



A Better Way to Fight Poverty *Fact Sheet*

Republicans have 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.

WHY DO WE NEED A BETTER WAY TO FIGHT POVERTY?

- All of us should have the chance to succeed no matter where we start in life. America is all about striving, but too many of our people are stuck. [46.7 million](#) people—including more than one in five children—live in poverty.
- Washington has spent more than [\\$22 trillion](#) to fight poverty. Yet today, if you are born poor, you are [just as likely](#) to stay poor as you were 50 years ago.
- Our welfare system is rigged to replace work, not encourage work. The system traps families in a cycle of poverty, shuffling them from program to program instead of helping them break free altogether.

WHAT DOES THIS PLAN MEANS FOR FAMILIES?

- **Improves skills and schools.** To break the cycle of poverty, we have to protect the next generation from poverty. Our plan makes sure that poor kids have more chances to overcome obstacles at every stage, from childhood through college.
- **Rewards work.** A good job is the surest way out of poverty, but most welfare programs do not actually require or even encourage work. If you are capable, we will expect you to work or prepare for work as a condition of assistance.
- **Tailors benefits to people's needs.** Under the status quo, you are punished for working hard and doing the right thing. Instead of a one-size-fits-all system, our plan matches poverty-fighting programs with your needs so that it's easier for you to take a job and start a family.
- **Helps you plan and save for the future.** The basic tools to put away money and save remain beyond the reach of too many Americans. Our plan expands access to basic banking services and makes it easier for you and your family to plan for the future.
- **Demands results.** Washington measures success by how much it spends, not by how much it helps. Our plan opens up the system to accountability and collaboration, backing ideas that work on the front lines.

WHAT DOES THIS PLAN COST?

- **This plan does not cut or increase spending on the poor by a penny.** Instead, we take what we are spending now and direct it to solutions that are working on the front lines. We focus on getting more people working, so they can break free from dependence altogether. That will mean less strain on the safety net. This isn't about saving money. It's about saving lives.