

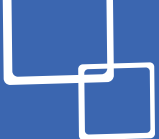


# THE SCIENCE FOR A BETTER START

**T**ransforming  
**E**arly  
**C**hildhood  
**C**ommunity  
**S**ystems

10990 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 900  
Los Angeles, California 90024-3913  
310-312-9083 • [www.TECCS.net](http://www.TECCS.net)

**T**ransforming  
**E**arly  
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**C**ommunity  
**S**ystems



“TECCS is helping us bring together and energize the people who can make a difference for young children and their families. The specific data about where children need help and the nature of the risks they face helps us focus our efforts and agree on a unified plan of action.”

STEVEN DOW  
Executive Director  
Community Action Project of Tulsa County

## EARLY CHILDHOOD MATTERS




Experiences between birth and age five have a long-lasting influence on children, shaping their ability to succeed in school, and in life.

Scientific research over the past three decades confirms that children who start school healthy and well-prepared are more likely to thrive and are less likely to develop behavioral, health, and academic problems.

That’s why investing in the early years is so important. A good start for children today means better jobs, a healthy economy, and fewer problems tomorrow.

For communities, the challenge is how. How can local leaders build enthusiasm and support for early childhood development and leverage limited resources to generate maximum benefit for children?

That’s what TECCS is all about. We help local communities build solutions designed to meet local needs.



## LOCAL NEEDS, LOCAL SOLUTIONS



When it comes to improving early childhood outcomes, there is no “silver bullet”—no single intervention works equally well for all children, in all parts of the country. Every community is different.

TECCS helps local leaders develop customized solutions designed specifically for their communities. It identifies the obstacles facing kids in individual neighborhoods and builds improvement strategies around resources that already exist.

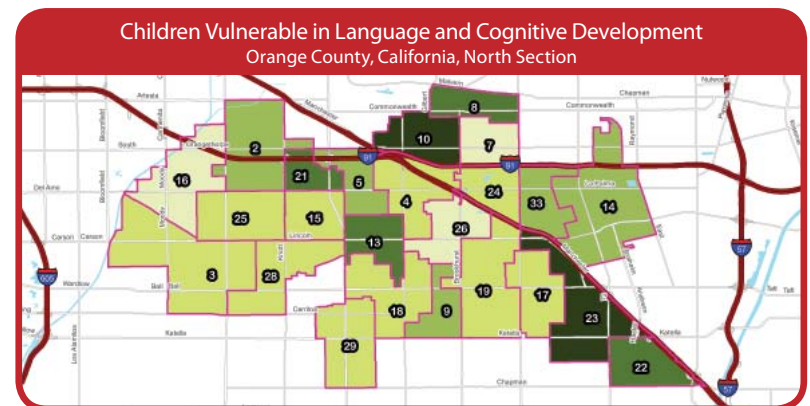
TECCS advisors provide extensive support, but all solutions are developed by local leaders themselves. This approach helps build strong coalitions of on-the-ground experts who not only implement solutions, but sustain improvements over the long term.

## SUPPORTED BY THE LATEST TOOLS

TECCS uses the Early Development Instrument (EDI)\* to help guide the development of local strategies. The EDI measures five areas of child development proven to affect school readiness:

- Physical health and well-being;
- Social competence;
- Emotional maturity;
- Language and cognitive development; and
- Communication skills and general knowledge

