



EXPANDING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Expect work-capable adults to work or prepare for work in exchange for receiving benefits.



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“The people who have successfully completed our Welfare to Career program have regained their self-confidence and self-esteem . . . **In many cases they are the first individuals in their families to breakthrough a tradition of generational poverty.**”

Unless you give [individuals] the tools to be successful, they won't be successful.”
On the company's "Welfare to Career" program

OVERVIEW

Work—especially full-time work—is the surest way to escape poverty. Many welfare programs provide benefits to alleviate immediate need, yet few provide low-income individuals the tools they need to succeed in the workforce, escape poverty, and move up the economic ladder for long-term.

The most common reason people are in poverty is attributed to lack of work. Over 46 million people in the U.S. lived in poverty in 2014, a number that has not budged since the recession ended in 2009. Of all working-age people (18-64) who were in poverty in 2014, almost two in three were not working at all, and nearly one in three were working only part-time.

Our welfare system should encourage work-capable welfare recipients to work or prepare for work in exchange for benefits. It should also hold states accountable for helping welfare recipients find jobs and stay employed.

WAYS AND MEANS POLICY PROPOSAL

- Strengthen work requirements and end loopholes in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program and require states to engage more people in work or activities leading to work.
- Promote reemployment of Unemployment Insurance recipients to better engage them and connect them with the workforce system.
- Reform existing job training programs—rather than create new programs—and draft proposals better connecting the Child Support Enforcement program to the workforce system.