



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
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Working For Change

Advancing an Economic Mobility Agenda

for Low Wage Workers in
Urban America



Would it Hurt to Provide a Little Help?
“Extending Unemployment Insurance Benefits”

Friday, June 20, 2008

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

June 20, 2008

Dear Friends:

The economic forecast for the country continues in a downward spiral. Americans, particularly those with low or fixed incomes, continue to struggle to make ends meet with nearly 37 million Americans living in poverty. The economy, the lack of job creation, globalization and other market factors are leading to unprecedented unemployment rates, with 8.6 percent of African Americans unemployed, 6.9 percent of Latinos and 4.4 percent of Whites. The numbers are even more startling for young people from 16 to 19 years of age; with 24.5 percent of African Americans, 19.5 percent of Latinos and 13.8 percent of Whites being unemployed. These figures paint a bleak picture of the overall economy and the economic struggles of Americans, young and old.

Today's topic, "*Would it Hurt to Provide a Little Help? Extending Unemployment Insurance Benefits,*" will discuss some of the myths and facts and the current debate on this important issue and offer some solutions to extending benefits. As you know, the House has passed an extension but the Senate has yet to act to support this effort. However, this fight is far from over. Today's speakers will present a platform of ideas and talking points to support an extension of unemployment insurance benefits. Without the extension, low-income Americans will continue to suffer the consequences of a struggling economy, and they will continue on a collision course toward an uncertain economic future.

Thank you for your participation in today's **Working for Change forum**. I encourage you to think creatively about what you can do on a local and state level, and what we can do collectively to bring about change in our nation and make the promise of prosperity real for Americans living in poverty. I look forward to seeing you next month on Friday, July 18.

Sincerely,

David R. Jones
President & CEO

Working for Change Forum

Would it Hurt to Provide a Little Help? **"Extending Unemployment Insurance Benefits"**

Welcome

Dr. William Spriggs
Chairman, Howard University Department of Economics
CSS Senior Fellow

Introduction of Panelist

Margy Waller, Executive Director The Mobility Agenda
CSS Senior Fellow

Panel

Dr. Edward Montgomery
Dean
College of Behavioral & Social Sciences
University of Maryland

Andrew Stettner
Deputy Director
National Employment Law Project (NELP)

Neil Ridley
Senior Policy Analyst
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)

Q & A

Final Remarks

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