



National Council of Jewish Women

## **Surviving the Economic Crisis: Five Things You Can Do in Your Community**

The financial turmoil that is affecting everyone in our country—from childcare workers to investment bankers—is on the front page of every newspaper. It seems that each new day brings more bad news about the state of the US economy. While we are hopeful that the investments in vital social services that were included in the economic recovery package will help with recovery, we are cognizant of the difficult times that still lay ahead. As such, we must rededicate ourselves to ensuring that all families receive the support they need to weather this economic storm. To join in this effort, consider taking the following action steps to help your own community address the economic crisis:

1. **Speak out about what is happening.** One of the best ways to catalyze change is to shine a light on the problems you want to address. Write a letter to the editor that illustrates how the global economic crisis is impacting your own projects, town, or community. Send a copy of your letter to your members of Congress to ensure that they hear about what is happening in the communities that they represent.
2. **Sign up for the NCJW Action Center.** In the months ahead, it will be critical for economic justice advocates to speak out. The power of social action is in its numbers. The more participants we engage, the greater our potential impact. If you are already a member, tell your friends about NCJW, and encourage them to speak out today by joining the NCJW Action Center. Make it your goal to sign up 10 friends.
3. **Work in coalition.** In this economic climate, communities will be making choices about spending priorities. You can use the strength of coalitions to ensure that your community continues to provide the services that families need. Reach out to your partners in the faith community, the advocacy community, and the community of service providers to coalesce around common areas of concern. When organizational resources are tight, coalitions are a great way to pool resources so that groups help each other weather this economic storm.
4. **Share your successes with other NCJW members.** Visit [www.ncjw.org](http://www.ncjw.org) and submit a success story to give others ideas of how to be successful in these difficult times. (To submit a success story, go to: [http://www.ncjw.org/submit\\_story.cfm?navID=62](http://www.ncjw.org/submit_story.cfm?navID=62))
5. **Raise awareness in your community.** Social action starts at home. Bring the questions you've discussed today to your next board meeting and facilitate a conversation about these issues.

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