

Additional suggested background reading for Silos to Systems

Connecting Vulnerable Families to Work and Incomes

Rethinking Welfare in the Great Recession

Issues in the Reauthorization of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

Testimony of Gordon L. Berlin, President, MDRC, Before the Senate Finance Committee, on September 21, 2010

This testimony describes recent trends in TANF and limitations in the program's response to the needs of families with children during the recession. It provides a succinct summary of evidence from research that should inform public policy, with a focus on the opportunities related to TANF reauthorization.

<http://www.mdrc.org/publications/566/testimony.html>

A New Safety Net for Low-Income Families

Urban Institute: SHEILA R. ZEDLEWSKI, AJAY CHAUDRY, MARGARET SIMMS

America's low-income working families are struggling to get by, too often making impossible choices among food, housing, and health care because their incomes do not stretch far enough. Government safety nets were reformed in the mid-1990s with the promise that work would pay. But that promise remains unfulfilled for many families.

<http://www.urban.org/projects/newsafetynet/>

This series of essays explores the challenges these vulnerable households face and suggests ways to protect them and help them thrive—urgent goals with far-reaching benefits for our children, our families, and our economic future.

http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411729_supporting_work_summary.pdf

During the 1990s, the federal government promised low-income families that work would pay. Parents moved into jobs in response to new welfare rules requiring work, tax credits and other work supports that boosted take-home pay. Unfortunately, the record shows that low-income families have not progressed much. Many don't bring home enough to cover the everyday costs of living. This paper synthesizes the current status of low-income families along with the findings from a set of essays that address key shortcomings in the safety net. The paper summarizes ideas for policies that would make work pay in today's economy.

Child Welfare System Changes to Preserve and Strengthen Families

Poverty and Housing Instability: The Implications for Families Involved in the Child Welfare System

Partners for Our Children (August 2011)

This is a concise summary of research and information about the links between poverty and homelessness and child welfare involvement for practitioners and policymakers

<http://www.partnersforourchildren.org/pocweb/userfiles/August%20Practice%20Brief.pdf>

Ensuring Safe, Nurturing and Permanent Families for Children: The Need to Reauthorize and Expand Title IV-E Waivers

Casey Family Programs

<http://www.casey.org/Resources/Publications/pdf/NeedForWaivers.pdf>

The reauthorization and expansion of Title IV-E waivers is a critical stepping stone on the path to comprehensive child welfare finance reform. A much improved balance among family support services, services to extended family caregivers and foster care services can be financed from IV-E dollars in states experiencing large declines in their foster care populations. Title IV-E waivers provide an opportunity to rigorously evaluate new reform strategies and approaches to comprehensive finance reform.

Shining Light on Chronic Neglect

Caren Kaplan, Patricia Schene, Diane DePanfilis, and Debra Gilmore

For the past decade nearly two-thirds of the child maltreatment cases investigated or addressed by the nation's child protective services agencies have been cases of neglect, and children reported for neglect tend to be repeatedly reported for new concerns.

<http://www.americanhumane.org/assets/pdfs/children/pc-pc-shining-lightpdf.pdf>

For additional publications and resources related to child neglect see the American Humane Association's website

<http://www.americanhumane.org/children/professional-resources/program-publications/chronic-neglect.html>