



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **PRE4CLE AWARDS \$150,000 TO EXPAND HIGH-QUALITY PRESCHOOLS IN NEIGHBORHOODS WITH HIGHEST NEEDS**

*Five new preschool classrooms will serve an additional 95 children*

**CLEVELAND, OHIO** –PRE4CLE, Cleveland’s plan to expand access to high-quality preschool, announced today it has awarded Preschool Classroom Start-Up Grants totaling \$150,000 to help increase the availability of high-quality preschool in the city’s neighborhoods where need for high-quality preschool outpaces availability.

The grants, made possible through the Cuyahoga County Office of Early Childhood: Invest in Children, can be used for services and tools necessary to expand high-quality classrooms such as classroom personnel; classroom furnishings; educational materials; supplies and equipment; computers; and marketing and recruitment. As a result, an additional 95 children will be able to attend high-quality preschool in Cleveland.

Each of the following grantees received \$30,000:

- Catholic Charities King Kennedy Head Start, 2511 E. 61st St., for one classroom of 20 children.
- OhioGuidestone Family Life Child Care, 3500 Carnegie Ave., for one classroom of 20 children.
- Horizon Education Centers - Market Square Center, 2500 W. 25th St., for one classroom of 20 children.
- Horizon Education Centers - Old Brooklyn Center, 4140 Pearl Rd., for one classroom of 20 children.
- The Salvation Army, 4402 Clark Ave., for one classroom of 15 children.

“By providing these grants to high-quality preschool providers to add new classrooms, PRE4CLE helps to give more children an opportunity to attend a high-quality preschool so they can be ready for kindergarten and succeed in school,” said Katie Kelly, PRE4CLE director.

To qualify for a Classroom Start-Up Grant, preschools had to be PRE4CLE Providers. They also had to be rated a minimum of 3-stars on the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services’ Step Up to Quality (SUTQ) rating and improvement system.

Julie Piazza-King, Director of OhioGuidestone Family Life Child Care, said the grant will allow her preschool to serve more children.

“Ohio Guidestone’s Family Life Child Care Center of Cleveland is thrilled to receive funds through the PRE4CLE Preschool Classroom Start-Up Grant that will enable us to expand our programming to children and families in Cleveland’s Central neighborhood,” she said. “The expansion grant will enable us to hire high-quality staff and purchase equipment for a new classroom in a community where there is great need.”

David Smith, Executive Director, Horizon Education Centers, said the grant will help Horizon meet the large demand for preschool at both the Market Square and Old Brooklyn locations. Horizon had planned to add space to accommodate 40 new preschoolers between the two sites, but with the PRE4CLE grant, Horizon was able to double that number to 80 new openings.

"These grants have helped us ramp up high-quality preschool programs in the Clark-Fulton and Old Brooklyn neighborhoods," he said. "PRE4CLE's unique approach of funding equipment and working capital to pay teachers as enrollment builds helped lead to the creation of 80 new spots at two Horizon sites."

**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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