

A Sustainable Recovery

Shyama Venkateswar

National Council for Research on Women

Exacerbated Inequalities: By the Numbers--Poverty

- Poverty increased significantly in 2008 to 13.2%.
- **Women are 35% more likely to be poor** than men across racial lines with 6.4 million women living in extreme poverty (below 50% of the federal poverty level).

Exacerbated Inequalities: By the Numbers--Unemployment

- A recent study shows that rates of **unemployment among the lowest income families are 30.8%** while the highest income families have an unemployment rate of only 3.2%
- **Single women with children have an unemployment rate of 12.3%** compared to 5.8% for married women.
- **Twelve percent of black women are the sole earner** in their family currently due in part to the disproportionately high unemployment rate among black men.

Exacerbated Inequalities: By the Numbers—Wealth Gap

- The racial wealth gap has widened in the last few years: **for every dollar of wealth held by the typical white family in 2007, the black family had one dime** down from 12 cents just three years earlier.
- Consumer Federation of America reports that women headed households have **about one-half the income and less than one-third the wealth** of other American households.
- The subprime lending crisis has affected women and people of color particularly hard, with research indicating that **women are 32% more likely than men to receive subprime mortgages**, and African American and Latina women borrowers are most likely to receive sub-prime loans at every income level.

What Does Recovery Mean?

Moving from Job Creation to Asset Building

- The US savings rate hit 0% in 2005 – the lowest of all the G-20 countries and that was before the current recession.
- Only **51% of nonwhite or Hispanic Americans** compared to 76 percent of white non-Hispanic Americans are **homeowners**.

Rebuilding our Safety Nets

- Every dollar spent on extending unemployment insurance benefits produces \$1.63 in economic activity, and every dollar spent on temporarily increasing food stamp benefits produces \$1.73 in economic activity.
- **One in eight Americans are now receiving food stamps**
- The \$4.5 billion increase in food stamp benefits in the stimulus package resulted in a total of about \$8 billion in economic stimulus and **kept more than one million people out of poverty.**

Steps Forward

- Congress must reauthorize TANF by September 2010
- President Obama recently announced a **\$1.5 billion effort to prevent foreclosures** in five states hard-hit by the mortgage crisis – Nevada, Arizona, California, Florida and Michigan. Need a national plan.