



## **10 Ideas to Create Jobs**

Our economy is in crisis, and I bet we all know why. We need to put people back to work and not just in any job, but in good jobs that will provide decent wages, benefits and working conditions. Our government is responsible for making our economy work, for coming up with solutions at the federal, state, and local level. But they've fallen down on the job. So we need to come up with some solutions for them.

These house meetings are all about coming up with new ideas to create jobs, revitalize our communities, and make our economy work for everyone.

The ideas below may spark some good conversations and ideas in your house meeting, or you may have some of your own. Build on these, reconsider them, or throw them out and come up with your own. What is important is that we begin the conversation, and that we seek solutions together.

### **Federal Level**

1. **Create a large scale direct job creation program like we did during the Depression.**

The federal government should provide resources directly to states and localities to create jobs to meet existing community needs. For example, a city could create badly needed jobs in childcare healthcare, maintaining our parks, or staffing libraries so they stay open more hours. These jobs should provide good wages and the chance for workers to build their skills. In the Great Depression, the government employed millions of people while helping to build America's infrastructure through this type of program.

- **Discussion topic:** Where does your city or locality need funding most? Are there particular jobs or work that your community could most benefit from?

2. **Invest in education, transportation, health care and other key areas to help create jobs today and build a strong economy in the future.**

The government can invest directly in critical sectors that keep our communities thriving, such as education and healthcare. Public investments can also attract and drive private investments in infrastructure as well as emerging sectors such as energy conservation and renewable energy sources. These types of investments will help to jump start our economy, meet pressing community needs, and ensure that our country remains competitive and sustainable over the long term.

- **Discussion topic:** How can private and public projects work in conjunction with one another? What kind of projects would most benefit your community, and how can private companies get involved in those projects?

3. **Support Work Sharing.** The federal government should provide tax credits to employers who allow workers to shorten their hours, while maintaining existing pay levels. Since workers will be working less hours, employers will need to hire additional employees to cover the newly available hours, creating jobs and while providing additional paid time off for current workers, including those with family care giving responsibilities.
  - **Discussion topics:** Are there similar projects that promote more employment for which the government could provide incentives?

## State Level

4. **Fight budget cuts in order to preserve existing jobs.** Right now, states are slashing budgets, cutting critical programs and services that will lead to layoffs of essential workers, like teachers, librarians, police and firefighters – workers we need to protect and support our families. We need to fight budget cuts that would lead to the loss of more jobs and hurt our local economies.
  - **Discussion topics:** What can you do in your neighborhood to fight budget cuts? Is the government targeting the wrong programs?
5. **Invest economic development funds on projects that actually create a large number of good jobs.** States and cities give out millions (even billions) of dollars in incentives to attract or expand businesses, all too often with few jobs to show for it. We need to prioritize direct public spending on economic development that actually creates jobs for local residents like rebuilding our infrastructure, investing in transit, and greening our schools and public buildings. We also need standards to ensure that tax incentives or other public subsidies only go to companies that commit to hiring workers from the community and pay decent wages.
  - **Discussion topics:** What types of businesses or projects would create the highest number of jobs in your town? How can you communicate this to your state government? What can you do to convince them you're right?
6. **Improve our environment while creating jobs.** States can adopt policies requiring higher energy efficiency standards and greater reliance on renewable energy sources, which would help to clean up the environment, and create demand for new jobs.
  - **Discussion topics:** What do you, as a community, do well to encourage energy efficiency? How can your community do better?
7. **Create a state bank.** One state in the country, North Dakota, has a state-owned bank which allows state and local governments and public pension funds to put their money in a bank that is dedicated to helping local businesses get the credit they need to grow, and which can return some of the profits that are made to the state treasury to help pay for needed services. The alternative is to put public money in private banks who may not lend to credit worthy borrowers in the community and which use profits to pay huge

salaries and bonuses to their executives. Work is underway in a number of other states to get a state bank started along the lines of North Dakota.

- **Discussion topics:** Would a state bank be helpful for your state? What can you do to get state government to enact one?

## **Local level**

8. **Make public buildings more energy efficient.** Retrofitting public structures, such as municipal buildings and schools, can promote energy conservation and create good jobs, especially in the hard hit construction sector. Localities can adopt standards to ensure that new jobs provide good wages and benefits, and that they go to local residents.

- **Discussion topics:** How would these type of new green jobs help your community?
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9. **Support families who want to weatherize their homes.** We should provide money to homeowners, renters, and landlords to make housing more energy efficient which would save families money on their heating and cooling bills and help clean up the environment.

- **Discussion topics:** What kind of support would you need to participate in such a program?

10. **Create a jobs program at the local level.** A city, county or town can create temporary jobs in both the private and public sectors to put people back to work while the economy recovers. The Recovery Act provided funds for a jobs program like this that was implemented very quickly and led to the creation of over 250,000 jobs around the country in 2009 and 2010

- **Discussion topics:** What's your idea?