

# WHAT WOULD IT TAKE FOR TEXAS TO BE THE #1 STATE FOR KIDS—INSTEAD OF #43?

The Annie E. Casey Foundation's National KIDS COUNT Data Book ranks Texas the 43rd best state to be a kid based on economic well-being, health, education, family and community.<sup>1</sup>

The Center for Public Policy Priorities' State of Texas Children 2015 assesses child well-being in Texas, examines trends and patterns, and highlights positive policies that can help kids reach their full potential.

More than 7 million kids call Texas home, and nearly 1 in 11 kids in the U.S. lives in Texas.<sup>2</sup> The ability of our state—and country—to grow, prosper and innovate depends on the well-being of Texas kids.

## KEY POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

TO MAKE TEXAS THE BEST STATE FOR KIDS,  
**WE DARE TEXAS TO...**

-  *Invest sufficiently in public education to meet student needs.*
-  *Expand Pre-Kindergarten statewide to full-day programs for currently eligible students.*
-  *Close the Coverage Gap and expand health insurance coverage options for families.*
-  *Provide more support for informal kinship caregivers, and streamline the process for accessing kinship care benefits.*
-  *Raise the state minimum wage and change the state law that prohibits Texas cities from setting their own minimum wage.*



## CENTER for PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

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. 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. We dare Texas to be the best state for hard-working people and their families.

## Child Poverty & Family Economic Security

Though the unemployment rate in Texas is relatively low, the child poverty rate is high. That means working families don't earn enough to keep kids out of poverty.

## Health & Wellness

Texas is ranked 49th for the percentage of children with health insurance and 43rd for children's consistent access to food.<sup>5</sup>

## Education

The population of low-income students in Texas schools is growing, and research shows that high-quality Pre-K helps low-income kids succeed in kindergarten and beyond.

## Child Safety

Many relatives and friends step up to provide homes for Texas kids, and most receive limited or no state support.

# KEY FINDINGS

To view full report, visit [cppp.org/kidscount](http://cppp.org/kidscount).

### CHILDREN IN POVERTY<sup>3</sup> 2013



### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF PARENTS<sup>4</sup> 2013



### CHILDREN WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE<sup>6</sup> 2013



### CHILDREN LIVING IN FOOD-INSECURE HOUSEHOLDS<sup>7</sup> 2012



### ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS<sup>8</sup> 2013-14



### PUBLIC PRE-K ENROLLMENT FOR 4-YEAR-OLDS<sup>9</sup> 2012-13



### KIDS IN INFORMAL KINSHIP CARE<sup>10</sup> 2009-11



### CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE<sup>11</sup> 2013

