

**Preschool Expansion Organization
Fact Sheet**

As of March 2017

The Preschool Expansion Organization is a non-profit organization led by a Board of Directors which will implement the preschool expansion plan. Board members include educators, parents, preschool providers, community and business leaders. The Board is chaired by Father Michael Graham, President, Xavier University.

The Preschool Expansion Organization will expand access to quality preschool in Cincinnati by offering:

Preschool tuition assistance

- Tuition assistance, expected to become available in fall, 2017.
- Families may use tuition assistance at any 3, 4 or 5-star quality rated public, private, Head Start or home-based preschool located in the Cincinnati Public School District boundary.
- Families must live in the Cincinnati Public School District to receive assistance.
- Tuition credits will be paid directly to the preschool selected by the family.
- Tuition assistance will supplement state and federal preschool funds, such as Head Start, Title I funding, Ohio Department of Education Expansion Grants, and state child care subsidies.

Quality Improvement Grants

- Grants will help private, community-based preschool programs pay for the cost of achieving and maintaining quality.
- Grant applications are expected to become available in spring 2017

News, additional details and enrollment information will be provided as it becomes available.

www.askpreschoolpromise.org is available now to take questions until the enrollment and provider support staff is in place.

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Background Information about Preschool Expansion in Cincinnati

The need for quality preschool

More than 40% of Cincinnati's children are not prepared for kindergarten. The gap is even greater for low-income children. There are 9,200 three and four-year-old children in Cincinnati, nearly half live at or below the federal poverty level. Preschool tuition assistance that is currently available is not sufficient to meet the demand. New preschool funding offered by the Preschool Expansion Organization will allow more children to attend quality preschool by making it more affordable for the families who need it most.

The benefits of quality preschool

With a quality preschool education, children are ready for kindergarten, read successfully by the end of third grade, do better in school, and graduate from high school prepared for college and careers. Investing in quality preschool also generates strong economic returns, conservatively estimated at \$2 to \$4 for every \$1 invested by taxpayers.

How preschool expansion will work

To expand access to quality preschool, the Preschool Expansion Organization will offer:

Preschool tuition assistance. The assistance will be provided in the form of tuition credits that will be paid directly to the preschool selected by the family. Credits may be used at any 3, 4 or 5-star quality rated preschool located in the Cincinnati Public School boundary.

Quality Improvement Grants will provide financial support to private, community-based preschools as they work to achieve and maintain quality. The grants will expand the number of quality preschools in Cincinnati, giving parents more options.

Funding of preschool expansion

Preschool expansion is made possible thanks to a significant investment from taxpayers who approved a 5-year Cincinnati Public Schools levy in 2016. The levy includes \$33 million a year to strengthen K-12 education and \$15 million a year to expand access to quality preschool. The taxpayer investment with this levy for both K-12 and preschool education is \$5.35 per week for a home valued at \$100,000.

Cincinnati Public Schools receives property tax dollars generated by the school levy and has contracted with the United Way of Greater Cincinnati to manage preschool expansion. The United Way established the Preschool Expansion Organization which will be fully accountable to the Board of Education and thereby to the taxpayers.

Preschool Expansion Organization

The Preschool Expansion Organization is a non-profit organization led by a Board of Directors which will implement the preschool expansion plan, including hiring staff and overseeing day-to-day operations. Board members include educators, parents, preschool providers, community and business leaders. Members include:

- **Chair:** Father Michael Graham, President, Xavier University

- **Secretary:** Deborah Allsop, Executive Director and CEO, Families FORWARD
- **Treasurer:** Pastor Ennis Tait, Church of the Living God
- Terri England, Director and Administrator, New Horizons Child Care Center
- Jasmine Jones, parent
- Micah Kamrass, attorney, Manley Burke
- Gary Lindgren, Executive Director, Cincinnati Business Committee and Cincinnati Regional Business Committee
- Kimya Moyo, retired teacher
- Dr. O'dell Owens, President and CEO, Interact for Health
- John Pepper, retired CEO and Chairman, P&G
- Cheryl Rose, Senior Vice President, Hawthorn PNC Family Wealth
- Laura Sanregret, teacher, Dater Montessori
- Steve Shifman, President and CEO, Michelman
- Sallie Westheimer, retired President and CEO, 4C for Children
- Flora (Kathy) Young, Education Committee Chair, NAACP

The Board is expected to make the following key decisions this year:

- Tuition Assistance eligibility and application process
- Preschool enrollment process and timeline
- Guidelines for the preschool provider Quality Improvement Grants
- Selection of Executive Director and staff
- Assessment measures to track student and provider success

Qualifications for Preschool Providers to accept Tuition Credits

Tuition credits can be used at Cincinnati Public Schools preschools and quality rated community providers located in the Cincinnati Public School District boundaries. Quality rated programs must have a three, four or five-star rating from State of Ohio's "Step Up to Quality" star rating system, administered by the Ohio Department of Education. The state rates programs based on quality curriculum, number of college-educated teachers, parent engagement and qualified management. Quality Improvement Grants will be available to help preschool providers pay the cost to achieve and maintain their quality rating. Grant applications are expected to be available in spring 2017.

Impact on Head Start and other preschool funding:

New funding for preschool expansion is intended to be "last dollar," supplementing other federal and state funds, that are currently available and being used for preschool, such as Head Start, Title I funding, Ohio Department of Education Expansion Grants, and state child care subsidies.

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