



The Wabash Valley is made up of problem solvers, difference makers, and opportunity creators.

Together, we're on a mission to change lives forever in our community by investing in programs focused on our BOLD GOAL!

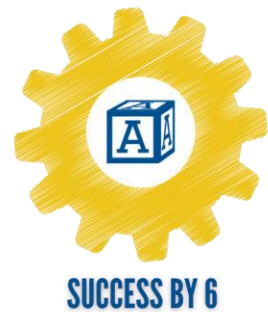
**United Way
of the Wabash Valley**



United Way of the Wabash Valley, Inc. Collective Impact Grant Opportunity Announcement *Request for Proposals*

Issuing Impact Council: **Success By 6**

The Success By 6 Impact Council, is a multi-sector volunteer committee of nonprofit, government, education, and business leaders with expertise in and passion for promoting healthy early childhood development to ensure children enter school ready to succeed. Learn more of their work, strategies, and membership at www.uwv.org/our-work/success-by-6.



Grant Title:	Quality Childcare Initiative 2022
Announcement Date:	September 2022
Fiscal Year Funding:	2023-2024

Contained in this document is the grant overview, schedule, application requirements, and instructions to provide a proposal to United Way of the Wabash Valley, Inc.

Overview of Funding Opportunity

Community Impact Goal

United Way of the Wabash Valley (UWWV) works with and for our community to create lasting solutions to our greatest challenges. We envision a thriving, inspired community focused on care and collaboration. We pursue this by convening the community to address key issues, collaborating to achieve a measurable impact, and connecting human and financial resources to improve lives.

In the United Way service area (Clay, Parke, Sullivan, Vermillion and Vigo Counties in Indiana and Clark County in Illinois), more than 33,000 households live below a bare bones financial income referred to as ALICE (see www.uwwv.org/ALICE). *UWWV is working toward a long-term bold goal for the community of moving 10,000 households out of financial struggles and into stability.* We invite applicants to propose initiatives that will help us reach that goal.

Issue Background

The UWWV Success By 6 Impact Council (UWWV SB6) will impact the ALICE population by investing in efforts to promote healthy early childhood development so that children enter school ready to succeed. The UWWV SB6 believes that the availability of high-quality childcare will positively impact the measurements for “kindergarten readiness.”

In the Wabash Valley, some of the biggest challenges that children face originate with their preparation for school. In 2021, just 22.5% of children ages birth to 5 who needed childcare had access to high-quality programs. The state of Indiana was at 26%. In some counties, high-quality programs do not even exist. An estimated half of Hoosier children arrive in kindergarten lacking basic academic and behavioral skills. It is important for children to enter school prepared to succeed in their educational progression.

Multiple long-term studies (*Abecedarian Project, High Scope/Perry Preschool, Chicago Child-Parent Centers, etc.*) have shown significant long-term positive outcomes with attendance in high-quality childcare programs as compared with control groups. Long-term outcomes included:

- Increased high school graduation rates
- Higher earnings and higher employment; higher placement rates in high-skilled jobs
- Reduced criminal activity (lower rates of both juvenile and adult criminal activity)
- Lower teen parenting rates
- Less receipt of welfare and social services

Ensuring availability and affordability of high-quality childcare in the Wabash Valley is an economic driver for our community and will lead to success. To increase the number of children entering kindergarten ready-to-learn (i.e. kindergarten readiness), the UWWV recognizes the need to reduce the financial barriers that will allow childcare facilities to achieve licensure and high-quality ratings under the state’s system for regulating such facilities.

Grant Goals

UWWV SB6 is soliciting proposals to expand the capacity of state-recognized high-quality childcare facilities in the Wabash Valley. Qualified applicants may request funds for expenses which will:

- Allow childcare programs to become eligible to enroll in and attain a Level 3 or 4 on the *Paths to QUALITY* Rating Scale or *ExceleRate Illinois* to improve the quality of care provided to children;

- Or
- Allow Level 3 or 4 programs to expand regulated capacity;
- Or
- Allow Unlicensed Registered Ministries to meet quality standards to enroll in and attain a Level 3 or 4 in *Paths to QUALITY* or *ExceleRate Illinois*.

