



K-READY COMMUNITY PROJECT ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA Executive Summary

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MISSION: The K-Ready Community Project is committed to making early childhood a top priority in Orange County, building a better system of care and education to ensure that EVERY child has a strong start and a bright future.

WHY K-READY?

- **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 to prepare them for success in school and life. 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: The K-Ready Community Project is a collective impact movement and systems approach that is driving transformative change for early childhood. Our unique approach follows three steps: 1) Develop a clear-eyed understanding of where we are now and commit to a vision for a better future. 2) Bring leaders and stakeholders together to take collaborative action for systemic change. 3) Build a broad K-Ready Alliance to advocate for policy and funding changes at the local, state, and federal levels.

IMPACT FOR A BETTER FUTURE:

HEALTHY CHILDREN

- Prenatal healthcare access
- Maternal, family, & infant postnatal support
- Access to healthcare
- Early resolution of health & developmental issues
- Integrated services & navigation

ACCESS TO CARE & EDUCATION

- Standard working definition of Kindergarten-Ready
- Sufficient funding that drives affordability & quality
- Access to quality ECE seats
- Supported early learning workforce
- Screenings & treatment for special needs

SUPPORTED FAMILIES

- Broad awareness of ECE importance & developmental milestones
- Trauma-informed & resiliency programs & services
- Access to family services & support
- Business engagement & family-friendly practices

LEADERSHIP AND PARTNERS: Minga Advisors is leading the project with over 50 organizations on the K-Ready Leadership Table, including: Government: OCPS, City of Orlando; Healthcare: AdventHealth; Non-Profits: Early Learning Coalition of OC; Philanthropy: West Orange Healthcare District, Central Florida Foundation; Business: PNC Bank, OEP; and Colleges and Universities: UCF, Peace and Justice Institute at Valencia College.

FINANCIAL NEEDS: The K-Ready Community Project seeks **\$750,000** by **Spring 2022**. The Foundation for OCPS serves as the fiscal partner and manages all funds and donations. Funds raised for the K-Ready project will be utilized to:

1. Increase participation of new parents, particularly mothers, in post-natal and infant support programs.
2. Expand programs addressing social-emotional development and resiliency skills for young children.
3. Facilitate collective impact, systems analysis, and alliance building to drive policy and systems change.