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**CUYAHOGA COUNTY BUDGET INCLUDES \$10 MILLION FOR  
HIGH-QUALITY PRESCHOOL EXPANSION**

*County Investment Offers a Big Boost to Preschool Access for Cuyahoga County's Children*

CLEVELAND, OHIO – The two-year budget agreement reached this week between Cuyahoga County Council and County Executive Armond Budish will provide a new investment of \$10 million during the next two years for high-quality preschool in Cuyahoga County.

These new funds will launch the Cuyahoga Early Childhood Trust, a public-private partnership set to attract private dollars. The fund would provide investment growth and would support expansion of Universal Pre-Kindergarten to the neediest children in Cuyahoga County.

"This is a huge day for the children in our community," said Eric Gordon, CEO of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. "We are grateful to County Executive Budish and County Council for your vision, leadership, and partnership with PRE4CLE to reach our goal of providing high-quality preschool to every child in Cleveland."

According to testimony provided by the County Executive's office last week, the new investments will provide quality supports for preschool programs such as teacher education and behavioral health interventions, as well as increased support to help families afford high-quality programs. Based on initial data, roughly half of the target population for the new scholarship funds are in the City of Cleveland.

"This investment builds on a strong partnership between Cuyahoga County and PRE4CLE, and will allow us to serve more children in high-quality child care, Head Start, and school district programs," stated Katie Kelly, PRE4CLE Director. "This is a significant step towards meeting the goals of the PRE4CLE plan, and we are thankful for the commitment of our county leadership and the generosity of the community."

**About PRE4CLE:** PRE4CLE is a plan to ensure all 3-and-4-year-old children in Cleveland have access to high-quality preschool. PRE4CLE is a major next step in implementing Cleveland's Plan for Transforming Schools and is led by the Cleveland Early Childhood Compact. For more information, visit [www.pre4cle.org](http://www.pre4cle.org)

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