

The Birth through Eight Strategy for Tulsa (BEST)

Partner Directory

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[Spanish BEST Partner Directory](#)



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American Institutes for Research (AIR)

Key Contact: Dr. Eboni Howard | Principal Investigator & Project Director | ehoward@air.org

BEST Goal Area: ALL GOALS

Partner Type: BEST research partner

Description: AIR is one of the world's largest behavioral and social science research and evaluation organizations. AIR's overriding goal is to use the best science available to bring the most effective ideas and approaches to enhancing everyday life. AIR is conducting the [BEST Study](#), which includes three components: a process study; an outcomes/impact study; and an ethnographic study. Using both quantitative and qualitative data, the comprehensive study is anchored in an equity lens to explore the contributions that BEST is making to child, family, community and systems outcomes in Tulsa. BEST Partners will have the opportunity to participate in various aspects of the evaluation, including listening sessions; please be on the lookout for invitations from AIR over the course of the BEST Study.



Amplify Youth Health Collective

Key Contact: Heather Duvall | Executive Director | hduvall@amplifytulsa.org

BEST Goal Area: Healthy Births

Partner Type: Partner support

Description: Amplify Youth Health Collective implements innovative approaches to meet the needs of young people, our partners and community through advocacy, collaboration and education. We provide trainings for educators and youth-serving professionals, coordinate sex education implementation and expansion, offer professional development opportunities, promote inclusive practices and share resources with the community. We collaborate with multiple partners to advocate for better policies and programs to support young people, reduce the teen birth and STI rates and improve adolescent sexual health.



ART 4ORMS Foundation

Key Contact: Ebony Easley | Executive Artistic Director | ead@art4orms.org

BEST Goal Area: Enabling Conditions - Community Well-being

Partner Type: Direct service to clients

Description: ART 4ORMS will utilize art education to expand career pathways by increasing free visual and performing art opportunities for North Tulsa families. We provide enrichment opportunities in-person and online for public school students. Visit art4orms.org for more information.



Bank On

Key Contact: Kelsey Schultz | Bank ON Fellow | Kschultz@goodwilltulsa.org

BEST Goal Area: Enabling Conditions-Economic mobility

Partner Type: Direct service to client

Description: Bank On Tulsa's goal is to ensure that everyone has access to a safe and affordable bank or credit union account. The program focuses on working with financial institutions to offer low or no fee checking accounts to Tulsans. Bank On Tulsa also provides community engagement, financial education, and advocacy around banking safety and affordability.



Be Well Community Development Corporation

Key Contact: Reggie Ivey | rivey@tulsa-health.org

BEST Goal Area: Enabling Conditions - Community Well-being

Partner Type: Direct service to clients

Description: Be Well CDC's mission is to advance the health and quality of life for residents in Tulsa's District 1 by convening people, ideas and resources to build community capacity in order to eliminate health disparities and achieve health equity. Their three focus areas are: health (minority health and wellbeing), housing (homeownership and financial literacy) and education (STEAM, college and career readiness and food sovereignty). Go to <https://bwcdc.wildapricot.org/> to learn more.



Birthright Living Legacy

Key Contact: Marquess Dennis | Executive Director | info@brlivinglegacy.org

BEST Goal Area: Positive Developmental Trajectory by age Three

Partner Type: Direct service to clients

UniteUs Participant: Currently sending and receiving referrals

Description: The mission of Birthright Living Legacy is to validate the position of the father within the family unit. By providing programs to foster improved communication, enhanced connectivity and encouraging community involvement, our network of fathers can benefit from a deep level of support and accountability as they embark on the journey of leadership and fatherhood.



CAP Tulsa

CAP Tulsa Center-Based

Key Contact: Karen Tilkin | Executive Director | karen.tilkin@captulsa.org

BEST Goal Area: Kindergarten Readiness

Partner Type: Direct service to client

Description: CAP Tulsa provides free, high-quality early childhood education for newborns through four-years-old. School-based programs are offered at 10 schools throughout Tulsa. Before and after care services are available at some schools.

CAP Tulsa Learning@Home

Key Contact: Karen Tilkin | Executive Director | karen.tilkin@captulsa.org

BEST Goal Area: Healthy Births and Positive Developmental Trajectory by age Three

Partner Type: Direct service to client

UniteUs Participant: Currently receiving referrals

Description: CAP Tulsa's free Learning@Home program provides in-home supportive educational services for parents that are expecting and children from newborn to 3-years-old.



College Bound Academy (CBA)

Key Contact: Andrea Warren | Executive Director | awarren@collegeboundschool.org

BEST Goal Area: Kindergarten Readiness

Partner Type: Direct service to client

Description: College Bound Academy prepares students in grades Kindergarten through 4th grade to graduate from college and access the professional career of their choice. College Bound Academy is a tuition-free, college preparatory K-4 charter school.



