

ROAD MAP FOR RAISING WAGES

Restore Freedom of Association

- Restore workers' freedom to form and join unions
- Restore and protect workers' freedom to bargain collectively
- Support union organizing campaigns

Restore and Strengthen Labor Standards

- Increase and index the minimum wage (with parity for tipped workers, workers with disabilities and young workers)
- Enact comprehensive immigration reform with a road map to citizenship
- Stop misclassification of employees as independent contractors
- Restore overtime protections
- Hold federal contractors accountable
- Stop wage theft
- Strengthen prevailing wage standards
- Protect Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) and Community Benefit Agreements (CBAs)
- Address the problem of mass incarceration
- Ensure equal pay for equal work
- Adopt scheduling protections
- Provide for paid sick days and expanded access to paid and unpaid family and medical leave
- Ensure Section 13(c) protections for public transportation workers
- Provide labor protections for domestic workers and farm workers
- Strengthen private and public pensions

Ensure Full Employment

- Adopt monetary policy that promotes full employment (Federal Reserve)
- Adopt fiscal policy that promotes full employment (e.g., infrastructure investment)
- Strengthen Buy America and local procurement standards

Reform the Global Economy

- Oppose Fast Track
- Stop currency manipulation
- Oppose trade agreements that promote corporate rights over good jobs
- Protect workers' rights globally and raise labor standards in the global supply chain
- End lower tax rates for companies that ship jobs overseas

Reform Wall Street

- Re-regulate the financial sector
- Enact the Wall Street speculation tax
- End tax breaks for stock-based executive pay
- End lower tax rate for speculators (carried interest)

Increase Productivity Growth to Allow for Higher Wage Growth

- Invest in infrastructure
- Invest in public education
- Invest in workforce development
- Rebuild domestic manufacturing

COMMON SENSE ECONOMICS

RAISING WAGES WORKS AFL-CIO

What is it?: CSE is a tool for activating our members and communities to challenge the unequal economic position workers are in, both here and abroad. It is a tool designed to be used as part of existing campaigns, and to help develop a shared language for what the economic solutions are for workers. It can be used with community partners within their own organizations and in joint uses with labor. It is based on the premise that:

1. There is an agenda that is being played out—it's not working for workers;
2. There is a better way: a virtuous cycle of policies that can help workers; and
3. We have the power to help change the way things are going by working together.

Guiding Principles: Common Sense Economics is:

1. Designed to be used in a union meeting or at a CLC meeting, with the intent of engaging members to take action on a specific campaign;
2. Not intended to be an econ class;
3. Designed to be delivered by anyone who wants to use it—it's laid out so new trainers (or campaign organizers) have everything they need to deliver the training as part of their campaign plan; and
4. Modules are designed to build on each other and be flexible to meet the needs of the local organizations using it.

Initial rollout in May: Some 285 master trainers are trained and delivering CSE in both English and Spanish throughout the country, at the local and state levels. Some of these include: AFGE, BAC local leaders conference, CWA (New Jersey public-sector local), UFCW Latino Conference, Utility Workers, LCLAA and CLUW; APALA is working on incorporating the tool in its campaign work in targeted cities. We trained more than 40 young workers as trainers and they have been using the tool in their respective organizations. In addition to unions, we are working with such community organizations as Casa de Maryland, which will be using CSE in its trainings for hundreds of immigrant community leaders across Delaware, Maryland and Virginia.

Used in recent political campaigns:

- **Kentucky**—anecdotal reports that return rates were better with new volunteers, helpful at the doors since they had a chance to practice telling their own economic story
- **Connecticut**—used it prior to Saturday walks (five walks per weekend from mid-September up until GOTV)

This is a tool that was created to help build capacity for state and local fights.

Modules:

1. Short Core
2. Women and Families
3. Immigration (updated since rollout)
4. Young Workers (young worker groups are using this to activate their members and engage)
5. Globalization (working with International Department on another version for use outside the United States)
6. NEW Mass Incarceration (pilots in California Prop 47 fight, North Carolina and Washington, D.C.)

All modules and materials are available in Spanish.

Community: We will be developing a Web tool to help rural workers (and others who can't get to an in-person training) access aspects of the training. We also will be using BASECAMP to give trainers (and those interested in being trainers) access to the material and a space to share their experiences.

For more information or to sign up to learn how to train on CSE, please contact cse@aficio.org.

