

United Way

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Brian A. Gallagher
President and Chief Executive Officer



Memo

TO: Local United Way CEOs
FROM: Brian Gallagher
DATE: November 07, 2011
SUBJECT: AFL-CIO Jobs Campaign

As you all are well aware, unemployment is hovering over 9% and millions more Americans are underemployed or have simply given up looking for work. The recent U.S. Census Bureau report indicates 46 million people in the U.S. are living in poverty. These figures point to an eroding middle class and lower standard of living for millions of families across the country.

United Ways and their partners are working to help more families become financially stable by connecting them to family-sustaining employment opportunities. This means providing supports and removing barriers so people can access quality education and job training. It means helping people obtain and advance in well-paying careers. These values are reflected in United Way's efforts to advance the common good by providing the building blocks for families to have a better quality of life. United Way Worldwide supports the creation of a national infrastructure bank to help create good jobs. We support a robust workforce investment system and training programs for jobs in economically vital sectors. We are urging Congress to reach the compromise necessary to extend supports for the long-term unemployed such as unemployment insurance.

These are goals we share with our close partners at the AFL-CIO. Since 1946, the AFL-CIO and United Way have enjoyed a cooperative working relationship through which we have jointly provided services to members of organized labor, their families and their communities. At the same time, the AFL-CIO and its members have been among our strongest supporters, with members serving on our boards and committees, integrated into United Ways through labor liaisons, and, of course, steadfastly supporting our campaigns. Under the leadership of its President, Rich Trumka, the AFL-CIO and its affiliated unions are more engaged than ever in endorsing our work across the United States.

The AFL-CIO is also working to address America's jobs crisis with their national mobilization effort, *America Wants to Work Jobs Campaign*. Like us, the AFL-CIO Jobs Campaign supports the infrastructure bank, workforce training, and extension of unemployment supports. We are working together towards the same goal of creating a better life for everyone. I urge you to engage with your state and local labor councils and consider where the work of your United Way aligns with the America Wants to Work campaign. Please support your AFL-CIO as they have supported our work in communities across the nation for the last 60 years.

Thanks,

Brian