



## PRE4CLE Priorities for Early Learning in the FY 2018-2019 State Budget

Summary of Requests	Cost	Impact
Update the child care market rate category in 38 Ohio counties for rated programs	\$11 million/year	<i>Increased child care quality and access</i> for our most at-risk children in Ohio, leading to increased school success.
Allow 3-year-olds to participate in the state's Early Childhood Education Program	\$0	<i>Increased kindergarten readiness</i> through increasing the number of at-risk children receiving two years of high-quality preschool

### *Detail of Budget Requests*

**Request:** Update the child care market rate category for quality-rated programs to reflect the current market costs for 38 Ohio counties.

#### **Rationale:**

Currently, 38 Ohio counties, serving **13,800 children**, receive a lower rate of child care reimbursement *than the state's own assessments indicate they should receive.*<sup>1</sup>

This lack of funding is equal to an average **\$20,000 funding gap** per child care preschool classroom in Cuyahoga County. These dollars would pay for quality enhancements such as more qualified teachers, increased professional development, early learning supplies, and other quality program essentials. The impact of this funding gap is lower-quality child care for our state's most at-risk young children, and decreased kindergarten readiness.

We are requesting that child care programs rated through Ohio's quality rating system for early learning, Step Up To Quality, be moved to the correct rating category to better serve our most at-risk children.

#### **Counties Impacted by Market Rate Adjustment:**

Allen, Ashland, Athens, Auglaize, Belmont, Carroll, Clark, Columbiana, Cuyahoga Darke, Erie, Fairfield Greene, Hancock, Harrison, Highland, Huron, Knox, Lake, Lawrence, Licking, Logan, Lucas, Miami, Monroe, Morrow, Ottawa, Pickaway, Portage, Preble, Sandusky, Seneca, Shelby, Stark, Trumbull, Union, Wayne, and Wood

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<sup>1</sup> The state is required to complete a Child Care Market Rate Survey every two years to meet the requirements of the federal child care and development block grant. The market rate survey determines the rate at which providers will be reimbursed for subsidized child care, based on the free market value of child care services in their county.



**Request: Allow 3-year-olds to participate in the state's Early Childhood Education Program**

**Rationale:**

The state has increased funding for the Early Childhood Education (ECE) program in the past two state budgets with the goal of increasing the kindergarten readiness of Ohio's most at-risk young children. From 1990-2016, Ohio's ECE program included 3-year-olds because the research showed that two years of preschool greatly increase kindergarten readiness and school success.

We are requesting that the state *return the policy of allowing 3-year-olds to participate in the ECE program*, within the current funding allocated. The research supports this as one of the best strategies to meet the goals of the ECE program.

**Highlights of research on the impact of two years of preschool vs. one year:**

- Chicago Child Parent Centers Study, 2014: Study looked at 1,500 preschoolers in the Chicago Parent-Child Centers, and found that children with two years of preschool had positive long-term benefits that exceeded costs, including:
  - A second year of preschool had significant effects on grade retention and special education
  - A second year of preschool had long-term effects on child maltreatment and juvenile crime
  - If policy-makers are interested in enhancing school readiness and reducing juvenile crime, investing in two years of preschool is a sound investment
- Pennsylvania State University study of Head Start, 2013: Study looked at 116 children in a Head Start setting, and found that children with two years of preschool had significantly higher early literacy and numeracy skills compared to children with just one year of the program.