Grant Funding Available

The UWWV SB6 Impact Council has made available up to \$150,000 in funding to be provided over two years (24 calendar months from grant start date). Applicants will be allowed to apply for a minimum of \$5,000 (per year) up to a maximum of \$20,000 (per year) for investment in 2023 and 2024.

Grant Required Outputs/Outcomes

United Way of the Wabash Valley is committed to bringing our community together to pursue a bold goal to of moving 10,000 households out of financial struggles and into stability. The organization will use the biennially produced ALICE Project report to measure progress toward this long-term outcome.

The Success By 6 Impact Council will measure the contributing outcome of “kindergarten readiness” within all Wabash Valley school corporations. To contribute to success in this outcome, this grant requires the applicant to accomplish one of the following outputs:

1. Increase regulated capacity in an existing Level 3 or 4 *Paths to QUALITY* or *ExceleRate Illinois* program;
Or,
2. Attain Level 3 or 4 in *Paths to QUALITY* or *ExceleRate Illinois* for an existing program;
Or,
3. For a new program, show progress toward enrolling in *Paths to QUALITY* or *ExceleRate Illinois* and attaining Level 3 or 4.

Grant Timeline

There are no exceptions to any deadlines for the applicant; however, UWWV reserves the right to change the dates with proper communication to potential applicants. All times provided are in Eastern Time.

Milestone Activity	Date
Grant announcement. Solicitation for required Letter of Intent (LOI)	September 1, 2022
LOI and Stewardship Package Meeting. Organizations interested in submitting an LOI are required to attend. RSVP to Dorothy Chambers at 812.235.6287 or dchambers@uwwv.org.	September 27, 2022 at 5:30 pm ET
LOI is due electronically via e-CImpact to UWWV by 12:00 midnight	October 7, 2022
Notification of application status. Only approved submissions will proceed beyond this point.	October 14, 2022
Important meeting for online application orientation and training. RSVP to Dorothy Chambers at 812.235.6287 or dchambers@uwwv.org.	October 20, 2022 at 5:00 pm ET
Grant application period	October 20, 2022- November 23, 2022

Full application electronic submission is due to the UWWV by 12:00 midnight ET	November 23, 2022
Review of applications	November 23, 2022- January 6, 2023
Notification of awards	January 30, 2023
Funding period begins	February 2023

Eligibility

Eligibility to apply for this funding opportunity will be based upon an initial Stewardship Review of Eligible Applicants and their submitted Letter of Intent and Stewardship Documentation Checklist.

Eligible Applicants

United Way of the Wabash Valley Success By 6 Impact Council (UWWV SB6) invites applications from:

1. Licensed childcare centers or homes that operate year-round and that participate in *Paths to QUALITY* in Clay, Parke, Sullivan, Vermillion, or Vigo Counties in Indiana or *ExceleRate Illinois* in Clark County Illinois;
2. Unlicensed registered ministries that operate year-round and that participate in or are actively working toward *Paths to QUALITY* in Clay, Parke, Sullivan, Vermillion, or Vigo Counties in Indiana or *ExceleRate Illinois* in Clark Co Illinois.
3. New or currently operating exempt programs that operate year-round in Clay, Parke, Sullivan, Vermillion, or Vigo Counties in Indiana or in Clark County Illinois that are seeking licensure and having a commitment to participate in Paths to QUALITY or *ExceleRate Illinois*.

For more information on *Paths to QUALITY*: <https://brighterfuturesindiana.org/parents/paths-to-quality>
 For more information on *ExceleRate Illinois*: <http://exceleRateillinois.com/>

Please note:

- For existing licensed or registered facilities, license or registration status must be in good standing for a period of one year.
- Providers *who offer pre-K programs* must agree to participate in the On My Way Pre-K program.

Letter of Intent (LOI)

All applicants must submit an online Letter of Intent (LOI) indicating their interest in this funding opportunity. These letters will be used to narrow the field of applicants to a reasonable number who will be asked to submit a full proposal. Organizations are **required** to attend the LOI and Stewardship Package meeting either virtually or in person.

The LOI will provide the following information:

- the name and address of the childcare program, owner name, and contact information
- the license or Registered Ministry status, confirmation of the tax status of the program. **For new providers**, include completion date for applicable orientation sessions 1 and 2.

