

John Boner Neighborhood Centers, East Tenth United Methodist Children and Youth, and Englewood Christian Church

Program Description

- The near eastside partners identified by the bidder have developed strong relationships in support the mission and vision of this initiative.
- The partners have been providing services the children and adults in this area through collaborative working relationships for several years.
- The implementation approach is well thought out and is currently in place and serving children and adults currently.
- Numerous partnership including Families First services for social and mental health services plus numerous contract services in place for providing wraparound appears to indicate an effective holistic approach so families do not fall in the gaps.
- The logic model is presented in a fairly unique fashion; however, it does indicate upon examination a logical progression for children and adults being served and the outcomes anticipated.
- The bidder presents a strong and experienced team of staff from each of the partners.
- Alignment – Seems to have clear delineation amongst the groups and approaches, though no “vision” listed for daystar and little dove
- Initial recruitment of families is a bit vague, but implementation after is strong
- Preliminary Evidence – Strongly ties to application’s two-pronged approach
- The responsibilities of the Eastside 2020 project director seem excessive as it couples fundraising, evaluation as well as overall program oversight. It reflects the role overload of too many nonprofit organization heads.
- Didn’t see recruitment strategy clearly reflected
- Paths to Quality Level 3 for both East Tenth and Englewood
- Partnership and program alignment strong
- 90% are Kindergarten Ready at East Tenth
- 80% are Kindergarten ready at Englewood
- Design is clear and roles are specific
- Pilot phase: smart strategy for year one development
- No vision statement, but well-aligned mission. Note: Englewood includes service throughout greater Indy, so ensure dominant focus on Near East for SIF
- Englewood is well-integrated into community with integral roles related to various initiatives.
- Strong, child centered curriculum at Englewood
- Initial pilot phase to test for effectiveness and recruit. Details re-recruitment needed.
- Community connectors housed at Boner but work community; Program director at Boner. Roving service coordinators. Englewood and East Tenth will each have Project Coordinator, Family Engagement Leader, and Education Coach.

- More context on workforce needs and specific organizational success in getting people in growth industries and permanent jobs

Evaluation Capacity

- The partners appear to have extensive experiences in participating in evaluation activities. Federal initiatives such as IEPNI and the Legacy project, IEPZ projects all required extensive evaluation requirements.
- The bidder has developed a process for using evaluation information to make program improvements among the various partners and contractors currently in place.
- JHBC experience as it relates to PPI and IEPZ application and reporting, Daystar had Purdue/IU to assist in assessments and data, Little Dove with BOI, Head Start
- Data manager on staff at JBNC, but plans to hire additional coach, but Little Dove/Daystar are more routine evaluations from staff and seem to be more general data.
- All groups have shown a commitment to using data and evaluations in the past to improve their programs
- No data collection systems identified specifically at Englewood, only evaluation
- Englewood worked with Purdue on OnMyWay evaluation, IU for EE Matching grant,
- Data capacity survey incomplete, but more than adequate. Collecting or willing to collect most info on survey, but doesn't intend to collect basic needs info—could probably be convinced.

Organizational Capacity

- The bidder has a strong management team that is in place and is nurtured and improved through structured technical assistance and the use of evaluative data.
- The bidder indicates that regardless of the SIF initiative the program services and activities will continue. This request may be merely an expansion of existing capacity?
- Leadership seems to have capacity to handle the assets and implement program, though lack of detail about involvement of the board.
- Reference experience with federal grants, but don't reference any specifics
- Organizational Commitment- 100% of 1st year match is committed and ongoing, but leadership commitment is more vague

Partnerships and Coalitions

- The partners were instrumental in the development of the Quality of Life Plan for this area
- This area is part of IMPD's Priority Areas and a partnership has been in place for several years.
- Quality of Life Plan: Convened meeting of over 400, assumed 24 of the goals, 20 implemented, Interchange Daystar with ECDC, and participation for Daystar and Little Dove

Budget and Budget Narrative

- Narrative – Could provide more explanation to how the numbers were determined
- Contractual services money seems low for wrap-around.

Overall Comments:

- With the vast amount of planning and effort that has gone into the Promise Zone and other geographically focused initiatives on the near east side, JBNC has a leg up in readiness and capacity to implement Great Families 2020. The proposal is superbly organized and specific in addressing every aspect of the RFP. The strength of the partners is evident and the importance of the project director appears to be recognized. One question that I have relates to the number of persons interfacing with families. In this case, there may be a contracted family assessment professional, financial coaches, community connectors, family engagement leader, and service coordinator, among others. There needs to be clarity about roles and caution not to inundate already overburdened families with “helpers”.
- Strong proposal and part of a strong coalition. What few shortcomings there may be will likely be strengthened through Boner Center leadership and mentoring.
- The overall proposal is well written, clear and shows significant collaboration over the years. While there will be project accountability to the respective boards and program committees I didn't see provisions for a joint board oversight committee. Such a committee would seem important for this project; it could be made up of board members from each of the three partnering organizations and the project administrative and coordinating staff.