



CFED Pre-Conference
Working Together through Practice and
Policy at the Local, State,
and National Levels



Who is RAISE Texas

- RAISE Texas is a statewide network of non-profit organizations, for-profit corporations, and public institutions working to support and expand asset-building activities in Texas, with a particular focus on low- and moderate-income
- Our mission is to advance policies and programs that foster financial success and economic stability for all Texans
- In 2008, RAISE Texas became the first independent 501(c)(3) state asset-building coalition in the country



How policy change happens

- Sometimes it's being in the right place at the right time
- Or a bill moves under the radar screen
- Or you have contacts in high-up places
- Other times, it requires a more broad-based strategy with local practitioners contacting their state representatives



What has inhibited major policy success

- In Texas a number of our bills have not passed the legislature for various reasons
- Early on most of our strength and programs have been in the major cities with the traditional partners and support



New strategy:

Build real local constituency statewide

- Develop new constituents in small cities and rural communities
- Started our Rural Initiatives campaign in 2008
- In 2010, regional meetings in partnership with the Federal Reserve and Texas Rural Innovators



New tactics

- Begun to target new partners in our state beyond the usual suspects
- New Web site database link for local programs that can also be utilized for our policy work
- New initiative *OpportunityTexas*



Connecting nationally

- At the national level we work closely in partnerships and networks for policy work – CFED, National Community Tax Coalition, Center for Responsible Lending
- Also through convenings and listservs through the Learning Circle and through Charles Stewart Mott, Ford, and Assets & Opportunity partnership



- For more information visit the RAISE Texas Web site at www.raisetexas.org