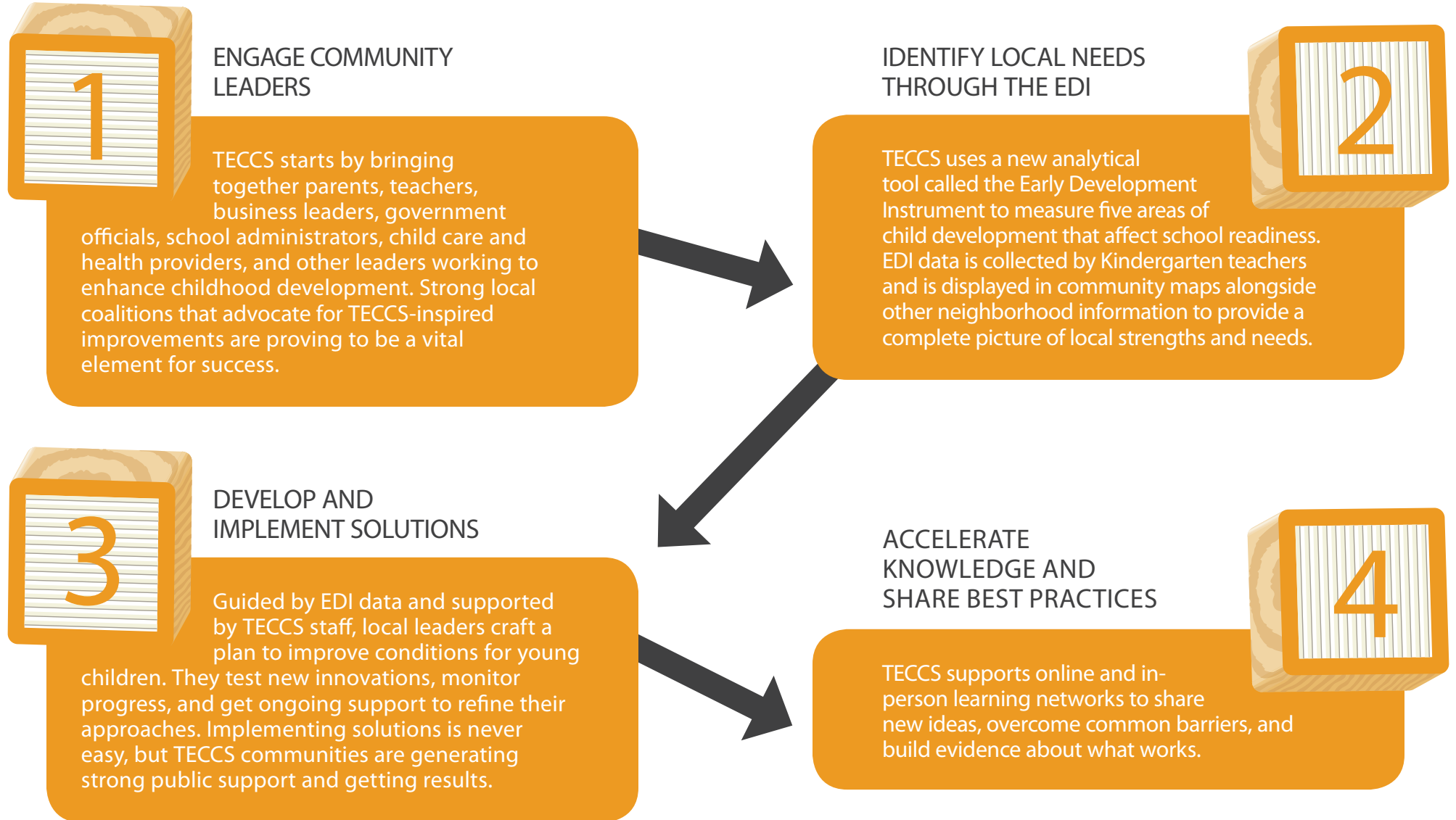
Maps based on EDI data give local leaders a detailed profile of what’s happening in their communities, highlighting neighborhoods doing especially well, as well as those needing greater attention.



\* © McMaster University, The Offord Centre for Child Studies

## FROM BUILDING SUPPORT TO SHARING KNOWLEDGE: THE TECCS APPROACH

All TECCS communities follow the same four-step approach to guide improvement efforts.





## TECCS GETS RESULTS

Communities implementing TECCS love it. They say TECCS has brought local leaders together and broken down the traditional silos that often block community-wide initiatives. TECCS has mobilized communities and engaged parents and residents to develop real solutions for children in their community.

Evaluating progress and promoting accountability is built into TECCS because communities repeat the Early Development Instrument (EDI) regularly, at least every two years. It's too soon for a comprehensive evaluation of TECCS in the United States, but in Canada and Australia, the EDI was shown to be a proven predictor of academic performance and has been used to improve school readiness.

Because TECCS builds on the EDI, and offers communities even more support to identify, prioritize and implement improvements, TECCS is widely expected to prove highly effective in the United States.

## SPREADING KNOWLEDGE THROUGH COLLABORATIVE INNOVATION

TECCS is committed to developing breakthrough ideas and spreading best practices that benefit children and communities throughout the nation.


To accelerate the development of new approaches, TECCS launched a learning community in which participating sites share ideas and experiences and learn from experts inside and outside the TECCS network. The learning community supports in-person and online communications and uses social networking principles first developed at MIT. These types of peer learning communities have been embraced by many technology, health, and government leaders as the best way to rapidly develop innovative ideas, collaborate and spread knowledge about what works.





## THE TECCS PARTNERSHIP

TECCS is a joint initiative of the UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families & Communities and United Way Worldwide. The W.K. Kellogg Foundation funded three initial pilot sites, and today, TECCS operates in 30 communities located throughout the United States and receives support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, local United Ways, and the communities in which TECCS operates.



“We presented to the superintendent and her cabinet this morning, and they were blown away. Everyone couldn’t wait to get before the board to explain what they’re going to do next.”

DANA FRIEDMAN  
The Early Years Institute  
TECCS-Long Island

