



Working for Change

The *Working for Change* forum is an effort to mobilize a core group of advocates, practitioners, philanthropists and public officials to act in concert to increase workers' wages and improve workplace benefits. The series is sponsored by the **Community Service Society of New York (CSS)** in collaboration with the **Coalition on Human Needs**. We invite you to visit our website – www.cssny.org – for further information on the forum and to learn about efforts in New York City to raise the quality of life of low-wage workers. You may also contact Walter Fields, CSS Vice President for Government Relations and Public Affairs, at (212) 614-5453 to determine how you can be an active participant in the *Working for Change* forum.

David R. Jones
President & CEO

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Join the discussion on how we can improve the lives of low-wage workers by making your voice heard on our Turnstile blog at <http://turnstile.cssny.org/turnstile/>



Working For Change

Advancing an Economic Mobility Agenda

for Low Wage Workers

in Urban America



TANF How Can it Be Effective in a Recession?

Friday, July 24, 2009

**U.S. Capitol
Room H-137
12:00 p.m. — 1:30 p.m.**

Working for Change Forum

Dear Participant,

The economic recession continues to test the effectiveness of national, state and local social service programs. Rising unemployment and fewer job opportunities threaten to overwhelm programs like TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) that are particularly important to low-income families as they continue to face hardships in employment, health, and housing. This is the time when TANF and other service programs must operate as efficiently as possible. This month, we will take a closer look at TANF and discuss how it can be effective during these tough economic times. From job preparation to employment and numerous support services, TANF funding is an essential and stable addition to hundreds of thousands of households in the U.S.

This month's topic, "**TANF, How Can it Be Effective in a Recession**," will feature **Elizabeth Lower-Basch**, Senior Policy Analyst with the workforce team at the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) and **Heidi Shierholz**, Economist at the Economic Policy Institute (EPI). Their research will provide an insightful discussion about TANF's effectiveness during the recession.

Thank you for joining us for this final Working for Change forum before we recess during August. Your participation over the last 11 months has contributed greatly to our success of the passing of one bill (H.R. 7066) and the introduction of another (H.R. 2497). I hope to see you when we convene in September, as we continue to develop a consensus economic mobility agenda for our nation's low-wage workers.

David R. Jones, Esq.
President & CEO

TANF How Can it Be Effective in a Recession?

Welcome

Walter Fields
Vice President, Government Relations & Public Affairs
Community Service Society of New York

Deborah Weinstein
Executive Director
Coalition on Human Needs

Introduction

Walter Fields
Vice President, Government Relations & Public Affairs
Community Service Society of New York

Panelists

Elizabeth Lower-Basch
Senior Policy Analyst
Center for Law and Social Policy

Heidi Shierholz
Economist
Economic Policy Institute

Q & A

Final Remarks

David R. Jones
President & CEO
Community Service Society of New York