

December, 2008

Recommendations to the Child Poverty Prevention Council

from:

Vecinos Unidos, Hartford

Single Mothers on the Move, Hartford

Mothers for Justice, New Haven

Public Housing Resident Network, statewide

Spanish Speaking Center, New Britain

A. Family Income and Earnings Potential

1. Resources for re-entering prison population – job training, transition planning
2. Improve job training and rehabilitation in prison, support distance learning programs in prison
3. Financial aid, academic incentives for high school students to go to college
4. Job placement and retention programming for high school grads not attending college
5. Programming/supports for disabled youth
6. Evaluate job-training programs for outcomes – does training lead to jobs with self-sufficiency wages and a career ladder?
7. Increase job training to lead to apprenticeships – construction, green technology, medical
8. Increase financial aid to adults attending (and returning) to college – target community colleges
9. Increase assistance for Care4Kids child care assistance
10. Increase training and assistance to child care providers
11. Institute a state Earned Income Tax Credit
12. Support parents on TFA to attend job training/college – remedial instruction, child care assistance (job connection)
13. Enforce local/state hiring policies (businesses should be incentivized to hire local residents/ contract with local businesses)
14. Evaluate and increase restrictions to temporary work programs
15. Improve public transportation to reflect reality of job sites (from residential areas, cities or rural to workplaces, often suburbs)

B. Education

1. Support parents on TFA to attend job training/college
2. Institute a state-wide accountability system for grade/high schools – students and teachers
3. Increase vocational programs and access to these programs
4. Do not permit children 16 years old or younger to quit school!
5. Enhance monitoring and evaluation of Headstart

6. Improve early assessment of student needs to reduce suspensions – minimally institute in-school suspension with instruction (statewide)
7. Increase assistance to adults seeking literacy training
8. Improve financial assistance for special needs children
9. Improve teacher training and evaluation – particularly related to culture competency/ racism
10. Improve early childhood screening and testing to determine needs before entering school to improve early success

C. Tax Based Assistance

1. Support a state EITC
2. Support additional funding for domestic violence programs for survivors and to prevent domestic violence
3. Support immigrant and undocumented workers so they have the rights to work openly and contribute to the tax base
4. Support for programs for homeless individuals and families that include job training and job placement
5. Support tax reform that increases revenues from higher income earners, provides relief for low-income earners
6. Increase incentives for corporations to hire local residents and individuals on TFA

D. Housing

1. Permit RAP subsidies be used toward homeownership
2. Institute rent control – start with selected municipalities
3. Support programs to encourage rehab of empty/abandoned/foreclosed homes for use by low-income individuals and families
4. Fund security deposit subsidies
5. Increase eviction prevention assistance
6. Increase incentives for homeownership for low-income families

E. Family Structure & Support

1. Support non-custodial fathers to be more engaged with their children – job training and housing supports
2. Support domestic violence prevention programs
3. Reduce family separation in DCF custody cases
4. Support cultural competency/racism training for DCF workers and administration