- the childcare program’s current and expected *Paths to QUALITY* or *Excelerate Illinois* rating level and regulated capacity.
- a description of the proposed project and how it fits the provider’s mission and goals.
- the amount of funding being requested, the intended use of the funds, and a brief description of how the funds will help the project achieve the outputs/outcomes listed for this grant opportunity. The amount requested in the LOI is not binding but should be a reasonable estimate and will be used in evaluating the LOI. If the project is selected for a full application, the budget can be adjusted as supported in the application.

Stewardship Package Requirements

A Stewardship Documentation Checklist will be provided and reviewed at the **required** LOI and Stewardship Package meeting listed in the grant timeline. Minimum criteria for organizations to apply for grant funding will be included on this checklist and include, but are not limited to the following:

- Current fiscal year budget for the applying organization (**For new providers:** projected fiscal year budget)
- Proof of financial oversight/organization’s financial review (**For new providers:** plan for financial oversight/review)
- Board of directors roster and recent board meeting minutes (as applicable)
- Stated policies of nondiscrimination and compliance with all the requirements of state and federal laws and regulation on nondiscrimination and equal opportunity
- Certified compliance with U.S. Patriot Act including recommended counterterrorism measures

Application Content

Application Overview

UWWV uses Seabrook’s e-CImpact™ Grant Management Community Impact Software system for submission and review of issued funding opportunities. The grant application will require the following content to be completed and submitted online by the applicant.

- a. Applicant Organization General Information
- b. Program/Initiative Proposal General Information
- c. Project Narrative (*see explanation below*)
- d. Project Workplan (*see explanation below*)
- e. Project Budget and Budget Narrative (*see explanation below*)
- f. Additional Documents (*at discretion of applicant*)

Items *a - c* will be a series of online forms and text boxes; items *d* and *e* will be PDF attachments to be uploaded to the online application. The following instructions provide details for the completion of each section of the proposal.

Project Narrative

The Quality Childcare Initiative seeks qualified applicants that will increase regulated capacity in an existing Levels 3 or 4 *Paths to QUALITY* or *Excelerate Illinois* childcare program; or attain Level 3 or 4 in *Paths to QUALITY* or *Excelerate Illinois* at an existing childcare program; or progress toward licensing and participation in *Paths to Quality* at a new program. The project narrative should provide a simple but

detailed description of what the applicant is intending to do with this grant money. The narrative should also describe how the grant funds will help the program achieve the required outputs/outcomes referred to in this Request for Proposals.

Project Workplan

The applicant shall develop a detailed work plan that will outline all activities described in the project narrative. The workplan should be laid out as a table and contain the following minimum elements:

- **Activities:** All activities should be included in the workplan as line items.
- **Responsible Party:** For each activity in the workplan, identify the organization and/or staff member responsible and/or involved in the activity.
- **Timeline:** Outline the specific time period, with start dates and end dates, during which each activity will occur.

The workplan should contain all required elements to fully implement the proposed program and achieve the required outputs/outcomes including key meetings, development time, identified milestones, reporting requirements, target outputs/outcomes achieved, etc.

Project Budget & Budget Narrative

The Project Budget and Budget Narrative should be combined into a single document. The applicant may choose the format, making sure the financial content and associated narrative explanations are easy to review and understand.

The budget should provide the details for each budget line item for the proposal, listing the total cost of each with the associated narrative explaining how such items were calculated. For example, costs for personnel should show the annual salary rate and the percentage of time devoted to the project for each employee that may be paid with grant funding. The budget should present—as completely as possible—an itemization of all proposed costs for the two years of the project.

If the applicant is requesting funding to support or expand an existing program, the budget narrative should include details on how the funds will be used, and the budget should represent the entire program as well as highlight the use of the grant funding.

Finally, the budget narrative should also provide details on how the budget will allow for sustainability of the childcare program.

Selection Criteria

UWWV's *Investment Strategies and Partnership Requirements Manual* provides a description and additional insight to the Standardized Grant Process. The manual is available at www.uwwv.org/how-we-invest.

