

What Might Improve the Employment and Advancement Prospects of the Poor?

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Plan of the Presentation

- Two Problems:

- 1) Low wages and advancement prospects of the Working Poor
- 2) Nonparticipation in the labor market for Black Men and other Hard to Employ Groups

For each group:

- Causes of Their Problems
- Potential Policy Remedies?

The Working Poor: What are their Problems?

- ❑ Poor Education/Skills, "Soft Skills," Lack of Occupational Training and Work Experience
- ❑ Lack of Access to "Good Jobs" – Information, Transportation, Informal Contacts, Discrimination; Declining Numbers of Such Jobs?
- ❑ Job Instability: Child Care, Transportation, Health Issues

the Nonattached: What are their Problems?

- ❑ Families, Schools and Neighborhoods
- ❑ Early Disconnection from School and Work
- ❑ Non-mainstream Behaviors: Crime and Unwed Fatherhood
- ❑ Ex-Offender Status and Child Support Arrears: Barriers and Disincentives

Policies

The Working Poor

- ❑ Job Training
 - Sectoral, Incumbent Worker, Career Ladders, Apprenticeships
- ❑ Job Placement Assistance
- ❑ Other Supports and Services
- ❑ Labor Market Intermediaries

Evaluation Evidence? Need More

Policies

The Nonattached

- ❑ Early Schooling and Employment/Preventing Disconnection
- ❑ Improving Incentives to Work: Extending EITC
- ❑ Reducing Barriers and Disincentives for Ex-Offenders and Welfare Recipients

Policies

Creating More High-Wage Jobs

- Minimum wage
- Collective bargaining
- Economic development approaches?