



COALITION ON HUMAN NEEDS

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Statement by Deborah Weinstein, executive director of the Coalition on Human Needs, in response to President Bush's Fiscal 2009 budget

"Continuing a seven-year trend, President Bush's final budget once again sacrifices services for low- and moderate-income working families in order to preserve tax cuts for the rich. Housing crisis? The budget cuts important housing and community development assistance by more than \$1.3 billion. Rising unemployment? Funding for job training and employment services is slashed by well over a billion dollars. Rising energy costs? Home heating assistance drops more than 20 percent. Families are finding it harder to pay for health coverage and other necessities, just as shortfalls are creating pressure on states to cut their own budgets. The Bush response? Restrict eligibility for Medicaid and children's health insurance, and cut funds states need to serve abused and neglected children and to collect child support. As the country falls into a recession, Bush's upside-down priorities cement his legacy as a president who has failed repeatedly to invest in programs and policies that meet human needs."

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The Coalition on Human Needs (CHN) is an alliance of organizations working together to promote public policies that address the needs of low-income and other vulnerable populations. The Coalition's members include advocates for young and old, groups concerned with housing, health care, education, civil rights, and disabilities, research and policy professionals, service providers, and labor and religious organizations. You can find a list of the Coalition members at www.chn.org.