

Thu, Jul 20, 2023

CALIFORNIA



The PPC has once again rounded up mountains of research to produce fact sheets on poverty in the U.S., including individual reports on every state. These documents offer a foundation of facts upon which to build our campaigns. Check them out below—and save the date for an important gathering coming in August. If the fact sheets leave you hungry for more, we've also got a PPC-affiliated report on how we can stand against anti-democratic white Christian nationalism.

income people in the United States. In addition to a national fact sheet, there's one for each state, [including California](#). We can use these docs to arm ourselves with facts as we prepare for communications with decision makers. As Bishop Barber often says, "we don't want to be loud and wrong!"

Here are just a few of the many insights you'll find in the fact sheets:

- To meet their basic needs, a household with two adults and two children needs to earn over \$30/hour. But at the current minimum wage of \$15.50/hour, an individual must work 109 hours per week to afford a modest two-bedroom apartment. 3,405,000 people (or 18 percent of the workforce) earn less than \$15/hour.
- In 2022, 4,627,700 people relied on expanded SNAP benefits to feed themselves and their families. In 2023, SNAP benefits were reduced by upwards of \$250/month, cutting payments down to \$6/day. Some 3 million people have been impacted by these cuts.

There's an abundance of resources to ensure we all survive and thrive—if only we reconsidered our priorities:

- In California, state taxpayer dollars for deportations and border control could subsidize more than 471,000 public housing units.
- CA taxpayer dollars going to nuclear weapons could provide health insurance for 1.7 million children.
- Taxpayer dollars going to the biggest weapons contractor, Lockheed Martin, could cover the salaries of more than 46,000 elementary school teachers.
- More than \$1.9 billion from California taxpayers that's going to federal prisons could power more than 5.28 million households with solar energy.

Using these resources to fully meet all of our needs would save lives and revive the economy.

Increasing resources for the poor stimulates the economy much more than making the rich even richer, because the poor need to spend nearly everything they earn. Every dollar going to a low-wage worker adds \$1.20 to the economy overall. Every dollar spent on food stamps generates \$1.50–1.80 in economic activity.

You'll find these stats and a whole lot more in the fact sheets. Read the California document [here](#).

Support the California PPC!

When over 140 million Americans are poor or living with low-wages, it's time for systemic change. We are building a movement led by poor and impacted folks, building across all lines of division, in order to topple the interlocking pillars of racism, poverty, militarism, environmental destruction and this country's distorted moral narrative. Please help us achieve this goal by clicking below and chipping in whatever you can.

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A multifaith panel and a powerful report on Christian nationalism

In the face of mounting anti-democratic white Christian nationalism, how do we organize and fight back? What is and isn't working? What changes are necessary to build a pro-democracy society with deep roots and lasting power?

Rahna Epting, Executive Director at MoveOn; Stosh Cotler, Senior Advisor at the progressive Jewish political organization Bend the Arc; and our own Rev. Theoharis gathered last week for a Netroots Nation panel to explore these questions and share strategies from their new report, [“All of U.S.: Organizing to Counter White Christian Nationalism and Build a Pro-Democracy Society.”](#)

Commissioned by the Kairos Center and the MoveOn Education Fund, and supported by an advisory committee made up of policy organizers, strategists, pastors and researchers from diverse cultural backgrounds, the report is intended to sound the alarm and foster urgent collective action. It contains three core recommendations based on research and interviews with several critical organizations, including the PPC:

1. **Organize more holistically:** Broaden and sustain our base through attending to people's material, emotional and spiritual needs.
2. **Contest and invest:** stop ceding geographic, political and moral space.
3. **Plan and coordinate for deeper crisis:** Take the steps to prepare our organizations, communities and networks for greater uncertainty, chaos and possible large-scale crisis.

Read the report [here](#).

Thanks for reading. If you have any questions, you are welcome to reply to this newsletter or email california@poorpeoplescampaign.org.