

Marianne Williamson's Response to the Action For Opportunity Survey

1. What are the top five specific ways that you, as President, would increase economic opportunity for low-income Americans and decrease poverty, hunger, and homelessness?

1- Immediately raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour. Everyone who works full time deserves to earn a living wage. This change would raise pay for 49 million workers by 238 billion dollars in a year.

2-Offer free tuition to public college including community college and four-year colleges, and forgive all current student loan debt. Students are too often burdened with school loans that hold them back from following their dreams. Forgiving all student debt will allow students to work in a career they love, launch a business, or buy a home.

3-\$500 billion in Reparations for slavery, to be applied for economic and educational renewal. Not only is this the right thing to do morally, but it would create serious funds to uplift African American and Native American communities. See details here <https://www.marianne2020.com/issues/the-reparations-plan>

4- Provide Universal healthcare coverage with affordable programs for all and affordable drug prices. Healthcare is a major financial stressor in America. Over [500,000 bankruptcies per year](#) are due to the cost of health issues. If pharmaceutical companies don't lower prices, I will activate the "march-in rights" under the Bayh-Dole Act that allows government to license a patent to another party who charges less for medicine.

5- Deliver a Universal Basic Income to all adults of \$1,000 per month income. This will create a floor of income stability for essentials such as food and housing.

2. What is your single greatest concrete career accomplishment to date that has increased economic opportunity for low-income Americans and/or decreased poverty, hunger, and homelessness?

When I began speaking to small groups about the Course at the Philosophical Research Society in Los Angeles in 1983, the strange and horrifying AIDS epidemic burst onto the scene. Los Angeles was hit particularly hard by the disease, and many of its victims found their way to my talks. I became deeply involved in the crisis, facilitating counseling and support groups; non-profit organizations in Los Angeles and New York to provide non-medical support to people living with life-challenging illnesses; and the creation of Project Angel Food, a meals-on-wheels service to homebound people with AIDS that has now served over 11 million meals to people in the Los Angeles area. In a very real sense, my life's work emerged from that experience.

3. As President, how would you staff and structure the development, leadership, and daily management of your economic opportunity, poverty, hunger, and homelessness initiatives in your White House, Cabinet, and Administration?

I would strengthen the Department of Health and Human Services and repair the safety net for food and housing security. In addition, the Williamson administration would create new apparatuses such as the Department of Children and Youth, the Department of Peace, and a Reparations Council. These departments would work together to provide a wide safety net for all Americans with special attention to those most affected by poverty such as women, children and minorities. See more at www.Marianne2020.com.