



## **Women will likely be more vulnerable to the fiscal cliff than their male counterparts because...**



- **Women in general make up the majority of lower-wage jobs that do not include health benefits, and yet Medicare and Medicaid could be impacted by these cuts.**
- **There is still a 77-cent pay gap between women and men so higher prices for food, staple goods, cars, etc. would hit women particularly hard, especially those also serving as the head of household and sole breadwinner. Also this gap leads to women having much smaller nest eggs than their male counterparts and thus less able to financially deal with furloughs and/or job losses.**
- **The Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), which provides assistance to low-income, pregnant, postpartum and breastfeeding women, infants and children up to age 5 would have its funding reduced to \$966 million below the level requested in the fiscal year 2013 budget. This would result in over 900,000 participants being dropped from the rolls, or over 10%.**
- **Other programs likely to be hit that more harshly impact women are food stamps, college tuition assistance, job training and services for domestic violence victims.**
- **Teacher positions, which are predominantly occupied by women, would be cut drastically (25,000 teachers and aides could lose their jobs).**
- **Title I grants to school districts would be cut by more than \$1 billion which would impact 4,000 schools serving more than 1.6 million disadvantaged students. These funds pay for teachers, tutors and after-school programs whose employees are primarily women.**
- **New studies confirm that the vast majority of women outlive men and thus they are more likely to use up their retirement savings. Having to deal with the financial losses due to the “fiscal cliff”, their financial viability will be even more drastically threatened.**

**Across-the-board cuts to domestic spending are NOT the answer!**