

# Everybody's Got the Right to Live: Education, Living Wages, Jobs, Income, Housing

## Federal Assistance Information

Despite the growing need for federal assistance, social service programs in the U.S. have been restructured to shift critical resources away from the poor.

### TANF: Temporary Assistance to Needy Families

- TANF only assists 23% of poor families and children
- In 2016, TANF helped only 1.4 million families (Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 2017)

### SNAP: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

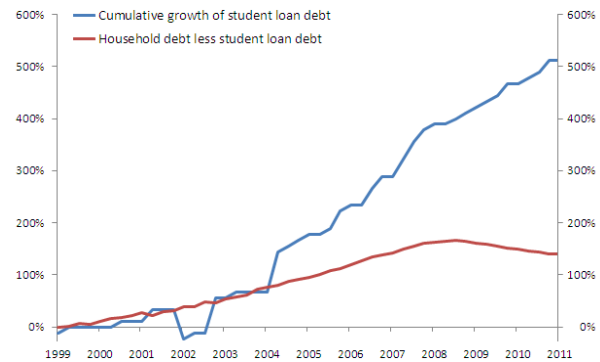
- In 2017, SNAP provided nutritional support to 40 million low-income Americans monthly (USDA, 2018)
- The current administration has proposed a 30% cut to SNAP



## Education

- **Student debt levels have exploded, driven in part by the growth of high-cost, high-risk, for-profit colleges, which now make up nearly a third of new higher education opportunities.** Among for-profit college students, 64 percent are women, 52 percent are people of color, 50 percent have dependent children, and 51 percent work full-time while enrolled. Student debt now amounts to \$1.34 trillion and affects about 44 million Americans.
- In 1968, white people in the 25-29 year age group were nearly three times as likely as black people to have completed four or more years of college. By 2015, the ratio had narrowed, but white people were still almost twice as likely as black people and Pacific Islanders—and almost three times as likely as Latinx and Native Americans—to have this level of education.
- Among single students with children, 88 percent are poor or low-income. The average debt of student mothers (one year after graduation) is \$3,800 higher than women without children and almost \$5,000 higher than men without children.

Cumulative student debt growth since 1999



Source: Federal Reserve Bank of New York

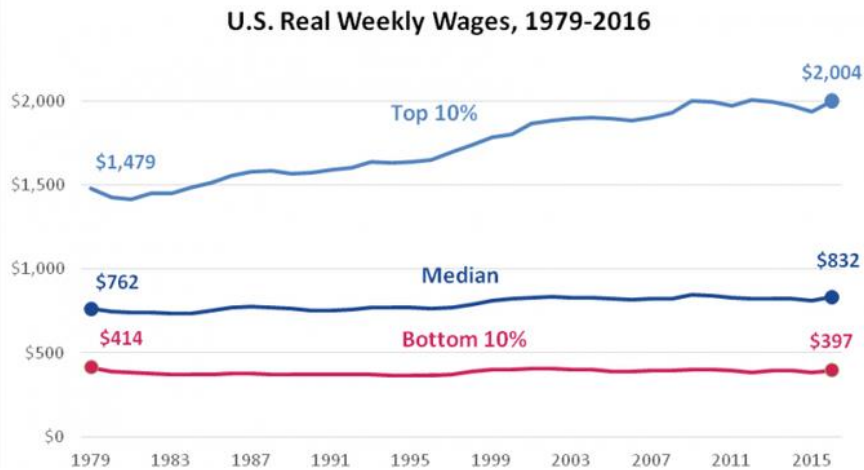
- 81 percent of black people attending public universities and 86 percent attending private universities take on debt, compared to 63 percent and 72 percent for white people. Among Latinx populations, 87 percent attending private universities also take on debt.
- According to a 2018 study from the Levy Institute, in 1990, average tuition and fees totaled 6.3 percent of median household income (and 17.6 percent of median income when including room and board). By 2014, average tuition and fees had more than doubled, totaling 15.9 percent of median household income; with room and board, costs rose to 34.7 percent!

Source: Poor People's Campaign

# Principles for Ohio Poverty Rate

In 2016, 14.6% of people fell below the poverty line (\$24,340 for a family of four).

- 20.1% of children under the age of 18 fell below the poverty line in 2016
- 15.9% of women ages 18 to 64 fell below the poverty line in 2016
- 12.2% of working men fell below the poverty line in 2016
- 30.3% of people with disabilities fell below the poverty line in 2016



The Official Poverty Measure (OPM) is too narrow a definition of poverty today. The OPM is an income-based measure developed in the 1960s that uses the Federal Poverty Line (FPL) to define poverty. In 2016, the FPL was \$12,486 for a single person under the age of 50 and was \$25,449 for a household of four.

According to the OPM, in 2016, 12.5% of the U.S. population were poor and nearly 30% were low income, which is defined as living at less than twice the poverty line.

An alternative measure developed in 2009, the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM), takes into account income as well as the cost of food, clothing, housing utilities, and government programs that have assisted low-income families and individuals who are not otherwise designated as poor,

Using the more thorough SPM, 43.5% of the U.S. population were poor or low income in 2016.

## Jobs, Income, and Living Wages

Did you know there are 140 million people who are poor or low-income in the United States today?

### General Wage Facts:

- Since the 1970s, wages for the bottom 80% of workers have remained stagnant.
- Today, 64 million people are working for less than \$15 an hour.
- The individuals in the top 1% of the country make more than 20% of the national income.
- In 2017, the 400 wealthiest Americans owned more wealth than the bottom 64% of the entire U.S. population.
- The top 3 wealthiest individuals in the country have a combined wealth of approximately \$248.5 billion, which is equivalent to the combined income of the bottom 50% of the U.S.

