

Every child deserves to attend a high-quality early learning program in a high-quality facility.



A child's first school experience should *inspire a love of learning.*

When they step into the classroom, the space should welcome them with a bright, clean, safe environment that fosters curiosity and creativity.

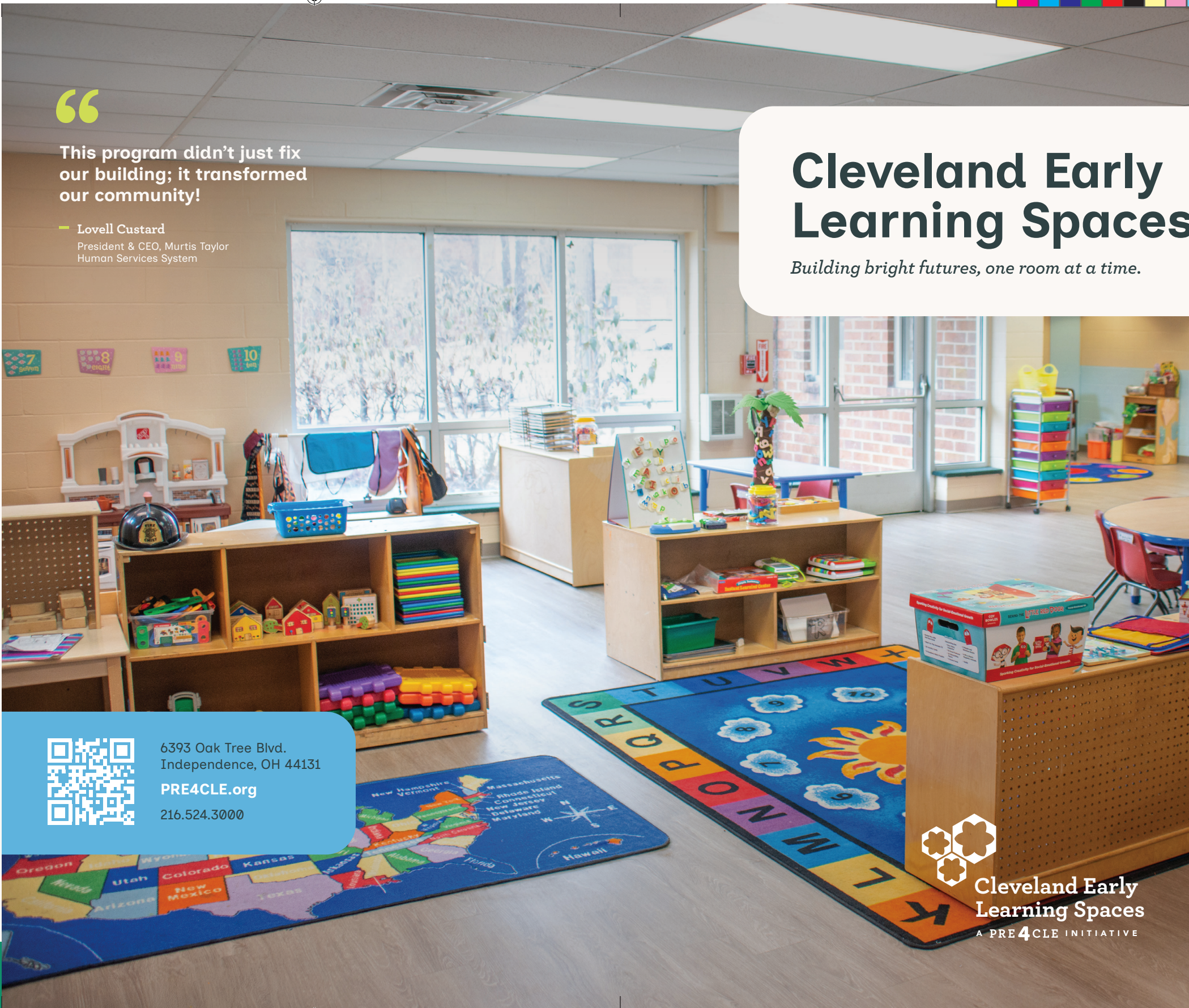
For many community-based preschool and child care providers in Cleveland, realizing this vision is a significant challenge.