Community Health Connection (CHC)

Centering Pregnancy (CHC)

Key Contact: Dr. Toni Ramos | Medical Director | toni.ramos@communityhealthconnection.org

BEST Goal Area: Healthy Births

Partner Type: Direct service to client

UniteUs Participant: Currently sending referrals

Description: Centering Pregnancy offers prenatal care that combines a regular prenatal visit with additional time for learning and sharing in a comfortable and encouraging small group environment. This leads to additional time with the provider, care team and other women who are due around the same time. This program is free for qualifying women.



CREOKS Mental Health Services

Key Contact: Jacqueline Long | Infant and Early Childhood Director | Jacqueline.long@creoks.org

BEST Goal Area: Positive Developmental Trajectory by age Three

Partner Type: Direct service to clients

UniteUs Participant: Currently receiving referrals

Description: CREOKS Health Services promotes and improves the lives of the individuals and families we serve through our commitment to provide comprehensive health, wellness and social services.



Crossover Health Services

Key Contact: Rondalyn Abode | Director of Development | rondalyn@crossoverimpact.org

Key Contact: Janet Hendricks | Director of Operations | janeth@crossoverimpact.org

BEST Goal Area: Enabling Conditions - Community Well-being

Partner Type: Direct service to clients

Description: Crossover Health Services is a Christian organization committed to living out Christ's compassion, dignity and healing in our community through health care, restoring our community through the eradication of health disparities.



DVIS: Domestic Violence Intervention Services

Key Contact: Tracey Lyall | Chief Executive Officer | tlyall@dvis.org

BEST Goal Area: Enabling Conditions

Partner Type: Direct service to client

Description: DVIS' mission is advancing physical and emotional safety by reducing the impact and occurrence of sexual and domestic violence, human trafficking and stalking through inclusive intervention and prevention services for children, youth and adults. DVIS' provision of trauma-informed care for survivors is the only agency of its kind serving Tulsa and Creek Counties. Our services include safe housing; counseling for children, youth and adults; legal advocacy and representation; court advocacy; law enforcement advocacy; education and outreach; hospital advocacy; childcare; and Batterers Intervention programming.



Education and Recreation, Inc. (Edu-Rec)

Key Contact: Charles Harper | Executive Director | charles.harper@edurectulsa.com

Key Contact: Damali Wilson | Executive Director of Operations | damali.wilson@edurectulsa.com

BEST Goal Area: Success by Third Grade

Partner Type: Direct service to clients

Description: EduRec Youth & Family Fun Center is designed to serve the educational and social needs of the community. It was created to offer youth a place where they can participate in a variety of academic enrichment and mentoring activities or programs which encourage character and integrity development. In addition to programs for kids, EduRec has programs that benefit the community as a holistic approach to helping the community and its inhabitants become stronger and better.



El Centro: New Sanctuary Empowerment Center

Key Contact: Maria Elena Kuykendall | Executive Director | mkuykendall@elcentrook.org

Key Contact: Jackie Meza | Program Manager | jmeza@elcentrook.org

BEST Goal Area: Enabling conditions - Basic Needs

Partner Type: Direct service to clients

UniteUs Participant: Currently sending referrals

Description: El Centro is a hub in East Tulsa that fills the critical need in connecting immigrant families to legal and social services, including a crisis management fund. El Centro works to remove the unique

barriers that impede community engagement, school readiness, and access to health care among Tulsa's Hispanic/Latinx families, with a focus on Spanish-speaking, vulnerable and isolated families.



Emergency Infant Services (EIS)

Emergency Infant Services

Key Contact: Bill Andoe | Executive Director | bill@eistulsa.org

BEST Goal Area: Positive Developmental Trajectory by Age 3

Partner Type: Direct service to client

UniteUs Participant: Currently receiving referrals

Description: Emergency Infant Services (EIS) offers assistance with basic needs items for children 5-years-old and under whose families are facing personal and financial challenges. EIS provides basic needs items such as diapers, wipes, formula, food, clothing and other essentials. In addition, EIS works with a network of partner agencies and organizations to connect families with the resources they need, even if EIS does not offer those services.



