



NETWORK'S AGENDA FOR THE 111TH CONGRESS January 2009

Because of the economic meltdown in recent months, we believe that the economy will be at the center of most of the movement in the new Congress. At NETWORK, our work will continue to be based on the [Platform for the Common Good](#) and the top five issue priorities that emerged during its creation (listed below). Based on anticipated congressional action, much of our work will initially focus on economic issues, especially as they impact people living at the economic margins. Our agenda will focus on:

ECONOMIC JUSTICE

- Stronger social safety net that addresses the needs of people at the economic margins, including extended unemployment benefits during this crisis, increased spending for food stamps, assistance for homeowners and renters who are losing their homes, and funding for the National Housing Trust Fund.
- Job-creation and training programs that meet the need for “green” development and that benefit not just the highly skilled, but all workers.
- Attention to the needs of victims of natural disasters and those attempting to rejoin society after incarceration.
- Cuts to unnecessary and unwanted military programs.
- Tax policies that serve the common good.
- Global *fair* trade policies that include: responsible controls on the movement of capital; shared local/foreign investment in developing nations; safeguards from market flooding in developing nations; protection of biodiversity from patent piracy; and protection of fledgling industries.

PEACEMAKING

- Investment in economic development in Iraq and Iraqi refugee and internally-displaced assistance.
- Support for the development of the rule of law (especially in property disputes) in Iraq.

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

- A plan for addressing applicant backlogs for permanent residence, with family unity as a priority.
- Effective program for temporary workers.
- A realistic path to earned legalization.
- Restoration of due process protections and reformed detention policies for those detained in the immigration system.
- Effective border security that recognizes the human rights of all people.
- More emphasis on fixing the “pushes” for immigration that result from U.S. trade policies and global economic conditions as well as the capacity to track immigration patterns in the U.S.

HEALTHCARE ACCESS

- Inclusion of provisions for healthcare reform in efforts to address current economic problems.
- Increased funding to states for their Medicaid programs.
- Stronger children’s health program.

ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE

- Environmentally-conscious transportation (shifting from oil-based to “green” alternatives), construction, and infrastructure development.

