As the child poverty capital of the country, Toronto must invest in kids: Editorial.

We know what must be done. What's lacking now is the will — and in municipal politics, will equals money. The anti-poverty program has so far been among the many casualties of the city's dire revenue shortage, which the mayor and his council have been so slow to address. While Tory promised to back new revenue tools this fall, the only one he has publicly endorsed so far is a relatively modest hotel tax.

Nor is the stark inequality in future living conditions and education associated with family income unavoidable. Rather, providing more robust services to single mothers and their children quickly pays for itself by helping women get off social assistance.

For instance, for every $1 spent on affordable child care, an important part of the anti-poverty plan, governments receive more than $2 in increased taxes from mothers' employment income. Meanwhile, a McMaster University study showed that providing more robust services to single mothers and their children quickly pays for itself by helping women get off social assistance.

Study after study has shown that it pays to invest in poverty reduction measures. That's both shameful and short-sighted. Tackling child poverty is not only the moral thing to do, it also makes economic sense. It's time the city government took this essential step.