Family & Children's Services (F&CS)

Maternal Mental Health Program

Key Contact: Whitney Downie | Chief Program Officer | wdownie@fcsok.org

BEST Goal Area: Success by 3rd grade

Partner Type: Direct service to client

UniteUs Participant: Currently receiving referrals

The Maternal Mental Health program provides behavioral health services to two populations of low-income, at-risk individuals in Tulsa County. 1) New mothers at risk of perinatal depression: F&CS helps decrease symptoms of perinatal mood and anxiety disorders by providing counseling and case management aimed at improving mothers' overall mood, decrease isolation, and parenting skills, and 2) At-risk children and their families: Our family support specialists are embedded at select clinics and school sites to deliver services ranging from parenting training, outreach, case management, de-escalation interventions, and family involvement activities.

Parenting in Jail Program

Key Contact: Lucie Doll | Program Director | ldoll@fcsok.org

BEST Goal Area: Enabling conditions - Criminal Justice

Partner Type: Direct service to client

Description: The Parenting in Jail program provides parenting classes to individuals in, or recently released from, jail. The program utilizes Parenting Inside Out, an evidence-based parenting curriculum developed for parents involved in the criminal legal system. Participants gain knowledge about how to interact with their children and provide an appropriate balance of nurturing and structure for them. The program also offers weekly contact visits for children and their loved ones in jail and provides resources and a support group for caregivers.

Women in Recovery

Key Contact: Mimi Tarrasch | Chief Program Officer | mtarrasch@fcsok.org

BEST Goal Area: Enabling conditions - Criminal Justice

Partner Type: Direct service to client

Description: Women in Recovery (WIR) is an intensive outpatient treatment and diversion program for women needing a high level of care who do not meet the criteria for other community diversion programs. WIR is a nationally recognized leader in helping women and their families overcome the multi-generational impacts of incarceration while reducing recidivism. WIR diverts women from incarceration while simultaneously addressing underlying trauma, promoting substance use recovery, supporting reunification with children and families, and enhancing self-sufficiency through education, employment training, and job placement.

Women's Justice Team

Key Contact: Mary Ellen Solon | WJT Director | msolon@fcsok.org

BEST Goal Area: Enabling conditions - Criminal Justice

Partner Type: Direct service to client

UniteUs Participant: Currently sending and receiving referrals

Description: Women's Justice Team offers a broad array of supportive services to help stabilize and assist women who are at risk or involved in the criminal legal system. Services include mental health care; case management; substance use treatment and recovery services; housing and utilities assistance; vital documents, employment training, and job placement; food, clothing, transportation, and medication; supports for children and parenting classes; legal aid assistance; reentry services and court navigation. WJT provides services at no cost and provides linkages to vital community resources. These combined efforts help women stabilize, exit, and avoid criminal legal system involvement.



Financial Empowerment Center (FEC)

Key Contacts: Modi Kwanza | FEC Coordinator | mkwanza@goodwilltulsa.org

BEST Goal Area: Enabling Conditions- Economic mobility

Partner Type: Direct service to client

Description: The FEC is designed to help Tulsans improve their finances such as reducing debt, improving personal credit and increasing savings. It is Tulsa's only one-on-one professional financial counseling service offered at no cost to all residents. The FEC is a public service of the City of Tulsa operated through a partnership with Goodwill Industries of Tulsa.



Gaining Ground

Key Contact: Lisa Shotts | Executive Director | lisashotts@gaining-groundliteracy.org

BEST Goal Area: Success by Third-grade

Partner Type: Direct service to client

Description: Gaining Ground's mission is to develop life-long readers, thinkers and leaders by providing families with engaging literacy experiences and access to high-interest, culturally responsive books. Gaining Ground aims to close the literary gap through a layered approach of support. This includes providing children with a take-home summer library, weekly connections with teachers to discuss reading and writing, individualized literacy interventions and family engagement and support.



Hunger Free Oklahoma

Key Contact: Chris Bernard | Executive Director | chris.bernard@hungerfreeok.org

Key Contact: Richard Comeau | Program Director | richard.comeau@hungerfreeok.org

BEST Goal Area: Enabling conditions - Basic Needs

Partner Type: Direct service to clients; Partner support

UniteUs Participant: Currently receiving referrals

Description: Hunger Free Oklahoma serves as a resource to existing efforts, facilitating collaboration, and providing technical assistance, data, and planning to expand nutrition programs and enrich efforts already in place. We work with nonprofits, faith-based organizations, schools and local governments to increase access to programs like SNAP and Summer Meals and operate the state's SNAP Hotline where any Oklahoman can learn more about SNAP and receive assistance applying over the phone.



ImpactTulsa

Key Contact: Dr. Kimbrel | Interim Executive Director | delia@impacttulsa.com

BEST Goal Area: Enabling Conditions

Partner Type: Partner serving backbone functions

Description: We are a collective impact organization that utilizes data as a catalyst for systemic change by convening community partners with a shared, equitable vision that all children in Tulsa County deserve every opportunity to succeed, from cradle to career.



