

## “Job Creation for the Disadvantaged: A Review of State and Local Efforts”

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Karen Chapple is an associate professor of city and regional planning at the University of California–Berkeley, and serves also as associate director of the Institute for Urban & Regional Development. Chapple specializes in housing, community, and economic development. She has most recently published on regional economic resilience (in the *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy, and Society*), innovation in the green economy (in *Economic Development Quarterly*), and the failure of poverty dispersal policies (in *Housing Policy Debate*). Her current book project is on integrating economic development and affordable housing into regional sustainability planning. Most recently, she has led a national contest sponsored by the Annie E. Casey Foundation to generate ideas for local and state job creation targeting disadvantaged communities. She is currently leading a HUD–funded research project on neighborhood investment around San Francisco’s Choice Neighborhood project. Chapple has also worked on regional and local economic development research projects in Mexico, Spain, Thailand, Israel, Brazil, and Peru. She holds a BA in urban studies from Columbia University, an MSCR from the Pratt Institute, and a PhD from the University of California–Berkeley.

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**Summary and Findings:** It has become increasingly apparent given federal paralysis and partisan debate that states and cities will need to enter the job creation arena as well if the jobs crisis is to be addressed. The challenge is to design jobs programs for cities and/or states that would lead to net new job creation in the short term, which are low cost and readily implementable yet create jobs accessible to low-skilled workers. Can the existing economic development tool kit, with its reliance on traditional business attraction incentives, quickly create jobs for the disadvantaged? Based on a survey of state and local economic development programs in all 50 states, plus in-depth case studies of model programs, we analyze current job creation practices. We identify a variety of approaches beyond business attraction, including policies that focus on endogenous development, import substitution, and job quality. While some approaches target businesses, others focus on sectors or places, and the latter are likely more effective at creating jobs for the disadvantaged.

**Implications for Policy and Practice:** Although many promising practices have emerged, the field continues to suffer from lack of clarity about how to leverage investments or policies to generate a specific number of new jobs. State and local programs also tend to downplay the potential for job displacement due to investment shifts. We conclude by offering suggestions for how communities, municipalities, and states might best scale up their job creation efforts for their most disadvantaged residents.