

## Features of High-Quality Early Learning Spaces

### ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY



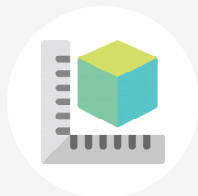
- Room temperature and air quality
- Ventilation
- Reduced noise
- Free of asbestos, lead, and other toxins

### INTERIOR FINISHES AND DESIGN



- Quality lighting and natural light
- Neutral colors
- Design that brings in elements of nature

### ORGANIZATION AND LAYOUT



- Reduced clutter
- Efficient and safe layouts
- Fixtures at children's height

### GROSS MOTOR AND OUTDOOR SPACE



- Playgrounds, outdoor classrooms, and green spaces
- Indoor and outdoor play spaces

## Cleveland Early Learning Spaces Partner Organizations

IFF

Cleveland Early Learning Spaces Committee

Cleveland Early Childhood Compact

Learn more, apply for future cohorts, join our contractor pool, or donate to Cleveland Early Learning Spaces.

[PRE4CLE.org/Spaces](https://PRE4CLE.org/Spaces)

### ABOUT PRE4CLE

PRE4CLE is a collective impact initiative working to expand access to all 3- and 4-year-olds in the city of Cleveland so that every child enters kindergarten ready to succeed. PRE4CLE connects families to high-quality public and private preschool programs; connects preschool providers to tools, resources, and key partners to increase their quality and serve more children; and provides strategic leadership and advocacy to accelerate the availability of high-quality preschool in Cleveland.

PRE4CLE was developed in 2014 to fulfill a core goal of Cleveland's Plan for Transforming Schools and is guided by The Cleveland Early Childhood Compact, a public-private leadership body. For more information, visit [www.PRE4CLE.org](http://www.PRE4CLE.org).



6393 Oak Tree Blvd.  
Independence, Ohio 44131  
216.901.4214





Building bright futures.  
One room at a time.



**Cleveland Early  
Learning Spaces**  
A PRE4CLE INITIATIVE

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

Cleveland Early Learning Spaces is a PRE4CLE initiative focused on ensuring that every child can attend a high-quality early learning program in a high-quality facility. The program offers community-based child care and preschool providers grants and other financial supports, professional development, and technical assistance to complete facility renovations using best practices that support the health, safety, learning, and development of young children. As a second phase of this work, we aim

to build new high-quality preschools in under-served Cleveland neighborhoods.

## High-Quality Early Learning Spaces

Since PRE4CLE's founding in 2014, we've been focused on increasing access to high-quality preschool programs for Cleveland's 3- and 4-year-olds, as measured by Ohio's Step Up To Quality rating system. But some **high-quality rated Early Care and Education (ECE) providers do not have facilities that match the quality of the program they are delivering**, and some neighborhoods need additional high-quality preschool seats and require building new facilities.

Early childhood providers operate their businesses on razor-thin margins that limit available capital for sustained facility maintenance and improvement that supports best practices. Studies show that **quality early learning spaces have a profound positive impact on students**, including improved student productivity, academic performance, and behavior. Facilities also contribute indirectly to student success by improving job satisfaction for teachers and administrators.

### Program Model

Cleveland Early Learning Spaces will support early childhood providers in need of facilities improvements by providing:

- **GRANTS** and facilitating additional funding opportunities for providers to implement facilities improvements.
- **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**, staffing, and support to ECE providers to manage construction projects.
- **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT** that empowers early learning program operators to design and maintain safe and enriching early learning facilities.



## Program Priorities

Cleveland Early Learning Spaces has four priorities that support Cleveland's children, families, and ECE providers as well as its economy and workforce.

**FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS** | Address structural and design issues in early childhood facilities to ensure the quality of the facility matches the quality of the program.

**EQUITY** | Ensure all children have access to safe, high-quality early childhood programs located in high-quality facilities, regardless of where they live.

**LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT** | Equip early learning providers with the knowledge and skills they need to improve and maintain the quality of their facilities

**ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** | Support Cleveland's workforce by creating more quality child care capacity, and support neighborhoods by improving the quality of facilities.

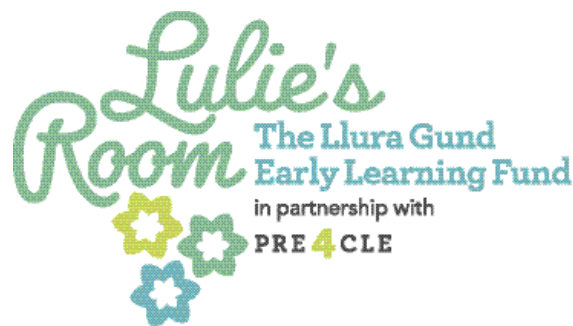
## Funding and Implementation

PRE4CLE's goal is to complete at least 30 renovation projects by 2026. The first cohort of Cleveland Early Learning Spaces was generously funded through a \$1 million grant from The George Gund Foundation and a matching \$1 million donation from Gordon and the late Llura Gund. Additional funds have been secured from the Mt. Sinai Health Foundation and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through federal appropriations. PRE4CLE is seeking to raise additional philanthropic, corporate, and public resources to support this work.

Cleveland Early Learning Spaces will address facilities challenges in every neighborhood in Cleveland. In total, we project that there are currently **at least 80 center-based and 70 home-based high-quality preschool providers that require some level of renovations** or need to be relocated to a new space due to the projected high costs of renovation to their current space. If the renovation program is taken to scale, **the renovations**

**would impact about 6,000 Cleveland children annually, including infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and school-age children.**

To meet the current renovation need, PRE4CLE is seeking to raise a total of \$25 million. As a second phase of this work, PRE4CLE will seek to raise an additional \$60 million in public and private financing for the construction of **new child care centers in seven neighborhoods** that we project will not have enough supply to meet demand if more seats are not made available to preschool children.



80  
CENTER-BASED  
PROGRAMS

70  
HOME-BASED  
PROGRAMS

IN NEED OF RENOVATION,  
IMPACTING ABOUT 6000 CHILDREN  
ANNUALLY.

