

## ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

**Scott W. Allard** is Associate Professor in the School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago. He has been a Visiting Scholar at the National Poverty Center, the Institute for Research on Poverty, and the Institute for Policy Research. His primary research interests are social welfare policy, poverty, and nonprofit organizations.

**Courtney Barthle** is Senior Technical Specialist in the Community, Family, and Education Studies division at ICF International in Fairfax, Virginia. Her research and technical assistance efforts are directed toward welfare policy and implementation, with specific attention to child-only cases, faith-based programs, and rural issues.

**Diana Brazzell** is Research Associate in the Justice Policy Center at the Urban Institute in Washington, DC. Her research focuses on prisoner reentry, faith-based programming, and the impact of incarceration on families and communities.

**Mitchell Brown** is Director for Research at the Institute for Community Peace in Washington, DC, and Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at Auburn University. Her research focuses on the empowerment efforts of marginalized communities, both in the United States and abroad.

**Fred De Jong** is Senior Research Consultant, Community Research Institute, Johnson Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership, Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, Michigan. His research examines factors that influence service delivery effectiveness and client outcomes among vulnerable populations; in particular, faith-based service delivery issues, substance abuse treatment outcomes, services to the chronically mentally ill, and health care access for low-income persons.

**Robert L. Fischer** is Research Associate Professor at the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences and Co-Director of the Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development at Case Western Reserve University. He teaches evaluation methods in social science administration and nonprofit management, and conducts various evaluation projects.

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**Claudia B. Horn** is President of Performance Results, Inc., a Washington, DC-based firm that provides program evaluations and technical assistance and training in outcomes measurement, community needs assessment, team-building, and strategic planning. Her areas of expertise include evaluation, education, and staff development.

**Richard C. Hula** is Professor and Chair of the Department of Political Science at Michigan State University. His research and teaching interests focus broadly on environmental policy and urban politics. His current work includes the impact of faith-based organizations of public service delivery, changing state/local environmental policy, and the political consequences of state level interventions into local policy arenas.

**Leyla Ismayilova** is a doctoral candidate in the School of Social Work at Columbia University. Her area of concentration is advanced clinical practice. Her research interests include

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**Byron Johnson** is Professor of Sociology and Co-Director of the Institute for Studies of Religion at Baylor University. He is an authority on the scientific study of religion. His recent research examines the influence of the “faith factor” in crime reduction among at-risk youths in urban communities. His work also assesses the degree to which faith-based prison programs may impact ex-prisoners returning to society.

**Nancy G. La Vigne** is Senior Research Associate in the Justice Policy Center at the Urban Institute, Washington, DC. Her research interests focus on prisoner reentry, the evaluation of criminal justice programs and technologies, the spatial analysis of crime and criminal behavior, crime prevention strategies, and crime mapping.

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**Rebecca Makar**, at the time of this writing, was Research Associate for Poverty, Welfare, and Youth at ICF International in Fairfax, Virginia. She has expertise in technical assistance, with over 5 years of experience working at national organizations providing technical assistance to local communities and cities. Her major interests include youth development, religion in public life, and the impact of faith-based and community-based organizations on civil society.

**Laura Reese** is Director of the Global Urban Studies Program and Professor of Political Science at Michigan State University. Her research focuses on local economic development policy and politics, comparative urban politics, and public personnel administration. She has conducted large-scale policy evaluations for the Department of Commerce as well as for state and local economic development programs.

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