



### *Working for Change*

The *Working for Change* forum is an effort to mobilize a core group of advocates, practitioners, philanthropists and public officials to act in concert to increase workers' wages and improve workplace benefits. The series is sponsored by the **Community Service Society of New York (CSS)** in collaboration with the **Coalition on Human Needs**. We invite you to visit our website – [www.cssny.org](http://www.cssny.org) – for further information on the forum and to learn about efforts in New York City to raise the quality of life of low-wage workers. You may also contact Walter Fields, CSS Vice President for Government Relations and Public Affairs, at (212) 614-5453 to determine how you can be an active participant in the *Working for Change* forum.

**David R. Jones**  
President & CEO

**Janet W. Thompson**  
Chairperson  
Board of Trustees

**The Community Service Society of New York**  
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## **Working For Change**

Advancing an Economic Mobility Agenda

for Low Wage Workers in  
Urban America



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### ***WHAT WILL IT TAKE?*** **Moving Disconnected Youth Into The Workforce**

**Friday, May 16, 2008**

**U.S. Capitol  
Room H-137  
12:00 p.m.—1:30 p.m.**

May 16, 2008

Dear Friends:

We welcome you to today's event as we mark the first anniversary of the Community Service Society's "Working for Change" forum series on Capitol Hill. We launched this forum to call attention to the plight of low-wage workers in our nation and to begin to build a consensus among policy advocates and Members of Congress on policy remedies to advance the economic mobility of these Americans. Over the last year we have heard from an impressive list of experts and practitioners who have enlarged our thinking on critical issues facing the working poor. Your attendance and participation has shaped our thinking as we move to craft policy recommendations.

I want to thank Congressman Charles B. Rangel and his staff from the Committee on Ways and Means for their support of the "Working for Change" forum. We are also thankful for our partnership with Deborah Weinstein and the Coalition on Human Needs, and look forward to our continued collaboration. I am also personally indebted to our Senior Fellow Dr. William Spriggs for coordinating these sessions and our other Senior Fellow Margy Waller for her input and participation.

Today we focus on "disconnected youth," an often forgotten population of young adults who have literally been abandoned in our society. Despite the fact that many of these young people have withdrawn from school and are out of work, they still have tremendous potential to add value to our society. These 16-24 year old men and women, mostly Black and Hispanic, represent an untapped pool of human capital that can contribute significantly to the economic growth and well being of our nation. To help these young people succeed in life we must develop a comprehensive set of programs and services that will facilitate their pathway to employment.

As we continue this "conversation," I encourage you to think creatively about what we can do collectively to bring about change in our nation and make the promise of prosperity real for Americans living in poverty.

Sincerely,

David R. Jones  
President & CEO

## **Working for Change Forum**

### ***What Will it Take?*** **Moving Disconnected Youth into the Workforce**

#### ***Welcome***

Walter Fields  
Vice President, Government Relations & Public Affairs  
Community Service Society

#### ***Introduction of Panelist***

Margy Waller, Executive Director The Mobility Agenda  
CSS Senior Fellow

#### **Panel**

Deborah Weinstein, Executive Director  
Coalition on Human Needs  
Moderator

Dr. Philip N. Jefferson, Department of Economics  
Swarthmore College

Mr. George Schutzer, Partner  
Patton Boggs

Ms. Mala Thakur, Executive Director  
National Youth Employment Coalition

Mr. Clifford Johnson, Director  
Institute for Youth, Family & Education  
National League of Cities

Ms. Donna Klein, President & CEO  
Corporate Voices for Working Families

Mr. David Paulsen, United States Human Resources Director  
Accenture

Mr. Andy Chaves, Director, Workforce Effectiveness & Diversity  
Marriott International Inc.

#### **Q & A**

#### **Final Remarks**

David R. Jones, President & CEO  
Community Service sS