



Child Poverty Caused by Recession Will Cost Connecticut Well After the Recovery

August 4, 2009 – Connecticut and the nation have entered an economic recession that will affect children, families, and the economy for decades to come. Three things have become painfully clear:

- Virtually all the progress made in children's economic well-being since 1975 is likely to be wiped out by the downturn.
- The impact is especially severe for low-income children of color.
- Children who fall into poverty now will feel the impact well past the economic recovery.

With this in mind, Connecticut Speaker of the House Christopher Donovan announced on June 16 the formation of a legislative task force – co-chaired by Reps. Karen Jarmoc and Diana Urban, with support from the Connecticut Commission on Children – that will help plan Connecticut's response to this crisis. This makes Connecticut the first state to explicitly plan for children in the recession and recovery.

The work of the task force is critical as Connecticut faces staggering economic losses as a result of child poverty from this recession. Children who fall into poverty during a recession fare far worse than those who stay out of poverty despite the downturn, according to new evidence from First Focus, a nonpartisan research group in Washington, D.C. The economic consequences will be paid not just by the children and their families, but by the State of Connecticut as a whole.

Michael Linden of First Focus has developed estimates of the economic costs relating to two aspects of the recession-induced child poverty: lost earnings and poorer health outcomes. Based on this analysis:

- **An additional 35,000 Connecticut children will fall into poverty during this recession.**
- **As adults, these children will earn an average of \$19,000 less annually than their Connecticut peers who avoided poverty.**
- **Their health will worsen. By age 37, they'll be 20 percent less likely than their peers to report being in very good health.**
- **The economic cost to Connecticut from the forgone earnings and poorer health status of these children will run to \$800 million per year.**

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