

Welfare Reform

the following principles:

1. The Milwaukee Jewish Council for Community Relations is committed to supporting strategies to reduce poverty and to promote economic independence, maintenance of the family, social well-being for all members of society and to remove disincentives to work. We call upon government, private industry and the not-for-profit sectors to pursue jointly strategies which would lead to job creation, provision of child care, provision of health insurance and adequate skills training.
2. Jewish law has always emphasized the responsibility of the community to treat the poor with dignity so as to help them avoid the degradation and stigma of poverty. Benefits and programs should be administered with respect for the dignity, privacy and due process rights of those receiving them.
3. Government at every level has a moral responsibility to enact laws and regulations and to adopt policies which support employment opportunities for the poor as well as provide a safety net of services which meets basic needs for food, shelter and medical care.
4. Our tradition teaches that the responsibility of government in no way diminishes individual and community responsibilities to aid the poor and the responsibility of the individual to strive to attain a position of economic independence. The Milwaukee Jewish Council for Community Relations calls upon the Jewish community to continue and expand upon its efforts to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, and care for those unable to provide for themselves.
5. We recognize that teenage pregnancy is a key factor in the perpetuation of poverty. We urge the establishment of effective policies and programs to reduce teen pregnancy by all levels of government, social service agencies, and religious and community organizations.

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