



# The Family Investment Coalition

*Utah's Economy--It Starts with People*

November 3, 2011

**PERSONALIZED** for each Member, Social Services Appropriations Subcommittee:

Utah is fortunate to have so many dedicated and experienced people working to support our neighbors during this time of particular economic difficulty. However, as you witnessed during your October 20 committee meeting on the state's low-income safety net, today's needs far surpass the capacity of nonprofits, churches, and community groups.

The most recent estimates report that 359,242 Utahns are trying to make ends meet on the equivalent of \$22,113 per year for a family of four. The state's unemployment and underemployment rates are higher than they have been in twenty-five years. And virtually no one believes that enough jobs will be created in coming years to meet the needs of Utah's young workforce.

As an elected representative you are faced with tough decisions every year about how to allocate the state's scarce resources. In the coming legislative session, as you consider the options for balancing the budget, we urge you keep in mind the testimony you heard on October 20. So many Utahns are working to serve those who have been hit hardest by the Great Recession—but they cannot continue and expand this work without support from state government.

The undersigned members of the Family Investment Coalition, a statewide non-partisan alliance of organizations dedicated to helping Utah families become self-sufficient, would like to offer our support as you prepare for this challenge. We encourage you to look to us for updates and analyses of the impacts of federal and state programs on all Utahns.

Sincerely,

Family Investment Coalition Members

For more information contact [familyinvestmentcoalition@gmail.com](mailto:familyinvestmentcoalition@gmail.com)