



The Local Jobs for America Act

Putting People Back to Work Quickly in the Jobs We Need Most

The Current Economic Crisis Calls for Bold Action Now

The United States continues to experience the worst economic recession since the Great Depression. Despite modest signs of job growth in recent months, the unemployment rate in May was 9.7%, which means a staggering **15 million people are still unemployed**. Forecasts continue to project unemployment above 9% throughout 2010 and 2011, and long-term unemployment has reached record heights, with more than 6.5 million people unemployed for more than six months. As a result of the recession, state and local revenues are also declining, forcing communities across the country to cut critical services.

The Local Jobs for America Now Act

The Local Jobs for America Act, introduced by Congressman George Miller in the House (H.R.4812) and Senator Sherrod Brown in the Senate (S.3500), is critical to addressing the current economic crisis. The Act would **put one million people to work in public and private jobs quickly**, helping people provide for their families while improving their neighborhoods, generating income to help our economy grow, and ensuring that essential community services remain available.

This legislation would:

- Allot \$23 billion dollars to create or retain jobs in education, including jobs to modernize or repair educational facilities. The Act would also provide \$1.18 billion for the hiring and rehiring of law enforcement officials, \$500 million to retain and hire firefighters, and \$500 million for private sector on-the-job training.
- Provide \$75 billion in federal assistance to states and localities over two years for a **Local Community Jobs Program**. Funds could be used to directly create jobs to meet crucial community needs, and to retain existing public workers in the face of crushing budget crises. The Local Community Jobs program would:
 - **Immediately reduce unemployment.** The funding available would save or create 750,000 jobs. Direct job creation is the fastest, most effective way to get people back to work.
 - **Ensure localities can maintain critical services.** Communities across the country have been forced to lay off workers and cut services in the wake of falling revenues. This funding would ensure that states and localities can retain workers who provide needed services while putting people to work to address community needs that have long gone unmet. Positions could include staffing vital public and social services, such as expanding child care services and home health care aides for the elderly, and rehabilitating basic infrastructure, such as schools, community centers and parks.
 - **Provide necessary economic stimulus to local communities and help put us back on the road to real economic recovery.** Workers who are hired as a result of this program will spend their paychecks in their communities, providing a badly needed boost to the local economy that will help lay the foundation for more private sector hiring.

How the Local Community Jobs Program Would Work

Program Administration

The Local Community Jobs program will be administered by the US Department of Labor (DOL). The US DOL will provide funds directly to cities and states where local officials closest to the ground can work with residents, community organizations and labor leaders to identify the kinds of jobs to be created.

Funding Formula

Funding will be allocated to cities and states based on a formula which takes into account population, poverty and unemployment rates. The formula is modeled on the Community Development Block Grant. 70% of the funding would be made available directly to entitlement cities, and the remaining 30% would be available for states to distribute to rural areas and cities with fewer than 50,000 people.

Jobs Created and Retained

States and localities will have flexibility to identify the jobs that are needed most in their communities and to retain critical personnel. Each locality that receives funding can use up to 50% of the funding to retain existing employees, who might otherwise be let go because of budget shortfalls. Up to 25% of the funds can be provided to non-profit community based organizations to create jobs providing additional services in the community, and up to 25% can be used for hiring new employees in public agencies. The new jobs that will be created are good, full time jobs with benefits.

Targeted Recruitment for New Jobs

Recruitment for jobs will be focused on the long-term unemployed, workers who have exhausted unemployment benefits, workers who earned too little to qualify for unemployment before they became unemployed, and veterans.

Public Input into the Jobs Created

Local officials will be required to consult with local community groups and labor organizations about the types of positions that will be funded and submit a statement with this information to DOL in order to receive the funds. Local community residents can play a role in determining the types of jobs will be created with this new funding, based on the most pressing needs identified through the process.

Long Term Impact

Over the long term, the Local Community Jobs Program will help to rebuild communities by restoring and expanding vital services, providing valuable work experience for the individuals who receive jobs, and helping reinvigorate our economy.