



CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS  
WITH DISABILITIES

## **BASIC HUMAN NEEDS SHOULD BE MET IN ECONOMIC DOWNTURNS TO PREVENT DIMINISHED HEALTH AND DISABILITY**

*A safety net in the U.S. should be developed where jobs are available for those who want to work that are associated with resources to meet basic human health needs.*

A forum was held on the “Recovery Package Equal Jobs” held at the Center for American Progress. Presenters at the forum were a renowned economist, a green jobs director and an expert in linking job formation to the economy.

### **Summary**

Post “New Deal” economies have focused on a top down free market approach to stimulate an economy that is to lift the economic well-being of all rather than a bottom up approach of identification and funding of public jobs in communities. Public employment approaches have been used in the past. These jobs were low-wage subsistence jobs available to those who wanted work. There is evidence that unemployment can be associated with poverty and facilitation of mental health disorders that contribute to disability. Unemployment may be associated with diminished health for some people.

### **Disability Prevention Issue**

There has been little focus on well-being of the public health of America as a result of economic downturns. The U.S. is 29<sup>th</sup>-46<sup>th</sup> in the world on life expectancy, 42<sup>nd</sup> in infant mortality, 37<sup>th</sup> in quality life years, a child in Cuba has a 60% greater chance of reaching the 5<sup>th</sup> birthday as a child in the U.S. and nearly 40 million people are food insecure. The U.S. needs alternative economic models that focus on vulnerable populations, designed to maintain population based health in economic downturns. Prior models have provided low wage non-poverty subsistence work focused on well-being and resources to meet basic human needs for all people who can and want to work that protects health from diminishing to the point of disability

### **Activity**

A letter was written to the expert economist to comment on a post forum discussion about creating human resources in economic downturns that prevent diminished health and disability among vulnerable populations.

**Principle**

A safety net in the U.S. should be developed where jobs are available for those who want to work that are associated with resources to meet basic human health needs.