

President-elect Barack Obama's Anti-Poverty Goals

Anti-Poverty

Expand the Earned Income Tax Credit

The Earned Income Tax Credit will be expanded to increase the number of workers eligible for these benefits, increase the benefits available to parents and large families, and remove the marriage penalty which hurts low-income families.

Raise the Minimum Wage

By 2011, the minimum wage will be raised to \$9.50 per hour. Further, the minimum wage will be indexed to inflation for annual adjustment.

Offer the "Making Work Pay" Tax Cut

The "Making Work Pay" tax cut will offer a tax cut of up to \$500 per worker, or \$1,000 per family, which will eliminate income taxes for up to 10 million low-income Americans.

Support Job Programs

The new Administration will invest \$1 billion over five years in transitional jobs and career pathway programs that implement proven methods of helping low-income Americans succeed in the workplace.

Create an 'Affordable Housing Trust Fund'

The "Affordable Housing Trust Fund" will provide funds for the development of affordable housing in mixed-income neighborhoods.

Seniors

"I believe that Americans of all age are willing to serve this country in ways big and small."

-President-elect Barack Obama

Support Senior Volunteer Efforts

Senior Corps and other volunteer service programs for seniors will be expanded and improved. Scholarships and stipends are proposed as incentives for participation.

Eliminate Income Taxes for Seniors Making Less Than \$50,000

Elimination of this tax is projected to provide an immediate savings to 7 million seniors of an average \$1,400 per year.

Ensure Heating Assistance

President-elect Obama will increase funding for LIHEAP, thereby reaching more low-income seniors.

Children

"Today we begin in earnest the work of making sure that the world we leave our children is just a little bit better than the one we inhabit today." -President-elect Barack Obama

"Zero to Five" Plan

Believing that investing in early childhood education and child care provides the greatest opportunity for long-term success, President-elect Obama's "Zero to Five" plan will invest \$10 billion per year to provide critical supports to young children and their parents. The plan is comprehensive in nature and includes the following early childhood education and child care agenda:

Early Childhood Education

Create Early Learning Challenge Grants

Funding will be provided to states to create or expand high-quality early care and education programs for pregnant women and children from birth to age five. Of particular interest to the new Administration is the use of these funds to accelerate the trend toward voluntary, universal pre-school for every four-year-old (or every three-and-four-year-old). States will be required to match federal funds, meet accountability standards, develop strong public/private partnerships, and provide support for both early learning and family support services in order to receive this funding.

Expand Early Head Start

Early Head Start funding will be increased in order to **quadruple** the number of participants.

Invest in Head Start and Early Head Start

Head Start funding will be increased, in general, to enhance and expand the program. Additionally, \$250 million will be dedicated to creating or expanding regional training centers designed to help Head Start centers implement successful models.

Create a Presidential Early Learning Council

The Presidential Early Learning Council will bring together leaders from the federal, state, private and nonprofit sectors to collect and disseminate current research, highlight best practices and break down barriers that prevent program integration.

Child Care

Reform the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit

The Child Development and Dependent Care Tax Credit will be changed from its current provisions (non-refundable; up to 35 percent credit for the first \$3,000 in child care expenses (one child) or the first \$6,000 (two or more children)) to improve the benefit to low-income families. The new provisions will make the

credit fully refundable and allow low-income families to receive up to a 50 percent credit for child care expenses.

Increase Funding for the Child Care Development Block Grant Program

The policy for funding the Child Care Development Block Grant Program will be changed from constant-level funding to annually-adjusted funding which will keep pace with the rising cost of child care expenses. Additionally, the funding for quality improvements will be doubled and states will be encouraged to use this funding to develop quality rating systems for child care, support teacher training and professional development, and improve student/teacher ratios, among others.

Support Low-Income, First-Time Mothers

Through expansion of evidence-based home visiting programs such as the Nurse-Family Partnership, the new Administration intends to assist over 570,000 first-time mothers each year.

Child Advocacy

President-elect Obama is a committed advocate for children. They will make sure that every child has health insurance, expand educational opportunities for low-income children, extend resources for low-income families, support and supplement our struggling foster care system, and protect children from violence and neglect.

Homelessness

“Zero Tolerance” for Homelessness Among Veterans

Expanding proven programs and launching innovative services will seek to eliminate homelessness among the nation’s veterans.

Weatherization

Supplement LIHEAP Funding

President-elect Obama is calling for supplementing FY 2009 LIHEAP funding to ensure that cold-weather states can assist their low-income residents this winter. Additionally, part of his \$25 million State Growth Fund will be used to supplement LIHEAP funding to help states cover more residents.

Weatherize One Million Homes Annually

Annual appropriations to the Weatherization Assistance Program will ensure that **at least one million low-income homes are weatherized each year for the next decade.**

Volunteerism

"When you choose to serve -- whether it's your nation, your community or simply your neighborhood -- you are connected to that fundamental American ideal that we want life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness not just for ourselves, but for all Americans. That's why it's called the American dream." -President-elect Barack Obama

Invest in Nonprofits

President-elect Obama will create an agency for Social Entrepreneurship within the Corporation for National and Community Service dedicated to building the capacity and effectiveness of the nonprofit sector.

Create and Expand Service Organizations

Volunteer service programs such as Americorps and Peace Corps will be expanded to at least double current volunteer levels. Additionally, Obama will establish new service programs such as the Health Corps, Veterans Corps, Clean Energy Corps and Classroom Corps.

Offer the "American Opportunity Tax Credit"

The "American Opportunity Tax Credit" will offer college students a fully-refundable tax credit of \$4,000 in exchange for 100 public service hours per year. Additionally, President-elect Obama has proposed ensuring that at least 25 percent of College Work-Study funds are used to support public service opportunities.

Expand Youth Programs

The **YouthBuild** program will be expanded to provide 50,000 disadvantaged youth the opportunity to complete their education, learn valuable skills and build affordable housing in their communities. A Green Jobs Corps will also be created to engage disadvantaged youth in energy-efficiency opportunities, such as weatherizing buildings, to strengthen their communities and develop practical, career-related skills.

Sources

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