracted 400 participants of all ages and raised \$5,000 for SB6.

- *Women of Influence* – Honors successful women in the community each April and has targeted their fund raising effort for SB6 by donating \$20,000 over the last 3 years.

Gift-in-Kind Marketing

- **Tribune-Star Newspaper** - The Tribune-Star newspaper serves Vigo County and the surrounding area. For the past two years the paper has provided SB6 with a 3 x 10 ad space monthly which is used to promote early literacy activities. The ad intentionally runs in the paper's School Zone which runs on Thursdays; the intent for this was to link early literacy to school readiness. The estimated value of this is \$6,000.
- **WTWO - Live at Five - CASY Resource and Referral specialists** are on air once a month at WTWO to discuss early literacy activities for parents to do with their children to encourage early learning. WTWO reaches 15 counties in Indiana and Illinois and serves approximately 376,000 people.

Wabash Valley Community Foundation

- **Hamilton Center-Early Head Start** received \$2,000 award to support an Art and Music program for toddlers.
- **Day Nursery Fund** - The Terre Haute Day Nursery established an endowment in 1997 when it closed its long running child care facility. Today the endowment provides tuition assistance and/or program development for area child care providers.

Vigo County School Corporation

- *PreK in VCSC* - Title I dollars were providing FDK until the state began funding at a higher rate. Last year, a total of \$556,512.10 was used to support 6 sites and 12 programs for Pre-K. VCSC will be adding an additional site next school year with approximately the same funding. They have continued to add programs since the first program at Deming School was established with great success in 2009.

Vigo County Education Foundation (VCEF)

- *Give-A-Book* - With generous support from Terre Haute Savings Bank, Bette Lanke ReMax Realty, and St. Mary of the Woods College the VCEF every kindergarten student in Vigo County is given a book that has been personalized with their name, their school and their teacher's name in hopes of getting each child excited about reading.
- *Mini-grants* - PreK teachers are eligible to apply for grants of up to \$750 for early literacy programs; family literacy events are particularly encouraged.

Family Engagement-Area Services

Hamilton Center - Infant and Toddler Services

- *Healthy Families* This intensive home visiting program is designed to enhance early childhood outcomes and prevent child abuse and neglect. Enrollment is offered to expectant families and families with newborns who have been identified as having high stress in their lives. Services focus on strengthening families through parent education, support and advocacy.

- *Early Head Start* This program is designed to provide early support to families of infants and toddlers, support which will enhance the child's development through healthy beginnings and the continuity of responsive and caring relationships.

Family Engagement-Assistance to Providers

Success By 6 Leadership Committee of United Way of the Wabash Valley

- *Mini-Grants for Child Care Providers to develop family literacy programs* - For the 2014/15 school year, SB6 has set aside \$20,000 for mini-grants to licensed child care providers who currently participate in Paths to Quality; unlicensed registered ministries participating in Paths to Quality; or Pre-K programs associated with state accredited educational programs. The mini-grants will provide up to \$500 (for sites with less than 16 children) or up to \$1000 (sites with over 16 children) for providers to develop literacy activities that are family centered. These may be family events that take place at the child care site and/or literacy kits that the child takes home to share with family. One of the main requirements of the program is that every child is to receive a book to keep. SB6 released the RFP for the first time in late May with a due date of July 1. As of June 25th we had received 14 proposals, which represents 426 children. The proposals will be reviewed in July and the funds distributed in August.

Vigo County School Corporation

- As part of the Pre-K programs in the VCSC, there is an expectation of involving parents in everyday activities as well as special Family Days. Parents are frequently provided take-home activities to support school learning at home.

Family Engagement - Identification and Enrollment of Eligible Children

If selected as part of the PreK Pilot program we will partner with media outlets and agencies in our communities that have direct links to parents of young children:

- Licensed child care providers who receive the CASY Provider newsletter (225),
- Union Associated Physicians Clinic (UAP)/Family Medicine
- Vigo County School Corporation
- Terre Haute Housing Authority - In particular, there are several large housing areas for young families who qualify for subsidized housing;
- SB6 will use its gift-in-kind ad space to promote it in the Tribune-Star, as well as promoting in on television during Live at Five.
- Partner with Catholic Charities and other area food banks to help publicize the availability of PreK assistance.
- Partner with Vigo County Public Library

Provider Capacity

(A)There are currently 25 Paths To QUALITY (PTQ) Level 3 facilities including 3 licensed centers and 22 licensed family child care homes. There are 11 PTQ Level 4 facilities that include

4 licensed centers and 7 licensed family child care homes. Combined these sites have the capacity to enroll 899 children. CASY's most recent inquiry found 73 openings for new enrollees of any age.

B-CASY Child Care Resource & Referral is currently mentoring 84 level 1 and 2 child care sites that have expressed interest in actively progressing. CASY will continue those efforts to assist these facilities reach level 3 to expand our capacity. In addition, CASY will continue to outreach to all Unlicensed Registered Ministries to gain interest in receiving their Voluntary Certification so that they can participate in Paths to QUALITY and achieve PTQ level 3. Using a best case scenario, we could say that half of these sites will achieve level 3, and they could at best open 200 new slots for low-income 4-year old children, add-in the possibility of VCSC opening additional sites. We estimate being able to fill at least 75% of the underserved children.

As a community partner, The Vigo County School Corporation has expressed interest in working towards licensure with one of their preschool programs, Vykes and Tykes, which currently serves pre-K children. The VCSC has actively promoted additional sites for the future. They anticipate opening an additional site in the event of receiving the Pre-K Pilot grant.

Financial Match

At this time Vigo County partners have not contacted any companies, agencies or individuals to begin building the necessary cash match. However, as noted throughout this proposal, each partner comes with strong backing from the community. We are confident that given the knowledge that we can strengthen our community by helping to provide early education opportunities for our neediest children we can find the financial support.

County Readiness and Program Implementation

If selected as one of the pilot counties for Indiana's Early Learning program we are ready to hit the ground running! CASY already has 84 PTQ level 1 and 2 providers ready to work towards Level 3; in addition we have several very good unlicensed registered ministries that have shown interest in enrolling in the PTQ program. In addition, we have marketing plans in place that can be utilized to raise community awareness of the project and help raise funds. We are confident that we will be ready by January 1, 2015.

In closing, SB6 has been working hard since 2007 to build the community's awareness of the importance of early education. We know that we have a community that is committed to seeing our young children succeed and when asked to support Vigo County's children they will help.