



COALITION ON HUMAN NEEDS

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Effective Economic Stimulus Must Include Aid for Those Suffering Most

New Report Presents Package for Boosting the Economy While Helping People in Need

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A new report compiled by the Coalition on Human Needs calls on Congress to quickly pass an economic stimulus package that fosters a shared economic recovery by providing targeted investment in programs and services that help low-income Americans meet basic needs and find jobs during a time of growing unemployment and economic hardship. The unemployment rate in October jumped to 6.5 percent, the highest in 14 years, according to government data released on Friday. Of the 10.1 million Americans who are jobless and looking for work, 2.2 million have been out of work for at least six months - the largest number in 25 years.

"Economists tell us that providing aid to low- and moderate-income people is the most effective way to boost the economy," said Deborah Weinstein, executive director of the Coalition on Human Needs (CHN). "The need is urgent for both our economy and the growing number of Americans who are losing their jobs, their homes, and their ability to meet basic needs."

The report, *Towards Shared Recovery*, presents Congress with key items that should be part of an effective stimulus package, including an increase in nutrition assistance, an expansion of unemployment insurance, investments in infrastructure and job creation, additional aid for states, help for victims of home foreclosure, and increased funding for Head Start, child care and child support programs.

The 13 items presented in the CHN report, totaling approximately \$90 billion, are not meant to provide a comprehensive picture of everything that should be included in an economic stimulus package. In fact, economists believe it will take \$150 to \$300 billion to get the economy back on track.

Instead, the report zeros in on those elements that will both boost the economy and provide relief to people in need. These proposals include a \$10 billion increase in Food Stamp benefits; \$6 billion for an additional seven weeks of unemployment insurance to every state and a 20-week extension to high-unemployment states; \$50 billion to help states facing severe budget shortfalls; and up to \$18 billion for infrastructure and green job projects that would help communities while providing stable employment to thousands of people struggling to find jobs that pay enough to meet basic needs.

"Millions of Americans saw their incomes shrink during the economic recovery that followed our last recession," noted Weinstein. "We cannot let that happen again. If our economy is truly to get back on track, Congress must act quickly to ensure that all Americans share in our next recovery."

To read the complete *Towards Shared Recovery* report, click [here](#).

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The Coalition on Human Needs (CHN) is an alliance of national organizations working together to promote public policies which address the needs of low-income and other vulnerable populations. The Coalition's members include civil rights, religious, labor and professional organizations and those concerned with the well being of children, women, the elderly and people with disabilities. CHN is located at 1120 Connecticut Ave. NW Suite 910, Washington, D.C. 20036. For more information please visit www.chn.org.

The report was prepared for the Emergency Campaign for America's Priorities (ECAP), a nationwide campaign of national and grassroots organizations committed to reversing the Bush Administration's policy of drastic cuts to programs that primarily benefit the poor and middle class in order to finance tax cuts that benefit the wealthy and special interests.