

Our Vision for Texas

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.

CPPP is an independent public policy organization that uses data and analysis to advocate for solutions that enable Texans of all backgrounds to reach their full potential.

ENSURE HEALTH AND WELLNESS

- Affordable, adequate health care
- Robust mental health services
- Food security and healthy food
- Access to public benefits



EXPAND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

- Well-funded, quality education – Pre-K through college
- Career pathways and workforce development
- Living wages and economic mobility
- Savings accounts and financial education



INVEST IN TEXAS

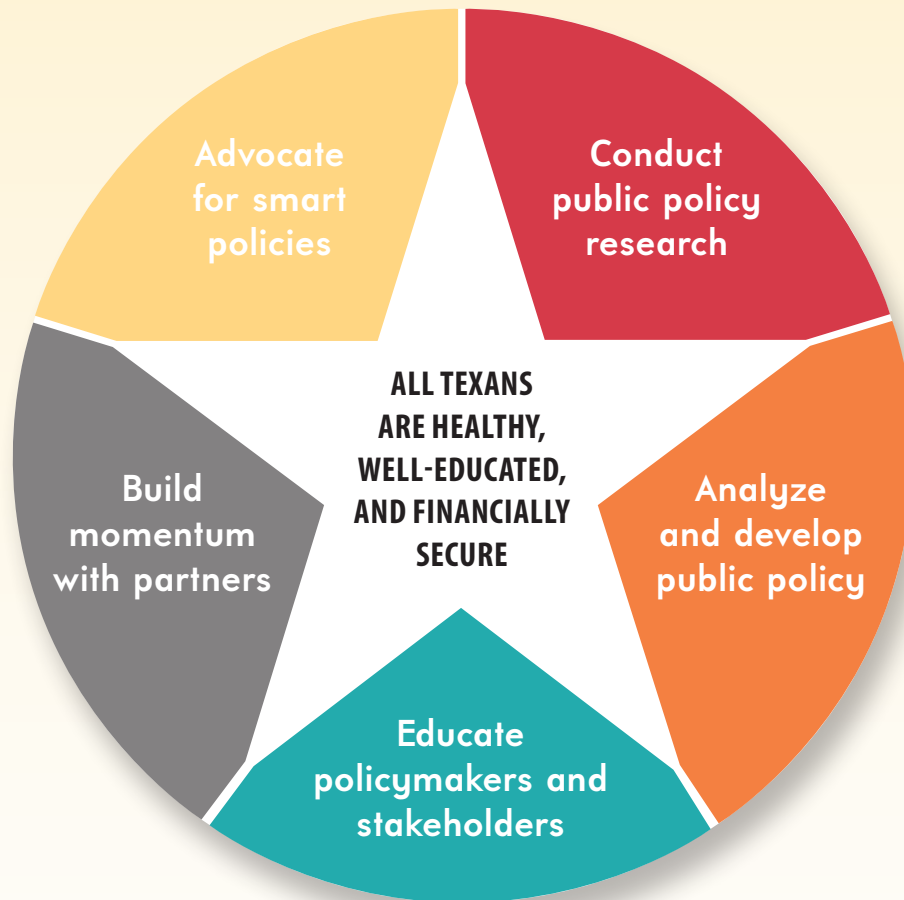
- State and local revenue systems that meet public needs
- A transparent state budget process
- Well-designed and targeted tax incentives



***WE DARE TEXAS** to be the best state for hard-working people and their families!*

How We Work

to Expand Economic Opportunity,
Ensure Health and Wellness, and Invest in Texas



A Changing Texas

With Texas at the leading edge of a profound demographic shift nationally, we highlight the impact of state policies on specific groups, including:

- ▶ **Low-income Texans:** About 17 percent of Texans live in poverty, meaning they are individuals earning less than \$12,000 per year or families earning less than \$24,000 per year for a household of four. Expanding economic opportunity is the best way to ensure that Texans can move out of poverty and build long-lasting financial security.
- ▶ **People of Color:** All Texans should have the chance to compete and succeed in life. But Hispanic and African-American Texans have disproportionately worse outcomes in many areas including education, health, and opportunities to build financial security. Hispanic and African-American children are more than twice as likely to drop out of high school as their White counterparts.

Research

We conduct research and build data tools on barriers to opportunity for Texas families

- *Economic Issues for Women in Texas*, a report series on the building blocks of economic security for the Dallas Women's Foundation
- *It's Time to Raise the Minimum Wage in Texas*, a report and county fact sheets on the impact of a minimum wage increase
- Texas Kids Count, our annual data project on child well-being
- Texas Regional Opportunity Index, our data tool for tracking local economic health

Analyze

We analyze policy and develop policy recommendations based on sound data

- *Surprise Medical Bills Take Advantage of Texans* used industry data to identify needed state changes to protect consumers from surprise medical billing
- *Keeping Kids with Family* used data to develop recommendations for better support systems for grandparents who care for their grandkids

Educate

We educate local and state policymakers, the media, and others on current conditions for Texans and how to improve them

- Hundreds of presentations and meetings annually with partners and policymakers around the state
- Testimony on over 100 bills during the 2015 legislative session
- Over 35 media mentions per month on average and over 4,000 followers on Twitter
- Trainings and webinars to explain complex state and federal policies

Partner

We work with partners to build momentum for change

- Texas Forward brings together over 70 organizations to advocate for public investments
- Texas Well and Healthy and CHIP Coalitions work to expand access to health care
- *OpportunityTexas*, our partnership with RAISE Texas, is expanding household savings

Advocate

We advocate for smart public policies at the state and local levels

- Successfully advocated for universal breakfast in Texas' public schools
- Successfully increased transparency around one of the state's largest tax giveaways
- Fighting to close the health insurance coverage gap and enhancing support for those eligible for coverage

- ▶ **Children:** Today an unacceptable 1 in 4 Texas children lives in poverty. With nearly 1 in 10 U.S. children living in Texas, the opportunities we provide for kids will help determine the entire country's future.
- ▶ **Women:** Half of all poor families in Texas are headed by single women, and Texas women are 20 percent more likely than men to be poor. Women are significant financial contributors in nearly 60 percent of Texas families, so the Texas economy depends on women's ability to access basic health services and build economic security.
- ▶ **Immigrants:** 1 in 6 Texans is an immigrant, and Houston is now more diverse than New York City. Immigrants are major contributors to the Texas economy, but too many face discriminatory or complex barriers to opportunity.



A Deep History In Texas

The Benedictine Sisters of Boerne, Texas founded CPPP in 1985 to advance public policy solutions for expanding access to health care. We became an independent, tax-exempt organization in 1999, and over time our focus has expanded to include economic opportunity and fiscal policy. We are based in Austin, Texas and work statewide.



CENTER *for* **PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES**

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