



## PRESS RELEASE

July 22, 2015

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### **PRE4CLE AWARDS FUNDS TO EXPAND HIGH-QUALITY PRESCHOOLS IN NEIGHBORHOODS WITH HIGHEST NEEDS**

*Four new preschool classrooms will serve an additional 80 children*

CLEVELAND, OHIO –PRE4CLE, Cleveland’s high-quality preschool expansion initiative, announced today it has awarded Preschool Classroom Expansion Grants to help increase the number of high-quality preschool openings in the Union-Miles, Buckeye-Shaker, and Glenville neighborhoods.

The grants were awarded to:

- Council for Economic Opportunities in Greater Cleveland (CEOGC) to open two new classrooms serving a total of 40 children at the Oakwood Child Development Center in Union Miles, 9250 Miles Park Ave.
- The Centers to open a new classroom serving 20 children at the Citizen’s Academy in Glenville, a Breakthrough Charter school, 10118 Hampden Ave. This will be this school’s first preschool classroom.
- Fundamentals Early Childhood Development Academy to open a new site serving 20 children in Buckeye-Shaker Square at the Buckeye-Shaker Fundamentals Academy, 12500 Buckeye Road.

The purpose of these grants is to increase the number of high-quality preschool programs (having at least 3-stars through the state’s Step Up to Quality rating system) in the Cleveland neighborhoods that currently don’t have enough high-quality preschool seats to serve the children who live in those neighborhoods. In the Union-Miles and Buckeye-Shaker Square neighborhoods, preschool enrollment is at 80 percent of capacity and expansion is necessary to meet families’ demands. In Glenville, there are preschool programs, but few are high-quality. These grants are a first step towards implementing a key element of the PRE4CLE plan to focus new resources in the highest need areas of the city.

Each new classroom will receive approximately \$30,000 in start-up funds. Grantees can use the funds for salaries for staff during the start-up of the new classrooms and for purchasing materials such as computers, cabinets, storage units, minor remodeling and upgrading of facilities to assure that providers meet state and local early childhood standards, and play equipment, which is critical to hands-on learning and fine and gross

motor skill development. Funding for these grants is made possible from Cuyahoga County through the Cuyahoga County Office of Early Childhood: Invest in Children.

"PRE4CLE embraces the vision that every child in Cleveland will enter kindergarten ready to succeed in school," said Katie Kelly, PRE4CLE director. "One way we can realize that vision is by giving resources to help high-quality preschool providers add new classrooms in areas that need it most."

"From ensuring our staff stay up to date on the latest in child brain development, to making sure our kids are eating healthy and get to experience the music, culture, technology, and resources our community has to offer, we take high-quality early learning seriously. With PRE4CLE as a partner, we are now able to expand that cultural exposure to more children who need it most," says Fundamentals Academy Director Lisa Ogletree, whose family has been providing quality education to children in the Buckeye-Shaker neighborhood for over 20 years.

To qualify for a Classroom Expansion Grant, providers had to be an approved PRE4CLE participating provider and rated a minimum of 3-stars by Step Up to Quality (SUTQ), or be Ohio Department of Education licensed preschool program that receives Early Childhood Expansion funding and plans to apply for a SUTQ rating of 3-stars or higher.

"This neighborhood is in great need of high-quality early learning, and PRE4CLE's expansion grant will help CEOGC reopen Oakwood Child Development Center with two new high-quality classrooms in Union Miles," says Dr. Thea Wilson, Vice President for Children and Families at CEOGC. "These grant dollars will help to provide a continuity of services in what is truly a partnership between schools, neighborhoods, and child care providers to make sure these children show up on the first day of kindergarten ready to succeed."

**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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