Job Opportunities for Less-Educated Workers

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Employment Numbers in the Great Recession

### Employment Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Single Mothers</th>
<th>Never-Married Mothers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>.703</td>
<td>.634</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>.661</td>
<td>.587</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Unemployment Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>.14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Thanks to R. Haskins and R. Lerman)
How Bad Are These Nos.?

• Smaller Decline in Employment than Observed for All Men!
• Due to Concentration in Retail Trade and Services v. Construction, Mfg.
• Worse for HS Dropouts, African-Americans, Young (Men as well as Women/Mothers)
• More Turnover and Hiring than These Nos. Suggest – 3-4% per month (JOLTS Data)
• Long-Term Unemployed? Access to UI/TANF? Scarring: Employability or Future Wages?
Gradual Recovery Over Next 5 Years

• Better and Worse Scenarios....
• Where: Faster Recovery So Far in Low-Wage Sectors – e.g., Temps, Retail, Leisure/Hospitality, Health/Elder Care...Both Good and Bad!
• Fairly Little PSE or Other Targeted Job-Creation Strategies
Opportunities for Advancement?

Some Good News

• Middle-Skill Job Trends and Vacancy Rates – Strong Labor Market Demand Over Time (Polarization Overstated – The Middle of the Job Market is NOT Disappearing! But It Requires More Skill Than Before...Where are All the Good Jobs Going? by Holzer et al., 2011)

• Strong Returns to AAs, Certificate Programs (Jacobson)

• Evaluations: Sectoral Employment Study, Year Up (I-BEST, Opening Doors) – Importance of Links to Demand Side of the Labor Market (Employers) plus Supports/Services!

• Innovative Grant Programs by Foundations, USDOL – National Fund, Achieving the Dream, TAACCCT

• Large Increase in Pell Grants - $35B!
Opportunities for Advancement (Cont’d)

Some Less Good News
• Very High Non-Completion Rates among Low-Income and Minority Students! (Pell v. Supports/Services and Workforce System /Employer Linkages)
• Strong Programs: Effective for Whom? Replication/Scale?
• Proliferation of Innovative Competitive Grants: Too Little Rigorous Evaluation Evidence; Not Enough Systemic Implementation by States (esp. aimed at disadvantaged populations)
• Budget Realities: Federal and State

Overall: Potential v. Reality....
Other Programmatic/Policy Efforts

• Expanded EITC (Childless): Going Nowhere
• Transitional Jobs: TJRD Results Less Promising than Earlier Ones (CEO)
• Fatherhood Efforts at HHS....
Conclusion

• Employment Rates: Mixed But Generally Weak, Slow Recovery Anticipated
• Advancement Opportunities and Potential Exist but Limited in Reality
• Other Efforts to Supplement: Little Activity