

**Resolution authorizing a COVID-19 Recovery Grant with United Way of Central Ohio assist Franklin County school districts in improving reading proficiency among third grade students. (Community Partnerships) (\$500,000)**

**WHEREAS**, the President of the United States issued a Nationwide Emergency Declaration for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) on March 13, 2020 pursuant to sections 201 and 301 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) and consistent with section 1135 of the Social Security Act (SSA), as amended (42 U.S.C. 1320b-5); and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners approved Resolution No. 0181-20 authorizing actions to be taken to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of Franklin County from the effects of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, research confirms that third graders who are unable to read at grade level are among the most vulnerable for dropping out of school before graduating, yet there is no systemic-level collaborative effort in Franklin County to support children in kindergarten through third grade; and

**WHEREAS**, during the 2018-2019 school year, seven out of 16 Franklin County school districts had third grade proficiency rates under 75%: Canal Winchester (74.2%), Columbus City (43%), Groveport (57.8%), Hilliard (67.6%), Reynoldsburg (71.2%), South-Western (59.3%) and Whitehall (49.6%). The COVID-19 pandemic has caused many of these children to fall even further behind in their reading proficiency; and

**WHEREAS**, the United Way of Central Ohio proposes to align resources, parent/caregiver and student voices, social services, school district approaches and public and private support with a shared goal of ensuring all Franklin County third graders are on a path to success by creating a systemic shift and a holistic approach to the deployment of the local infrastructure of supports around students from kindergarten to third grade; and

**WHEREAS**, Title IX of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (H.R. 1319) authorized the creation of a Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund to make payments to units of local government that are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19; and

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**WHEREAS**, programs that address or mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency on education are an eligible use of funds pursuant to §35.6(b)(12)(iii) of the Interim Final Rule promulgated by the U.S. Department of Treasury; and

**WHEREAS**, the Franklin County Commissioners can provide funding to United Way of Central Ohio in support of these efforts pursuant to sections 307.85 of the Revised Code; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO:

1. That the County Administrator is hereby authorized pursuant to section 305.30 of the Revised Code to enter into the attached contract with United Way of Central Ohio.
2. That the attached contract with United Way of Central Ohio in the amount of \$500,000 is hereby approved.
3. That a purchase order will be opened in the ensuing fiscal year to encumber the funds necessary to meet the obligations for this contract since no expenditures are expected to be made in the current fiscal year.

Prepared by: Dayna McCrary