

## The “American Jobs Act of 2011”

### Five Wins for Latino Families

The “American Jobs Act of 2011” (S.1549) is the first step toward a long-term vision for a better economy. This pending legislation holds promise for Latino workers and families.

- **It extends the temporary payroll tax cut, putting money in workers’ pockets.** Most people earning a paycheck will have only 3.1% withheld for payroll taxes instead of the usual 6.2%. This provision extends a policy currently in place. Larger paychecks mean that families have more money to make ends meet and to spend in their communities—which, in turn, helps create more jobs.
- **It provides competitive funding for workforce training programs in transportation projects.** More than one million Latinos are employed in the transportation sector, but they tend to be concentrated in low-wage occupations. To improve access to good-quality jobs in mass transit and infrastructure construction, the bill sets aside \$50 million in competitive grants for job training, with priority given to programs promoting diversity among training participants.
- **“Project Rebuild” strengthens our communities by putting people back to work to rehabilitate foreclosed and vacant properties.** Hispanic families and communities have been disproportionately impacted by the foreclosure crisis. Currently, 17% of Hispanic homeowners (1.3 million) have already lost or will lose their homes to foreclosure, and our families have already experienced a 50% decline in home equity values (\$99,983 to \$49,145). Project Rebuild will create construction jobs, reduce blight and crime, stabilize home values, and provide new homeownership opportunities.
- **“Reemployment NOW/Bridge to Work” allows states to establish work experience programs that give emergency unemployment compensation recipients the chance to gain up to eight weeks of work experience.** With an unemployment rate among Latinos of 11.3%, many workers in our community are struggling. Direct investment in immediate job creation is needed for hard-hit communities. The Bridge to Work program will build upon innovative state programs allowing displaced workers to take temporary or voluntary work or pursue on-the-job training.
- **The “Pathways Back to Work Fund” supports subsidized jobs, as well as summer and year-round jobs for low-income youth and adults looking for work.** Pathways Back to Work builds on the success of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act’s Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Emergency Fund and promising strategies funded through the Workforce Investment Act. Funds will provide subsidized employment and training for unemployed, low-income adults eager to work. This program will also fund summer and year-round employment opportunities for low-income youth to help young people stay engaged in their studies and gain on-the-job experience.