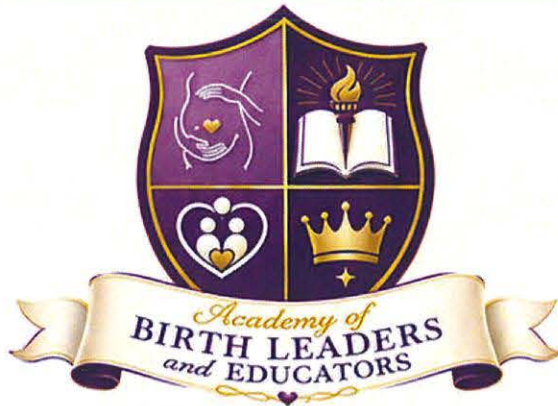


POLICY BRIEF

A Workforce
Development
Perspective for the
Texas Sunset Advisory
Commission



ACADEMY OF BIRTH LEADERS & EDUCATORS (ABLE)

EDUCATE • EMPOWER • ELEVATE



BUILDING A
STRONGER TEXAS
THROUGH PEOPLE,
PARTNERSHIPS &
POSSIBILITIES.

STRENGTHENING TEXAS' WORKFORCE BY INVESTING IN THE CARE ECONOMY



THE OPPORTUNITY

The Sunset Staff Report identifies several opportunities to strengthen the Texas Workforce Commission through improved coordination, accountability, modernization, and stronger partnerships with Local Workforce Development Boards. These recommendations create an opportunity to broaden how Texas defines workforce infrastructure and the partners who contribute to it.

As Texas modernizes its workforce system, the care economy should be recognized as an essential component of workforce development.



THE WORKFORCE BEHIND THE WORKFORCE

Texas cannot build a stronger workforce without supporting the workforce that makes work possible.

Every day, care economy professionals help Texans participate in the labor force by providing services that allow individuals and families to remain healthy, supported, and employed.

- ♥ Birth Doulas
- ♥ Community Health Workers
- ♥ Lactation Professionals
- ♥ Perinatal Case Managers
- ♥ Family Support Specialists
- ♥ Maternal Health Educators
- ♥ Home Visiting Professionals
- ♥ Other Community-Based Care Providers

These careers represent legitimate workforce pathways that create entrepreneurs, small business owners, Medicaid providers, and trusted community leaders while strengthening family stability and local economies.



WHY IT MATTERS

Investments in the care economy produce benefits that extend far beyond healthcare.

A stronger care workforce contributes to:

- Increased workforce participation by parents and caregivers
- Greater employee retention and reduced absenteeism
- Stronger local small businesses and entrepreneurship
- Expanded access to workforce opportunities in underserved communities
- Improved coordination between healthcare, workforce development, and community services



*The care economy is not simply a healthcare issue—
it is workforce infrastructure.*

TEXAS OPPORTUNITY

Recognizing the care economy as
workforce infrastructure will help Texas:



Strengthen family stability,
which increases workforce
participation.



Create jobs and small
businesses across every
community.



Expand the reach and impact
of public workforce systems
through trusted community
partners.



Invest in care infrastructure
that drives a stronger,
healthier, and more resilient
Texas economy.

*“ If we want a
stronger workforce,
we must invest in the
workforce that
makes work possible.*

— NIKIA LAWSON

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

1



EXPAND WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIPS

Recognize community-based organizations as valuable workforce development partners capable of reaching populations traditionally underserved by public systems.

2



STRENGTHEN CAREER PATHWAYS

Support emerging workforce sectors—including maternal health and community-based care professions—as viable employment and small business opportunities.

3



MEASURE COMMUNITY IMPACT

Encourage performance measures that evaluate not only compliance, but also entrepreneurship, community engagement, and long-term workforce participation.

4



FOSTER CROSS-SECTOR COLLABORATION

Promote stronger partnerships among workforce agencies, healthcare systems, educational institutions, and community organizations to create a more connected workforce ecosystem.



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*Building Leaders.
Strengthening Families.
Transforming Communities.*