



## **POVERTY AND INCOME DISPARITIES: Fact Sheet**

### **Access to Employment**

- Unemployment rates vary by race: as of August 2014, 11.4% of Black individuals were unemployed, compared to 5.3% of White individuals (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2014a).
- In Washington, D.C. in 2012, of all executive or senior level officials and managers in the private sector, 81.6% are White, compared to 10.4% that are Black. 39.1% of all executive or senior level officials and managers in the private sector are women, and only 5.7% are Black women (U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, 2012).

### **Fair Wage**

- In 2013, 3.3 million workers earned wages at or below the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2014b).
- A full-time employee earning minimum wage earns \$15,080/year. A family will live below the poverty line if they have a sole earner, working full-time for minimum wage (Center for Poverty Research, 2013).
- In 2012, the poverty rate was 14.5% for women, compared to 11% for men (Entmacher, Gallagher Robbins, Vogtman, & Frohlich, 2013).
- In low-income urban neighborhoods, individuals living below the poverty line were two times more likely to be HIV positive, than those living above the poverty line (National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention, 2013).

### **Employment Discrimination**

- According to a survey from 2013, 46% of women believe they've experienced gender discrimination (McCain Nelson, 2013).
- In 2012, full-time, year-round female workers earned \$37,791 compared to male workers who earned \$49,398 (DeNavas-Walt, Proctor, & Smith, 2013).
- People living with HIV have reported being fired from their jobs, demoted, or discriminated against in hiring processes because of their HIV status (Lange, 2003).

### **Sick Leave**

- Low-income workers are less likely than high income workers to have access to paid sick leave: 28% of workers making less than \$19,999/year have paid sick days (Williams & Gault, 2014).

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