



# Transforming Early Childhood Community Systems (TECCS)

A national initiative catalyzing community-wide improvements in the developmental outcomes of young children across the country.

Working with neighborhoods, cities, and counties, TECCS supports an innovative approach to measuring and mapping local school readiness data and empowering communities to develop solutions that address children in the context of their families and leverage all assets communities can mobilize. TECCS tools, strategies, and collaborative learning network help communities align early childhood programs, funding streams, and policies across a wide range of sectors.

## WHAT IS TECCS

The TECCS initiative is led by UCLA's Center for Healthier Children, Families & Communities with key partners including the United Way Worldwide, the Kellogg Foundation, Doris Duke Foundation and participating communities. TECCS works directly with local early childhood organizations and coalitions on making city or countywide improvements for all children. TECCS helps its partner communities establish a population-level snapshot of children's health, development and school readiness and analyze the community-level findings, neighborhood by neighborhood to identify challenges and then design and implement improvements across sectors, programs, and levels of government.

TECCS has already helped over 85 local communities in more than 18 states measure and map their assets and barriers and use this information to engage broad community participation in improving conditions for families and their young children. With over 300,000 children assessed over the past ten years helping TECCS to map children's developmental outcomes, TECCS is the first national effort to provide holistic and comparable, population-level school readiness data to a large and diverse set of communities. Through the TECCS learning network, this effort has created a common currency and dialogue that allows communities to compare outcomes and learn from each other's best practices.

## HOW TECCS DOES IT

TECCS provides coaching and tools to partner communities to establish or strengthen local coalitions and develop a community-level index to assess child health, development and school readiness, using the Early Development Instrument (EDI). TECCS then helps local coalitions turn data into actionable information through the use of detailed maps and data dashboards that inform planning and lead to measurable, scalable, and sustainable improvements for all children.

TECCS guides communities through a process of convening key local players at all levels (from parents, to providers, to policymakers) and from all sectors (health, education, social services, etc.), to help focus and align their combined efforts to ensure that children become healthy and productive members of the community. TECCS communities can then engage city-level partnerships with school districts, parks and recreation, libraries, and police departments to raise awareness and catalyze action around improving conditions for young children. In addition to providing tools and coaching, TECCS hosts a community-to-community learning network to make sure that local TECCS partners can spread their innovations quickly in order to implement effective, scalable, and sustainable solutions.



# FIVE CORE PRINCIPLES OF TECCS

The TECCS whole child, whole community approach to improving early childhood outcomes is grounded in five core principles:



**EVERYONE BENEFITS:** Though important, TECCS is not focused on the individual child or an individual program. Rather, TECCS aims to help ALL children and families in the community receive the attention and services that they need, with particular attention on those children most in need, so that they receive necessary and additional supports.



**HOLISTIC THINKING:** TECCS considers all aspects of a child's well-being including their physical health, social and emotional development and their cognitive and communication skills. Also, TECCS does not look at one challenge in isolation, but takes into account the many factors (positive and negative) affecting early childhood, including those that relate to their family, school, community and broader policy environments. By understanding the complex realities of children's lives, and by developing comprehensive solutions to support children and families, the TECCS approach helps communities to ensure all children will be better able to meet their potential.



**COLLECTIVE ACTION:** TECCS helps communities work to break down silos and develop collaborative solutions with a shared vision, common agenda, and coordinated action among all of the players influencing early childhood development—from health and education to housing and public safety. The TECCS platform is also being used at a local level to compliment a variety of existing state and national early childhood efforts including Promise Neighborhoods, Project Launch, the Social Innovation and the Maternal and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program.



**COLLABORATIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT:** TECCS hosts a platform for shared learning across communities through regular meetings and conference calls. For communities ready for a more structured and intensive approach, TECCS helps partnering communities build an ongoing culture of learning through a structured process that allows communities to create and test new ideas and then put in place real-time feedback loops that can then inform a new and ongoing cycle of innovation and improvement.



**FUTURE PAYOFFS:** By working to remove barriers to healthy development and helping to put children on a better trajectory as early as possible, TECCS communities are focused on raising a generation that will contribute positively to society.



## TECCS VALUES FOR WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES

In working with communities, the TECCS team embraces a set of values which include having a relationship based on **respect** for community partners and their unique challenges and strengths, **openness** in our methods and conversations, and, most importantly, **optimism** about the future of communities and their children.

LEARN MORE ABOUT TECCS AT [TECCS.NET](http://TECCS.NET)

