



**K-Ready**  
COMMUNITY

A Voice for Children

## K-Ready Alliance Fund

### WHAT IS THE K-READY ALLIANCE FUND?

The K-Ready Community Project is a collective impact effort to make early childhood a priority in Orange County and ensure that EVERY child has a strong start and a bright future. The K-Ready Alliance Fund, established in 2021, seeks partners and annual members to provide funding to implement the K-Ready Plan of Action to build a better system of care and education for children from birth to five.

## SITUATION

Ninety-percent of brain development occurs in the first five years, yet half of children in our community do not receive the care and education they need to be ready for kindergarten. These children that start off behind often never catch up and are more likely to drop out of school and struggle with poverty, homelessness and health issues.

To address these issues we face today - poverty, inequity, crime, low-skilled workforce; the answer is simple - **START EARLY!**

By engaging leaders and citizens from all sectors, K-Ready strives to unite the community to make early childhood a top priority and to build a better system of care and education for all children, zero

to five years of age, so that EVERY child has a strong start and a bright future.

We are fortunate to have great programs and agencies helping children and families in our community. Together with these champions, K-Ready is driving transformative change with a shared vision and plan of action through advocacy, collaboration and a systems approach to problem solving.

Every child deserves the chance to succeed!  
Join the K-Ready Alliance and...

**Be a VOICE for children!**

## VOICES OF K-READY

"The City of Orlando continues to make our children's health and education a top priority. I am proud to stand with all of you to work on this important effort."

**BUDDY DYER**  
Mayor of  
Orlando

"While talent is evenly distributed, opportunity is not. High-quality ECE can be the equalizer. We can't wait for the government to fix it. We have to take action locally; and we have to start today"

**KAREN WILLIS**  
CEO Early Learning Coalition  
of Orange County

"When children have access to high-quality early healthcare and education options, they are more likely to start kindergarten ready for success in school."

**PAM GOULD**  
Orange County Public  
Schools School Board  
Member

"The K-Ready Community Project is something you should pay attention to and is truly the starting point for changing the future."

**MARK BREWER**  
CEO at Central Florida  
Foundation

## WHY K-READY?

**45%**  
enter Kindergarten  
NOT ready

**30%**  
of household income  
spent on childcare for  
most families

**50%**  
of children, 0-5, have  
limited access to  
healthcare

- **A Strong Start is Key to Future Success** - The best way to build broad prosperity is to invest in the education and well-being of children during the critical early years when 90% of the brain is developed. Yet, in Orange County, almost half of children start kindergarten NOT ready.
- **Childcare is Essential** - Working parents, especially women, need reliable childcare options so they can work and earn a living. Yet childcare is unaffordable for most families, often costing more than rent or food, and subsidies to help families cover the cost of high-quality care are inadequate.
- **Inequity Starts Early** - Black and Hispanic women and children and those from low-income families are less likely to have access to prenatal care, insurance, and quality early learning options, and children are more likely to enter kindergarten without the skills needed for success.

## A UNIQUE APPROACH FOR A BETTER FUTURE

The K-Ready Community Project is a collective impact movement and systems approach that is driving transformative change in early care and education. Our unique approach follows three steps:

1. **Vision for a Better Future** - Develop a clear-eyed view of how our children are really doing and what we need to change to create a better future for ALL children and families.
2. **Collaborative Action for Systemic Change** - Bring leaders and stakeholders together to take action that addresses systemic issues and scales solutions that work for ALL children and families.
3. **Advocacy and Alliance-Building** - Build a broad K-Ready Alliance to leverage the power of numbers to advocate for policy and funding changes at the local, state, and federal levels.

## K-READY PLAN OF ACTION



### Healthy Beginnings

- Home visitation and support for maternal and infant well-being
- Integrated system of care, navigation, and follow-through
- Information campaigns for parents and leaders on importance of early years



### High-Quality Care & Education

- Standard working definition of Kindergarten Ready with developmentally and culturally appropriate assessments, programs, and training
- Funding policies and braided funding strategies to drive quality and address resource gaps
- Early learning workforce college and career pathways, wages, and compensation



### Supported Families

- Resources and training to address trauma and mental health (resiliency training, Circle of Security)
- Business engagement and childcare policies (e.g. Bosses for Babies campaign)
- Neighborhood access to family supports (community centers, schools, churches)

# INVEST

The K-Ready Community Project seeks \$750,000 by Spring 2022 from funding partners and donors.

Funds raised for the K-Ready project will cover 18 months of operation and will be utilized to build the K-Ready Alliance to drive policy and systems change, conduct research and analysis and facilitate implementation of the collective plan of action, including the following:

1. Increase participation of parents, particularly mothers, in post-natal and infant support programs.
2. Expand programs addressing social-emotional development and resiliency skills for young children and families.
3. Expand and support ECE teacher workforce with compensation, recruitment and retention strategies.

\*The Foundation for OCPS serves as the fiscal partner and manages all funds and donations.

## A UNITED FRONT

Minga Advisors, a collective impact backbone agency, is leading the project along with over 50 organizations on the K-Ready Leadership Table, including government, healthcare, non-profits, businesses, colleges, and universities.



## WITH YOUR HELP, WE ARE ON OUR WAY TO BECOMING A K-READY COMMUNITY!

*Your contributions will help to grow the K-Ready Alliance and fund the collaborative work of K-Ready to transform the system of early care and education in Orange County so that EVERY child has a strong start and a bright future.*

For more information, visit:  
[www.GetKReady.com](http://www.GetKReady.com)

K-READY COMMUNITY

### K-READY ALLIANCE FUND GIVING LEVELS

<b>Grassroots Supporter</b> .....	<b>\$1 - \$999</b>
<b>K-Ready Ally</b> .....	<b>\$1K - \$2499</b>
<b>K-Ready Catalyst</b> .....	<b>\$2500, \$5K, \$9999</b>
<b>Community Partner</b> .....	<b>\$10K, \$25K, \$50K up to \$99,999</b>
<b>Champion for Children</b> .....	<b>\$100K - \$499,999</b>
<b>K-Ready Change Agents</b> .....	<b>\$500K - \$1M</b>

### INVEST & GIVE TO: Foundation for OCPS, K-Ready Community Fund

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[www.getkready.com](http://www.getkready.com)

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