



### Help Build Stable Families

All levels of governments must join together to make certain that children and families at all income levels can achieve success. Priorities include providing quality education and training for today's economy, opportunity for employment, and access to public benefits and mainstream services. A key goal at all levels of government should be to support and strengthen programs that build financially stable families.

#### Message to Congress

- *Economically stable families are essential to thriving communities.* The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that one in eight or 37 million Americans and one in five or 19 million American children live in poverty. In addition, almost 13 million Americans are out of work. As a result, tens of millions of families – whether poor or out of work – are struggling to pay for food, shelter and health care. If these families do not get the help they need, their problems eventually will land on the city's doorstep.
- *Every American deserves an opportunity to receive a quality education.* High-quality education strengthens America's cities and towns – and the nation as well-by developing a skilled workforce; improving economic vitality; attracting and retaining families, resident, and business; and encouraging an active and engaged citizenry.
- *Adults and youth who receive quality job training obtain the skills they need to become economically self-sufficient.* Enhancing the skills and capacities of local workers can lead to improvements in quality-of-life, reductions in poverty, and enhanced social cohesion.

#### Request to Congress

- Protect funding for programs that support economically stable families such as the Earned Income Tax Credit, Medicaid, State Child Health Insurance Program, and food stamps.
- Federal efforts to reform the nation's education system must include the perspective of local elected leaders if we are to ensure that all of our children have quality options for a good education.
- Increase funding for federal workforce training programs like the youth, adult and dislocated worker training in the Workforce Investment Act and Green Jobs in the economic recovery package, that provide youth and adults with the skills they need to maximize their economic opportunity.