

WHY CONGRESS SHOULD PASS JOBS FOR ALL LEGISLATION

Livable Wage Employment Creates Housing Stability

Meaningful and sustainable employment is the key to creating and maintaining housing stability. Unemployment, underemployment, and low wages relative to rent are frequent causes of homelessness and burden millions of families with the risk of becoming homeless. At the same time, individuals experiencing homelessness face obstacles to finding and maintaining employment.

As a result, connecting people experiencing or at-risk of homelessness with job training and placement programs is critical to ensure they have the tools they need for long-term stability and success. Facilitating access to work supports like childcare subsidies and transportation assistance can help increase the likelihood that individuals will be able to retain employment.

A jobs program, specifically structured for those who are experiencing homelessness, with a livable wage is needed because the current job structure has been ineffective for the unhoused to access.

Jobs with Appropriate Wages Are a Part of a Successful Formula to Ending Homelessness

While it doesn't directly address the lack of affordable housing, employment focuses on breaking the cycles of homelessness. With the amount and stability of income, employment can reduce the duration of homelessness. It also supports the management of mental health conditions, drug and alcohol addiction, and social exclusion.

The financial ability to pay for housing according to a person's income is key in solving homelessness. But getting a job is simply not enough. The reason why employees are forming unions in companies such as Amazon is because people are sleeping in their cars where they work (3). The Amazon JFK Warehouse 8 located in Staten Island, NY recently formed their union to address low wages. Natalie Monarrez earns \$19 per hour, which in some states is a decent wage, however, in New York, the average price for a one-bedroom apartment is \$2,500 per month. Her living wage is also below the \$20.40 per hour national average that it takes to pay for a one-bedroom apartment at fair market value according to the [National Low Income Housing Coalition's Out of Reach](#) report. There are still some states that adopt the federal minimum wage as their pay model.

WHY CONGRESS SHOULD PASS JOBS FOR ALL LEGISLATION CONT.

The Pew Research Center conducted research that revealed housing units available to low-income workers are on a decline. Low-income workers also are likely to be renters paying at least 30% or more of their income towards housing. Further, local- and federally-set affordability restrictions are set to expire for 745,017 federally assisted homes in the next ten years.

America is at a crossroads in how we view our housing, availability of jobs to our most vulnerable community members, and wage infrastructure. The instability with the current livable pay scale affects the ability for a person to exit homelessness. Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian, Pacific Islander, persons with disabilities and other historically marginalized communities face greater pay inequities and continue to show a disproportionate amount of the population who are experiencing homelessness.

Jobs for All Legislation Would Be Generationally Impacting

In 1944, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt talked about the right of every American to have a job. That was true then. It is true today. A job guarantee will lower the crime rate, improve mental health, and create a stronger sense of community.

Education and sustainable employment can make an enormous difference in people's ability to pay for housing. Most people who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness want to work. In fact, many are employed but earn too little to meet their basic needs. One of the most effective strategies to support individuals to move out of homelessness and into permanent housing is increasing access to meaningful and sustainable job training and employment.

A Jobs for All bill that would target employment and training resources to the unhoused and equip communities to tackle this solvable issue, would give the unhoused an opportunity to get paid job training, reduce discrimination against the disabled, historically marginalized communities, women, and restore low-income citizens to dignity through employment.

About National Coalition for the Homeless

The National Coalition for the Homeless is a national network of people who are currently experiencing or who have experienced homelessness, activists and advocates, community-based and faith-based service providers, and others committed to a single mission: To end and prevent homelessness while ensuring the immediate needs of those experiencing homelessness are met and their civil rights are respected and protected.

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