UWWV staff members do not make selection decisions for grant applications. Rather, UWWV recruits volunteers to participate in the evaluation process. As the manual describes, volunteers are trained to use the "Best Investment Criteria" as they review applications and make their decisions. "Best Investment Criteria" refer to the programs that most clearly demonstrate:

- **ALIGNMENT:** Connection between program goals, UWWV Impact Council metric(s), and the Bold Goal for our community.

- **IMPACT:** Effectiveness of programming as reflected by evaluation efforts and evidence-based outcomes
- **RESOURCES:** Access to the resources (staff, experience, financial, etc.) to successfully implement the program

The following additional criteria are not required items but are recommended in order to allow applicants to enhance their submission based on these most basic evaluation criteria.

Organizational Capacity

- The applicant organization has provided a clear explanation of its mission, vision, and goals.
- The applicant organization’s budget is consistent in terms of past, current, and proposed fiscal years, and acceptable accounting practices are used.
- The applicant organization possesses the staff, space, equipment, and general organizational capacity to implement the outcomes.
- The applicant organization demonstrates the knowledge required to successfully provide programs of the quality proposed in this initiative through past experience or existing programs.
- Evidence of community engagement and partnerships is preferred.

Achieving Results/Program Evaluation

- The application clearly describes how the new program will be evaluated for effectiveness.
- The application confirms how results data will be collected and reported.

Program Budget & Expenditure Detail

- If the program currently exists, the application adequately describes current funding sources.
- The grant request amount seems adequate to support the proposed initiative/program.
- The application adequately describes how the requested grant funding will be used.

Sustainability

- The application describes a plan to ensure the sustainability of the program after the grant period ends and funds have been expended.
- The application includes information on additional resources or community partnerships that could be drawn upon, if necessary, to ensure sustainability.

Application Instructions & Guidance

All applicants are encouraged to review the “Standardized Grant Process” section (p. 19) of the *UWWV Investment Strategies and Partnership Requirements Manual* (www.uwwv.org/how-we-invest). The manual provides key details on selection criteria for submitted applications.

IMPORTANT: UWWV awards full requests only; partial funding will not be considered. Because of this, it is important that applicants request exactly what is needed. For example, applicants should not request \$25,000, expecting to receive \$15,000 in funding; this could disqualify a proposal from consideration.

The UWWV Community Impact Staff is the primary point of contact during the application process, from the issue date of the RFP until selection of the successful applicant(s). The Community Impact Staff for this RFP is:

Dorothy Chambers
 100 S. 7th Street, Terre Haute, IN 47807
 812.235.6287
dchambers@uwwv.org

From the issue date of this RFP until announcement of the successful applicant(s), all questions, requests for clarification, and suggested changes may be addressed only to UWWV staff. UWWV assumes no responsibility for verbal representations made by its officers or employees unless such representations are confirmed in writing (electronic accepted). In addition, the UWWV written responses to questions will not be considered part of the RFP.

UWWV reserves the right to amend or provide clarifications to the RFP at any time. If the amendment occurs after the closing date for receipt of applications, UWWV may, in its sole discretion, allow applicants to amend their applications.

UWWV may request clarification from applicants in order to resolve ambiguities or question information presented in the applications. Clarifications may occur throughout the application review process. Clarification responses shall be in writing (electronic accepted) and shall address only the information requested. Responses shall be submitted to UWWV within the time stipulated with the request.

UWWV acknowledges that selected applicant(s) may contract with third parties for the performance of any of the applicant's obligations. The UWWV reserves the right to provide prior approval for any subcontractor used to perform services under any contract that may result from this RFP.

The application shall be received by the UWWV Community Impact Staff by the time and date specified in the grant timeline. The UWWV will not waive this requirement. Any application received after this deadline will not be considered. Applications must be submitted online through e-CImpact. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the application is received online prior to the deadline.

All programs that are awarded funding through any collective impact grant issued from any UWWV impact council will be required to sign a grant recipient agreement. This agreement will confirm that grant recipients understand all stipulations and requirements of the grant, in order to receive the full designated funding over the grant period. Failure to abide by the stipulations of the grant recipient agreement will result in forfeiture of remaining funds and may prevent the organization from applying for future funds. An example of a grant recipient agreement is included as Attachment E in the *UWWV Investment Strategies and Partnership Requirements Manual*.