

# THE PEOPLE'S PRIORITIES

## *How Federal Economic Stimulus Money Should be Spent to Help Akron and Summit County Citizens*

A list of pressing needs presented to Summit County and Akron City councils

**"The economy is in a crisis not seen since the Great Depression."**

That was the first sentence of the Obama Administration's \$825 billion investment and tax proposal to create jobs, jumpstart the economy, and begin to transform the economy to the 21st century

Congress recently passed and President Obama signed a final economic stimulus bill totaling \$787 billion. Billions of dollars in the form of "block grants" may come to counties and cities -- which give councils and mayors vast powers on where dollars will be spent and who will be helped.

The people of Summit County and Akron must have a voice! We hope there will be public hearings. In the meantime, what follows are the ideas generated by Akron and Summit County citizens at a Town Hall Meeting sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee in January as well as many others throughout the community of the area's most pressing priorities.

### **Housing:**

- Help for homeowners facing foreclosure
- Repair and rehab of housing stock
- Deconstruct not just demolish bad housing stock
- Public housing repair and weatherization
- Homeless veterans shelter

### **Economic Development:**

- Infrastructure repair and upgrade (sewer /water systems, bridges, streets/ roads)
- Renewable energy program - Solar panel retrofits for private homes and apartments, public housing units, schools, small businesses, government buildings \*
- Replace "Development Investment Programs" with maintenance programs for bridge and road drainage, manhole frame and covers to same grade as pavement
- Restore neighborhood development programs that have been put on hold
- Maintenance, repair and cleanup of parks, including Lock 3
- Pollution cleanup, including that caused by diesel engines
- Support to start business cooperatives (i.e. food and others)

### **Community Services:**

- Youth education and jobs programs
- Community re-entry jobs program
- Industrial jobs, jobs for women, jobs for minorities
- Buy Locally business support program ( as opposed to big box stores)
- Increased safety forces and neighborhood violence prevention programs
- Fresh stops (urban farm stands that deliver fresh food straight to underserved neighborhoods)
- Aid to self-help groups
- Education assistance
- Career/ job training (apprenticeship and construction work programs)
- Community health and dental clinics
- Autism community services
- Public education on Democracy and voting

We hope public hearings will soon be planned and publicized concerning the allocation of whatever block grant funds received by the county and city.

Thank you.