

Study to examine costs of government

By **JAY MILLER**

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Local foundations are putting up \$175,000 for an independent study to measure the costs of government to the people of Northeast Ohio and how much of that cost is due to the region's splintered governance.

"No one's ever looked at the cost of fragmented government," said Chris Thompson, director of marketing, communications and civic outreach for the Fund for Our Economic Future, which is contributing \$100,000 for the study. "This is an important conversation, and it needs to be an informed one."

The research will be handled by the Center for Governmental Research Inc. of Rochester, N.Y.

The Youngstown-Warren Regional Chamber, the Samuel H. and Maria Miller Foundation, the George Gund Foundation and the Greater Cleveland Partnership also are expected to contribute to the study, which Mr. Thompson said would be rolled out in stages beginning next spring.

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