FACT SHEET

The Impact of Inaction on Families and Communities

➢ More than 3 million Americans have been denied access to unemployment assistance since the federal Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) program was ended on December 28, 2013.

➢ Unemployment assistance helps pay the rent, keep the lights on, and pay for phone and gas money so a worker can continue to search for a job.

➢ More than a third of the 9.8 million people who are currently unemployed have been looking for work for more than six months.

➢ When EUC was approved in 2008 during the Bush administration, the unemployment rate was 5.6 percent, and the average duration of unemployment was 17 weeks, or four months. In May 2014, the unemployment rate was 6.3 percent, and the average duration of unemployment was 35 weeks, or almost nine months, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

➢ Failure to extend the EUC program will cost the economy an estimated 240,000 jobs in 2014, as the benefits that would have helped the unemployed are withdrawn from local economies.