



Contact: Gretchen Wolfram
317/916-7304
317/255-2640 (home)

EMBARGOED FOR
RELEASE UNTIL
SATURDAY, DEC. 9, 2000

19 counties to benefit from \$68 million in CAPE grants
from Lilly Endowment

**Foundation announces
that program will continue**

Lilly Endowment Inc. has awarded \$68 million to 10 grantees which cover 19 Indiana counties, the first implementation grants in the Endowment's CAPE (Community Alliances to Promote Education) initiative.

The grant announcement culminates a year in which community foundations throughout Indiana, at the Endowment's invitation, convened public forums, sought expert advice, and analyzed and devised proposals to address the "most compelling education needs" of the entire age and population spectrum of their communities.

With the grant funds the communities will focus on literacy rates, parental involvement in their children's education, foster "learning environments," concentrate on teacher training, promote technology use and education, build on existing learning centers – from the shores of Lake Michigan to the bluffs above the Ohio River.

CAPE began in September 1999 as a \$50 million competitive initiative, but the promising responses from around the state encouraged the Endowment to supplement the initial allocation for these efforts to raise the state's educational attainment levels. The 10 grantees were selected from proposals resulting from 22 planning grants announced in February. Up to \$5 million was available for each county served.

"We were so pleased with the caliber of the proposals and impressed with the

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obvious community enthusiasm for them that we felt compelled to add to the resources we originally allocated for the program,” said Sara B. Cobb, vice president for education at the Endowment.

“We hope that CAPE has significantly deepened the appreciation of residents of communities throughout Indiana of how vital education is to their futures,” she added. “Although Indiana has far to go, we are encouraged by the creativity and commitment shown in the CAPE proposals.”

Endowment officials have been so gratified by the response to CAPE that they have approved an extension of the program. In “round two” of CAPE, up to \$115 million will be awarded in 2001 to community foundations or qualified charitable recipients endorsed by them.

Under CAPE “round two” the 13 community foundations that applied for implementation grants and did not receive them this month may revise their proposals and resubmit them to the Endowment by March 16, 2001. From these proposals, up to six implementation grants will be awarded in the summer.

Furthermore, any community foundation that has not received funding so far in the CAPE initiative may submit an application letter for a \$50,000 planning grant to be used to prepare a proposal for an implementation grant for up to \$5 million per county served. These letters are due at the Endowment by Jan. 10, 2001. The planning grant phase in CAPE “round two” is not competitive.

The deadline for requesting an implementation grant is July 31, 2001, and up to 12 awards will be made in the fall.

Information about the application process for both these programs will be covered in briefing sessions later this month at the Endowment.

Recipients of the first grants in the CAPE initiative are the following:

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Allen County

- ◆ Community Partnerships, Fort Wayne
\$5 million
Endorsed by the Fort Wayne Community Foundation, Community Partnerships plans to expand reading opportunities for preschool through third-grade children and their families through new library, school and home-based literacy programs. They will work with the foundation, Three Rivers Literacy Alliance, the Allen County Local Education Fund, all four public school districts, the two major parochial school systems, and Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne. Main goal: increasing the percentage of third graders passing the ISTEP exam from 63 percent to 90 percent by 2004.
Contact: David Bennett, executive director, Fort Wayne Community Foundation, 219/426-4083

Bartholomew County

- ◆ Heritage Fund of Bartholomew County, Columbus
\$5 million
Funds will be used to build on the county's new Community Learning System (CLS) to provide education opportunities to a broad spectrum of residents. Several education providers – the Bartholomew County School Corp., Indiana University-Purdue University Columbus, Ivy Tech State College and the Purdue University School of Technology – have joined to address what they call “an educational crisis.” The CLS will be housed in a \$26 million facility and offer programs ranging from enrichment for K-12 students to job training for displaced workers to English as a second language for a growing Hispanic population.
Contact: Sharon Risk Stark, president, Heritage Fund of Bartholomew County, 812/376-7772

