

Texas Anti-Poverty Project

Ongoing Actions:

The Texas Anti-Poverty Project is researching the recent agreement between Travis County and Tesla to improve contractor wages and access to high-paying jobs for local residents who are part of the working poor.

Work So Far:

- Meeting with Texas Senator Judith Zaffirini and Travis County Judge Andy Brown and Commissioner Margaret Gomez about a potential investment vehicles such as Section 381 and [Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone](#) around the new Tesla Gigafactory to make investments in education, job training, and other community needs in Del Valle
- Education about strategies highlighted in [NY Times](#), [Tamarack Institute](#) (Canada), and [Central Iowa](#)
- Partnering with other Austin organizations ([LifeWorks](#), [Community First! Village](#), and [Capital IDEA](#)) to conduct house meetings to understand issues and identify leaders of families impacted by poverty.

Why?

Jewish tradition is filled with commandments to help the poorest among us: feed the hungry, clothe the naked, care for the widow and orphan. When we organize to place working class voices at the center of how our community morally responds to poverty, we not only improve the advocacy we undertake, but fundamentally empower those who the Torah compels us to uplift.