



Why Early Childhood Education?

To understand why advocates want Cincinnati voters to support preschool expansion, read the RAND study

KEY FINDINGS

- **It's real:** The benefits of early childhood education isn't theory. There are many real-world, rigorously evaluated models that make the case.
- **Quality matters:** All preschool is not created equal. High quality delivers.
- **Poor kids benefit:** Preschool benefits are especially pronounced for society's most disadvantaged children.
- **Worth it:** Preschool represents a substantial public cost but, over time, delivers a greater public benefit.

While you may have heard the logic time again for expanding preschool, the current ballot proposal to pump \$15 million a year into the effort in Cincinnati is a good reason to revisit the case.

That case was made in detail by the RAND Corp. in a report released last March and titled *Informing Investments in Preschool Quality and Access in Cincinnati*.

Two local institutions that have long supported early childhood education locally, the United Way and the Chamber of Commerce,

commissioned the study to build a case with the public. The study received substantial media coverage when it was released in March but it bears reading in view of the current levy debate.

What did the study find? In short, quality preschool is worth the investment: "...credible estimates of the economic return for full-scale high quality preschool programs range from about \$2 to \$4 for every \$1 invested."

Is that an investment our community should be willing to make?

IN THE FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY, IT'S TIME TO ACT

WE WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR CITY

We've spent a year educating ourselves about the poverty crisis that's plaguing Greater Cincinnati. Now, it's time for the Cincinnatus Association to act.

Our leadership has been planning a year that will give members a sense of accomplishment while helping more of our neighbors achieve the American Dream.

We've been identifying projects that Cincinnatus can pursue to fight poverty one street, school, group or issue at a time. You'll have a choice of where you want to be involved. And if you want to pursue a project you feel passionate about but that hasn't been addressed, you'll be welcome to tackle it with other members.

NEXT STEPS

We started by identifying dozens of potential projects. We've narrowed it to 11 ideas. By October, we plan to have narrowed the list to about three projects to present to the membership.

Our panels will be keys to undertaking projects that rely upon their special expertise. But we'll also form task forces, as needed, to pursue projects that fall outside the scope of our panels.

We encourage you to get involved. Members who do so get the most out of Cincinnatus. They learn about important issues, feel a sense of accomplishment and form a strong bond with other members.

Questions, comments? Email:
CincinnatusPresident@hotmail.com

READ THE STUDY FOR YOURSELF

www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR1461.html

FROM THE ARCHIVES: A PRESIDENTIAL REFLECTION

On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Cincinnati Association in 1996, we invited past presidents to reflect on their time in office. You can read all of these reflections on our website. But here's one by Edmund J. Adams, who was president from 1977 to 1978. You'll see that his thoughts have a timeless quality to him.

During my term in office, we talked about violence on television (what hasn't changed in 20 years?). We held a meeting at the school tax levy headquarters, manning the phone banks. We took the bus to Columbus to meet with Governor Rhodes about public school financing (he was with us in body, if not spirit). We concerned ourselves with the system for filling city council vacancies, and we had Stan Aronoff and Tom Atkins debate before us.

My more memorable Cincinnati experience, however, occurred the year before, in 1976. It was what Ron Roberts during his CBS tenure told me was the dumbest thing I ever did. But that comment was made several years ago; he's had time to make another selection.

"The dumbest thing I ever did" was to think up the amendment to the City Charter in 1976

increasing council salaries from a paltry \$8,000 per year to three-fourths of the County Commissioners' salaries. It passed by about 51% of the vote. We thought higher salaries would attract a higher caliber of candidate. We were concerned about what we were getting on Council and thought that meaningful compensation might make a difference.

You can judge for yourself whether we accomplished that. You know Ron Roberts' opinion. Ron argued that part-time compensation attracted part-time councilpersons, people who had another life, who were successful in that other life and who really didn't need the council job. He contended that by raising the salary we created a full-time job that attracted another sort of candidate. He wished we'd left it alone. Whether we proved right or wrong, we did promote an attitude in the '70s that the City Charter was Cincinnati's baby, conceived and brought to life by Cincinnati, a document in which Cincinnati had an almost proprietary interest. When Charter revisions are suggested, Cincinnati should step forward as its guardian and assume an influential role. That wouldn't be the dumbest thing Cincinnati ever did.

READ MORE PRESIDENTIAL REFLECTIONS ON OUR WEBSITE

Some ideas for Cincinnati and our anti-poverty focus ...

Adopt a street: Work with residents to help with whatever needs they articulate. We could perhaps help a different street every year – improving the world one street at a time.

Influence policies: Research existing city, county and state rules, regulations and statutes that have the effect of keeping people in poverty. Select one or more and advocate for change.

Paint fireplugs: Partner with Art Works or other organizations to get Cincinnati fireplugs painted. Businesses could pay for fireplugs near them to be painted and suggest the themes. In a pre-existing project, Art Works hires disadvantaged teens to help paint murals on buildings.

Adopt a school: Learn about its needs and find ways to support the development of the school as well as its students and their families.

Push quality preschool: If the Cincinnati education levy passes, help with implementation of its preschool aspects. If it fails, find other ways to make the Preschool Promise happen.

Partner with DePaul Christo Rey High School:

Identify business partners to make the school's work-study program even more effective.

Fight for the rights of inmates' children: Advocate for the enforcement of the Children of Incarcerated Parents Bill of Rights.

Promote poverty simulations: Think Tank holds poverty simulations.

Experience poverty: Expose Cincinnati members and then others to the Urban Plunge, which briefly immerses people in poverty so they can experience how low-income people live.

Go on the road: Cincinnati would raise money for charities by conducting happy hour events targeting young, emerging leaders.

Create transit opportunities: Advocate for better public transportation to jobs, perhaps with express buses or trains to areas where employers are concentrated.

Like something you see? Have another idea? Let a member of the Executive Committee know.

Has your company or firm sponsored a monthly meeting?

As the new season begins for the Cincinnati Association, a new opportunity exists for companies and firms to sponsor our monthly meeting. Talk to **Roger Smith** about the benefits and how to arrange to be a sponsor.

Want to change the world? Vote on Nov. 8.

Yes, it seems that it would go without saying: We live in a democracy. Let's vote. But in 2012, the voter turnout rates for Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana were, respectively: 65.1%, 56.2%, and 56.0%. All of those fell off from 2008 and only Indiana bested its 2004 rate (barely).

Voting strategists suggest one way to encourage people to go to the polls is to ask them to "make a plan to vote."

Naturally, the process begins with registration. But a good next step is to consider what time of day you are going to vote — and to make note of your polling place. For those who are not sure, the website **canivote.org** is great resource.

A message that bears repeating — again

We need members. How do we find them? With your help. There's a wonderful toolkit on our website that you can use to tell the Cincinnati story to potential members.

Our association is strongest when it is diverse and refreshed. New members make us vital and dynamic. Recruit!

A lesson in Kentucky politics (plus coffee)

Our occasional collaborator on public affairs discussions, the Northern Kentucky Forum, is hosting a café on Nov. 17 at 8 a.m. at Gateway's Covington campus. The state's top political journalist, Al Cross (columnist at the Louisville Courier-Journal) will interpret the election results. RSVP at <https://alcrosscafe.eventbrite.com>.