JAMES Inc.

Key Contact: Alisa Davis-Bell | Executive Director | alisa.bell@jamesinc.org

BEST Goal Area: Positive Developmental Trajectory by age Three

Partner Type: Direct service to client

UniteUs Participant: Currently sending and receiving referrals

Description: At JAMES Inc., our mission is to lead expecting and parent adolescents to self-sufficiency. We offer life coaching, mentoring, and scholarships that enable our clients to further their education and careers. We strive to provide a welcoming, caring environment for young parents.



La Cosecha

Key Contact: Rita Gallardo | Founder & CEO | ritagallardo@cosechatulsa.org

BEST Goal Area: Enabling conditions - Basic Needs

Partner Type: Direct service to clients

Description: We at La Cosecha/The Harvest have a goal of relieving hunger by providing groceries as well as opportunities to empower the community to increase self-sufficiency. La Cosecha feeds, supports and educates its constituents to achieve community transformation. Established in 2015 by the Gallardo Family, La Cosecha provides members of the community who need support with groceries and numerous other essential items. Distributed on a weekly basis, an average family of four receives a week's worth of food at each disbursement. Additionally, La Cosecha stocks a clothing and furniture pantry. La Cosecha has achieved significant growth in revenue generation, increased its efficiency and improved its processes. Prior to the pandemic, La Cosecha served approximately 400 families per week. Services are provided without any restrictions and with no questions asked. Since the last week of March 2021, the need has grown dramatically. Today, the volunteer team serves an average of 2,000 families per week.



Madison Strategies Group

Career Connection

Key Contact: Karen Pennington | Executive Director | kpennington@madisonstrategies.org

BEST Goal Area: Enabling conditions - Economic Mobility

Partner Type: Direct service to client

UniteUs Participant: Currently receiving referrals

Description: Madison Strategies Group (MSG) is a sector-focused, evidence-based workforce development initiative that prepares, trains and places low-income individuals into quality jobs in high-demand industries with increased wages, benefits and established career pathways. Operated by MSG, the Career Connection program helps ConnectFirst families increase their economic mobility through soft skills development and short-term technical training that lead to quality employment, as well as extensive career advancement coaching and supportive services.



Mental Health Association of Oklahoma

Key Contact: Carrie Blumert | CEO | cblumert@mhaok.org

BEST Goal Area: Enabling conditions

Partner Type: Direct service to client

UniteUs Participant: Currently sending and receiving referrals

Description: MHAOK services includes housing, mental health education, support groups, pro bono counseling, mental health screening and referral, suicide prevention, peer-to-peer recovery services, employment readiness, community health and wellness initiatives, and criminal justice advocacy. The Association also has a housing program which utilizes a Housing First model that provides immediate access to safe, decent, and affordable housing for individuals who have experienced mental illness, homelessness and substance use.

Pláticas

Key Contact: Jocelin Baeza | Mental Health Assistance and Education Specialist | jbaeza@mhat.org

BEST Goal Area: Enabling conditions

Partner Type: Direct service to client

Description: Pláticas (Conversations) is an educational platform designed to bring awareness and the importance of mental health as a part of our overall physical well-being for the Hispanic/Latinx community and is conducted in Spanish. The Pláticas program also offers support groups, resources, referrals, and navigation.



Met Cares Foundation

Key Contact: Venita Cooper | Interim Executive Director | cooper@metcaresfoundation.net

BEST Goal Area: Enabling conditions - Community Mobilization

Partner Type: Direct service to client

Description: Rooted in the spirit of the Greenwood community, The Met Cares Foundation seeks to build north Tulsa into a vibrant community, where children are thriving and residents have the power to drive positive change. The foundation invests in developing community ownership while improving and increasing educational and economic opportunities.



Oklahoma Birth Equity Initiative

Key Contact: Omare Jimmerson | Executive Director | omare@okbei.org

BEST Goal Area: Healthy Births

Partner Type: Direct service to client

UniteUs Participant: Currently sending and receiving referrals

Description: Tulsa Birth Equity Initiative's Community-Based Doula Program serves pregnant mothers and families living in Tulsa with high quality home visitation. Our trained Doulas love to assist women and families during the birth process. Doulas will provide education and non-medical labor support throughout pregnancy, labor/birth and postpartum- complementing and enhancing medical care. The Community-Based Doula Program serves expectant moms that are BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color), Justice Involved, Teen Parents and expectant moms that are no more than 30 weeks pregnant.