### Job Facts

- Close to half the individuals who are homeless in the United States actually have jobs; the problem is the jobs pay very poorly.
- Despite a small uptick in the last quarter of 2017, wages have been stagnating for more than three decades. While pay at the top has increased, typical US workers and the nation's lowest-wage workers have seen little or no growth in their real weekly wages.

# Housing

- Over the past 30 years, rent has gone up faster than income in nearly every urban area in the country
- In 2016, there was no state or county in the nation where someone earning the federal minimum wage could afford a 2-bedroom apartment at market rent
- Only 1 in 4 of those eligible to receive federal housing assistance do so
- 2.5 to 3.5 million people live in shelters, transitional housing centers, and tent centers
- As of 2017, for every 100 extremely low-income renters, a mere 35 will find affordable housing.

Source: Poor People's Campaign

## Our Demands

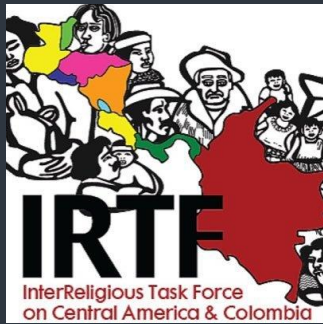
The entire list of demands for the Poor People's Campaign can be found at [www.PoorPeoplesCampaign.org](http://www.PoorPeoplesCampaign.org).

- We demand federal and state living wage laws, guaranteed annual incomes, full employment and the right for all workers to form and join unions. We also demand fully-funded welfare programs for the poor.
- We demand equal pay for equal work.
- We demand equity in education, ensuring every child receives a high-quality, well-funded, diverse public education. We demand free tuition at public colleges and universities and an end to profiteering on student debt. We demand equitable funding for HBCUs.
- We demand the expansion of Medicaid in every state and the protection of Medicare until the full implementation of single-payer universal health care for all.
- We demand reinvestment in and expansion of public housing, ensuring that all have a decent house to live in.
- We demand equal treatment and accessible housing, health care and mobility, adequate income and services for people with disabilities.
- We demand public infrastructure projects and sustainable, community-based and controlled economic initiatives that target poor and rural communities.
- We demand relief from crushing household, student, and consumer debt. We declare Jubilee.
- We demand that the wealthy and corporations pay their fair share of our country's urgent needs around decent and affordable housing, free public education, a robust social safety net and social security.
- We demand the repeal of the 2017 federal tax law and the reinvestment of those funds into social programming that helps all.

## Overview of 40 Days of Moral Action Campaign

By engaging in highly publicized, nonviolent moral fusion direct action, over a 6-week period in at least 30 states and the District of Columbia between May 13 and June 23, the Campaign will force serious nation examination of the enmeshed evils of systemic racism, systemic poverty, ecological devastation and the war economy during a key election year while strengthening connection informed and committed grassroots leadership in every state, increasing their power to continue this fight long after June 2018. During these 40 days of Moral Action, the Campaign will push forward a concrete moral agenda, and draw on art, music, popular education and religious traditions to challenge the nation's distorted moral narrative.

Source: Poor People's Campaign



## Sources

- Poor People's Campaign
- "The Souls of Poor Folk" report
- Center on Budget Policy Priorities
- Center for American Progress

## 40 Days Campaign Information

- **Week One (May 13-19):** Somebody's Hurting Our People: Child poverty, Women, and People with Disabilities
- **Week Two (May 20-26):** Linking Systemic Racism and Poverty: Voting Rights and Immigration
- **Week Three (May 27-June 2):** The War Economy, Veterans, Proliferation of Gun Violence, Education, and Our National Priorities
- **Week Four (June 3-9):** Ecological Devastation and Health
- **Week Five (June 10-16):** Everybody's Got the Right to Live: Jobs, Income and Housing
- **Week Six (June 17-22):** A New and Unsettling Force
- **Saturday, June 23:** Mass rally in Washington D.C. and Global Day of Solidarity

Each Monday (except the week of Memorial Day, when we will gather on Tuesday, May 29), people will gather at Trinity Episcopal Church in Columbus, Ohio, to participate in training and overview of the day. We will then move to the Statehouse for a rally.

- 11:00 AM-12:00 PM: Pre-rally training and coordination meeting for Direct Action Participants, Peace Team and Marshalls at Trinity Episcopal Church
- 2:00 PM- 3:00 PM: Poor People's Campaign Action: Somebody's Hurting Our People at the Ohio Statehouse

## Social Media

### National:

- **Poor People's Campaign:**
  - Website: <https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/>
  - Email: [info@poorpeoplescampaign.org](mailto:info@poorpeoplescampaign.org)
  - Press Request: [press@poorpeoplescampaign.org](mailto:press@poorpeoplescampaign.org)
  - Twitter: @UniteThe Poor
  - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/aneppc/>

### Ohio

- **Ohio Poor People's Campaign**
  - Twitter: @OhioPPC
  - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OhioPPC/>

### Cleveland

- **IRTF Cleveland**
  - Website: <https://www.irtfcleveland.org/>
  - Email: [IRTF@irtfcleveland.org](mailto:IRTF@irtfcleveland.org)
  - Twitter: @IRTFcleveland
  - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IRTF1981/>
  - Instagram: @IRTFcleveland
  - Snapchat: @IRTFcleveland

