



Department of Justice, Peace, and Human Development

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Congratulations! You made a difference!

Economic Recovery Update

Even though Congress is still putting the final touches on the economic recovery package, we wanted to update you with some very important—but preliminary—information. Listed in the table below are programs found in the final bill that we believe target recovery resources to those in greatest need, reflecting a priority for poor and vulnerable people.

Both the Child Tax Credit (CTC) and the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) have been modified to help low income parents. The CTC alone will make a big difference. For example, a parent with two children earning the minimum wage will now be eligible to receive a credit worth \$1750 in 2009-2010 rather than the 2008 level of \$900.

The bill provides for a temporary increase in funding for most nutrition assistance programs providing food to families in need, the unemployed, the disabled, and the elderly. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (formerly known as food stamps) benefits will provide a temporary increase of 13.6 percent.

The provision that would have mandated the use of the E-verify employee verification system has been removed from the final bill.

Congress failed to provide more resources for Social Services Block Grant and Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, but states will receive more support for their efforts to serve low income families through Medicaid and TANF.

The Unemployment Insurance program will provide extended benefits through the end of 2009 and states will be encouraged and rewarded to extend benefits to laid-off part-time workers, among other changes to the program.

Congress failed to capitalize the Housing Trust Fund or provide more funding for additional rental vouchers. But, funds were provided to prevent homelessness, weatherize public housing and some elderly housing, and to purchase foreclosed homes to stabilize neighborhoods.

For more information, contact Kathy Saile, Director, Domestic Social Development, USCCB, ksaile@usccb.org, (202) 541-3134.

USCCB Position

Economic Recovery Package

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support the <u>refundable child tax credit</u> provisions in the House bill over the Senate provisions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The wage floor for the Child Tax Credit was lowered to \$3,000 from \$8,500. • Temporarily increases the earned income tax credit (EITC) for working families with three or more children.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support a temporary increase in funding for <u>nutrition assistance</u> programs that provide food to families in need, the unemployed, the disabled, and the elderly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SNAP benefits \$19.9 Billion • WIC \$500 million • TEFAP \$150 million • CAFP \$100 Million • EFSP \$100 million
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • oppose a provision in the House bill that would mandate the use of <u>the E-verify employee verification system</u>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-verify provision removed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support efforts to protect low-income families from losing <u>Medicaid and social service assistance</u>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSBG \$0 • FMAP \$87 billion • TANF \$3 billion • LIHEAP \$0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support the inclusion of <u>independent and religious schools</u> as "shovel ready" projects which promote energy efficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • language is not yet available.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support the House's provisions reforming <u>Unemployment Insurance benefits (UI)</u>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides extended UI through December 2009 • 65% of COBRA for 9 mos. • Modernization \$2.97 Billion • Additional \$25 per week
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support capitalizing the new <u>Housing Trust Fund, additional housing vouchers</u> and protection for voucher holders who lose their homes due to foreclosure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Trust Fund \$0 • Additional Vouchers \$0 • Retrofitting Sec. 8, 202, & 811 \$250 Million • Public Housing Capital \$4 billion • Neighborhood Stabilization \$2 Billion • Lead paint abatement \$100 million • CDBG \$1 billion • Homeless Prevention \$2.5 Billion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support efforts to create <u>jobs for veterans, at risk youth, low income people</u>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language is not yet available.