Parent Child Center of Tulsa (PCCT)

Bright Beginnings

Key Contact: Jenny Weber | Director of Nursing | jfairchild@parentchildcenter.org

BEST Goal Area: Positive Developmental Trajectory by age Three

Partner Type: Direct service to client

Description: Bright Beginnings registered nurse educators deliver critical information to mothers and caregivers of newborns before they are discharged from the hospital. Nurses provide education around

normal infant crying patterns and soothing techniques as well as the importance of talking, reading and singing to a baby beginning in infancy to promote brain development.

Family Connects

Key Contact: Jenny Weber | Director of Nursing | jfairchild@parentchildcenter.org

BEST Goal Area: Positive Developmental Trajectory by age Three

Partner Type: Direct service to client

UniteUs Participant: Currently sending referrals

Description: Family Connects offers home visits three weeks postpartum aiming to increase child well-being by bridging the gap between parent needs and community resources. During home visits, nurses will bring diapers, weigh the baby, check blood pressure and assist with breastfeeding.



HealthySteps

Key Contact: Jenny Weber | VP of Nursing | jweber@parentchildcenter.org

BEST Goal Area: Positive Developmental Trajectory by age Three

Partner Type: Direct service to client

UniteUs Participant: Currently sending referrals

Description: HealthySteps works to help families identify, understand and manage parenting challenges, such as feeding, behavior, sleep, development and the importance of the first three years of a child's life.



SafeCare

Key Contact: Stacey Slimp | Program Manager | sslimp@parentchildcenter.org

BEST Goal Area: Kindergarten Readiness

Partner Type: Direct service to client

Description: SafeCare® is a program for parents of children 0-5 years. Parent Educators visit families in their own homes for weekly sessions spanning five topics: Parent Infant and Child Interaction, Managing Child Behavior, Home Safety, Child Health, and Healthy Relationships. We help parents to identify and utilize resources within their community. Parents learn to understand their child's development, have positive interactions with their children, enhance their caregiver-child relationship, and prevent challenging child behavior. Pregnant women, and families with children up to age five, may enroll. Services are provided FREE OF CHARGE and are available to both English and Spanish speaking families. For more information, please email ppscereferrals@parentchildcenter.org.



Reach Out and Read Oklahoma*

Key Contact: Lori Lake | Executive Director (OK) | Lori.Lake@reachoutandread.org

BEST Goal Area: Kindergarten Readiness

Partner Type: Direct service to client

Description: Reach Out and Read helps integrate reading into pediatric practices, advise families about the importance of reading with their children and share books that serve as a catalyst for healthy childhood development. *BEST's partnership with ROR Oklahoma is focused on Tulsa kids and families.



Restore Hope

Key Contact: Jeff Jaynes | Executive Director | jjaynes@restorehope.org

BEST Goal Area: ALL GOALS

Partner Type: BEST data partner

Description: Restore Hope's mission is to help families in financial crisis move to economic and spiritual vitality. Restore Hope provides healthy food to reduce hunger through a food pantry open to Tulsa County residents and prevents homelessness through a rent assistance program for those facing eviction in Tulsa County. In addition, Restore Hope has an optional chapel program and several seasonal programs to help with school supplies, thanksgiving baskets and more.



Skillz On Wheelz

Key Contact: Ebony Skillens | Executive Director | ebony@counselingskillz.com

BEST Goal Area: Enabling conditions - Mental Health

Partner Type: Direct service to clients

UniteUs Participant: Currently sending and receiving referrals

Description: Skillz on Wheelz drives to a specific location within the community each week and offers free, appointment only, mental health care. The services focus on: mental health screening, trauma and PTSD counseling, family counseling, and depression and anxiety counseling. Skillz on wheelz is not a mobile crisis unit. The goal is to provide a solution-focused approach to those with limited mental health care resources.



South Tulsa Community House

Key Contact: Joan Calvert | Executive Director | joan@southtulsacommunityhouse.org

BEST Goal Area: Enabling conditions - Basic Needs

Partner Type: Direct service to clients

UniteUs Participant: Currently sending and receiving referrals

Description: The South Tulsa Community House (STCH) is located in the heart of one of Tulsa's most vulnerable neighborhoods (61st & Peoria). STCH is a social service organization that is dedicated to not only assisting residents with their immediate needs but empowering them toward self-sufficiency and greater independence. With the help of great partner organizations, we offer a "One-Stop Social Service Center" in the heart of Riverwood. Yes, hope has a home, and that is the South Tulsa Community House.



Still She Rises

Key Contact: Jane-Roberte Sampaer | Executive Director | janers@stillsherises.org

BEST Goal Area: Enabling conditions - Criminal Justice

Partner Type: Direct service to client

Description: Still She Rises is dedicated to the representation of mothers in both the criminal and civil legal systems in select zip codes in North Tulsa. Services include criminal, family, housing legal defense with social work support and advocacy.



