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New Toolkit Shows How Cities Can Lead the Way Against Predatory Lending

AUSTIN, Texas — New data from Texas Appleseed, a public interest justice center, shows that predatory lending fees are on the rise in Texas, with these loans contributing to an economic drain on local families and communities.

To offset the harmful debt trap that payday and auto title loans create, Texas Appleseed today releases a new toolkit to help local municipalities increase access to fair, low-cost loans for their employees and constituents they serve. [A Toolkit for Cities](#) lays out specific opportunities any city can pursue, highlights benefits to cities and overall communities, and includes quick facts, tips, and case study examples of programs locally and across the nation.

The toolkit includes details from how and why to partner with a local Council of Government (COG) to investing in low-cost lending programs to participating in an employer-based affordable loan program.

“Our goal was for cities big and small to be able to open this toolkit and find tangible ways to improve opportunities for people in their city who may be struggling to make ends meet or who may only be a paycheck away from financial disaster,” said Ann Baddour, director of Texas Appleseed’s Fair Financial Services project. “We’ve already seen cities make important strides by passing the unified ordinance, and there’s even more they can do with an eye toward increasing the economic stability and financial health of their communities,” said Baddour.

The [unified ordinance](#) sets basic affordability standards for payday and auto title loans, and 35 cities in Texas have passed it to date.

The toolkit also features a “quick guide” executive summary and is available at TexasAppleseed.org.

About Texas Appleseed

Texas Appleseed is a public interest justice center that works to change unjust laws and policies that prevent Texans from realizing their full potential. The nonprofit conducts data-driven research that uncovers inequity in laws and policies and identifies solutions for lasting, concrete change. For more information, visit TexasAppleseed.org.

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