

# GEORGE KAISER FAMILY FOUNDATION

*A supporting organization of Tulsa Community Foundation*



EVERY CHILD DESERVES  
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY



# PHILOSOPHY

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“No child is responsible for the  
circumstances of his or her birth.”  
– George B. Kaiser

# Background

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**Established in 1999**, the George Kaiser Family Foundation (GKFF) is a charitable organization dedicated to providing equal opportunity for young children in Tulsa through investments in early childhood education, community health, social services and civic enhancement.

# A Bit About Tulsa

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## Tulsa is a top 50 city in the United States

- Tulsa MSA has a population of over 1 million people.
- Located in the northeast corner of Oklahoma, in the center of the U.S.
- Second largest city in Oklahoma after Oklahoma City.

## Demographics

- 61% Caucasian
- 17% African American
- 13% Hispanic/Latino
- 6% Native American/Other

## Major Economic Drivers

- Tulsa was the “Oil Capital of the World” in the 1920’s and the energy industry continues to be a leading employer.
- Other industries that are prevalent include: aerospace, healthcare, light manufacturing.



# Mission

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## Focus Areas:

### Early Childhood Education

- Early Education (0 - 3yrs) – create high impact outcomes to level playing field
- Pre K – 12 Education – maintain foundational gains
- Parent Engagement – provide resources to encourage parent-child interaction

### Health & Family Well-being

- Community Health – medical practices serving low-income populations
- Maternal Child Health – enable planned pregnancies and healthy birth outcomes
- Cycle of Incarceration – reduce female incarceration, facilitate rehabilitation
- Social Services – provide basic services like food, shelter, and healthcare

### Civic Enhancement

- Arts & Culture – establish vibrant cultural community; attract/retain talent
- Economic Development – build public and living spaces to promote inclusivity
- Neighborhood Development – promote events to build sense of community

# Approach

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- Solution requires a holistic approach: education, family, health, etc.
- Leverage evidenced-based programs with long-term outcomes; often through importing proven programs to Tulsa.
- Fix it here (Tulsa), then scale up.
- Quasi-operating model
- Try to make something happen that would not otherwise happen
- Clean sheet of paper
- Don't work from a budget

## CORE PROJECTS AND OUR APPROACH

GKFF uses evidence-based practices to tackle problems, often through importing proven programs to Tulsa or building efforts informed by practices elsewhere. We recognize that the challenges we deal with are complex and require constant review and evaluation.

By leveraging other resources, both public and private, GKFF works to truly make a difference in the lives of young children in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

### NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Strengthen diverse neighborhoods to support wealth creation for historically underserved Tulsans.

### HEALTHCARE ACCESS

Address healthcare disparities through improved access to community clinics, expanded healthcare coverage and stronger professional training.

### PLACEMAKING

Create and maintain places for all Tulsans to enjoy, including an interconnected system of trails around the Arkansas River, downtown green space and a 100-acre Gathering Place.

### INCARCERATION

Disrupt Oklahoma's high rate of incarceration to keep families intact, as well as create opportunity to reduce recidivism.

### JOB CREATION

Stimulate job creation, business recruitment and community development in Tulsa's highest poverty neighborhoods, including in Tulsa's Promise Neighborhood planning grant zone.

### ARTS DISTRICT

Develop and maintain vibrant and inclusive districts that promote the arts, community, diversity and provide green space for public gatherings.

### EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Improve the quality and availability of early childhood experiences for Tulsa's youngest children in poverty.

### TALENT RECRUITMENT

Recruit and retain talented professionals with an emphasis on nonprofit leaders, teachers, artists, tech workers and entrepreneurs.



### MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH

Improve maternal health and reduce unintended teen pregnancy through education and contraception access, as well as implementation of programming to support expectant and new families through doula, home visitation, medical improvement, fatherhood, public awareness and policy.

### BIRTH THROUGH EIGHT STRATEGY FOR TULSA (BEST)

Improve access to programs and services that nurture strong brain development and adult-child interactions by working shoulder-to-shoulder with parents, caregivers and community leaders to support healthy births and child development, birth through age eight.

