

# JOIN THE NEW PRIORITIES NETWORK

## SHIFT FUNDS from WARS and MILITARISM to CREATING JOBS and MEETING HUMAN and SOCIAL NEEDS

Please join our new network to fund local jobs and services by ending the wars and cutting the Pentagon budget. Launched October 3, our network will develop campaigns, tools, and local strategies that:

- Help local coalitions learn how to organize and build strength on the ground.
- Give them a national voice and a way to have national impact.

Joining the network means making a commitment to:

- Put serious, sustained, long-term effort into moving money from the Pentagon to our communities.
- Work with other organizations, share resources and ideas.
- Develop relationships and alliances that cross traditional constituency, community and movement boundaries
- Keep consistent contact with the network; choose someone who communicates with the network and who brings network decisions/initiatives/information to your organization.

We also invite you to [join two listservs](http://bit.ly/9SW9wx) [http://bit.ly/9SW9wx], one for meeting notes and decisions and the other for articles and discussions. Both listservs will be moderated to limit the volume and frequency of traffic. We also invite you to [volunteer for one of our working groups](http://bit.ly/9SW9wx) [http://bit.ly/9SW9wx]. Communicate your decision to join or questions to [cutmilitaryspending@gmail.com](mailto:cutmilitaryspending@gmail.com).

**Context:** We are at a unique moment in American politics. Washington is looking at the tradeoff between guns and butter. Both liberals and conservatives in the president's deficit commission are putting military spending on the chopping block. The government fiscal crisis, the right's obsession with spending cuts, and our new grassroots movement are likely to keep it there when the new Congress takes office, creating an opening for progressive gains in an otherwise bleak environment. Our job is to point to wasteful misguided wars and the bloated Pentagon budget as most significant contributors to the deficit and the place where cuts should be made, not to social programs and services that provide a safety net in the midst of the worst economic crisis in 80 years.

**Plans:** To make sure this happens, our network is provisionally planning to:

- Use the deficit commission moment in November and December to raise our demand: cut the Pentagon, not Social Security; close our *jobs deficit*. Organizations in the network can help give our local initiatives a national voice to speak for working class Americans in all their diversity, calling for the services and jobs we all need.
- Publicly review the *State of Our Communities* with local actions in January, when the State of the Union address is given. The guns-vs-butter choice will move then from the deficit commission to the new Congress.
- Hold local hearings on state and local budget cuts in February and March when the new budget is debated; call instead for our "move the money" solution; and launch a national campaign of local resolutions in city councils, school boards, unions, congregations, and community organizations. On the Hill we can couple any positive legislative proposals with the demand that they be funded through Pentagon, not social safety net cuts. Likewise, link initiatives to end the wars or cut Pentagon programs with language that moves the money to where it is needed most, creating jobs, sustaining services and protecting the environment.

All these actions are ways to organized local coalitions that build breadth and power at the grassroots. *The network exists to help organize more effectively locally and give those local efforts national impact.* Working across constituencies, communities and movement boundaries, we can build a progressive majority for working Americans.

**NEW PRIORITIES NETWORK:** [CUTMILITARYSPENDING@GMAIL.COM](mailto:cutmilitaryspending@gmail.com) OR CALL COORDINATOR MIKE PROKOSCH (617) 723-2639