The city's **aging building stock**, combined with the **razor-thin operating margins** of most child care programs, often forces providers to **postpone necessary renovations and maintenance**. To help address these challenges, Early Learning Spaces is partnering with early learning providers to **improve facility quality, enhance learning environments, and ensure that every child has access to safe, inspiring spaces to learn and grow.**

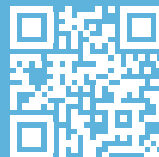
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This program didn't just fix our building; it transformed our community!

— Lovell Custard
President & CEO, Murtis Taylor
Human Services System



Cleveland Early Learning Spaces

Building bright futures, one room at a time.



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Cleveland Early Learning Spaces
A PRE4CLE INITIATIVE



Giving Cleveland's Children Room to Grow

Launched in 2021, the aim of Cleveland Early Learning Spaces is to ensure that every child in Cleveland can learn in a high-quality facility that brings out their best. Our goal is to provide the funding and support to remodel facilities and build new ones. Our innovative program model goes beyond

funding facility improvements in child care programs; it also creates a more equitable system for Cleveland's children and families, provides leadership development and networking opportunities for small business owners, and supports economic and community development in Cleveland's neighborhoods.

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When parents come in and see your space, it's clean, it's bright, it's colorful — they feel welcome.
— **LuAnne Peters**
Lexington-Bell Community Center Executive Director





Why Physical Space Matters

Studies show that quality early learning spaces have a profound positive impact on students, including improved student productivity, academic performance, and behavior.

Health & Safety

Warm, safe, & dry spaces help children feel secure & ready to learn

Design & Colors

Thoughtful design & colors guide focus & boost participation

Outdoor Play & Connection to Nature

Time outdoors builds creativity, confidence, & social-emotional skills

Reduce Noise & Clutter

Quiet, organized spaces lower stress, improve focus & reduce behavior problems

Temperature, Air & Ventilation

Comfortable air & temperature support health & alertness

Lighting

Balanced natural & artificial light enhances mood & learning

Cleveland Early Learning Spaces Program Model

To ensure providers are equipped for success, Cleveland Early Learning Spaces begins with a competitive application process to confirm that selected preschool providers are highly rated, have favorable leases, clean financial records, and are ready to take on the demands of a construction project.

Cleveland Early Learning Spaces provides:

-  **Grants** to cover project costs and connections to additional funding for providers
-  **Technical assistance**, professional support, and expertise to manage construction projects.
-  **Professional development** that empowers operators to design and maintain safe and enriching early learning facilities.
-  **A cohort model** that fosters collaboration and partnerships and creates networks of small business owners.



Who benefits from Early Learning Spaces?

Early Learning Spaces participants are all high-quality PRE4CLE Preschools that operate community-based child care and Head Start programs across Cleveland.

Program participants include:

- Long-standing **community anchor organizations** & Head Start programs
- **Small businesses**: 2/3 of providers have fewer than four locations
- **Minority-Owned**: more than 60% of owners & employees are Black or Hispanic
- **Women-led**: more than 80% of owners & employees are women

Our Impact to Date

We're reimagining early learning spaces across Cleveland—one classroom at a time. By investing in facilities and supporting preschool programs, we're building stronger foundations for lifelong learning and community growth.

By the numbers

14

Cleveland
neighborhoods

1,000

kids annually

130

staff members

*In the first 3 cohorts,
we've facilitated
renovations in...*



14 center-based
early learning facilities



2 home-based
early learning facilities

Including

- 60 classrooms with fresh paint, new floors, improved lighting, and/or updated sinks and cabinets
- 10 Upgraded Bathrooms
- Refreshed Hallways & Lobbies
- 3 Outdoor Spaces
- 2 Rebuilt Front Porches
- Additional facility upgrades to electrical, HVAC, windows, doors, roofs, gutters, staff spaces, and more

Get Involved!

We are looking for:

Connectors

to organizations, businesses, and people who can help Early Learning Spaces thrive.

Champions

to stay connected with PRE4CLE and work to advance our mission.

Partners

interested in working side-by-side with PRE4CLE by joining grant applications, layering programs, funding, or providing in-kind support.

Funders

interested in investing in Cleveland's small businesses, children, and communities with direct support.

Contact:

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