



**Bloomberg Philanthropies, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Ballmer Group announce Dayton to join initiative to increase economic mobility**

*Dayton will use data to identify barriers to economic opportunity, test promising strategies, and share learning with other communities*

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Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Ballmer Group announced today that Dayton is one of ten American cities that will participate in a new national initiative to identify, pilot, and measure the success of interventions to accelerate economic mobility for their residents.

Over the next 18 months, Dayton will use innovative outreach methods to increase parental engagement in high-quality early childhood education. The City of Dayton and Preschool Promise will work together on this effort, with the goal of creating more opportunities for parents to engage in activities that help build children's brains and eventually to enroll in preschool.

The defining characteristic of the American Dream is upward mobility, but new data from [Opportunity Insights](#) shows that the current generation's chances of earning more than their parents are declining. In many communities, young people and families face significant barriers to climbing the economic ladder based on the neighborhoods in which they live.

The new national initiative, supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Ballmer Group, seeks to respond to the strong demand among local leaders for new, more effective interventions to address rising income inequality and declining economic mobility. In Bloomberg Philanthropies' [2018 American Mayors Survey](#) -- the largest comprehensive public-opinion survey of mayors and city managers -- one of the top concerns was the challenge of providing more and better economic opportunities for all residents.

"We're really excited to begin this engagement with What Works Cities to deepen Dayton's work around early childhood education," said Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley. "It's encouraging that Preschool Promise's great work is receiving national attention, and I think this initiative will only accelerate that."

Dayton was selected through a competitive process that looked at local commitment to addressing economic mobility, willingness to use data and evidence to accelerate progress, and ability to dedicate a team to accomplish the initiative's goals. The initiative is supported by a \$12 million investment from Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Ballmer Group that was announced last fall.

Over the next 18 months, Dayton will develop, pilot, and measure the early impacts of parental engagement strategies designed to help improve residents' long-term economic mobility. Dayton will also work closely with other cities participating in the initiative to share lessons and experiences to further advance the work and build a model for future collaboration among cities on the topic.

Dayton staff have already begun working with a team of advisors from Results for America and the Behavioral Insights Team, both partners in [What Works Cities](#), a Bloomberg Philanthropies initiative that helps cities confront urgent challenges through data- and evidence-based decision-making. Dayton City staff will deepen their data skills and strengthen their ability to deliver results to residents with the help of experts from other What Works Cities partners, including Johns Hopkins University's Center for Government Excellence, the Harvard Kennedy School's Government Performance Lab and the Sunlight Foundation.

Additionally, Opportunity Insights at Harvard University is helping Dayton staff draw insights regarding economic mobility in the community using data from the Opportunity Atlas, an interactive resource developed in collaboration with the U.S. Census Bureau.

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The ten cities participating in the economic mobility initiative are: Albuquerque, NM; Cincinnati, OH; Dayton, OH; Detroit, MI; Lansing, MI; New Orleans, LA; Newark, NJ; Racine, WI; Rochester, NY; and Tulsa, OK.

About Bloomberg Philanthropies:

Bloomberg Philanthropies invests in 510 cities and 129 countries around the world to ensure better, longer lives for the greatest number of people. The organization focuses on five key areas for creating lasting change: Arts, Education, Environment, Government Innovation, and Public Health. Bloomberg Philanthropies encompasses all of Michael R. Bloomberg's giving, including his foundation and personal philanthropy as well as Bloomberg Associates, a pro bono consultancy that works in cities around the world. In 2018, Bloomberg

Philanthropies distributed \$767 million. For more information, please visit [bloomberg.org](http://bloomberg.org) or follow on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and Twitter.

#### About Ballmer Group:

Ballmer Group works to improve economic mobility for children and families in the United States who are disproportionately likely to remain in poverty. We believe that building pathways to opportunity requires broad, systemic change. We invest in many stages of a child's life by supporting strong community partnerships among public, private, and nonprofit organizations that use data to more effectively serve families. Ballmer Group was co-founded by philanthropist and civic activist Connie Ballmer and her husband Steve Ballmer, former CEO of Microsoft, founder of USAFacts, and chairman of the Los Angeles Clippers. Learn more at [www.ballmergroup.org](http://www.ballmergroup.org) and [@BallmerGroup](https://twitter.com/BallmerGroup).

#### About Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation:

Guided by the belief that every life has equal value, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation works to help all people lead healthy, productive lives. In developing countries, it focuses on improving people's health and giving them the chance to lift themselves out of hunger and extreme poverty. In the United States, it seeks to ensure that all people--especially those with the fewest resources--have access to the opportunities they need to succeed in school and life. Based in Seattle, Washington, the foundation is led by CEO Susan Desmond-Hellmann and Co-chair William H. Gates Sr., under the direction of Bill and Melinda Gates.

