Reducing Poverty: Taking a comprehensive approach to fighting poverty

Mayors Innovation Project
Washington, D.C.
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The Center for Law and Social Policy

paid sick days job training pell grants earned income tax credit family early head start post-secondary education snap child care and development employment strategies temporary assistance paid family and medical skills for a new economy safety-net work supports reducing inequality career pathways minimum wage no more cuts state subsidies for childcare work/life balance immigration reform no wrong door infant and toddler unemployment insurance affordable health care higher education readiness economic mobility data and accountability child care general education technical assistance financial aid state partnerships child care tax credit child welfare early education adult education equivalency young adult wage growth pathways out of poverty universal pre-k fostering comprehensive balanced approach disconnected youth equal opportunity nonpartisan creating jobs healthy kids, healthy families college completion national
SPOTLIGHT on POVERTY and OPPORTUNITY: The Source for News, Ideas and Action

In The Spotlight

Spotlight on Poverty and Opportunity

Spotlight Mission Statement

In The News - Today's Top Stories


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The Huntington Herald-Dispatch, January 21, 2014: Group seeks support for anti-poverty effort »

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Posted January 21, 2014

John Iceland, Penn State University
Let's Invest In Our Future: Policy Options to Reduce Child Poverty in America
Posted January 9, 2014

Liana Fox, Irv Garfield, Neeru Raashid, Jane Waldhoy, and Christopher Wimer, Columbia University
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Access information, resources, news articles, and links to learn more about state efforts to reduce poverty.

Out Of The Spotlight

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Taking a comprehensive approach

- Why Take a Comprehensive Approach?
- How Should the Process be Designed?
- Which Solutions Should be Considered?
Why take a comprehensive approach?

• It isn’t your (grand)mother’s poverty any more
Poverty Today
The New Poverty

• The poor are often workers. Among poor children
  ▪ Over two-thirds live with at least one worker.
  ▪ Nearly one-third live with a full-time, full-year worker.

• Wages have stagnated as the economy has grown.
Wages Have Stagnated

Wages, 1979-2012
($ 2012)

90th percentile
80th percentile
50th percentile (Median)
20th percentile
10th percentile

Wages Stagnate as GDP Grows

PRODUCTIVITY AND REAL INCOME
We are a richer country overall because of a spectacular rise in labor productivity. But who has profited from this rise? Although the growth of labor productivity has expanded total national income, the real income and wages of the median worker have at the same time stagnated.
The New Poverty

• The poor are often workers. Among poor children
  ▪ Over two-thirds live with at least one worker.
  ▪ Nearly one-third live with a full-time, full-year worker
• Wages have stagnated as the economy has grown.
• Jobs are too often not only low wage but also offer inadequate hours or are temporary
• Extreme poverty and inequality growing; mobility worse
• Brain research shows circuitry impacts
How Should the Process be Designed?

- Totality
- Table
- Timeline
- Transparency
- Tasks
Which Solutions

- Cost
- Control
- Innovation
Solutions: Cost

- Relatively low cost ‘low hanging fruit’
  - Protect wages
  - Maximize public benefits
  - Promote employer role
Solutions: Control

- City funds
- City rules
- City influence
Innovations

• Single EITC

• Social Impact Bonds

• Workforce
Some Resources

- CLASP www.clasp.org
  - Spotlight on Poverty and Opportunity
  - State Task Forces
- Providence: kidscount.org/povertyworkopportunitytaskforce (completed)
- Hartford: hartford.gov/pressroom/677
- New York City: nyc.gov/ceo
- Richmond: