

Good Jobs for Dallas County Workers

Kids do best when their families are economically secure

The Texas economy is booming, but Texas families do not share in the prosperity equitably—including families in Dallas County. Due in part to women's wages being generally lower than men's, female-headed single parent households are nearly twice as likely to live below the poverty line (\$16,895 for a single-parent family of two) compared to male-headed single parent households. And nearly one in three Dallas County kids live in single-mother households. Access to benefits like paid sick leave, child care, and employer-sponsored health insurance varies widely throughout Dallas County, and women are more likely to hold the jobs that do not provide these work and family supports. Dallas County workers need access to family-sustaining wages and quality job benefits to build a strong future for their children.

WORKING FAMILIES

Median household income varies widely by family type, with single-mother headed households having the fewest resources and being at high risk of living below the poverty line.

The gender wage gap perpetuates this disparity; of full-time, year-round workers in Dallas County:

THE MEDIAN INCOME FOR A WOMAN IS \$2,000 LESS THAN THE MEDIAN INCOME FOR A MAN.

GOOD JOBS

Working parents need sufficient wages and benefits to meet their family's needs. Dallas County families would benefit from policies that:

- **Increase wages.** For example, a single parent working full time at minimum wage is not paid enough to keep their family out of poverty. Learn more at familybudgets.org.
- **Provide paid sick leave.** Forty-one percent of Dallas workers lack access to paid sick leave. Parents without paid sick days at work are twice as likely to send their child to school sick and are less able to address their own health needs.
- **Improve access to child care.** Job quality improvements like predictable hours, flexibility in scheduling, and on-site child care can make taking care of kids easier for working parents.

SOLUTIONS



- Local voters and elected officials should be allowed to raise standards for working families and protect the health and well-being of their local community.
- Local leaders understand the needs of their constituents. State lawmakers should resist interfering in local affairs and instead protect access to local paid sick days and other job quality standards for Dallas County workers.

[Learn more at CPPP.org](http://CPPP.org)

#TXkidscount

1. A family's economic security can determine a child's access to educational opportunities, healthy food, stable housing, and health care.

 **What will you do to ensure all families have access to opportunities that can increase their economic security?**

2. Single mothers in Dallas County are nearly twice as likely to live in poverty as single fathers.

 **What strategies do you support to close the gender wage gap?**

3. In 2017, the median household incomes for Black and Hispanic households with children were less than half the median household incomes for White and Asian households with children.

 **How should Texas leaders address these inequities?**

4. Nearly 155,000 children in Dallas County live below the poverty line.

 **What strategies do you support to address child poverty and ensure it doesn't persist through future generations?**

5. Parents of young children in Dallas County often struggle to balance family and work responsibilities.

 **How can we incentivize Texas businesses to support working parents?**

6. Paid sick days help limit the spread of illness in the workplace and promote the health and well-being of employees. Parents who have paid sick days are also less likely to send a sick child to school.

 **What strategies do you support to expand access to paid sick days?**