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Cape grants
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**Daviess, Gibson, Knox, Perry, Pike, Posey, Spencer,
Vanderburgh and Warrick Counties**

- ◆ Southwest Indiana Network for Education, Evansville
\$19.9 million (subject to an Internal Revenue Service approval of pending tax exemption application)
The network, being incorporated as a supporting organization of the Community Foundation Alliance, plans to offer programs to raise low levels of youth and adult literacy, assist at-risk youth, provide professional development for teachers, and improve communication among teachers, parents, students and communities across the nine-county area.
Contact: Marilyn Klenck, executive director, Community Foundation Alliance, 812/429-1191

Lake, LaPorte and Porter Counties

- ◆ The Discovery Alliance, Valparaiso. The alliance includes the Porter County Community Foundation, Crown Point Community Foundation and Legacy Foundation in Lake County, and the Unity Foundation of LaPorte County.
\$15 million
Funds will be used to implement three programs to increase educational attainment in these three counties in northwest Indiana. The alliance will improve the home and community support of youth by expanding five existing programs, providing literacy education and training, and developing a system to connect customers of higher education with the many providers in northwest Indiana.
Contacts:
Barbara Young, president, Porter County Community Foundation,
219/465-0294

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Patricia Huber-Salach, executive director, Crown Point Community
Foundation, 219/662-7252

Nancy Johnson, executive director, Legacy Foundation, 219/736-1880

Maggi Spartz, president, Unity Foundation of LaPorte County, 219/879-0327

Owen County

- ◆ Spencer-Owen County Community School Corp., Spencer
\$3 million

Endorsed by the Owen County Community Foundation, the school corporation plan envisions the Owen County Learning Network which will prepare preschoolers for success by working directly with the children and their parents and by adding opportunities for middle and high school students (including establishing an alternative school).

Contacts: James Fulford, executive director, Owen County Community
Foundation, 812/829-1725

St. Joseph County

- ◆ Community Foundation of St. Joseph County, South Bend
\$5 million

Funds to enhance learning opportunities for children from birth to 8 years old. Through three programs, the community will focus on strengthening parents' interest in and ability to support education, training teachers in early-childhood development and creating learning labs in elementary schools. Community foundation officials believe there is a unique opportunity to influence the lives of 45,000 children over three years.

Contact: Rose Meissner, president, 219/232-0041

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Switzerland County

- ◆ Switzerland County School Corp., Vevay

\$5 million

Endorsed by the Community Foundation of Switzerland County, the school corporation intends to strengthen its high school science, technology and business curriculum through distance-learning programs in partnership with Indiana University Southeast and Ivy Tech State College.

Contact: Pam Acton, executive director, Community Foundation of Switzerland County, 812/427-9160

Wabash County

- ◆ North Manchester Community Foundation

\$3.9 million

The foundation plans seven programs to have an impact on parents of preschool children, child-care providers, elementary and secondary school teachers and area businesses. The foundation will coordinate and strengthen programs with 14 groups in the county, including the Manchester Community Schools, Wabash City Schools, Ivy Tech State College, Manchester College and the Wabash Area and North Manchester Chambers of Commerce.

Contact: Patty Strauss Grant, executive director, 219/982-4824

- ◆ Step Ahead of Wabash County

\$1 million

Endorsed by the North Manchester Community Foundation, Step Ahead will develop and implement three programs aimed at strengthening parents' understanding of their role in their children's education. Programs will be offered to 500 Wabash County families with preschool children.

Contact: Pat Lynn, executive director, 219/563-5153

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CAPE grants
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Warren County

- ◆ Metropolitan School District of Warren County, Williamsport
\$5 million

Endorsed by the Warren County Community Foundation, the district plans to develop a learning and technology center that will offer previously unavailable educational opportunities. They will install computerized learning stations in technology labs in the center and connect them to similar labs in the county's schools. They also will offer two new programs to enhance the math and reading skills of the county's K-12 students.

Contacts:

R.L. Stroud, superintendent, 765/762-3364

Ernie Slauter, executive director, Warren County Community Foundation,
765/764-1501