

NORTH TEXAS FUNDERS FORUM

Asset Funders Network

February 19, 2015
THE FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF DALLAS

Promoting Economic Opportunity through Policy and Influence
North Texas Funders Forum

Ann Beeson
Thursday, February 19, 2015
CENTER for PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

Texas 84th Legislative Session

Early Education

Financial literacy & children's savings

College access & completion

Only **52%** of Texas 4 year-olds are attending public Pre-K

2012-13, Texas Education Agency by 4 y.o. pop. (KC Data Center)

Early Education

- Establish pre-K as a full-day program for currently eligible students.
- Identify and remove barriers for pre-K, Head Start and child care facilities to collaborate.
- Improve quality standards such as class size limits, student-teacher ratios, and

Health Screenings

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Low-Income and Minority Families Much Less Likely to Have College Savings Accounts

Texas Tuition Promise Fund Enrollee Income Levels Compared to Statewide Income Levels

Income Level	TTPF Enrollment	Statewide Income
Over \$100,000	19.80%	7.40%
\$75,000-\$100,000	12.50%	12.20%
\$50,000-\$75,000	8.10%	87.90%
Under \$50,000	52.00%	13.50%
Unknown	9.80%	0%

- Half of US families aren't savings for college
- Households over \$100,000 are four times more likely to enroll in TTPF than households under \$100,000
- African Americans and Hispanics make up over 48% of the Texas population, but just over 18% of TTPF account holders

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Financial Literacy & Children's Savings

- Expand household financial education and savings through financial services business contributions to the Texas Financial Education Endowment.
- Enable schools to adopt College Savings Accounts (CSAs) and exempt CSAs from resource limits for public benefit program eligibility.

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Financial Barriers to College Access and Completion



- **Exploding** cost of college
 - up **55%** since 2003
- **Inadequate levels of need-based grant aid**
- Lack of **college savings**

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College Access & Completion

- Expand existing programs for need-based aid at two-year and four-year public college students.
- Expand adult education and other job training.
- Defend the Texas Dream Act

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 **BOLDERADVOCACY**
An initiative of Alliance for Justice

ADVOCACY and NONPROFITS

Nayantara Mehta,
Alliance for Justice

	501(c)(3) Private Foundation	501(c)(3) Public Charity/ Foundation	501(c)(4) 501(c)(5) 501(c)(6)
Lobbying	PROHIBITED from directly engaging or funding	Permitted, ANNUAL CAPS	UNLIMITED
Electoral Activities	Cannot support or oppose a candidate for office	Cannot support or oppose a candidate for office	Permitted as secondary activity

Avenues for **ADVOCACY** for **501(c)(3)s**

- Organize Communities
- Educate Legislators
- Encourage Voting
- Educate Public
- PARTISAN POLITICAL**
- Educational Conferences
- Research
- Nonpartisan Voter Ed.
- Influence Agency Rules
- LOBBYING**
- Skills Training
- Change Corporate Behavior
- IRS Lobbying Exceptions
- Litigation

Nonprofits can and should **ADVOCATE** and **LOBBY** for **POLICY CHANGE!**

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