



ENDING POVERTY



NATIONAL YOUTH EMPLOYMENT COALITION



The Center for Law and Social Policy

May 6, 2021

Dear Members of Congress:

The United States is at a critical crossroads. In response to the economic devastation of the COVID-19 recession, the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP), Heartland Alliance, the National Youth Employment Coalition (NYEC), and the undersigned nearly 100 national and local organizations **call on Congress to include an [equity-centered national subsidized employment program](#) as a part of the forthcoming recovery package as recommended by President Biden in his American Jobs Plan.** Through large-scale federal demonstrations and our experience running subsidized employment programs, we know that subsidized employment is an effective strategy for getting people who would not otherwise be working rapidly connected to jobs and earning income. This includes workers who have been displaced due to economic downturns as well as those who face chronic unemployment even when the economy is growing.

While the economy is beginning to show signs of recovery, the United States currently has an [11 million jobs shortfall](#). An estimated [23.6 million workers](#) have been impacted by the COVID-19 recession. Research shows that many of the job losses resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic [are likely permanent](#). We know that the same populations who have been long excluded from economic opportunity and hit hardest by past recessions - people of color, women, young people, immigrants, and others - will bear the brunt of these permanent job losses. **We need a bold and transformative solution to this structural jobs deficit: subsidized employment.**

Subsidized employment is a workforce development strategy that partially or fully subsidizes the wages of workers who are not accommodated by the private labor market. From the Great Depression to the Great Recession, [versions of subsidized employment](#) have quickly and efficiently gotten people who would not otherwise be working into jobs and earning money. Subsidized employment is popular with workers and employers, is cost effective, and can achieve high rates of employment. **It is the only workforce intervention that is proven to rapidly put large numbers of unemployed individuals to work and put income in the pockets of those who need it the most.** Subsidized employment programs can be structured and implemented to

provide opportunities in the public, non-profit, and private job sectors.

It's no surprise subsidized employment is hugely popular: In a divided nation, [an astonishing 93% of Americans](#) favor a national initiative that creates paid work and job training opportunities as a component of COVID-19 economic recovery efforts. And it's clear why the American people want these types of strategies: workers, families, communities, and businesses are suffering, with people and communities of color hurting the most.

Now is the time for Congress to enact a bold and national subsidized employment program to quickly and efficiently get ALL people back to work. We believe that an equity-focused national subsidized employment program must be proportionate in scale and scope to the hardships at hand. And it must affirmatively accommodate jobseekers who have been excluded from economic opportunity for far too long: youth and young adults, people of color and especially women of color, people experiencing homelessness, people with prior criminal legal system involvement, people with disabilities, and older adults facing barriers to employment.

In partnership with Congress and alongside the Administration and federal agencies, we are committed to working together to make the goal of an inclusive economy a reality in order to benefit millions of people. The undersigned organizations look forward to working with you to craft an equity-centered national subsidized employment program as a part of the forthcoming recovery package.

Sincerely,

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A Little Piece of Light | Brooklyn, NY
African American Health Alliance | Dunkirk, MD
America Forward | Washington, DC
America's Promise Alliance | Washington, DC
Amity Foundation | Los Angeles, CA
Association for Ambulatory Behavioral Healthcare | Tucson, AZ
Bread for the World | Washington, DC
Californians for Safety & Justice | Oakland, CA
Campaign for Trauma Informed Policy and Practice | Washington, DC
Capital Workforce Partners | Hartford, CT
Center for Employment Opportunities | Washington, DC
Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy | Charlotte, NC
Chicago Jobs Council | Chicago, IL
Chrysalis | Los Angeles, CA
Citizen Action of Wisconsin | Milwaukee, WI
Coalition for the Homeless in Houston and Harris County | Houston, TX
Coalition on Human Needs | Washington, DC
Community Advocates Public Policy Institute | Milwaukee, WI
Community Change Action | Washington, DC
Community Justice Project | Harrisburg, PA
Compass Family Services | San Francisco, CA
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces | Silver Spring, MD
Corporation for a Skilled Workforce | Ann Arbor, MI
County Welfare Directors Association of California | Sacramento, CA
CSH | New York, NY
DeJesus Solutions | Laurel, MD
Detroit at Work | Detroit, MI
Detroit Continuum of Care | Detroit, MI
Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation | Detroit, MI

Forum for Youth Investment | Washington, DC
Friends of Guest House | Alexandria, VA
Funders Together to End Homelessness | Washington, DC
Georgetown Center on Poverty & Inequality | Washington, DC
Goodwill Industries International, Inc. | Rockville, MD
Health Management Systems of America | Detroit, MI
Hispanic Federation | New York, NY
Homeless Prenatal Program | San Francisco, CA
Hospitality House | San Francisco, CA
Jewish Vocational Service (JVS) | San Francisco, CA
Jobs For the Future (JFF) | Washington, DC
JobsFirstNYC | New York, NY
JobTrain | San Jose, CA
Kids Forward | Madison, WI
Larkin Street Youth Services | San Francisco, CA
Legal Action Center | Washington, DC
Los Angeles Regional Reentry Partnership | Los Angeles, CA
Los Angeles Children's Project, Inc. | Lancaster, CA
Mommieactivist and Sons | Washington, DC
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd | Silver Spring, MD
National Alliance to End Homelessness | Washington, DC
National Association of Counsel for Children | Denver, CO
National Association of County Human Services Administrators | Washington, DC
National Coalition for the Homeless | Washington, DC
National Council on Aging | Arlington, VA
National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence–Maryland Chapter | Baltimore, MD
National HIRE Network | Washington, DC
National Homelessness Law Center | Washington, DC
National Job Corps Association | Washington, DC
National Network for Youth, Inc. | Washington, DC

National Skills Coalition | Washington, DC
National Women's Law Center | Washington, DC
New America, Center on Education & Labor | Washington, DC
New Earth Organization | Culver City, CA
North Carolina Justice Center | Raleigh, NC
Opportunity Youth United | Boston, MA
Orion Industries | Auburn, WA
Philadelphia Youth Network | Philadelphia, PA
Project Return | Nashville, TN
RecycleForce | Indianapolis, IN
REDF | San Francisco, CA
The Regional Engagement Center (REC) | Selinsgrove, PA
RESULTS | Washington, DC
Roca, Inc. | Chelsea, MA
Safer Foundation | Chicago, IL
Seattle Jobs Initiative | Seattle, WA
Second Chance Center | Aurora, CO
Shriver Center on Poverty Law | Chicago, IL
StreetWell | Smithsburg, MD
Strycker's Bay Neighborhood Council, Inc. | New York, NY
Students for Sensible Drug Policy | Washington, DC
The Don't look Back Center, Inc. | Aurora, CO
Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Education Program, Inc. | Los Angeles, CA
Union for Reform Judaism | Washington, DC and New York, NY
Virginia Poverty Law Center | Richmond, VA
We All Rise | New York, NY
Whole Systems Learning | Long Beach, CA
Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County | Seattle, WA
Youth Collaboratory | Pittsburgh, PA