

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Rooting Out Poverty: A Campaign by America's Community Action Network

Rooting Out Poverty... is a call to action for a national commitment — **a national campaign** — to promote economic security for all of us in America and to substantially reduce, if not eliminate, poverty.

The report was developed during the past year with the input of nearly 1,000 individuals in the Community Action Network from across America. More than 1,000 local Community Action Agencies provide essential services and new opportunities for low-income individuals and families, covering all states.

Rooting Out Poverty recommends the following five action themes, strategies that community leaders and individuals can use to “root out” poverty at the state, local, and national levels:



- **MAXIMIZE PARTICIPATION** – involve everyone in the community—rich, poor, and in-between—in addressing and solving needs and issues that result from poverty. This includes involving civic, faith-based, business, and other groups.



- **BUILD AN ECONOMY THAT WORKS FOR EVERYONE** – develop and promote economic opportunities and improved conditions for all, including jobs and workforce development.



- **INVEST FOR THE FUTURE** – provide education, especially for those with greatest needs, preserve and protect our environmental assets, including renewable energy and healthy global ecosystem.



- **MAXIMIZE EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY** – ensure that opportunities are fully accessible and widely promoted. Create policies, programs, and initiatives, including enforcement strategies that enable people to improve their situations.



- **ENSURE HEALTHY PEOPLE AND PLACES** – accessible, affordable health care is essential. Healthy environments, free of pollution, toxic waste and environmental Degradation are essential for healthy communities.

The report lays out 64 specific recommendations that Community Action Agencies can consider emphasizing as they address those issues and needs most immediate to their geographic areas of service and as they pertain to federal and state policy improvements.

Rooting Out Poverty also identifies effective success stories from Community Action which show that economic security and the lives of low-income and other vulnerable people in America can be improved through thoughtful, cost-effective programs and strategies that will be the basis for this national campaign.

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