

## **\*CALL FOR PAPERS\***

### **Conference on:**

**\*Reducing Poverty: Explaining Recent State Policy Innovations and Strategies\***

at The Institute for Advanced Policy Solutions Emory University Atlanta, GA  
**November 19-20, 2009**

The goal of this conference is to bring together scholars and practitioners to examine and explain recent efforts by a number of states to take a more comprehensive and collaborative approach to alleviating poverty—one that goes well beyond the “welfare reform” model of the 1990s.

As described in a recent report published by the Center for Law and Social Policy ([http://www.clasp.org/publications/clasp\\_report\\_0418.pdf](http://www.clasp.org/publications/clasp_report_0418.pdf)), many of these new, innovative approaches reach across traditional boundaries that ordinarily separate policy arenas (e.g., education, tax, health care, child care, economic development, urban planning, etc.), and policymakers (legislative and executive, governmental and non-governmental, state and local). While such efforts seem very promising, they raise a number of questions.

- Why have some states taken this initiative, while others have not?
- Have some states tried but failed? If so, why?
- Who are the leaders up front and behind such efforts, and what sorts of opportunities and obstacles have they confronted?
- Is this really a meaningful change in the way state policymakers are responding to the needs of their poorest citizens, is it just empty rhetoric (new labels for old approaches), or purely symbolic (e.g., a commission to examine poverty but no intent to take any action)?

We are particularly interested in processes of representation and the role(s) race, ethnicity, gender, and class play in linking target populations and policymakers during crucial stages of the policymaking process (i.e., problem definition, agenda-setting, policy design, policy adoption, implementation). For example:

- Who represents, serves, speaks for, or acts for whom?
- Does it matter whether women, racial and ethnic minorities, and/or poor people are “at the table” and in leadership positions? If so, how?
- Could this type of policy innovation be the result of coalition-building across racial, ethnic, gender, and/or class lines?
- To what degree or under what conditions do policymakers think about poverty in terms of race, ethnicity, gender, class and the complex interactions thereof?
- How does geography—urban v. suburban v. rural communities—matter?
- What role, if any, do local governments play in the design and implementation of state strategies for reducing poverty?

Ultimately, we would like this conference to be an opportunity for scholars and practitioners (i.e., policy makers, leaders, analysts, and advocates affiliated with both governmental and non-governmental institutions and organizations) to interact and learn from each other.

We therefore invite scholars in and across multiple disciplines and subfields to write and present research papers addressing one or more of the questions outlined above. We also welcome papers that address other issues and questions related to the policymaking challenges confronting recent state-level efforts to reduce poverty in the United States.

Practitioners will be asked to share their own experiences, insights, and concerns as discussants and/or roundtable participants. In this way, we hope to foster a constructive dialogue between theory and practice, which in turn will not only promote more scholarly research on one of our most pressing and challenging policy problems, but also help advance theoretically and practically informed solutions to those problems. To that end, we will ask participating scholars and practitioners to work together (either at the conference or immediately thereafter) to draft policy briefs outlining the primary findings, lessons, and recommendations that emerge from this theory-practice dialogue.

Pending budget approval, the Institute for Advanced Policy Solutions (IAPS) will cover travel expenses (airfare, hotel, meals) for at least one author of each paper accepted for presentation at the conference.

Additional honoraria for each paper or set of authors may also be available.

#### **\*Submission and Selection Process\***

**If you are interested in presenting a paper at the conference, e-mail an /abstract/ (500 words maximum) summarizing the primary research questions or goals, hypotheses (if appropriate), data, methods, and findings (if available) to the co-conveners/organizers no later than **\*January 16, 2009\***. Please be sure to include your contact information and institutional affiliation(s).**

Conference organizers will select approximately ten papers for presentation at the conference. **Notification will be e-mailed no later than March 16, 2009.** Proposals and inquiries should be e-mailed to one or both of the conference organizers:

**Beth Reingold**

[beth.reingold@emory.edu](mailto:beth.reingold@emory.edu) <<mailto:beth.reingold@emory.edu>> IAPS Fellow, 2009 Associate Professor Departments of Political Science & Women's Studies Emory University

**Michael Rich**

[mrich@emory.edu](mailto:mrich@emory.edu) <<mailto:mrich@emory.edu>> IAPS Fellow, 2008-09 Associate Professor Department of Political Science Director, Office of University-Community Partnerships Emory University\*\*