



A Better Way to Fight Poverty

By The Numbers

Republicans unveiled a plan aimed at lifting people out of poverty and onto the ladder of opportunity. It is the first plank of [A Better Way](#), a bold agenda to tackle some of the country's biggest challenges.

A BETTER WAY

41

Our plan contains at least [41 ideas](#) aimed at lifting people out of poverty and onto the ladder of opportunity. These recommendations are designed to start the debate now on what we can achieve in 2017 and beyond.

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Our plan doesn't cut or increase spending on the poor by a penny. We invest more of what we are spending now in solutions that are working on the front lines. We also get more people working, so they can break free from dependence. This will mean less strain on the safety net. This isn't about saving money. It's about saving lives.

KIDS AND FAMILY

21.1%

More than [one in five](#) children in America are poor. To break the cycle of poverty, we have to protect the next generation from poverty. Our plan gives poor kids more chances to rise above their circumstances, from early childhood through college.

39.8%

Nearly [four out of 10](#) families with single-mothers live in poverty. That is nearly five times the rate of poverty for married-couple families. Our plan makes it easier for non-custodial parents to find work so they can meet child-support obligations. It also tailors benefits to people's needs, making it easier for you to take a job and start a family.

WORK AND STRIVING

15%

A good job is the surest way out of poverty. After the government established stronger requirements for states to help welfare recipients find work, employment rates for single mothers increased by [15 percent](#) and child poverty declined dramatically. Work works—it's that simple.

89%

The [vast majority](#) of Americans (89 percent) agree that welfare should be tied to work. Under our plan, if you are capable, we will expect you to work or prepare for work as a condition of assistance. This will help get more people into good-paying jobs and onto the ladder of opportunity.

OPPORTUNITY

27.7%

The basic tools to save and put away money remain beyond the reach of too many Americans; [27.7 percent](#) of all households in America either do not have bank accounts or use alternatives, like cashing checks. Our plan expands access to basic banking services and helps you and your family save for the future.

13.8

The number of people living in highly-concentrated areas of poverty has nearly doubled since 2000 to [13.8 million](#). Our plan tailors benefits to people's needs. That includes greater portability for housing vouchers, so you can move to areas with more jobs and more opportunities.