Strong Tomorrows

Key Contact:

BEST Goal Area: Healthy Births

Partner Type: Direct service to client

Description: Strong Tomorrows is a program for expectant and parenting teens who attend TPS. The program provides connections to basic needs for both parents and babies and offers education and training on prenatal care, childbirth, career planning, health and high-quality childcare.



Take Control Initiative

Key Contact: Laura Bellis | Executive Director | laura@takecontrolok.org

BEST Goal Area: Healthy Births

Partner Type: Direct service to client; Partner Supports

UniteUs Participant: Currently receiving referrals

Description: Take Control Initiative (TCI) works to remove barriers and increase access to birth control in Tulsa County. We do this through education, outreach, and clinical services at TCI partner health centers. Currently, all forms of birth control are offered at no- to low-cost depending on the site to eligible patients



Teach For America

Key Contact: Sarah Park | Executive Director | sarah.park@teachforamerica.org

BEST Goal Area: Success by Third-grade

Partner Type: Direct service to client

Description: Teach For America is a national nonprofit dedicated to the vision that one day, all children will have the opportunity to attain an excellent education. For 30 years nationally and 11 years locally, Teach For America has cultivated a diverse and thriving network of leaders committed to expanding opportunity for children. Today, more than 64,000 corps members and alumni in cities across the country are reimagining education to realize the day when every child has an equal opportunity to learn, lead and thrive. In Greater Tulsa, we are supporting more than 100 corps members to impact over 6,000 students across seven districts and 32 schools in the 2020-2021 school year. Our nearly 300 alumni are leading across the city as teachers, school & district leaders, non-profit leaders, entrepreneurs and civic organizers.



The Opportunity Project

Key Contact: Lauren Sivak | Executive Director | lsivak@theopp.org

BEST Goal Area: Success by Third-grade

Partner Type: Direct service to client; Partner support

Description: The Opportunity Project, the citywide intermediary for expanded learning, is dedicated to connecting youth to the world of opportunity, creating pathways for lifelong success. The Opp seeks to improve the quality, access and delivery of expanded-learning opportunities for youth in Tulsa by integrating the city's array of youth-focused programs, services and curricula. By equipping the youth development community with tools and expertise, together we are lifting up young people and broadening access to hands-on learning opportunities.



Tulsa City-County
LIBRARY

Tulsa City-County Library (TCCL)

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (DPIL) of Tulsa County

Key Contact: Rebecca Harrison | DPIL Community Engagement Manager | Rebecca.Harrison@tulsalibrary.org

BEST Goal Area: Kindergarten Readiness

Partner Type: Direct service to client

Description: The Tulsa City-County Library serves as the local affiliate organization for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Tulsa County. Imagination Library is a book-gifting program that mails high-quality, age-appropriate books to children from birth through their fifth birthday. Each month, registered children receive a book addressed to them at no cost to the child's family. To learn more, visit www.TulsaLibrary.org/imagination-library.



Tulsa Community College

Bridging the Gap

Key Contact: Melissa Caviness | melissa.caviness@tulsacc.edu

BEST Goal Area: Kindergarten Ready

Partner Type: Direct service to client

Description: Scholarship support to TCC students interested in pursuing a certificate and/or degree in the field of child development.



Tulsa Educare

Early Learning Works by Tulsa Educare

Key Contact: Maria Palacios, LCSW | Director | mariap@tulsaeducare.org

BEST Goal Area: Positive Developmental Trajectory by age Three

Partner Type: Direct service to client

Description: Early Learning Works (ELW) impacts the lives of children from birth through age eight and their families beyond the walls of our Tulsa Educare schools. By mobilizing resources, ELW meaningfully engages with child care providers, parents and community organizations and provides skill building opportunities, peer-to-peer sharing and early learning resources.

Tulsa Educare

Key Contact: Cindy Decker | Executive Director | cindy@tulsaeducare.org

BEST Goal Area: Positive Developmental Trajectory by age Three and Kindergarten Readiness

Partner Type: Direct service to client

UniteUs Participant: Currently receiving referrals

Description: Educare seeks to transform the lives of very young children and their families through high quality early childhood education, enhancing parenting practices and strong partnerships with other organizations. Our schools and our Early Head Start child care partners are open full-day, year-round and serve eligible children aged six weeks to five years old.



Tulsa Health Department (THD)

Children First

Key Contact: Michelle Coonfield | Interim Manager | mcoonfield@tulsa-health.org

BEST Goal Area: Healthy Births

Partner Type: Direct service to client

Description: Children First, also known nationally as Nurse Family Partnership, is a family-centered program that utilizes home based services by registered nurses (RNs) to help first-time mothers and their families prepare for parenthood. Mothers receive information on promoting a healthy, safe lifestyle for their family while gaining a greater understanding of the types of help and resources available to them in the community. These services are provided at no cost.

