



ASIAN AMERICANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS AND POVERTY

BARACK OBAMA AND JOE BIDEN'S PLAN

"I'm in this race for the same reason that I fought for jobs for the jobless and hope for the hopeless on the streets of Chicago; for the same reason I fought for justice and equality as a civil rights lawyer; for the same reason that I fought for Illinois families for over a decade...That's why I'm running, Democrats – to keep the American Dream alive for those who still hunger for opportunity, who still thirst for equality."

– BARACK OBAMA, SPEECH IN DES MOINES, IA, NOVEMBER 10, 2007

AT A GLANCE

Help More Americans Climb the Job Ladder

OBAMA AND BIDEN WILL HELP AAPIS ENTER THE WORKPLACE AND MOVE UP THE CAREER LADDER.

Expand the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

OBAMA AND BIDEN WILL INCREASE BENEFITS AND EXPAND THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE FOR EITC, ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL ANTIPOVERTY PROGRAMS IN HISTORY.

Establish Promise Neighborhoods to Combat Chronic Urban Poverty

OBAMA AND BIDEN WILL CREATE PROMISE NEIGHBORHOODS TO PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES IN IMPOVERISHED AREAS IN 20 AMERICAN CITIES.

Support Economic Development in Low-Income Communities

OBAMA AND BIDEN WILL HELP LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS REVITALIZE INNER CITIES. 1.25 MILLION AAPIS LIVE BELOW THE POVERTY LEVEL.

Increase Affordable Housing

OBAMA AND BIDEN WILL INCREASE THE SUPPLY OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING ACROSS THE U.S. LESS THAN HALF OF PACIFIC ISLANDERS OWN THEIR OWN HOMES.

THE PROBLEM

Poverty Rising

THERE ARE NEARLY 37 MILLION POOR AMERICANS. TWO-THIRDS OF LAOTIAN AND HMONG AMERICANS, NEARLY HALF OF CAMBODIAN AMERICANS AND ONE-THIRD OF VIETNAMESE AMERICANS LIVE IN POVERTY. ONE OF EVERY SAMOAN AND ONE OF EVERY FIVE TONGAN FAMILIES LIVE BELOW THE POVERTY LEVEL. MOST AMERICANS LIVING IN POVERTY WORK, BUT STILL CANNOT AFFORD TO MAKE ENDS MEET.

Minimum Wage is Not Enough

EVEN WHEN A PARENT WORKS FULL-TIME EARNING MINIMUM WAGE AND EITC AND FOOD STAMPS ARE FACTORED INTO THEIR INCOME, FAMILIES ARE STILL \$1,550 BELOW THE FEDERAL POVERTY LINE BECAUSE OF THE FLAT-LINED MINIMUM WAGE.

BARACK OBAMA AND JOE BIDEN'S PLAN

Expand Access to Jobs

Help Americans Grab a Hold of and Climb the Job Ladder: OBAMA AND BIDEN WILL INVEST \$1 BILLION OVER FIVE YEARS IN TRANSITIONAL JOBS AND CAREER PATHWAY PROGRAMS THAT IMPLEMENT PROVEN METHODS OF HELPING AAPIs SUCCEED IN THE WORKFORCE.

Increase Access to Capital: AAPIs ARE ENTERING THE ENTREPRENEURIAL MARKET IN RECORD NUMBERS. BARACK OBAMA AND JOE BIDEN WILL STRENGTHEN SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION PROGRAMS THAT PROVIDE CAPITAL TO MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESSES, SUPPORT OUTREACH PROGRAMS THAT HELP MINORITY BUSINESS OWNERS APPLY FOR LOANS, AND WORK TO ENCOURAGE THE GROWTH AND CAPACITY OF MINORITY FIRMS.

Create a Green Jobs Corps: OBAMA AND BIDEN WILL CREATE A PROGRAM TO DIRECTLY ENGAGE DISADVANTAGED YOUTH IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY OPPORTUNITIES TO STRENGTHEN THEIR COMMUNITIES, WHILE ALSO PROVIDING THEM WITH PRACTICAL SKILLS IN THIS IMPORTANT HIGH-GROWTH CAREER FIELD.

Improve Transportation Access to Jobs: OBAMA AND BIDEN WILL WORK TO ENSURE THAT LOW-INCOME AMERICANS HAVE TRANSPORTATION TO THEIR JOBS. THEY WILL DOUBLE THE FEDERAL JOBS ACCESS AND REVERSE COMMUTE PROGRAM TO ENSURE THAT ADDITIONAL FEDERAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION DOLLARS FLOW TO THE HIGHEST-NEED COMMUNITIES AND THAT URBAN PLANNING INITIATIVES TAKE THIS ASPECT OF TRANSPORTATION POLICY INTO ACCOUNT.

Reduce Crime Recidivism by Providing Ex-Offender Support: OBAMA AND BIDEN WILL WORK TO ENSURE THAT EX-OFFENDERS HAVE ACCESS TO JOB TRAINING, SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING, AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES. OBAMA AND BIDEN WILL ALSO CREATE A PRISON-TO-WORK INCENTIVE PROGRAM AND REDUCE BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT.

