A Sustainable Recovery

Shyama Venkateswar
National Council for Research on Women
Exacerbated Inequalities: By the Numbers--Poverty

- Poverty increased significantly in 2008 to 13.2%.

- **Women are 35% more likely to be poor** than men across racial lines with 6.4 million women living in extreme poverty (below 50% of the federal poverty level).
Exacerbated Inequalities: By the Numbers—Unemployment

- A recent study shows that rates of unemployment among the lowest income families are 30.8% while the highest income families have an unemployment rate of only 3.2%.

- Single women with children have an unemployment rate of 12.3% compared to 5.8% for married women.

- Twelve percent of black women are the sole earner in their family currently due in part to the disproportionately high unemployment rate among black men.
Exacerbated Inequalities: By the Numbers—Wealth Gap

- The racial wealth gap has widened in the last few years: for every dollar of wealth held by the typical white family in 2007, the black family had one dime down from 12 cents just three years earlier.

- Consumer Federation of America reports that women headed households have about one-half the income and less than one-third the wealth of other American households.

- The subprime lending crisis has affected women and people of color particularly hard, with research indicating that women are 32% more likely than men to receive subprime mortgages, and African American and Latina women borrowers are most likely to receive sub-prime loans at every income level.
What Does Recovery Mean?
Moving from Job Creation to Asset Building

- The US savings rate hit 0% in 2005 – the lowest of all the G-20 countries and that was before the current recession.

- Only 51% of nonwhite or Hispanic Americans compared to 76 percent of white non-Hispanic Americans are homeowners.
Rebuilding our Safety Nets

- Every dollar spent on extending unemployment insurance benefits produces $1.63 in economic activity, and every dollar spent on temporarily increasing food stamp benefits produces $1.73 in economic activity.

- **One in eight Americans are now receiving food stamps**

- The $4.5 million increase in food stamp benefits in the stimulus package resulted in a total of about $8 billion in economic stimulus and kept more than one million people out of poverty.
Steps Forward

- Congress must reauthorize TANF by September 2010

- President Obama recently announced a $1.5 billion effort to prevent foreclosures in five states hard-hit by the mortgage crisis – Nevada, Arizona, California, Florida and Michigan. Need a national plan.