Family Navigation

Key Contact: Loretta Diaz | Manager, Navigation | Ldiaz@tulsa-health.org

BEST Goal Area: Healthy Births

Partner Type: Direct service to client

UniteUs Participant: Sending & Receiving Referrals

Description: Family Navigation provides personalized, ongoing support during pregnancy and throughout a child's early years. They also assist families' immediate needs by connecting them to desired programs and services.

Healthy Start (THD)

Key Contact: Robin Daniels | Program Manager | rdaniels@tulsa-health.org

BEST Goal Area: Healthy Births

Partner Type: Direct service to client

UniteUs: Currently sending and receiving referrals

Description: Healthy Start gives women and new parents information, resources and support to ensure a healthy pregnancy and to help nurture children and families. Additionally, Healthy Start offers a Fatherhood Program to assist new dads and to strengthen the father-child relationship. Healthy Start can also help with transportation for medical appointments and job training opportunities.

Lactation Consultant

Key Contact: Kyla Pfannenstiel | Lactation Consultant | kpfannenstiel@tulsa-health.org

BEST Goal Area: Positive Developmental Trajectory by age Three

Partner Type: Direct service to client

UniteUs Participant: Currently sending and receiving referrals

Description: The THD Lactation consultant supports pregnant and new moms who would like help with breastfeeding. The lactation consultant can answer breastfeeding questions over the phone or visit mom and baby at home to help with breastfeeding.

parentPRO

Key Contact: Cristi Almader-Quiroz | Community Connector Coordinator | cacuiroz@tulsa-health.org

BEST Goal Area: Positive Developmental Trajectory by age Three

Partner Type: Direct service to client

UniteUs Participant: Currently sending and receiving referrals

Description: parentPRO connects parents and caregivers to free, voluntary parenting programs that take place in the comfort of the home. The parentPRO Community Connector links families with programs that best match their needs. These programs are designed to help parents and caregivers raise smart, happy, healthy children and reduce the stress that comes along with being a parent by modeling skills, providing information and connecting to resources.

Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

Key Contact: Pam Holt | WIC Manager | pholt@tulsa-health.org

BEST Goal Area: Healthy Births

Partner Type: Direct service to client

Description: WIC provides women, infants and children up to age five with nutritious foods, nutrition education, breastfeeding support and referrals for resources that will benefit the entire family. WIC can help with many basic needs, including infant formula, a breast pump for new moms and nutritious food to supplement diets.



Tulsa Housing Authority (THA)

Tulsa Housing Authority

Key Contact: Jeff Hall | Vice President – Development Services | jeff.hall@tulsahousing.org

BEST Goal Area: ALL GOALS

Partner Type: Focus neighborhood partner

UniteUs Participant: Currently receiving referrals

Description: The Housing Authority of the City of Tulsa (THA) is creating a better Tulsa by transforming lives and communities. Serving more than 20,000 Tulsans annually, THA provides affordable housing options in tandem with connection to supportive services to help all Tulsans thrive.



Tulsa Immigrant Resource Network

Key Contact: Elijah Johnson | Executive Director | ejj9293@utulsa.edu

BEST Goal Area: Enabling Conditions

Partner Type: Direct service to client

UniteUs Participant: Currently sending referrals

Description: Tulsa Immigrant Resource Network provides direct services to Tulsa's non citizen population, including digital/comprehensive filing guidance for asylum applications and holistic representation of families in both immigration and non-immigration legal issues to increase family unity and stability.



Tulsa Legacy Charter School

Key Contact: Jennifer Greene | Executive Director | jgreene@tulsalegacy.org

BEST Goal Area: Success by Third-grade

Partner Type: Direct service to client

Description: Tulsa Legacy Charter School is a Pre-K through 8th grade charter school that prepares students for college and the world beyond, creating a culture of excellence through rigorous academic, arts infusion and social-emotional learning.



Tulsa Public Schools (TPS)

Early Childhood Education Team

Key Contact: Kelly Kane | Executive Director | kaneke@tulsaschools.org

BEST Goal Area: Kindergarten Readiness

Partner Type: Direct service to client

Description: Tulsa Public Schools provides free, full-day, high-quality Pre-K programs to four-year-olds. The Early Childhood Team engages children in intellectually-stimulating, culturally-responsive experiences and purposeful play to foster their academic, social-emotional and physical development.

