

2009 ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY POVERTY REDUCTION TASK FORCE - CHARGE TO SUBCOMMITTEES

The economic challenges that Colorado families and businesses face, including poverty and poverty-related issues, are complex and multi-faceted. Subcommittees have been proposed to better examine all aspects affecting poverty and to explore what actions can be taken to advance economic opportunities to low and moderate-income households in order to reduce poverty in Colorado.

Five major groups are proposed, which categorize the key issues, topics, and barriers that impact economic prosperity for individuals, families and the business community. The subcommittee topics are not exclusive and other identified topics/issues can be considered by the subcommittees.

Each subcommittee shall be tasked with identifying:

- Short-term reforms to promote economic opportunities and reduce poverty that may be considered for inclusion in the Task Force's legislative agenda for 2010.
- Long-term reforms to be addressed as a priority in the Task Force's Strategic Plan and a process for examining solutions to those issues
- Best practices for service delivery, investment, evaluation and savings, and identification of gaps in service delivery.
- Interconnections between domains of economic development & poverty reduction and best practices for integrating planning & delivery of economic development & poverty reduction projects.

Further, each subcommittee shall examine, where appropriate, the special circumstances and barriers experienced by particular populations, whether defined by age, family type, language or ethnicity, disability, civil & criminal status or geographic location (rural, urban – plains, mountains) This includes:

Seniors, People with Disabilities, People of Color, Women, Children, Single Parents, GLBT, Immigrants and Refugees, Individuals affected by Domestic Violence, Veterans, Individuals transitioning from the Criminal Justice System, People with Mental illness, Homeless People,

The interim committee chair will seek advice on appointments from members of the interim committee and subcommittee chairs and co-chairs and will then make appointments to each subcommittee.

At least one legislator will chair a sub-committee; in addition, one stakeholder will act as vice-chair. There can be two legislators co-chairing each subcommittee.

Suggested numbers for each subcommittee is between 7 - 13 members over and above the chair and co-chair. Each subcommittee should include people directly impacted by poverty as members and presenters. The Advisory Group can assist with recruiting candidates for subcommittee members.

Subcommittees should schedule the number of necessary meetings to adequately analyze issues and will select meeting locations and times being sensitive to members' schedules and job requirements.

Subcommittees should structure their work to coordinate with the Task Force meeting schedule and legislative deadline requirements, and to provide requested information at each Task Force meeting. Such information and analysis will be compiled into preliminary report that the task force will submit to the General Assembly by January 2010.

Coordinating similar subject matter presentations with other Interim committees and/or other subcommittees is recommended to reduce duplication and examine shared policy or issue concerns.

Examples of possible joint meetings include a meeting on public transportation between the Housing Committee and the Job Creation & Economic Development Committee; or a meeting discussing child care issues with the Job Creation & Economic Development Committee, the Education Committee, and the Access to Benefits & Services Committee.

Subcommittees are encouraged to find ways to incorporate focus group input and have flexible meeting times so the committee can benefit from low-income family and business community participation.

Subcommittees may prioritize issues to study and to take action on; committees may decide to continue subcommittee work after the first-year Interim Task Force has completed its work.

Thank you for your commitment and dedication to cutting poverty in half by 2019.

Representative John Kefalas, Chair
Senator Paula Sandoval, Vice-Chair