



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***AWS Foundation Announces Vantage Grant
for Disability Service Providers, Awards \$450,000***

Fort Wayne (January 26, 2021) – AWS Foundation launches a new Vantage Grant awarding a total of \$450,000 to six select disability service providers in the first round of evaluation. Each received \$75,000 to identify and explore significant barriers they face and find a path toward solutions that can transform how they serve the disability community in Northeast Indiana. The organizations funded were: Arc of Noble County, Carey Services, **Cardinal Services**, Easterseals Arc of Northeast Indiana, Pathfinder Services, and Turnstone. During round two of the Vantage Grant process, these organizations will present potential solutions to the barriers they identified for the opportunity to receive additional funding to implement their plan to meet community needs.

“Even under normal circumstances, direct service providers rarely have time or personnel to explore how they can transform their organization,” says Patti Hays, AWS Foundation CEO. “We created the Vantage Grant as an opportunity to look beyond daily demands and explore barriers that challenge the very nature and way that programs and services traditionally support the disability community.”

AWS Foundation invited eleven disability service providers to identify a barrier their organization, and those that they serve, currently face. In the first phase, organizations submitted a concept proposal to receive \$75,000 for discovery and analysis. Six award recipients will work for six months, both internally and with consultants and stakeholders, to take a 360-degree look at their barriers and identify potential solutions. Each will submit a final proposal to AWS Foundation in July that will result in the opportunity for additional funding to implement their proposed plans.

Five additional pre-selected organizations not previously included in the selection process will be eligible to submit a Vantage Grant proposal in the fall of 2021.

ABOUT AWS FOUNDATION

Founded in 2007, AWS Foundation supports a wide range of organizations and service agencies in northeast Indiana, working to develop a community in which people with enduring intellectual, developmental, and physical disabilities are engaged fully and meaningfully in all aspects of community life. For more information, visit WWW.awsfoundation.org.