

Tell Congress: We Need Economic Recovery!

Unemployment is up.

Millions seniors and their families are struggling to pay for food, gas, and housing.

Heating costs will rise 40 percent this winter, and many households just don't know how they can possibly manage.

Before Congress leaves this month, we need an economic recovery package!

Call your Rep. and Senators on [Wednesday, September 17](#) to tell them they must act now!

Use this toll-free number: 1-888-245-0215

***Tell them:* Please do not leave this month without passing an economic recovery package that helps low-income seniors and their families avoid hardships, maintains needed public services, and boosts the economy.**

[Wednesday September 17 is the best day to call.](#) But you can call any day this week - Sept. 15-19. You'll be connected to the Capitol Switchboard - please ask to be connected to your Representative and your two Senators.

If you don't know your [Representative's](#) name: <http://www.house.gov/> (upper left)

If you don't know your [Senators'](#) names: <http://www.senate.gov/> (upper right)

Background: The House leadership is expected to bring up a recovery bill soon. Discussions are going on now about what might be in the package. We need your help to press for aid to help low-income people pay for food, heat, and other basic needs, and to make sure that essential public services are maintained. Congress needs to hear from constituents who demand that urgent needs are met - both because it's the right thing to do and because economists tell us these investments will boost the economy and build a shared recovery. It won't be easy to pass a recovery bill, but if Congress hears a sense of urgency from callers, they'll understand they cannot walk away until January without having acted.

Advocates have been urging more funds for food and home energy assistance, additional weeks of unemployment benefits, more aid to states for rising Medicaid costs, and more jobs through infrastructure repair and jobs programs for youth. For explanation of these proposals, see [Towards Shared Recovery](#), at <http://www.chn.org/pdf/2008/stimulus9908.pdf>. It's great to mention some or all of these important items when you call.

We know making these calls is not your favorite thing to do. But Congress needs to be held accountable for taking urgently needed action. They're not accountable if they don't think anyone is paying attention.