

GOOD JOBS NOW

MAKE WALL STREET PAY

The AFL-CIO's Five-Point Plan to Create and Save Jobs

1. Extend the lifeline for jobless workers. Congress has been allowing supplemental unemployment benefits, additional food assistance and the expansion of COBRA health care benefits to expire for long-term jobless workers every month. They must be extended for a full year to prevent working families from bankruptcy, home foreclosure and the loss of health care. Extending benefits also will boost personal spending and create jobs throughout the economy.

2. Rebuild America's schools, roads and energy systems. America still has at least \$2.2 trillion in unmet infrastructure needs. We should put people to work fixing our nation's broken-down school buildings and invest in transportation, green technology, energy efficiency and more.

3. Increase aid to state and local governments to maintain vital services. State and local governments and school districts face massive budget shortfalls—while the recession creates greater need for their services. States and communities must get help to maintain critical front-line services, prevent massive job cuts and avoid deep damage to education just when our children need it most.

4. Put people to work doing work that needs to be done. If the private sector can't or won't provide the needed jobs, the government should step up to the plate, putting people who need jobs together with work that needs to be done. These should never be replacements for existing public jobs. They must pay competitive wages and should target distressed communities.

5. Put TARP funds to work for Main Street. The bank bailout helped Wall Street, not Main Street. We should put some of the billions of dollars in leftover Troubled Asset Relief Program funds to work creating jobs by hiring community banks to lend money to small- and medium-size businesses. If small businesses can get credit, they'll create jobs.

How We Can Make Wall Street Pay for Jobs

- **Pass President Obama's proposal to impose fees on Wall Street banks** to pay back the cost of the bank bailout.
- **Tax Wall Street bonuses**, as proposed in the United Kingdom.
- **Tax the income of hedge fund and private equity managers**, the wealthiest people in the country, at ordinary income rates, by closing the carried interest loophole.
- **Impose a Financial Speculation Tax**—a tiny fee on financial market transactions, including derivatives, futures and options. This tax would have no impact on real investors, would discourage financial speculation and would generate \$100 billion to \$200 billion annually for job creation. (See FAQ: Financial Speculation Tax.)