Make Work Pay for All Americans

Expand the Earned Income Tax Credit: OBAMA AND BIDEN WILL INCREASE THE NUMBER OF WORKING PARENTS ELIGIBLE FOR EITC BENEFITS, INCREASE THE BENEFITS AVAILABLE TO PARENTS WHO SUPPORT THEIR CHILDREN THROUGH CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS, INCREASE BENEFITS FOR FAMILIES WITH THREE OR MORE CHILDREN, AND REDUCE THE EITC MARRIAGE PENALTY, WHICH HURTS LOW-INCOME FAMILIES.

Create a Living Wage: OBAMA AND BIDEN WILL RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE TO \$9.50 AN HOUR BY 2011 AND INDEX IT TO INFLATION TO MAKE SURE THAT FULL-TIME WORKERS CAN EARN A LIVING WAGE THAT ALLOWS THEM TO RAISE THEIR FAMILIES AND PAY FOR BASIC NEEDS SUCH AS FOOD, TRANSPORTATION, AND HOUSING.

Provide Tax Relief: OBAMA AND BIDEN WILL PROVIDE ALL LOW AND MIDDLE-INCOME WORKERS A \$500 MAKING WORK PAY TAX CREDIT TO OFFSET THE PAYROLL TAX THOSE WORKERS PAY IN EVERY PAYCHECK. THEY WILL ALSO ELIMINATE TAXES FOR SENIORS MAKING UNDER \$50,000 PER YEAR.

Strengthen Families

Promote Responsible Fatherhood: OBAMA WILL SIGN INTO LAW HIS RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD AND HEALTHY FAMILIES ACT TO REMOVE SOME OF THE GOVERNMENT PENALTIES ON MARRIED FAMILIES, CRACK DOWN ON MEN AVOIDING CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS, AND ENSURE THAT PAYMENTS GO TO FAMILIES INSTEAD OF STATE BUREAUCRACIES.

Support Parents with Young Children: OBAMA AND BIDEN WILL EXPAND THE HIGHLY-SUCCESSFUL NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP TO ALL 570,000 LOW-INCOME, FIRST-TIME MOTHERS EACH YEAR. THE NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP PROVIDES HOME VISITS BY TRAINED REGISTERED NURSES TO LOW-INCOME EXPECTANT MOTHERS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

Expand Paid Sick Days: TODAY, THREE OUT OF FOUR LOW-WAGE WORKERS HAVE NO PAID SICK DAYS. OBAMA SUPPORTS GUARANTEEING WORKERS SEVEN PAID SICK DAYS PER YEAR.

Increase the Supply of Affordable Housing

OBAMA AND BIDEN WILL FULLY FUND THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM AND ENGAGE URBAN LEADERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY TO INCREASE RESOURCES TO THE HIGHEST-NEED AMERICANS.

Tackle Concentrated Poverty

Establish 20 Promise Neighborhoods: OBAMA AND BIDEN WILL CREATE 20 PROMISE NEIGHBORHOODS IN CITIES THAT HAVE HIGH LEVELS OF POVERTY AND CRIME AND LOW LEVELS OF STUDENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT. THE PROMISE NEIGHBORHOODS WILL BE MODELED AFTER THE HARLEM CHILDREN'S ZONE, WHICH PROVIDES A FULL NETWORK OF SERVICES, INCLUDING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION EFFORTS AND AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES, TO AN ENTIRE NEIGHBORHOOD FROM BIRTH TO COLLEGE.

Ensure Community-Based Investment Resources in Every Urban Community: OBAMA AND BIDEN WILL WORK WITH COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS LEADERS TO IDENTIFY AND ADDRESS THE UNIQUE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BARRIERS OF EVERY MAJOR METROPOLITAN AREA. THEY WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO THE FEDERAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTION FUND, THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AND OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES, ESPECIALLY TO THEIR LOCAL BRANCH OFFICES, TO ADDRESS COMMUNITY NEEDS.

Invest in Rural Areas: OBAMA AND BIDEN WILL INVEST IN RURAL SMALL BUSINESSES AND FIGHT TO EXPAND HIGH-SPEED INTERNET ACCESS. THEY WILL IMPROVE RURAL SCHOOLS AND ATTRACT MORE DOCTORS TO RURAL AREAS.

OBAMA'S RECORD

Tax Relief for Low-Income Working Families: OBAMA CREATED THE ILLINOIS EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT FOR LOW-INCOME WORKING FAMILIES IN 2000 AND SUCCESSFULLY SPONSORED A MEASURE TO MAKE THE CREDIT PERMANENT IN 2003. THE LAW OFFERED ABOUT \$105 MILLION IN TAX RELIEF OVER THREE YEARS.

Housing: IN THE ILLINOIS STATE SENATE, OBAMA CHAMPIONED MULTIPLE PIECES OF LEGISLATION TO HELP LOW-INCOME FAMILIES FIND ADEQUATE AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Read the Plan [HTTP://WWW.BARACKOBAMA.COM/ISSUES/POVERTY/](http://www.barackobama.com/issues/poverty/)

Read the Speech

[HTTP://WWW.BARACKOBAMA.COM/2007/07/18/REMARKS_OF_SENATOR_BARACK_OBAM_19.PHP](http://www.barackobama.com/2007/07/18/remarks_of_senator_barack_obam_19.php)



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