Tens of thousands of families created the National Family Platform after they participated in 65 town halls in 2007 and 2008.

In 2008, families ratified it during a multi-city convention. The Platform serves as a tool to demonstrate that families don’t lead single-issue lives. It shows how the challenges families experience are cross-issue and cross-region – and connects families to a larger national movement.

Families envision a future where prosperity, security and opportunity are enjoyed by all; in which all families will be nurtured, supported, and celebrated and will come together to build a better future for themselves, their communities, and their country.

The National Family Platform calls on the country’s leaders to take a comprehensive approach in addressing the challenges families face. This Platform represents the collective voice of families and continues to evolve to reflect their needs and concerns.

National Family Platform
Every issue is a family issue.

Child Care
Increase access to quality and affordable child care for families of all economic backgrounds. Invest more money in child care subsidies and early childhood education. Prepare young children to succeed.

Criminal Justice Reform
Address the criminal justice system’s disparate impact on communities of color from policing through sentencing policies. Reduce barriers for individuals with previous convictions to access jobs, housing, education, and safety-net programs so they can rebuild and keep their families together.

Education
Support the success of all students by investing in high-quality public education systems. Engage parents and guardians in their children’s education. Eliminate zero-tolerance discipline policies that push students out of school. Provide access to college preparation classes. Make college more accessible and affordable.

Elder Care
Provide adequate, affordable housing and care for all seniors to live with dignity. Protect economic security. Support grandparents raising grandchildren.

Employment/Job Training
Pass living wage laws. Protect the rights of workers, including domestic workers. Stop wage theft. Provide paid sick days for workers. Institute community benefits agreements that include local hiring and workforce development provisions.

Environmental Justice
Provide all families with access to clean air and safe water. Guarantee low-income families are fairly represented in land-use regulation, climate change, and community development decisions.

Fair Lending
Stop predatory small-dollar consumer lenders from charging unreasonable interest rates. Give consumers reasonable options to keep out of endless debt traps. Keep big banks out of the payday loan business.

Food Security/Access to Healthy Food
Build a more equitable food system and ensure all families have access to affordable and healthy food.

Health Care
Provide universal access to affordable health care, including mental health services. Ensure the needs of people with disabilities are met. Expand health insurance coverage for low-income families and children through Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

Housing
Ensure safe and affordable housing for all. Prevent families from being displaced by development and gentrification. Protect the rights of tenants.

Immigration Reform
Support immigration reform that keeps families intact. Create more pathways to citizenship. Separate the responsibilities of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the police.

LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer/Questioning) Justice
Recognize and support the legitimacy of all families and identities. Support and promote LGBTQ equal justice.

Transportation
Guarantee access to safe, reliable, and affordable public transportation that serves all families where they live, work, and go to school. Invest in transportation infrastructure.

Voting Rights
Restore voting rights to people with past criminal convictions. Modernize voter registration to include automatic registration for all eligible individuals. Ensure fair representation for communities and work toward giving all Americans an equal voice in our democracy.

Youth Engagement
Strengthen youth’s leadership and organizing skills and engage youth in active roles in their communities. Expand access to academic enrichment and job-training programs to prepare youth to succeed in school and in the workplace.

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