



**CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY RESOURCE AND YOUTH SERVICES CENTERS**

Steven L. Beshear
Governor

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Audrey Tayse Haynes
Secretary

December 1, 2014

Dear FRC & FRYSC Coordinator:

We all know the value of caregivers being involved in a child's education and development, but what if you had the opportunity to engage those families before the child ever enters the doors of kindergarten? The Born Learning® Academy is a caregiver engagement strategy that will do just that! The intent behind Born Learning® Academies is to engage families with children in the school system in the earliest years of a child's education and offer strategies they can use at home to maximize the child's early learning and development.

Through an initial investment by Toyota, Born Learning® Academies have tripled in the Commonwealth over the past several years and will continue to expand as a result of that commitment. Additionally, Kentucky was fortunate to receive a federal Race to the Top (RTT) Early Learning Challenge Grant, a component of which will allow for expansion of the Academies through the **Cabinet for Health & Family Services' Division of Family Resource and Youth Services Centers**.

In the 2014-2015 school year, 24 new Born Learning® Academies were initiated across the commonwealth through Family Resource Centers. **The Division of FRYSC looks forward to adding an additional 26 schools during the 2015-2016 school year!**

The application for the RTT- funded Born Learning® Academy funding is attached, along with the criteria for selection and participation.

Thank you and we look forward to working together to improve school-readiness in Kentucky.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Melissa S. Goins".

Melissa S. Goins, MSW, CSW

Director | Division of Family Resource and Youth Services Centers

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Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Division of Family Resource and Youth Services Centers
Race to the Top Born Learning® Academy
Request for Funding Application (RFA) Instructions

The Born Learning® public engagement campaign is an innovative campaign that helps parents, caregivers and communities create quality early learning opportunities for young children. It was built on three cornerstones (awareness, education, and action) and its materials and outcomes are research-based and designed to help parents and other caregivers a) understand the importance of early learning experiences in children's development and b) their role in using everyday moments to help boost children's early learning. The Born Learning® Academy was developed using the best of these research-based materials to help support school readiness.

A Born Learning® Academy is a structured workshop series, developed and piloted in Northern Kentucky through a partnership between the Kenton County School District, Northern Kentucky University and the United Way of Greater Cincinnati – Northern Kentucky Success By 6® initiative. The series teaches parents and caregivers of children (ages 0-5) how to turn everyday moments into learning opportunities. Its purpose is to make parents and caregivers aware of how young children learn, as well as teach easy, fun action steps that parents, grandparents and other caregivers can use every day as they interact with their children. The curriculum aligns perfectly with the FRYSC Families in Training component, which seeks to target new and expectant parents and enhance their parenting skills in the areas of child development, nurturing and health for children ages 0-5.

Each Academy consists of six monthly workshops. The curriculum for these workshops was developed by early childhood faculty at Northern Kentucky University. Examples of topics covered are: translating early learning research into easy-to-do activities, brain development, healthcare, nutrition and sleep, routines and learning on the go, and building your child's language skills through reading, songs and games.

The Born Learning® Academy model has proven to be an effective way to engage parents and teach them about their child's development. The program has also been successful in building a relationship between parents and school personnel well before the child is enrolled in school.

In an effort to expand Born Learning® Academies throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Governor's Office of Early Childhood included this initiative in their 2014 Race to the Top proposal. Funding was received for 150 new Academies to be developed within already-established FRYSCs over the next four years. **During this grant cycle, 26 Academies will be selected for funding.**

Applications will only be accepted from Family Resource Centers or Family Resource and Youth Services Centers being funded by, and in good standing with, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. Only Centers not currently operating an Academy will be considered.

Demonstration of strong commitment by district and school leadership is critical to achieve successful implementation of an Academy. Selected Centers will be supplied with Born Learning® materials and training, and will be expected to collect and submit outcome data electronically to United Way of Kentucky.

If you feel your Center meets the eligibility criteria below, would like to apply for a grant, and is willing to comply with the established Born Learning® Academy Implementation Standards, which are available for

review on the last three pages of this RFA, you must submit an application for funding by 5:00pm on **January 30th 2015**. Applications can be sent via e-mail to KyBorn.Learning@ky.gov or via postal mail to:

Born Learning® Academy Review Team
Division of Family Resource and Youth Services Centers
Attn: Katie Morris
275 E. Main Street, 3C-G
Frankfort, KY 40621

Notification of those selected for funding will be provided in early spring 2015. Appeals will not be accepted.

Once selected for funding, Center Coordinators and one additional team member will be required to attend **TWO** mandatory trainings on the following dates:

1. July 14th following the Victory over Violence conference in Louisville
2. November 13th following the Fall Institute conference in Lexington

Participation in these trainings is a requirement of funding, therefore, if you are unable to send two representatives on the dates identified, you may forfeit the opportunity.

Selected Centers will receive \$5600 to operate their Academy over 2 years. The funds will be received in 2015 in one lump sum.

Academies are required to input data following each session. The Division of FRYSC will cover the cost for the data system needed to fulfill this requirement as an in-kind contribution.

Questions can be directed to:

Katie Morris, Born Learning Workshop Coordinator
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