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Recovery Act Must Create 1.7 million new jobs for Blacks and Latinos to Close Unemployment Gap, New Study Finds

A new report released by the [Women of Color Policy Network](#) at New York University's [Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service](#) today shows job creation efforts in Obama's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will miss many Blacks and Latinos due to their disproportionately high unemployment rates.

Blacks and Latinos have an unemployment rate of 12.9 percent; a figure significantly higher than the national average of 8.9 percent. As it is currently configured, jobs created or saved through the Reinvestment Act would decrease the national unemployment rate to 6.5 percent, but would only decrease the unemployment rate of African-Americans and Latinos to 10.7 percent.

Of the nearly 4 million jobs created or saved through the Act, only 917,675 will go to African-Americans and Latinos. **An additional 1.7 million jobs would have to be created and go directly to Blacks and Latinos to cut the unemployment rate in those communities to Administration's projected national rate of 6.5 percent by 2010.**

The study also found:

- Of the jobs created or saved, African-American and Latino women will receive an estimated 420,991 and African-American and Latino men will receive 496,684
- African-Americans and Latinos are under-represented in the industries targeted through the Reinvestment Act. Black and Latino men comprise 5.1 percent and 8.4 percent of those working in targeted industries. Black and Latino women make up 5.9 percent and 5.6 of those working in targeted industries
- Of the targeted industries and occupations identified as green, African-Americans and Latinos comprise less than 25 percent of those employed
- Although women will receive nearly half of the jobs that will be created through the Act, they are under-represented in higher-wage occupations and in targeted industries
- White women will receive an estimated 1,377,879 jobs through the Reinvestment act; a figure nearly 70 percent higher than for African-American and Latino women combined

C. Nicole Mason, PhD Executive Director of the Women of Color Policy Network, NYU Wagner, says, "During this time of great economic need and distress, it is important to consider the most vulnerable in our society. To ensure that everyone recovers successfully, the Administration will need to dedicate significant and additional resources to communities hit hardest and to those with the least safety nets."

View the Report: http://wagner.nyu.edu/wocpn/reports/Race_Gender_and_the_Recession_Job_Creation

Founded in 2000 by Walter Stafford, as part of the Roundtable of Institutions of People of Color, the Women of Color Policy Network, an affiliate of the Research Center for Leadership in Action at the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, NYU is the country's only research and policy institute focusing on women of color nationally ranked top ten public policy school. The Network conducts original research and collects critical data on women of color that is used to inform public policy outcomes at the local, state and national levels.