

Consequences of Failing to Act

If unemployment rises to 9 percent

- At least 2-3 million *more* jobless
- 7.5 – 10.3 million *more* poor
(added to 37m in 2007)
- 2.6 – 3.3 million *more* poor children
(added to 18m in 2007)

(Source of poverty estimates:
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities:
<http://www.cbpp.org/11-24-08pov.htm>)

Even at 6.7% unemployment...

- 1 out of 8 (nearly 20 million people) either jobless or working part time involuntarily
- Minorities, youth, people with little education with high jobless rates:
 - Blacks: **11.2%** unemployed
 - Hispanics: **8.6%** unemployed
 - 16-19 year olds: **20.4%** unemployed
 - 20-24 year olds: **10.9%** unemployed
 - Without H.S. diploma: **10.5%** unemployed
 - With B.A. or higher: **3.1%** unemployed

(Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics; check new data January 9: www.bls.gov)

Comparing 1st six months in 2008 to 1st six months in 2007:

- **31 percent** increase in young children in food insecure households
- **30 percent** increase in children themselves being food insecure

» Findings from Boston Medical Center data, C-SNAP
(<http://www.c-snap.org/page.php?id=160>)

Hidden Homelessness

- Foreclosures in Boston: 60 in 2005; 703 in 2007.
- 15.6% of children in housing insecure homes suffer from poor health; almost twice that for children in stable housing.

Housing Insecure: Families in overcrowded housing; and/or moved two or more times in last year.



In Cleveland, OH

- 23 percent increase in requests for food assistance; but distributed only 7 percent more food. More working poor families, young families, elderly seeking aid.
- Had to cut back on variety and amount of food distributed.
- OH unemployment rose from 5.7% in 11/07 to 7.3% in 11/08.

In Philadelphia, PA

- Requests for food aid up 23 percent, while budget for emergency food dropped by 8 percent = **26 percent decrease** in amount of food distributed.
- 18 percent increase in mortgage foreclosures.
- PA unemployment rose from 4.4% in 11/07 to 6.1% in 11/08.

From Hunger and Homelessness Survey, U.S. Conference of Mayors

Across the Nation...

- 44 Catholic Charities agencies surveyed in December: 91% of agencies report an increase in the working poor seeking services; 66% seeing more seniors.

<http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/NetCommunity/Document.Doc?id=1322>

- Salvation Army in Syracuse, NY: donations up 20% over last year, but demand at food pantry doubled; shelters housing 50% more than designed for.

More child poverty means more...

- Babies and toddlers with poor health
- Children under 3 being hospitalized
- Inadequate nutrition among young children
- Threats to development of brain architecture
- Later problems in school – and life-long struggles to catch up

**The only thing we have to fear is
the failure to act.**

Okay – the failure to act *wisely*.

Yes, we can have a *shared* recovery

- Create jobs and open them to low-income people
- Make sure children – and former children – have enough nutritious food
- Help more of the jobless
- Prevent loss of medical care, heat, housing
- Invest in child care, Head Start, education
- Prevent failure to collect child support
- Make sure low-income people can benefit from tax cuts

Shared Recovery: Because it Works

*For every dollar spent, get
these benefits:*

- Temporary Increase in Food Stamps: **\$1.73**
- Extending UI Benefits: **\$1.64**
- General Aid to State Governments: **\$1.36**
- Increased Infrastructure Spending: **\$1.59**
- Make Dividend and Capital Gains Tax Cuts Permanent: **\$0.37**

- Mark Zandi, Moody's
Economy.Com

<http://www.house.gov/smbiz/hearings/hearing-07-24-08-stimulus/Zandi.pdf>



Witnesses to Hunger, Philadelphia Grow Project

<http://publichealth.drexel.edu/GROW/>

There *will* be push back

- Still need 60 votes in Senate
- Don't let that imperative lead to more *ineffective* tax cuts
- Don't let that threaten vital elements such as Child Tax Credit for families with \$3,000 or more in earnings; nutrition aid; UI improvements, jobs for low-income people, state fiscal relief...

I agree with you, I want to do it, now make me do it.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt

And we have always triumphed in moments of trial by drawing on that great American spirit—that perseverance, determination and unyielding commitment to opportunity on which our nation was founded.

Barack Obama, January 3, 2009

We can do this –
if we act together.



COALITION ON HUMAN NEEDS

Thanks!

www.chn.org

For *Shared Recovery* Fact Sheets on jobs, nutrition, working families, children, education, housing
<http://www.chn.org/issues/economy/index.html#summarydocs>

For more info, and to lend a hand, contact Debbie Weinstein, dweinstein@chn.org