

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

**DALLAS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY
ASSESSMENT**

DEAR FRIENDS,

As a Dallas native, I am especially honored to partner with the Communities Foundation of Texas to present this Dallas Economic Assessment.

At the Center for Public Policy Priorities, we believe in a Texas that offers everyone the chance to compete and succeed in life. We envision a Texas where everyone is healthy, well-educated, and financially secure. We want the best Texas – a proud state that sets the bar nationally by expanding opportunity for all.

Solid data and analysis are at the core of our work to advocate for policy solutions that enable Texans of all backgrounds to reach their full potential.

We are grateful to have conducted this analysis for the Communities Foundation of Texas, a true leader in the Dallas area. We also appreciate Mayor Rawlings, County Judge Jenkins, City Manager Broadnax, and the many other elected leaders in the region who have raised awareness about barriers to opportunity and advanced concrete solutions to help Texas families.

As this data and research sink in, we are excited for the next phase of our collective work toward improving economic opportunity and reducing poverty in the region. We offer the following policy recommendations for consideration, and look forward to hearing other innovative ideas.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

General

- Engage in a comprehensive racial and ethnic equity outcome assessment of local policies and practices.
- Conduct racial and ethnic impact analyses of existing policies, and identify fact-based policies that will close achievement gaps.
- Review city fees and expenses that may be stripping wealth from low-income neighborhoods.
- Analyze city and county budget expenditures to ensure sufficient resources for poverty alleviation.

Education to workforce pipeline

- Scale up regional and sector partnerships between businesses and educational institutions to strengthen career pathways.
 - Create a public-private-philanthropic partnership to expand access to English language acquisition and literacy.
- 

Child care and work supports

- Create a public-private-philanthropic partnership to boost funding for subsidized child care costs for working families, and coordinate with workforce programs.
- Provide incentives for businesses to raise wages beyond the minimum wage.
- Support paid sick leave to protect public health and prevent workers from having to choose between caring for a sick family member and losing wages.

Neighborhood revitalization

- Support a public-private partnership to establish Financial Opportunity Centers in targeted neighborhoods to provide access to Volunteer Income Tax Assistance sites, financial coaching, home ownership opportunities, workforce development, benefits access, GED testing and English language learning.
- Provide incentives for small, minority-owned, and immigrant-owned businesses to locate and hire in low-opportunity neighborhoods.

Health care

- Increase access to health insurance for underserved families by raising awareness of affordable public and private coverage options and supporting outreach and enrollment organizations.
- Support health care sector's efforts to retain federal funding for affordable health care through the 1115 Medicaid Transformation waiver.

Housing

- Support the protection of low-income renters who use vouchers from housing discrimination.

Transportation

- Establish goal for DART to reduce home-to-work travel time to under one hour for significant percentage of riders.
- Establish transit mobility goals for DART to ensure access in currently underserved communities.

We know that public policy can change people's lives for the better. Let's roll up our sleeves, dig into the data, and keep the dialogue going as we press forward to enact solutions to improve our community.

Sincerely yours,



Ann Beeson

CEO

Center for Public Policy Priorities

CPPP is an independent public policy organization that uses research, analysis and advocacy to promote solutions that enable Texans of all backgrounds to reach their full potential. Learn more at CPPP.org.