



**Ladder Out of Poverty Task Force Roundtable
Minnesota Financial Fitness Network Conference
April 20, 2011, 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.**

Part I: The Legislative Commission to End Poverty

- Active from 2007 – 2009
- Enabling Legislation: ML 2006 Ch282.
- Staff and Budget
- Hearings, Listening Sessions, Working Groups
- Interim Report: <http://www.commissions.leg.state.mn.us/lcep/materials/InterimReport.pdf>
- Final Report: http://www.commissions.leg.state.mn.us/lcep/LCEP_Final_Report_SinglePgs.pdf

The Legislative Commission to End Poverty's Final Recommendations

· **Restore work as a way out of poverty.** Increases to the minimum wage; expansion of tax credits for working families; childcare assistance for more working families; and tax incentives for businesses are included in this category.

· **Refocus public assistance to streamline services and support everyone's capacity and potential.** Integration and automation of public services; more uniform eligibility criteria for services; and increases in food support participation are included.

· **Help Minnesotans build and maintain financial assets.** Public assistance policies that encourage maintenance of assets; banning of predatory financial practices; restrictions on the use of personal credit information, and financial literacy education are included.

· **Revitalize our communities through infrastructure and person-to-person support.** Increased federal and state support for affordable housing; better access to transportation; support for caregivers; and community-based initiatives to help at-risk youth are included

· **Modernize our system of education to build the best workforce in the nation.** Enhanced early childhood education; extension of technical education programs; and implementation of the Governor's Workforce Development Council initiatives are included.

· **Develop an ongoing structure to monitor Minnesota's efforts to end poverty.** Creation and implementation of a public awareness campaign and development of poverty impact statements to assess the likely effects of legislation on low-income Minnesotans are included.

Part II: The Ladder Out of Poverty Task Force

- Born out of the third recommendation of the Commission
- Active from 2010 – June 1, 2012 sunset and final report due.
- Enabling Legislation: ([M.L. 2010, Ch. 374](#))
- No Staff and No Budget (not even per diem)
- Working Group Structure, where working groups are charged to:
 - Update the full task force on their progress regularly.
 - Submit recommendations on their respective topics for consideration by the full task force – legislative and non-legislative.
 - Suggest and carry out its own work plan as advised in the work group recommendations from the inaugural task force meeting.
- Three Working Groups
 - [Community Supports and Social Asset Working Group](#): Scope: To define, identify, and promote social asset programs and initiatives, and illustrate the return on investment of such programs and activities.
 - [Financial Literacy and Education Working Group](#): Scope: Increase access and quality of financial education opportunities and resources that can help low-income individuals establish greater financial security.
 - [Asset Building and Wealth Creation Working Group](#): Scope: To identify and develop legislative recommendations to expand opportunities for low income families to create and build wealth.

Status of Task Force

- Legislative Session scheduled to end on May 23, 2011
- Quarterly Meetings for the Task Force Scheduled on June 12, September 13, December 5 (could change)
- Current Legislation
- Working Groups meet on an as needed basis, check website.
- Community Listening Sessions
- Legislative Package for 2012
- Final Report due June 2012

Questions for Roundtable Audience Members:

- How can the Task Force and its working groups help you in your work?
- What is the most important thing you think the legislature needs to know about financial fitness?

Ladder Website: <http://www.commissions.leg.state.mn.us/ladder/ladder.html>

This document and today's audio found on the Ladders Website, click "Meeting Archives" or at: <http://www.commissions.leg.state.mn.us/ladder/meetingarchive.html>