Project Abstract: As a meaningful expansion of school course options with a strong emphasis on quality, the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) submits this application for Absolute Priority 2 titled iCAP 2.0: Lessons Learned. The existing Indiana Course Access Program (iCAP) suffers from disappointing levels of participation. This funding presents a chance to rethink how our state offers and encourages quality virtual courses as a local and statewide initiative by addressing multiple gaps in the current program and other structures. This project will ensure that local school systems are provided high-quality frameworks for essential courses for staff to deliver virtual courses directly, receive high-quality professional development for existing staff to create their own virtual course frameworks to meet student needs and preferences, and the option to provide a dedicated funding stream to pilot direct course access through a third-party. Whereas the current program, iCAP 1.0, only refers students to third-party vendors at the expense of the local education agency (LEA), iCAP 2.0 Lessons Learned will emphasize and expand upon a LEA's ability to offer virtual courses when provided high-quality frameworks and to develop meaningful partnerships with others to substantially improve course offerings without shouldering the entire financial burden or losing students in search of more diverse offerings.

We developed performance measures that will provide a multidimensional way to capture and examine different aspects of how the grant-funded activities are meeting the ESF-REM goals and objectives. These performance measures are consistent with the performance measures established for the program funding the competition, as all of the performance measures required by ED are included, as well as additional important information to provide both formative and summative ways to evaluate performance throughout the life of the grant.

1) Objective One: Improve Quality of Virtual Courses

2) Objective Two: Improve Quantity and Access of Virtual Courses

3) Objective Three: Increase Level of Teacher Preparation for Virtual Learning

4) Objective Four: Improve Student Engagement and Achievement