

# POVERTY- FOCUSED RESOURCES



## Poverty-Focused Resources

198



# POVERTY - FOCUSED RESOURCES

## ALABAMA ARISE

Kimble Forrister  
State Director  
Phone (334) 832-9060  
P.O. Box 612  
Montgomery AL 36101

Phone: (334) 832-9060  
E-mail: [kimble@alarise.org](mailto:kimble@alarise.org)  
Web: <http://www.arisecitizens.org>  
<http://www.alarise.org/>

## MISSION

Arise is a Coalition of religious, community, and civic groups that promote state policies to improve the lives of low-income people.

## POLICY PRIORITIES

Arise members have chosen the following issues as policy priorities for 2008. □(The first two are permanent priorities, and the remaining five reflect this year's member concerns.)

- **Adequate state budgets:** Fairer state policies toward low-income Alabamians usually depend on adequate state funding. By the same token, budget cuts to health care, child care, education and other human services can have a disproportionate impact on “the least of these.”
  - ACPP will work to move beyond merely “protecting” under-funded human services from harmful cuts to securing funding that is adequate to cover basic needs.
- **Tax reform:** Despite our 2006 win – an increase in the income tax threshold from \$4,600 to \$12,600 – Alabama continues to tax low-income people deeper into poverty.
  - ACPP will support Rep. John Knight's proposal to raise the threshold to \$19,200, eliminate the state portion of the sales tax on groceries, and end the unfair deduction for federal income taxes paid.
  - ACPP believes the lasting solution to our recurrent health care funding shortfalls is new revenue for the General Fund.
- **Death penalty moratorium:** Studies have shown that Alabama's death penalty system discriminates on the basis of race, income, age and disability. A three-year moratorium on executions would allow the state to review the fairness of our capital justice system and make necessary changes.
  - We support Sen. Hank Sanders' death penalty bills (the moratorium bill, along with bills to bring Alabama law into compliance with recent U.S. Supreme Court rulings against executing minors and individuals with mental retardation).
- **Katrina relief:** Two years after the storm and one year after tests revealed dangerous levels of formaldehyde in FEMA campers, some 2,000 longtime coastal residents, including families, seniors and people with disabilities, remained in the temporary housing.
  - ACPP supports a comprehensive assessment of unmet needs in storm-damaged south Mobile County.
  - Arise supports equitable, timely distribution of sufficient recovery funds.

- Constitutional reform: Alabama’s 1901 constitution was designed to suppress the power of local governments – and ordinary citizens – by giving the Legislature control over numerous aspects of local policymaking, taxation and spending.
  - ACPP supports the call for a convention to write a new state constitution.
- Environmental justice: Low-income and minority communities bear an unfair burden of Alabama’s environmental hazards.
  - ACPP will support efforts to extend the environmental justice responsibilities of the Alabama Department of Environmental Management.
- Asset-building: When it takes most or all of a family’s income just to get by, there’s little hope of saving for the future.
  - ACPP supports state investment in the new Individual Development Account (IDA) program. With this IDA, a low-income worker saving toward education or training, a down payment on a home, or starting a business can turn \$2,000 into \$6,000 □ with a 2-to-1 match in federal and state or private funds.
- Endorsements: ACPP endorses two additional policy goals:
  - State funding for public transportation.
  - Measures to ensure transparency in political campaigning and state budgeting.
- Other legislative action: ACPP will monitor all proposed legislation to evaluate its potential impact on low-income Alabamians. (For example, we could support a state minimum wage or protections against predatory lending. We also could oppose bills that would erode existing protections.) □ The Legislative Committee of the Board may approve membership action on issues that may arise.

These goals are steps toward our 15-year goals:

- A fair, adequate, transparent and simple state tax system
- A restorative criminal justice system rather than a punitive one
- A new state constitution that reflects Arise’s core values
- A state budget that provides equitable and adequate services for low-income
- A state budget that provides equitable and adequate services for low-income people
- Wages, benefits and policies that provide economic security for all working people in the state
- Wages, benefits and policies that provide economic security for all working

## ALABAMA POVERTY PROJECT (APP)

Kristina Scott  
Executive Director  
P.O. Box 55058  
Birmingham, AL 35255

Phone: (205) 939-1408  
Email: [kscott@alabamapoverty.org](mailto:kscott@alabamapoverty.org)  
Website: <http://www.alabamapoverty.org/>

The primary purpose of APP is to provide information that promotes a better understanding of the nature of poverty--its complex causes, prevalence and persistence in Alabama. APP is especially interested in facilitating coalitions between religious, business and higher education organizations dedicated to empowering the poor and eliminating poverty. The APP mission is to inspire moral and civic responsibility of citizens to work together toward the elimination of poverty.

### PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

In order to accomplish this mission, the APP will: foster, conduct and publish research into the causes and consequences of poverty; encourage and facilitate the formal study of poverty in Alabama schools

and colleges; educate opinion-makers and the general public on the causes and consequences of poverty; and, cooperate with agencies, religious groups, educational institutions, community organizations and advocacy groups that endeavor to alleviate and eliminate poverty in Alabama. APP researches and reports the causes, magnitude and consequences of poverty in Alabama, provides links to the many organizations--local, regional, national and international--promoting economic justice, and provides speakers and/or pre-packaged presentations upon request.

## **COMMUNITY ACTION ASSOCIATION OF ALABAMA**

Lukata Mjumbe  
Executive Director  
817 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

Phone: (205) 342-9291  
Toll Free: (888) 342-9291  
Website: [info@caaalabama.org](mailto:info@caaalabama.org)

### **MISSION**

---

In order to reduce poverty in its community, a Community Action Agency works to better focus available local, state, private, and federal resources to assist low-income individuals and families to acquire useful skills and knowledge, gain access to new opportunities and achieve economic self-sufficiency.

### **PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

A Community Action Agency carries out its mission through a variety of means including:

- Community-wide assessments of needs and strengths
- Comprehensive antipoverty plans and strategies
- Provision of a broad range of direct services
- Mobilization of financial and non-financial resources
- Advocacy on behalf of low-income people
- Partnerships with other community-based organizations to eliminate poverty. A Community Action Agency involves the low-income population it serves in the planning, administering and evaluating of its program

