

Business Courier of Cincinnati - October 5, 2009  
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## BUSINESS COURIER

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### United Way boosts kindergarten readiness

Business Courier of Cincinnati

**United Way of Greater Cincinnati** is distributing more than \$376,000 to help boost kindergarten education and improve early childhood education regionally, the organization announced in a news release.

The money is part of a series of grants resulting from the organization's Winning Beginnings campaign, which is run separately from the annual United Way fundraising campaign. The Winning Beginnings campaign aims to ensure that every local child has access to high-quality early education programs, and to increase the number of children prepared for success in kindergarten.

The grants announced Monday will support efforts in Hamilton County, Clermont County, Middletown and Northern Kentucky.

Hamilton County Success by 6 will get \$40,492 to provide scholarships for teachers, directors and certified child-care providers pursuing degrees in early childhood education. It also will fund expansion of a Web-based data system.

Clermont County Success by 6 will get \$33,525 to provide coaching, technical assistance and incentives to assist current and future early child care and education programs to participate in the Step Up to Quality program. That program is intended to improve the quality of early care and learning programs.

The Middletown Area Success by 6 initiative fund will get \$20,000 for Born Learning materials, a Middletown Public Library outreach program, a medical and dental outreach clinic at the Early Learning Center and Abilities First Autism Preschool Center.

Four other grants will support Success by 6 in Northern Kentucky. In Covington, the Student Success Network managed by Success by 6 will get \$95,781 to provide literacy coaches to programs, training to parents and to support data input and management to help assess the impact of the various strategies.

Newport's Student Success Network, managed by Success by 6, will get \$77,333 for at-home visitation for children between the ages of 3 and 5, full-day preschool programming, preschool summer programming and resources that help assess the impact of existing educational strategies.

Boone County's Success by 6 initiative will get \$80,150 supporting the continuation and expansion of the Home Instruction of Preschool Youngsters program, the purchase of early care and education screening tools and to provide professional development and training materials for providers administering those assessments.

And, finally, Grant County Success by 6 will get \$29,205 for coaching of early care and education directors, as well as providing access to data input and management that will help assess the impact of Northern Kentucky's educational strategies.

"These Winning Beginnings investments will help prepare local children for kindergarten and ensure they have access to the building blocks for a better life," United Way CEO Rob Reifsnnyder said in the news release. "By supporting home visitation, literacy coaches, training for educators and other resources, we are helping our smallest students get on track in their physical, language and social and emotional development."

The Winning Beginnings campaign has raised just under \$10 million so far, according to the release. The goal is to raise up to \$30 million over five years from private sources. That goal is coupled with a long-term public policy goal to attract more state resources for improving high-quality childhood education.

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