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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 07, 2008 | 74 DAYS UNTIL INAUGURATION

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Barack Obama

Vice President-Elect  
Joe Biden

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GSA Transition Directory  
The Transition Directory was developed to introduce



**PLAN TO COMBAT POVERTY**

“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

***Of the People, By the People***

There is no more important resource for changing the direction of this country and defining the ideas that will transform America than the American people.

Tell us your ideas and be part of the change you’re looking for.

**SUBMIT YOUR IDEAS**

Presidential nominees, appointees, and members of the President-elect’s Transition Team to the operation of the Federal government and to the resources available to help them begin their service in the new Administration.

**The Problem**

**Poverty Rising:** There are over 37 million poor Americans. 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 low-income Americans succeed in the workforce.
- **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:** As president, Obama will work to ensure that low-income Americans have transportation access to jobs. Obama will double funding for 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 Supports:** 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.
- **Raise the Minimum Wage to \$9.50 an Hour by 2011:** Barack Obama and Joe Biden believe that people who work full time should not live in poverty. Even though the minimum wage will rise to \$7.25 an hour by 2009, the minimum wage’s real purchasing power will still be below what it was in 1968. As president, Obama will further raise the minimum wage to \$9.50 an hour by 2011, index it to inflation and increase the Earned Income Tax Credit 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 - things so many people take for granted.
- **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. Obama and Biden will also eliminate taxes for seniors making under \$50,000 per year.

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