

Poverty Policy Priorities for President Clinton

The conference rapporteurs, Robert Haveman and Isabel Sawhill, prepared these suggestions, based on the papers and conference discussion, and in part on their own views.

1. **More aggressive use of monetary and fiscal policy in pursuit of an unemployment rate of about 5 percent.**
2. **An immigrant policy to integrate new arrivals more quickly into our national life.**
3. **A “healthy kid” program that would cover all children through a system of community health centers, financed by limiting the tax deductibility of employer-paid health insurance.**
4. **Support for school-based reforms designed to change the way teachers and schools interact and systemic reforms that create incentives to improve performance. Expansion of preschool programs and compensatory education and experimentation with career academies and youth apprenticeships that blend academic and vocational training.**
5. **A demonstration of a public sector jobs program targeted on disadvantaged family heads or absent fathers and offering a minimum-wage job for a year to find out if there are large numbers of people who cannot find work, even at low wages.**
6. **Replacement of the child exemption in the personal income tax with a \$1000 per child refundable tax credit and implementation of a Child Support Assurance System in which the government would both require all nonresident parents to share a portion of their income with their children and insure a minimum child support benefit in cases where the father’s income is inadequate.**
7. **Expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit.**
8. **Expansion of training programs for adults, including but not limited to mothers on welfare.**
9. **A more comprehensive urban policy including housing subsidies designed to enhance residential mobility and access to jobs and further experimentation with job-creation programs targeted on inner-city areas.**
10. **More rigorous enforcement of existing antidiscrimination laws in the labor and housing markets.**
11. **While these recommendations would make a contribution to reducing poverty and improving the lives of the poor, their effects are likely to be modest. Therefore, we recommend that you establish a task force to do some bolder thinking and to plan and fund some new demonstration projects.**