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

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Prepared for the conference, *Strategies for Improving Economic Mobility of Workers*, at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago
November 2007
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?