

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE July 25, 2019

## On My Way Pre-K now enrolling children in all 92 Indiana counties Eligible families can enroll children at no charge to help prepare for kindergarten and beyond

INDIANAPOLIS – As the 2019/2020 school year approaches, more than half the available slots have been filled for Indiana's state-sponsored On My Way Pre-K program. Right now Hoosier children and their families are getting connected with high-quality providers in their area, as state law recently expanded the program statewide. Low-income families are encouraged to act quickly to see if they are eligible for On My Way Pre-K for their 4-year-old children as soon as August. On My Way Pre-K has served approximately 8,000 eligible families at no charge to them to help prepare young Hoosiers for kindergarten.

"Our research tells us that On My Way Pre-K children make higher gains than their peers in important aspects of school readiness such as language comprehension, early literacy, executive functioning and a reduction in behavior problems in the classroom," said Nicole Norvell, director of Indiana's Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning.

Families must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- The family must have an income below 127 percent of the federal poverty level.
- Their child must be 4-years-old by August 1, 2019, and starting kindergarten in the 2020/2021 school year.
- Parents or guardians in the household must be working, going to school or attending job training.

Links to electronic applications in both English and Spanish are available at <a href="OnMyWayPreK.org">OnMyWayPreK.org</a>. Now is the time to act because space is limited and school begins soon. Applications are open year-round.

Families may call 800-299-1627 for assistance from an early learning referral specialist or for other questions about On My Way Pre-K. Stay up-to-date via Facebook @OnMyWayPreKIndiana.

**MEDIA NOTE:** Additional resources including photos and B-roll video are available.

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