



FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT AND COMMUNITY WEALTH REPORT

October 2025



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BACKGROUND

The City of Tulsa has embedded financial empowerment programs and policies into City services to improve individual and family financial resilience and stability. Financial empowerment is part of several strategic initiatives that the City of Tulsa has implemented to fulfill its mission to build a foundation for economic prosperity, improved health, and enhanced quality of life for all Tulsans.

Tulsa launched its Financial Empowerment Center (FEC) planning process in February of 2020, just a few weeks before the pandemic shut down Tulsa and much of the world. Despite this challenge, the city continued to convene a large cross sector group of stakeholders to submit an implementation proposal that year to launch the Tulsa FEC before the end of 2020. The FEC operates within the Office of Financial Empowerment and Community Wealth (OFE), which was officially launched in January 2023. The Office now falls under the Department of Resilience and Equity.

In Tulsa, financial empowerment initiatives are an integral part of the department that oversees the city's resilience strategy, **Resilient Tulsa** and **New Tulsans Welcoming Plan**, which include goals and actions to improve financial health and reduce economic disparities. Financial empowerment and resilience were embedded in the city's COVID-19 response and relief efforts including grants that were distributed to over 60 local nonprofits as well as through emergency rental assistance integration.

The Tulsa OFE has successfully leveraged both public and private funding to support its operations, including Community Development Block Grant, Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), private foundation grants, and grants from financial institutions.

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT AND COMMUNITY WEALTH

The Office of Financial Empowerment and Community Wealth is the City of Tulsa’s centralized approach to provide programs and resources for Tulsans to achieve financial stability and resiliency. Through partnership development, strategic coordination, policy and advocacy, and long-term financial empowerment strategies, the OFE will optimize public and private funding streams while leveraging new financial investments to support its initiatives.

\$330,000

*ARPA FUNDING FOR
FEC OPERATIONS*

\$95,000

*FUNDING FROM PRIVATE
LOCAL FOUNDATIONS*

\$150,000

*ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR
FISCAL YEAR 2026-27*

Institutionalizing the Work:

- The Office of Financial Empowerment and Community Wealth was formally added to the City’s General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2026. Included in the previous year’s City budget were two positions in the Office of Financial Empowerment and Community Wealth: The Director of Office of Financial Empowerment and Community Wealth, and Financial Empowerment Program Assistant.
- The OFE secured \$330,000 in ARPA funding for FEC operations.
- \$95,000 in funding from private local foundations.
- For fiscal year 2026–2027, the office will receive an addition of \$150,000.

Positioning the OFE as a Subject Matter Expert:

- The Director of OFE was a featured speaker at the 2024 Juneteenth – “Freedom Through Wealth” event and was highlighted again in 2025 for sharing insights on financial initiatives and sharing community enhancing programs.
- The Director of the OFE was featured in local news outlets and newspapers in Spring 2025, providing insights on the significance of financial counseling, its impact on upward mobility, and the importance of available services.

BANK ON FINANCIAL LITERACY CLASSES

- Effective June 2024, the OFE officially assumed oversight of the Bank On program.
- In July 2024, the OFE collaborated with Tulsa CARES, a non-profit dedicated to supporting individuals affected by HIV and Hepatitis C through personalized care and comprehensive services that promote dignity, equity, and health. Together, they collaborated with Bank of America to host a workshop on income readiness and budgeting on a fixed income.
- The OFE partnered with the Tulsa Parks Department, Bank of Oklahoma and Chase Bank to offer financial education classes at two city parks. The sessions covered key topics such as understanding credit, pathways to homeownership, two-generation banking and budgeting for the holidays.

FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT CENTER

Overview of Tulsa FEC from December 1, 2020 to August 31, 2025:

6,675

TOTAL RESIDENTS REACHED

\$877,614

TOTAL SAVINGS INCREASED

\$2,557,847

NON-MORTGAGE DEBT REDUCED

7,291

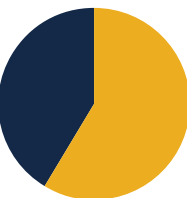
OFFICIAL SESSIONS

1,828

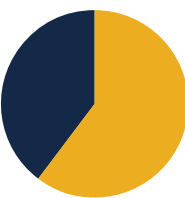
TOTAL OUTCOMES
(27.16% OF CLIENTS HAVE AT
LEAST ONE OUTCOME)

\$28,748

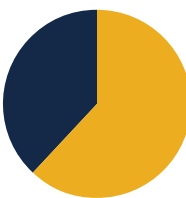
AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME



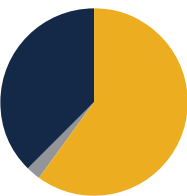
70.17%
Identify
as Female



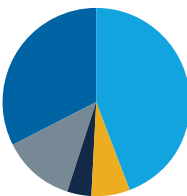
65.74%
Under the
Age of 45



61.82%
Clients Have
2+ Sessions



62.55% Rent
3.75% Experiencing
Homelessness



43.99% African American/Black
6.59% American Indian /Alaska Native
4% Asian
12.48% Hispanic/Latinx
31.92% White

