



NEWS RELEASE

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MEDIA BRIEFING - RSVPs APPRECIATED

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**ARRA/Stimulus at One Year Has Racially Inequitable Impact;
Those Most in Need Benefit Least**

With the one-year anniversary of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act approaching on February 17, policy advocates from seven national social justice organizations will hold a media briefing on Thursday, February 11, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the National Press Club, 529 14th St., Washington D.C. They will take stock of the impact of the economic stimulus on all Americans, particularly on people of color and other marginalized communities, and of what it means for our nation as a whole when we're not investing in everyone's future.

With black unemployment at 16.2 percent and a new federal jobs bill on the horizon as the financial crisis in marginalized communities continues to escalate, these leaders note, the economic stimulus was necessary to avert even more devastating crisis for all Americans. But it is equally important to make these investments in a way that does not push marginalized groups farther behind. The stimulus, they say, did not go far enough in terms of marginalized communities, and it lacked transparency and accountability in regard to racial equity.

"The economic stimulus offset state budget cuts that would have devastated already vulnerable communities," said John Powell, executive director of the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity and Williams Chair in Civil Rights & Civil Liberties at the Moritz College of Law at The Ohio State University. But Powell says it has not been sufficient to reverse unemployment trends, especially in marginalized communities.

During the briefing, Powell will discuss "A Crisis of Opportunity: How the Stimulus is Falling Short For Our Most Vulnerable Citizens." Other speakers and topics slated for the media briefing include: **Dennis Parker**, Director, Racial Justice Program, **American Civil Liberties Union**, "Procurements and Set-Asides are Legal, Within Specific Guidelines"; **Juhu Thukral**, Director of Law and Advocacy, **The Opportunity Agenda**, "Forging a Path to Economic Recovery for All Americans"; **Dominique Apollon**, Research Director, **Applied Research Center**, "A Green Recovery for All"; **Phil Tegeler**, President/Executive Director, **Poverty & Race Research Action Council**, "ARRA and Access to Opportunity at HUD and the U.S. Department of Education"; **Ira Goldstein**, Director, Policy & Information Services, **The Reinvestment Fund**, "Furthering Fair Housing as a Significant Policy Initiative for the Federal Neighborhood Stabilization Programs"; and **Deidre Swesnik**, Director, Public Policy and Communications, **National Fair Housing Alliance**, "How TARP Funds Could (and Should) be Used to Improve Our Neighborhoods."

A written report, including insight from nine social justice organizations, will be provided at the event.

The media are welcome to attend this briefing. RSVPs are appreciated but not required. Contact Kathy Baird at baird.111@osu.edu; 614-292-8766. Additional information on the impact of the economic stimulus on marginalized communities is available on the Web site, fairRecovery.org/.