

TRACKING RACIAL EQUITY IN FEDERAL ECONOMIC STIMULUS SPENDING

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Research Institute on
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Overview

- “Build a Fair Florida” Campaign
- How to engage on stimulus spending

Build a Fair Florida

A campaign for everyday democracy

A two-year study, advocacy, and organizing campaign that will :

- 1) raise public consciousness on the causes of and solutions to the current recession
- 2) articulate demands for greater democracy and a more sustainable economy
- 3) build the political infrastructures and power necessary to win those demands.

Partners:

- ▣ Miami Workers Center – Right To The City
- ▣ Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity
- ▣ Research Institute on Social and Economic Policy (RISEP)

Building a Fair Recovery

- Florida case study in 4 metropolitan areas
 - Quantitative study “follow the money”
 - Qualitative study “real people, real neighborhoods”
- Quarterly research report releases
- Town halls in each metro area
- Strategic communications to “shift frames”
- Bring in new partners
 - Grassroots – Florida Immigrant Coalition, churches
 - Advocacy & Research – ACLU, STAR, Advancement Project

Why the Stimulus?

- Opportunity to shift frames of fairness and race.
- Concerns of Black and Latino communities seen as separate from mainstream economy.
- “Targeted universal” investment to communities that need it the most.
- Model participatory democracy and community control.

ARRA Job Projections

Industry	Projected Jobs Created in 2010Q4	African American Share of Employment	Projected African American Jobs
Mining	26,000	4.3%	1,118
Construction	678,000	5.7%	38,646
Wholesale Trade	158,000	8.1%	12,798
Professional and Business Services	345,000	9.4%	32,430
Manufacturing	408,000	9.7%	39,576
Financial Activities	214,000	10.1%	21,614
Other Services	99,000	10.4%	10,296
Retail Trade	604,000	10.4%	62,816
Leisure and Hospitality	499,000	10.6%	52,894
Utilities	11,000	11.7%	1,287
Information	50,000	11.9%	5,950
Education and Health Services	240,000	13.9%	33,360
Government	244,000	15.8%	38,552
Transportation and Warehousing	98,000	18.4%	18,032
Total	3,674,000	10.1%	369,369

Kirwan Institute, Preliminary Report of the Impact of the Economic Stimulus Plan on Communities of Color, February 25, 2009. <http://>

Demands

- Tracking equity measures in stimulus spending:
 - [Kirwan Institute memo to OMB](#)
 - Where are projects located
 - Who gets the contracts
 - Who gets the jobs: race, ethnicity, gender, zip code
- Opportunity Impact Statements
 - [Opportunity Agenda](#)
- Community control
 - [Smart Growth America report](#)

Engaging on the stimulus issue

- Use media opportunities
- Complex issue, don't get lost in big numbers
- Focus on framing and your message
- Do some research if you can
- Call on local and state officials to be accountable to communities of color

Engaging on the stimulus issue

Responding to media stories or other tracking reports:

- Become familiar with ARRA basics – FairRecovery.org
- Understand your basic labor force statistics – what industries and occupations are minority workers over/underrepresented in your state? How does unemployment for communities of color compare?
- Understand the needs of your community – e.g. if a new health center is being built, where should it go?
- Understand the gaps in your state budget – e.g. Unemployment Insurance, Medicaid, education
- Frame with Opportunity – [Opportunity Agenda](#) Don't just trash the stimulus but call for more targeted investment in hard-hit communities

Florida workforce

Occupation by race/ethnicity

	White only	Black only	Hispanic	Other races	Total
Management occupation	74.7	5.5	17.3	2.5	10.4%
Construction Trades and Extraction Workers	48.9	11.0	38.7	1.4	7.9%
Education, training & library occupation	70.0	15.4	12.7	1.9	4.9%
Food Preparation and serving occupation	56.4	16.5	22.5	4.6	5.7%
Total	61.1%	13.7%	21.9%	3.3%	100%

Source: Current Population Survey, 2007-2008

Engaging on the stimulus issue (2)

Do your own tracking

- Set up context of minority workers impacted by recession, ongoing recession level unemployment. e.g. [RISEP report Opportunity for All](#)
- Understand basic ARRA structure - [STAR](#), [Progressive States Network](#)
- Go to your state and local recovery website – [Recovery.gov](#)
- Choose focus area – e.g. jobs, transportation, health, education
- Learn what agencies are responsible for administering funds – Each federal agency has plan for spending on [Recovery.gov](#)
- Look at advocacy group resources – e.g. Kirwan Institute on [housing](#), CLASP on [child care](#)
- Talk to state and local agency reps to find out which agencies and programs are receiving funds
- Search lists of firms receiving contracts in your area, for example state DOT project lists. Where are they located, and who did they hire?

Other Resources

- [DOJ memo on Civil Rights provisions that apply to ARRA](#)
- ACLU - [ARRA and Civil Rights provisions, Promoting Opportunity and Racial Equality in America](#)
- Insight Center - [Affirmative Procurement Systems by State](#)
- OMB Watch – September analysis of tracking issues
- Policy Link - [Community Reinvestment Act modernization](#)
- STAR Coalition list serve

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