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# Ex: Educare

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- Early childhood (birth to 3) education program with goal of closing the achievement gap between low-income children and their middle-income peers.
  - Small class sizes and high teacher/child ratios
  - Interdisciplinary approach to meet needs of the whole child
  - Focus on family engagement, parent education, and involvement
  - On site family support services
- State-of-the-art facilities designed to accommodate programmatic goals.
- Research based curriculum designed to affect target outcomes
- Public-private collaboration between philanthropic leader (GKFF), programmatic provider (Head Start), and a public school district (Tulsa Public Schools).
- Outcomes: After 3-5 yrs in the program, children have achieved a school readiness score of 105.1 compared to 95.5 for children enrolled for less than 1yr and a score of 98.8 for all children.

# We are part of solving the problem

Operate four Educare early childhood schools as a member of the national Educare Learning Network and partner with our Early Head Start child care providers



## **Infant/Toddler Classrooms**

3 Teacher : 8 Students



## **Preschool Classrooms**

3 Teacher : 17 Students

1. Highly credentialed staff and embedded professional development
2. Classrooms have low student-teacher ratios, small class sizes, continuity of care, and serve children 7:30-5:50
3. Intensive family engagement to increase parent support of child learning, empower parents to set and achieve goals and be their own strongest advocates, and provide information and resources to meet basic needs
4. Whole child supports ensuring each child is safe, healthy and developing in all the central domains of early learning

# Maternal Child Health Projects

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Our strategy focuses on the life course of women to ensure their health, and the health of their families.

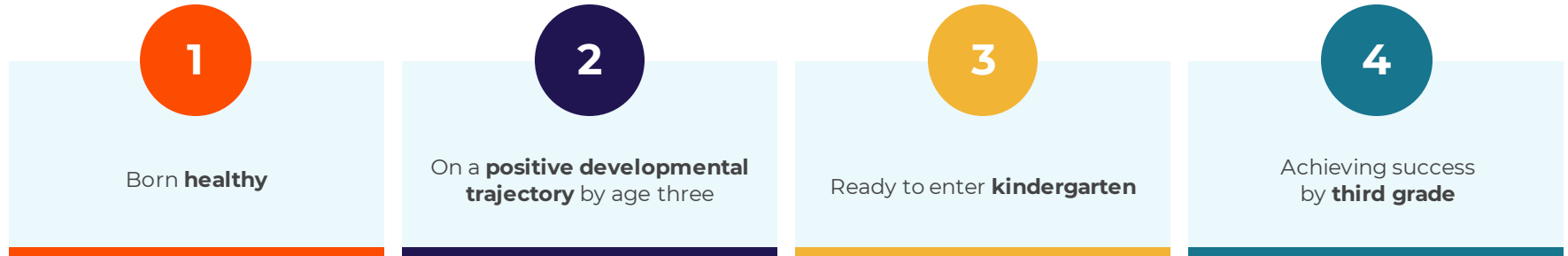
- **Tulsa Birth Equity Initiative:** An initiative focused on improving maternal health outcomes through a Community Based Doula Program for qualifying pregnant women, hospital quality improvement projects, community programming focused on supporting Black mothers and policy
- **Take Control Initiative:** A contraception access project designed through a reproductive justice lens, providing education and free contraception to qualifying people
- **Amplify:** An adolescent health collective, providing training, technical assistance and evidence-based sex education
- **Strong Tomorrows:** A program for expectant and parenting teens in Tulsa Public Schools providing case management with a focus on high school graduation career/college ready, health, early childhood education for the babies and healthy parent-child attachment

# BEST

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The **Birth through Eight Strategy for Tulsa (BEST)** represents an exciting opportunity for Tulsa. **BEST** is a comprehensive, continuous and integrated approach that focuses on families with supports in the earliest years of a child's life to help break the cycle of intergenerational poverty. A network of programs and services, knitted together to create a seamless continuum of support, join community agencies and philanthropies to partner with Tulsa's families and build a cycle of opportunity that will significantly improve children's success for life.

## BEST's goal is to increase the percentage of children:





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