

**PRESIDENT OBAMA'S FY 2011 BUDGET:
ASSISTANCE TO UNEMPLOYED WORKERS**

The President's FY 2011 budget would allow for an extension of the additional unemployment insurance benefits and COBRA subsidies (help for jobless workers to maintain their health insurance coverage) provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Unemployment is at its highest in decades; unemployment among women who head families is even higher than overall unemployment; and those out of work are going longer without new jobs. These ARRA benefits alleviate hardship for jobless workers and their families and provide a boost to the economy – but they are currently scheduled to expire on February 28, 2010.

- The budget would provide \$49 billion for **extending enhanced unemployment benefits**, including funding for additional weeks of benefits and an additional \$25 per week. Though this investment would provide much-needed relief to unemployed workers and their families, the amount is insufficient to extend these benefits through the end of 2010.
- The budget would extend ARRA's **COBRA assistance** through the end of 2010, and provide twelve months of COBRA assistance to individuals involuntarily terminated after February 28, 2010. The ARRA COBRA assistance subsidizes 65 percent of the cost of maintaining health insurance for up to 15 months. The budget provides a total of \$8.7 billion for FY 2010 through FY 2012 for COBRA assistance.