5 PARTNERS

CO-LOCATIONS FOR FINANCIAL COUNSELING SESSIONS

2 LOCAL

FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT CENTERS

- In partnership with Tulsa Responds, the OFE opened a second Financial Empowerment Center in September 2024. Tulsa Responds is a nonprofit organization specializing in comprehensive enrollment services for key government benefits and has been a valued partner and provider of the Financial Empowerment Center and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. We are excited to enter our first full year with them as an official FEC provider.
- The City of Tulsa OFE is honored to collaborate with a variety of community partners through referral partnerships and Co-locations. Our Co-location sites include:
 - **Women in Recovery:** Women in Recovery is an intensive outpatient alternative for eligible women facing long prison sentences. The program works closely with the criminal justice system and various community partners to provide participants with comprehensive support, including substance abuse and mental health treatment, education, workforce readiness training and family reunification services.
 - **Tulsa Dream Center:** The Tulsa Dream Center is a trusted community resource that provides immediate and long-term needs to the community. The programs at the Tulsa Dream Center encompass four areas: economic empowerment, educational advancement, health and wellness, and character and leadership.
 - **Parent Resource Center:** The Parent Resource Center, operated by Tulsa Public Schools, is a community hub that offers educational opportunities and resources to empower parents in supporting their children's growth and success.
 - **South Tulsa Community House:** South Tulsa Community House serves families and individuals by addressing hunger, combating poverty, and providing pathways to empowerment. Through essential services and strategic collaborations, it works to improve their lives and foster lasting change.
- We also have a new partnership established with the FEC this year:
 - **Tulsa County Social Services (TCSS) Transitional Housing Program:** This program provides transitional living services to Tulsans who are in need of shelter. They serve men, women, couples, and families who are temporarily homeless. They help their clients with services such as job employment, paying off debt, saving plans for future housing expenses and emergencies, budget creation, and searching for affordable housing. The TCSS team partnered with one of the OFE's Bank On partners, JP Morgan Chase Bank, to do onsite banking trips ensuring access to bank accounts that the clients do not normally have access to. JP Morgan Chase Bank also partnered with the Goodwill Industries of Tulsa, FEC team and the City of Tulsa's OFE, to do onsite banking trips and conduct financial literacy workshops for referred clients.

CONTINUED FOCUS ON FEC PERFORMANCE

- Thanks to successful collaborations and the dedicated support of local organizations, the City of Tulsa's FECs have achieved significant impact in the Tulsa community. As of August 2025, the FEC has served over 6,675 residents, including over 2,300 individuals who have experienced measurable outcomes. The OFE will continue delivering high-impact services through our FEC, creating meaningful benefits for residents, while working alongside partner organizations to ensure excellent client experiences that transform financial outcomes.

FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT CENTER INTEGRATIONS

Financial counseling to help mitigate the burden of Municipal Court fines and fees:

747

REFERRALS

540

*ACTIVE
CLIENTS*

366

*PENDING
CLIENTS*

115

*TOTAL FEES
WAIVERS*

\$55,000

FINES/FEES WAIVED

- FEC began offering financial counseling to court citizens who are assigned fines in February 2023. Citizens who choose to work with an FEC Counselor can earn a fine waiver of up to \$250 after completing three FEC sessions; another \$100 is waived for each subsequent session.
- Current Metrics from January 1, 2023 to August 1, 2025:
 - 747 Referrals, 540 Active Clients, and 366 pending appointments
 - Number of Total Fee Waivers: 115
 - Total Amount of Fines/Fees Waived: \$55,000

Establishing new student programing and workforce integration partnerships:

- The OFE is in the process of structuring a new summer youth employment program. The focus will be centered around workforce development for local youth, providing real world job experiences and foundational education around personal finance.

Supporting Tulsans who are at risk of losing their homes:

\$4,000

*ASSISTANCE FOR
ELIGIBLE HOMEOWNERS*

154

*REFERRALS TO THE
SAVE OUR HOMES INITIATIVE*

- FEC partnership with the Save Our Homes Initiative is a short-term program designed to empower under-resourced Tulsans by providing critical support for homeownership. The program offers up to \$4,000 to assist eligible low-income households in Tulsa with clearing home titles or paying property taxes, helping to secure and stabilize their homes. This program is looking to secure additional funding, so that the work can continue beyond October 2025. As of August 6, 2025, there is a total of 154 referrals, 131 total sessions, 30 active clients, and 2 pending appointments.

- **National Recognition for Tulsa's Financial Empowerment Partnership**

- In July 2025, the City of Tulsa's Office of Financial Empowerment was highlighted in a case study by the **National Center for State Courts (NCSC)** for its collaborative work with the City of Tulsa Municipal Courts. Through the Financial Empowerment Centers, in partnership with the City of Tulsa Municipal Courts, we are leveraging the power of partnerships to help residents reduce financial debts and break free from the judicial system's cycle of poverty. As the NCSC noted, *"This partnership helps mitigate the financial burden of legal obligation on residents and contributes to improved financial stability."*
- This recognition underscores the impact of our work and reaffirms the importance of building innovative partnerships that address both financial and legal challenges. We remain committed to expanding these efforts, ensuring Tulsa residents have the tools, resources and support needed to achieve lasting economic stability.

