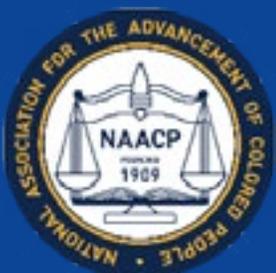




Jobs and Policy at the Federal Level

A Review and Assessment by the NAACP Economic Department



Policy and Jobs at the Federal Level:

President & Federal Agencies

- **White House Council on African Americans and Employment.** The White House Council on African Americans and Employment, similar to the White House Council on Women and Girls, would be designed to ensure that all federal agencies and the White House office take into account the needs and barriers to economic equity faced by African Americans in the policies they draft. The Council would also serve as a central point of coordination and cooperation in dealing with economic equity for African Americans for the president's administration.
- **A Civil Rights meeting at the White House on Executive Order 13583.** The government wide-diversity plan stemming from Executive Order 13583 will be shared with the civil right groups along with the specific plan for diversity of each federal agency. Also reviewed will be goals for improvement and current diversity numbers of government wide diversity and for each federal agency.
- **Immigration Reform.** Immigration reform set forth by the President should recommend that the US Department of Labor identify: 1) job sectors that are currently unemployable and 2) geographic locations that are either experiencing or likely to experience economic dislocation and high worker displacement. Immigration reform should also require that the Department of Homeland Security publish an annual list of individuals and businesses (public and private) who have settled or adjusted claims that the entity has violated the US immigration federal policy.

Congress (Legislation)

American Jobs Act

- The NAACP Washington Bureau has restated their support for President Obama's 2011 American Jobs Act, pushing for complete reinstatement of the series of bills that would create greater opportunities for the long-term unemployed, provide incentives for businesses to hire, and would fund revitalization projects in schools, neighborhoods, and community infrastructure.
- The NAACP Economic Department also supports investment in job creation as detailed in the American Jobs Act. The key provisions that the NAACP Economic Department sees as most important are the parts of the AJA that directly invests in job creation and outlaws hiring discrimination against those who are unemployed.
 - 1) Expanding new and continuing with current infrastructure projects \$50 billion. (Failed Rebuild American Jobs Act S. 1769)
 - 2) Protecting the jobs of teachers, police officers, and firefighters. \$35 billion
 - 3) Modernizing at least 35,000 public schools and community colleges. \$30 billion
 - 4) Developing a program to hire construction workers to revitalize hundreds of homes and businesses that have been foreclosed on. \$15 billion
 - 5) Help fund infrastructure with private and public capital through the National Infrastructure Bank. \$10 billion (Failed Rebuild American Jobs Act S. 1769)
 - 6) Prevent hiring discrimination against those who are unemployed.

- **A Financial Speculation Tax.** This tax would raise an estimated \$200-\$500 billion per year in badly needed revenue. This is a substantial sum of money that -- from a sector that can afford it and that could go to job creation and development.
- **Update and Fund Workforce Investment Act.** Twenty billion dollars of investment could go to the Workforce Investment Act. About \$10 billion should be spent on strengthening the scope and reach of such programs as Job Corps and Youth Build. Another \$10 billion would go to a tax credit for businesses that hires people who have gone through programs related to the Workforce Investment Act.
- **Equity Assessment.** An equity assessment will review whether federal funds are investing in communities that will most benefit from and are most in need of federal assistance. A proper assessment should determine where funds go, what jobs are created, and in what communities. This information will help make sure that government funds get to working-class and middle-class Americans who must be at the center of the economic recovery. (Dedrick Muhammad)
- **Immigration Reform as is relates to a pro-jobs agenda.** From 2006 Immigration Reform Resolution should:
 - 1) Include a raise of the minimum wage that is applied to workers regardless of citizenship status.
 - 2) Provide over five-years a \$3,000 annual tax credit (annually adjusted for inflation) to all American citizens employed in a job category or geographic locale identified by the federal government as an unemployable job category or geographic locale.
 - 3) Require corporations that hire non-permanent U.S. resident workers to pay into a national labor training trust fund to ensure an appropriate federal financial foundation to address U.S. unemployment issues.
 - 4) Include that in the case of employers or businesses that willfully violate U.S. federal immigration laws causing the dilution of protective labor laws or the erosion of worker safety, then such employers or businesses shall be held accountable, adjudged and punished for their illegal actions by a set of progressive civil and criminal penalties designed to ensure full compliance with U.S. immigration laws and that any resulting fines imposed should be directed to the national labor trust fund to ensure an appropriate federal foundation to address U.S. unemployment and worker displacement issues.
 - 5) Include that the Department of Justice be given administrative and enforcement authority to investigate, issue findings and enforce corrective measures when complaints by private citizens claiming corporate violations of the federal immigrations employment policy are appropriately submitted to the agency
 - 6) Include proposals to provide more protections to seasonal workers and a path to legal permanent residency and citizenship for college age students which will help protect all workers by preventing the seasonal workforce from being hidden in the shadows of employment protections and obligations.

- **Implement The Emergency Jobs to Restore the American Dream Act.** Representative Jan Schakowsky has a bill to create new job corps in areas from park improvement to child care. Titled the Emergency Jobs to Restore the American Dream Act; the plan would cost \$227 billion and would be implemented over two years. Schakowsky said that her plan would create 2.2 million jobs and decrease the unemployment rate by 1.3 percent.

1) The School Improvement Corps would create 400,000 construction and 250,000 maintenance jobs by funding positions created by public school districts to do needed school rehabilitation improvements.

2) The Park Improvement Corps would create 100,000 jobs for youth between the ages of 16 and 25 through new funding to the Department of the Interior and the USDA Forest Service's Public Lands Corps Act. Young people would work on conservation projects on public lands including the restoration and rehabilitation of natural, cultural, and historic resources.

3) The Student Jobs Corps would create 250,000 more part-time work study jobs for eligible college students through new funding for the Federal Work Study Program.

4) The Neighborhood Heroes Corps would hire 300,000 new teachers, 40,000 new police officers and 12,000 new firefighters.

5) The Health Corps would hire at least 40,000 health care providers, including physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses, and health care workers to expand access in underserved rural and urban areas.

6) The Child Care Corps would create 100,000 jobs in early childhood care and education through additional funding for Early Head Start.

7) The Community Corps would hire 750,000 individuals to do need work in communities, including housing rehab, weatherization, recycling, and rural conservation.

8) Public jobs are cost-efficient, targetable, and stop the vicious cycle of depressed consumer demand causing private employers to shed workers and cut salaries, which in turn depresses consumer demand.