TPS Parent Resource Center

Key Contact: LaTina Busby | Executive Director | busbyla@tulsaschools.org

BEST Goal Area: Success by Third-grade

Partner Type: Direct service to client

Description: The Tulsa Public Schools Parent Resource Center will cultivate and support parents and families, connecting them to resources that strengthen their students' academic success and create healthier and stronger communities.



Tulsa Responds

Key Contact: Marcela Swenson | Executive Director | marcela@tulsaresponds.org

BEST Goal Area: Enabling Conditions -Policy

Partner Type: Direct service to client

UniteUs Participant: Currently sending and receiving referrals

Description: Tulsa Responds is a nonprofit organization dedicated to making a positive impact in the lives of low-income families by providing comprehensive enrollment services for key government benefits. Our goal is to simplify and streamline the process of accessing essential programs that help families and individuals reach financial stability and independence. Tulsa Responds offers free tax filing, benefits enrollment services, and Financial Empowerment Counseling. Services are available to Tulsans in person or remotely.



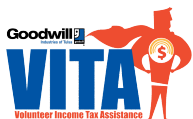
Uma Tulsa

Key Contact: Dr. Carolina Hernandez | Executive Director | carolina@umatulsa.org

BEST Goal Area: Enabling conditions-Mental Health

Partner Type: Direct service to client

Description: The mission of the Uma Center of Tulsa is to empower traditionally underserved communities through education, economic development, and advocacy. Our programs offer physical and mental health services, economic development by providing hands-on training courses to small business owners and entrepreneurs, and by partnering with government, large companies, and community-based organizations to develop a supportive business ecosystem.



Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

Key Contacts: Victoria Annesley | victoria.annesley@goodwilltulsa.org

Marcela Swenson | marcela@tulsaresponds.org

BEST Goal Area: Enabling Conditions- Economic mobility

Partner Type: Direct service to client

Description: Free tax preparation services provided by IRS-trained and certified volunteers for households earning \$60,000 or less annually.

GKFF-BEST Team Profiles



Catrice Brantley

Director of ConnectFirst
Catrice@gkff.org | 918.810.7703

You might interact with me if you are working on things related to ConnectFirst, mental health supports, supporting key healthcare partners or projects that improve economic outcomes for the families we serve.



Travis Buchan

Associate Director of Business Operations and Analytics
Travis@gkff.org | 918.221.9448

You might interact with me if you are working on a grant request or have questions about budgets, payments, or general financials.



Joani Dotson

Associate Director for ConnectFirst
joani@gkff.org

You might interact with me if you want to collaborate with ConnectFirst Programs or need support with strategic planning.



JD Johnson

Director of Shared Leadership
jd@gkff.org | 804.894.4001

You might interact with me if you have questions regarding BEST Advisory, Community Mobilization and community/Neighborhood Engagement, DEI supports/development, Partner Communications/Supports or the Shared Leadership Team.



Ashley Knox

Senior Operations Associate
Ashley@gkff.org | 918.313.3712

You might interact with me if you have an invoice, are on our advisory board, or attend any of our partner convenings.



Stefanie Menting

Program Coordinator of ConnectFirst
Stefanie@gkff.org | 859.496.0916

You might interact with me if you are working with ConnectFirst partners on projects; you have questions about ConnectFirst; you have administrative or operational needs related to ConnectFirst; you have information you'd like to be shared with ConnectFirst partners.



Sophia Pappas

Managing Director of BEST
Sophia@gkff.org | 918.221.4924

You might interact with me if you have questions about the overall direction and history of BEST, want to get involved in the BEST Community Advisory Group (CAG) or if you want to learn more about BEST's policy related efforts.



Chela Starks

Sr. Associate for External Relations and
Shared Leadership
Chela@gkff.org

You might interact with me during Mid-Year and End-of-Year meetings, providing in meeting support and connecting you with other BEST partners or partner supports such as grant writing. You may also interact with me if you are a member of the BEST Advisory Group or the Community Advisory Group.



Dan Sterba

Director of Data Systems and Technology
Dan@gkff.org | 918.264.1533

You might interact with me if you are looking for ways that data can support your work, or you have a collaborative effort that involves sharing data among BEST organizations.



Amy Tate

Director of Research Partnerships
AmyT@gkff.org | 918.760.5978

You might interact with me if you want to talk about early childhood education and development or how research and evaluation can help partners tell the story of their work.



Anna Watson

Senior Associate Director of
Partner Operations

AnnaW@gkff.org | 601.701.5054

You might interact with me if you are engaged in BEST Collaborative Touchpoints, want to talk operations, or chat more about the broader BEST partner experience.



Angela Wells

Senior Operations Coordinator

Angela@gkff.org | 918.855.3345

You might interact with me if you are scheduling a meeting with BEST Team Members, if you are visiting the BEST Offices, or if you need any other support help.