



**Houston Area  
Urban League**

*Empowering Communities  
Changing Lives*

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A United Way Agency  
Affiliated With The  
National Urban League

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One of the many intents of President Obama's stimulus package is to help Americans withstand the tough times as the economy tries to recover. The various federal programs to keep people in their current home, make new homes affordable, create jobs or keeping unemployment checks coming are all meeting stiff opposition as we try to CHANGE things and await recovery.

The challenge we face is the cooperation of the many key sectors necessary to ensure the economy begins to move again. Believe it or not, the President has to force banks to lend to businesses, demand businesses to hire and risk the entire Presidency on ensuring more people have access to health care. One would have thought that all these things would be unnecessary because it's for the greater good of people, but obviously the truth is raising its ugly head. Yes, we have to put people back to work by allowing factories to have the money to expand and hire. Yes, we have to ensure confidence that people will be gainfully employed and able to consume the products the manufacturers are producing. Yes, we need leadership at the corporate levels of America that is willing to reduce excessive salaries and enormous bonuses while laying off hundreds of their fellow employees. Our President is trying to change business as usual and instead put the focus back on people.

Urban Leagues across the country are trying to be a part of the "people" solutions America needs. We are training people to be employable, maintain and own a home, understand how to build wealth, invest and spend wisely. We are advocates of sound mental and physical health, and we have numerous educational programs for children and parents in which to participate. As a matter of fact The Houston Area Urban League was recently inducted into the Houston Independent School District's prestigious "Hall of Fame" for its valuable impact on the many children and families we have worked with over the years.

Whether we are trying to help you avoid foreclosure, start a business, teach a skill to obtain a job, or just give guidance at times of family disaster, we are here to help. Here at the Houston Area Urban League, we BELIEVE in CHANGE. We thank those who help us through their contributions and volunteerism to help make all Americans capable of meeting their full potential. Thanks for the lifeline Mr. President. You are doing your part; it is up to the rest of us to do ours.

**Judson W. Robinson, III**  
President & CEO